

# INFERNAL INVESTIGATIONS



There are many different branches of the Federated States Marshal Service that uphold the law across the Union, from judges in courthouses to the roving Rangers, organised police municipalities, and local sheriffs with their deputies. When the Shadow War leaves its mark on civilisation through Mythos or other supernatural or otherworldly ephemera, something more is needed to uphold justice. When darkness truly falls, and the stuff of nightmares crawls out beneath the clearing skies, only one group can

shine a light on the taint and corruption to enforce the Law. The Bureau of Infernal Investigative Affairs, an elite band of Lawmen working directly out of Washington, specialise in investigating the very worst crimes and infractions. Although Mythos often defies description or analysis, it is the men and women of Infernal Affairs who strive to keep the Union safe from the depredations of those cults, xeno-forms and other malign menaces that stalk the long nights.

## MYTHOS

When some purportedly horrific creature begins to threaten the peace of a town, something tries to break \*out\* of a museum, or a law-abiding citizen suddenly goes insane with rage and bloody-minded murder, it is the marshals of Infernal Affairs who are dispatched to deal with the threat. They tackle the missions that nobody else wants or is likely to come back from with their sanity intact.

Infernal Affairs are in conflict not only with cultists or other dastardly doers, but in this Shadow War they also come into opposition with other Lawmen and governmental forces, often finding them corrupted and tainted by darker powers. Should a Marshal, Sheriff or Deputy overstep their remit and put themselves above and beyond the Law, it is Infernal Affairs who are mandated to be the judge, jury and, if necessary, executioner of their fellow Lawmen. This ominous duty, along with the necessity that Infernal Investigators have pre-eminence over their fellow Marshals, officers and even judges causes no end of grief and frustration among those who perceive themselves to be the 'real' Lawmen in the Union.

Particularly active in the Shadow War are the Infernal Affairs team led by the indomitable Marshall Helena Miller. Miller uses her aero-pack to nimbly avoid trouble, her stormthrower pistols responding to threats in kind. Miller has a rational mind but has seen too much of the weird and worrisome in her career to not be a true believer in the paranormal and inexplicable. For Helena Miller, the Shadow War is the arc that links many of her investigations. It is a thread she would desperately like to pull on and tie off once and for all.

The blade skills of Furio Montoya are a without equal in the Marshal Service.

Trained by her father, the Sheriff of Florin, Illinois, Montoya came to the attention of the Bureau after her father was murdered in 1869. Montoya followed the evidence trail to Judge Tyrone Guest, who Montoya proved was in league with the Hex cult. And then decapitated him.

The incantation of a dark hierophant or the rantings of a corrupt official can usually be relied on to be cut short by a sniper shot from Ida Saxon if she is on the case. Using her faithful augmented owl Athena as a spotter or distraction, Saxon is a patient investigator and an even more patient assassin. In stark contrast, Mercury Jones is as much a trouble seeker as trouble shooter. Spritely in nature and in action, Jones is often the first to explore the investigation site. She has a keen eye and quick mind, able to see the tell-tale signs of Mythos in a crime that other more experienced officers might miss.

Unique in the Union, 20-20 is a relic of the closing days of the Ore War. A Blackhoof automata, 20-20 was a prototype for a mission that never happened. Blackhoof 20-20 has many of the capabilities of a trained sniper as well as the transformational ability to morph between two modes. The first is as a Vitruvian Simulacra - a humanoid machine armed with a deadly Hyper-V rifle. The second form is his original configuration as a Blackhoof steed. While in his equine form, 20-20 is often with his trusted partner Jedrick Powell. Jedrick comes from a long line of Texas lawmen, with more than twenty years of service to the Bureau. Originally something of a mentor to Marshal Miller, he has seen her become his equal in most things, though her enthusiastic desire to believe in the extraordinary over a more mundane explanation has occasionally brought the two into conflict.