

# Asteroid Belt

The asteroids are home to two separate predatory groups. Nirama and his criminal organization own the largest asteroid, and the smugglers work from several smaller bases among the floating rocks. Farther away from Riboga's old stronghold, pirate fleets hide among some of the larger asteroids. The pirates change base locations frequently to avoid detection by the military and Nirama, but the smuggler bases are small and protected by the crimelord.

The asteroid belt makes a perfect place to attack incoming freighters, as most of them have to stop and fly through the belt at sublight speeds, or go around. Pirates seemingly well informed of the ship's route converge on a freighter as soon as it emerges from hyperspace, pick it dry, and then disappear into the relative safety of the rocks. These attacks happen so quickly, the military has little or no time to respond. To counter the rapid attacks, Colonel Tramsig recently laid a trap by sending military cruisers instead of freighters on several trips. One cruiser engaged pirates and destroyed five pirate vessels. The pirates have become more cautious in their attacks.

