

83

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BAJORAN

## ASSAULT VESSEL

TYPE: TROOP CARRIER

LAUNCHED: 24th C

CREW: 12 + 200 TROOPS

LENGTH: 140.72 METERS



# BAJORAN ASSAULT VESSEL

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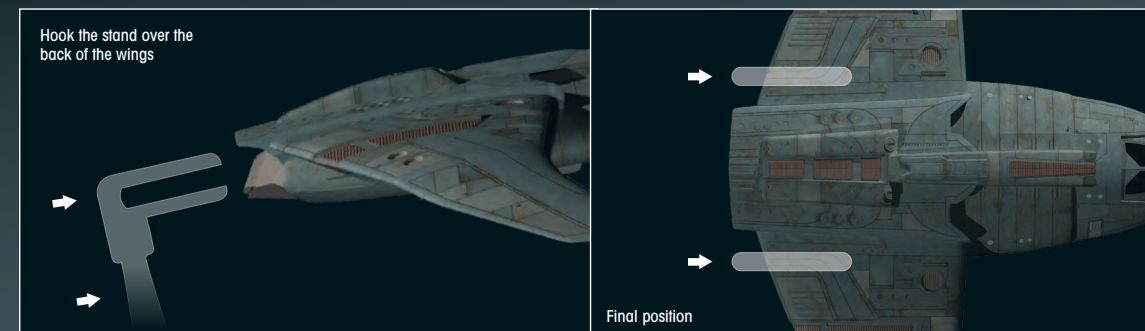
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# BAJORAN ASSAULT VESSEL SPECIFICATION



OPERATED BY:	BAJORAN MILITIA
TYPE:	TROOP TRANSPORT
IN OPERATION:	24th CENTURY
LENGTH:	140.72 METERS
PROPULSION:	IMPULSE
CREW:	12 FLIGHT CREW + 200 TROOPS
WEAPONRY:	PHASER EMITTERS

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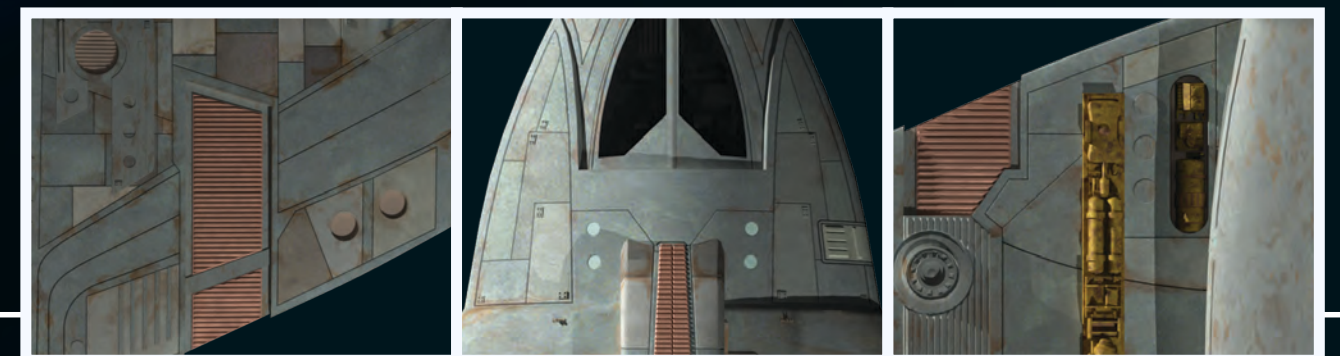
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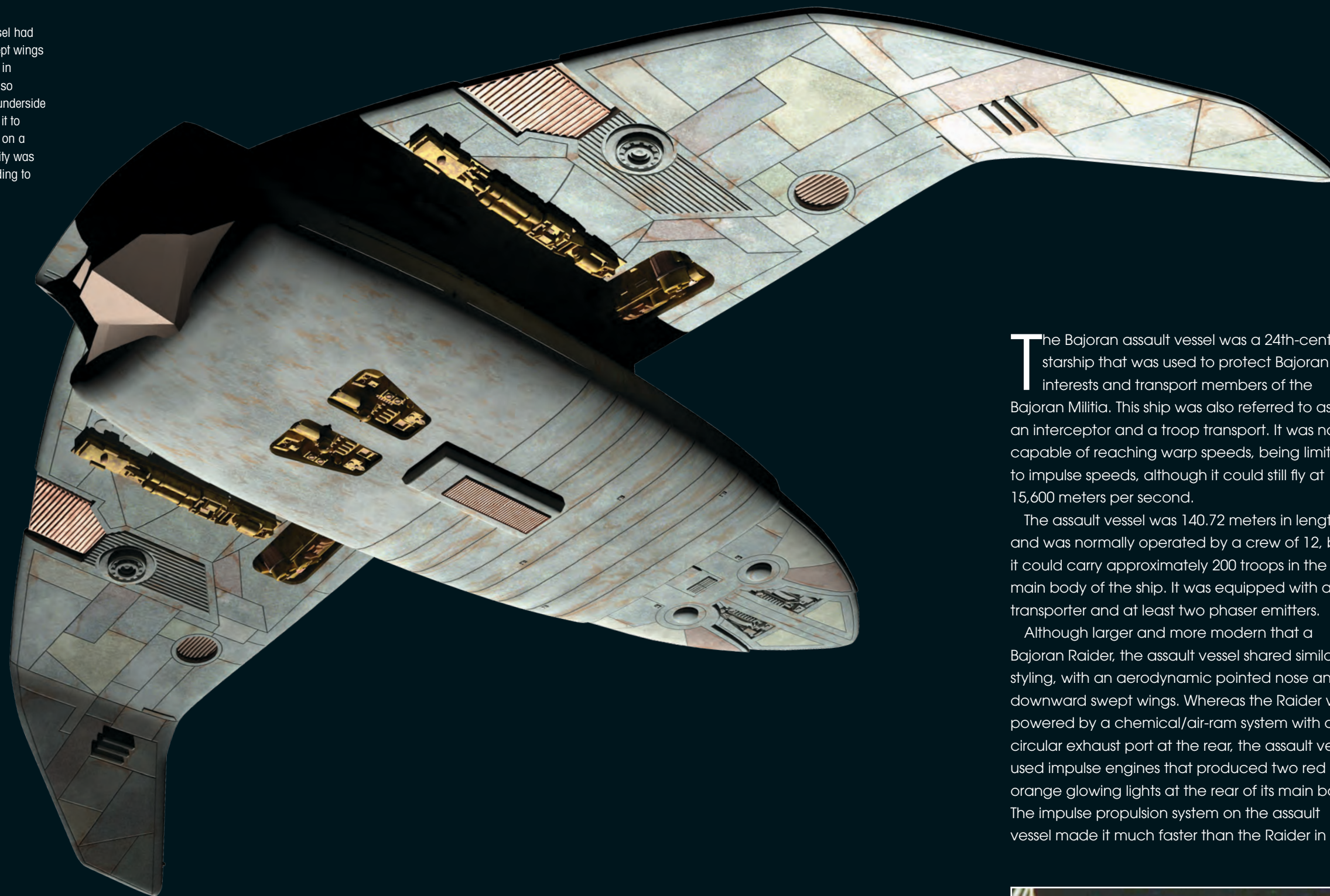
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► The Bajoran assault vessel had pronounced downward-swept wings that helped to keep it stable in planetary atmospheres. It also featured lift engines on the underside of its wings, which allowed it to hover or set down vertically on a planetary surface. This facility was especially useful when needing to deploy troops quickly.



# BAJORAN ASSAULT VESSEL

These impulse ships were used by the Maquis and the Bajorans to protect their planet and off-world colonies.

The Bajoran assault vessel was a 24th-century starship that was used to protect Bajoran interests and transport members of the Bajoran Militia. This ship was also referred to as an interceptor and a troop transport. It was not capable of reaching warp speeds, being limited to impulse speeds, although it could still fly at 15,600 meters per second.

The assault vessel was 140.72 meters in length, and was normally operated by a crew of 12, but it could carry approximately 200 troops in the main body of the ship. It was equipped with a transporter and at least two phaser emitters.

Although larger and more modern than a Bajoran Raider, the assault vessel shared similar styling, with an aerodynamic pointed nose and downward swept wings. Whereas the Raider was powered by a chemical/air-ram system with a circular exhaust port at the rear, the assault vessel used impulse engines that produced two red or orange glowing lights at the rear of its main body. The impulse propulsion system on the assault vessel made it much faster than the Raider in

open space, but in the atmosphere of a planet their flight capabilities were much more even. The assault vessel was also capable of making planetary landings, meaning it could offload troops en masse, rather than beaming them down a few at a time from orbit, a great advantage when needing to deploy troops quickly.

## COCKPIT LAYOUT

The assault ship was operated from the cockpit in the nose of the vessel, and it featured seating for at least four crew members. The captain or commander sat in the middle of the oblong-shaped cockpit, while the pilot was positioned at the front, directly behind the windshield canopy. The two other cockpit crew operated consoles behind the commander's chair, facing the side walls. They controlled ship functions such as communications, sensors, shields and weapons, while they could also monitor the overall 'health' of the ship. The pilot's position obviously controlled the heading and speed of the ship, but many of the ship's functions, such as weapons, were doubled on his console.

The assault vessel was somewhat outdated in comparison to ships used by other species in the 24th century. This was surprising given that the Bajorans had ventured out into space as early as the 16th century in solar sailing ships, but was understandable given their more recent troubled history. Their homeworld had spent decades under Cardassian occupation, and the advancement of their starship-building program was hardly a priority



## DATA FEED

When they were young, Jake Sisko and Nog spent hours on *Deep Space 9* watching families board Bajoran vessels at the station's airlocks.

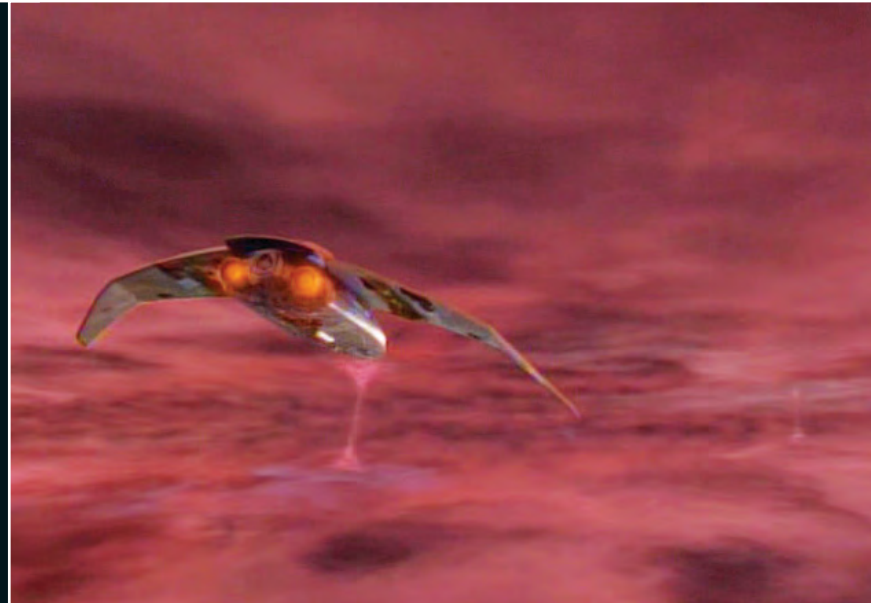
◀ As it did not possess a warp drive, the Bajoran assault vessel was mainly designed for general policing and patrol duties within the Bajoran system. It was often used to transport goods and people to *Deep Space 9*, as well as being an extra line of defense for the strategically important space station.





◀ The assault vessel featured a tapered nose at the front that contained the cockpit. Most of the volume of the ship was in the mid-section, which could hold up to 200 troops.

▶ During the Cardassian occupation of Bajor, the highly-maneuverable assault vessels were able to hide from the larger Cardassian ships in the Badlands, which were full of unpredictable plasma storms.



▶ In 2370, two assault vessels loyal to the Alliance for Global Unity were ordered to intercept a Bajoran Raider flown by Major Kira and Lt. Commander Dax. In a dogfight in the skies over Bajor, one of the assault vessels was shot down, while the other one managed to hit the Raider, causing it to crashland in a forest.



▶ After the Bajorans learned that the Romulans were secretly stockpiling weapons on one of their moons, they gathered together a fleet of 12 ships to form a blockade. This fleet included assault vessels as well as larger freighter ships, but tactically they were no match for the 14 Romulan Warbirds that were on the way.



▲ Colonel Kira took command of the fleet from the bridge of an assault vessel that was hastily assembled to stop the Romulan Warbirds. She knew that her fleet was heavily outgunned and outmatched in almost every way, but she refused to let the Romulans through. The Romulans eventually backed down and agreed to remove their weapons from the moon.

▲ Before the end of the Cardassian occupation of Bajor, the Maquis often used assault vessels to attack much more powerful Cardassian warships. They were deployed in numbers and able to overwhelm the warship by making highly-coordinated attacking runs before flying out of the way of the returning fire.

when most of the population was living in forced-labor camps and barely had enough to eat.

The Bajorans were a resilient and innovative species, however, and they used whatever resources they could muster to fight the Cardassians. Using jury-rigged technology, members of the Bajoran Militia who joined the Maquis managed to keep assault vessels flying. They were then used alongside whatever other craft they could get their hands on to defend Maquis colonies, and even to attack Cardassian vessels using clever hit-and-run tactics.

In 2370, several assault vessels in combination with Raiders launched a surprise attack on a Cardassian *Galor*-class ship. Employing multiple strafing runs, the assault ships blasted the much larger Cardassian vessel with phaser fire before

quickly retreating before they could be hit, and then regrouping for another attack. The *Galor*-class ship's shields were down to 30 per cent and it was unlikely it would have survived much longer had not the *U.S.S. Enterprise NCC-1701-D* arrived and chased off the attackers.

#### PROTECTION DUTIES

Once the occupation of Bajor was over, assault vessels were used to protect their homeworld and various Bajoran colonies. In 2370, however, two assault vessels almost killed Major Kira and Lt. Commander Dax when they shot down their Raider in the skies over Bajor. Kira and Dax were lucky to survive the subsequent crashlanding, but they managed to deliver evidence that proved the Cardassians were secretly arming a Bajoran

faction known as the Alliance for Global Unity that had seized power on Bajor.

Later in 2370, an assault vessel with the call sign 'Interceptor One' was ordered to stop a Skreean ship from landing on Bajor. Before it was realized that the Skreean craft was piloted by a teenager, an assault ship fired on it. While the shot missed, it ignited a radiation leak from the rear of the ship, killing all three occupants onboard.

In 2375, several assault vessels were used alongside other Bajoran starships to form a blockade that prevented Romulan Warbirds from delivering plasma torpedoes to Derna, one of Bajor's moons. Colonel Kira commanded the Bajoran fleet from one of the assault ships, and she was successful in making the Warbirds turn back, even though her forces were severely outgunned.

#### DATA FEED

The Skreeans were a Gamma Quadrant species, who had fled their homeworld after the Dominion had taken over their planet. They hoped to settle on Bajor, but they were refused permission. One teenage Skreean boy named Tumak (pictured right) decided to take matters into his own hands and flew a ship towards Bajor. An assault craft fired on him before an order came through to stand down. Tumak's ship was blown up, killing him and the ship's other occupants.





**STANDING FIRM**

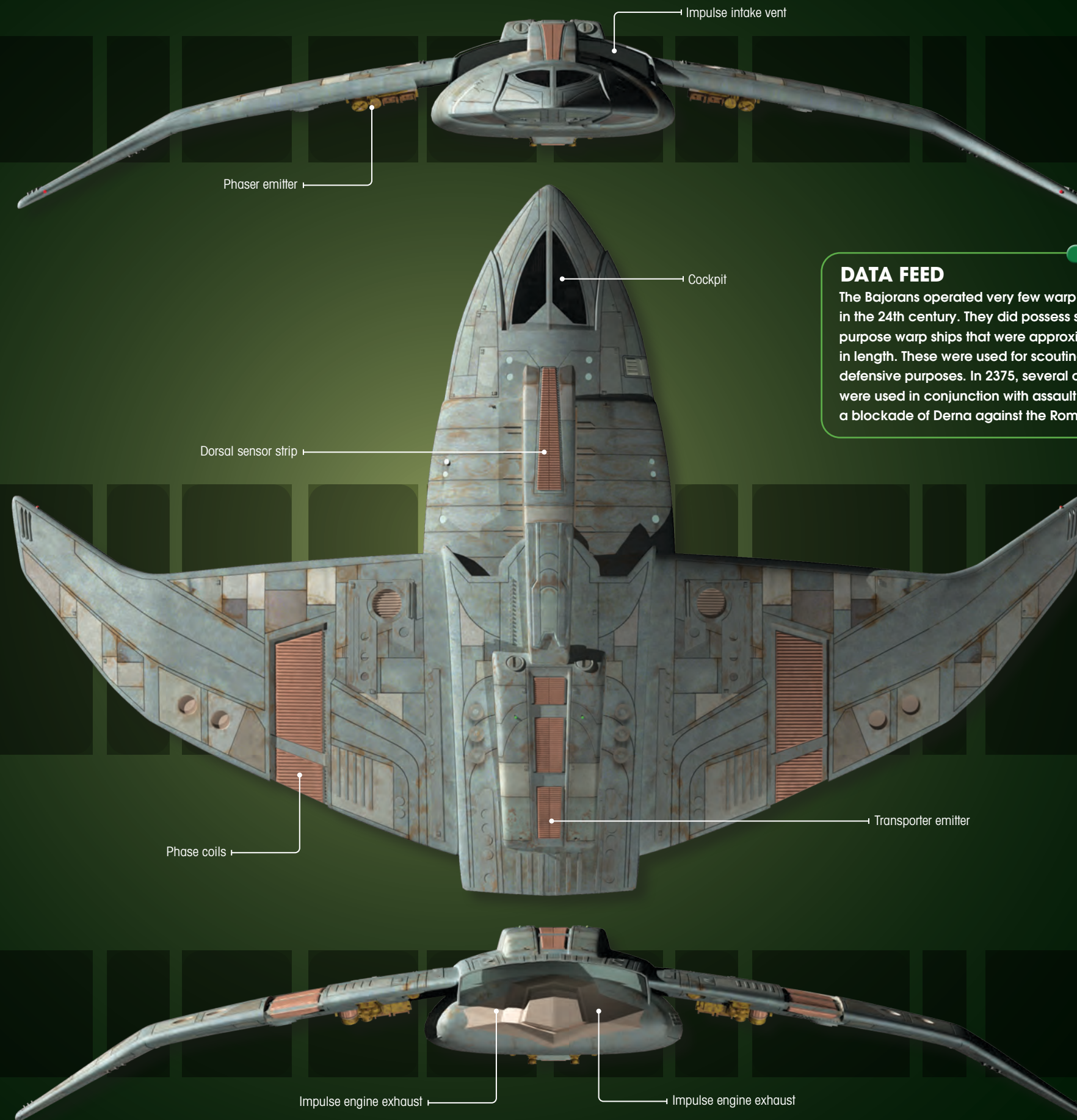
During the Dominion War, the Romulans had set up a field hospital on the Bajoran moon Derna, because many of their injured troops were dying on the long trip back to Romulus. The Bajorans were happy to accommodate the Romulans in this matter, but then they discovered that the Romulans were stockpiling weapons at this facility. This made Derna a priority target for the Dominion, and the Bajorans demanded that the weapons be removed, but the Romulans refused.

Starfleet did not want to get involved in the stand-off between two allies, and Colonel Kira was forced to confront the Romulans herself. From an assault vessel, she commanded a small fleet that formed a blockade of the moon, refusing to let any Romulan Warbirds through until the weapons were removed.

When a group of 14 Warbirds approached the moon, Kira demanded that they withdraw even though the Bajoran ships were heavily outgunned. After the Warbirds powered their weapons, Kira continued to remain defiant and prepared to engage the Romulans, but at the last moment the Warbirds turned away. With neither side prepared to back down, Admiral Ross had intervened and told the Romulans that if they did not remove the weapons, he would make sure Starfleet forces did. Unwilling to jeopardize their new alliance with the Federation, the Romulans agreed to remove the weapons, and Kira's brave stance won the day without a shot being fired.



▲ Several assault vessels alongside larger freighter-like ships made up a small fleet, which formed a blockade to stop Romulan Warbirds from delivering armaments to a Bajoran moon.

**DATA FEED**

The Bajorans operated very few warp-capable starships in the 24th century. They did possess some multi-purpose warp ships that were approximately 260 meters in length. These were used for scouting, transport and defensive purposes. In 2375, several of these vessels were used in conjunction with assault vessels to form a blockade of Derna against the Romulans.

**ANCIENT RACE**

Bajor was one of the oldest civilizations in the Alpha Quadrant, and began to flourish about half a million years ago. The Bajorans were renowned for their flair in science and the arts long before humans began to speak or make tools.

**BASIC FLEET**

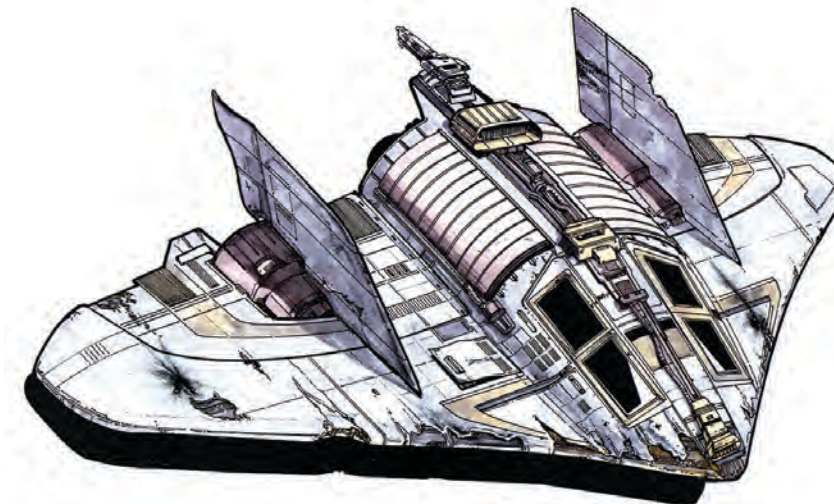
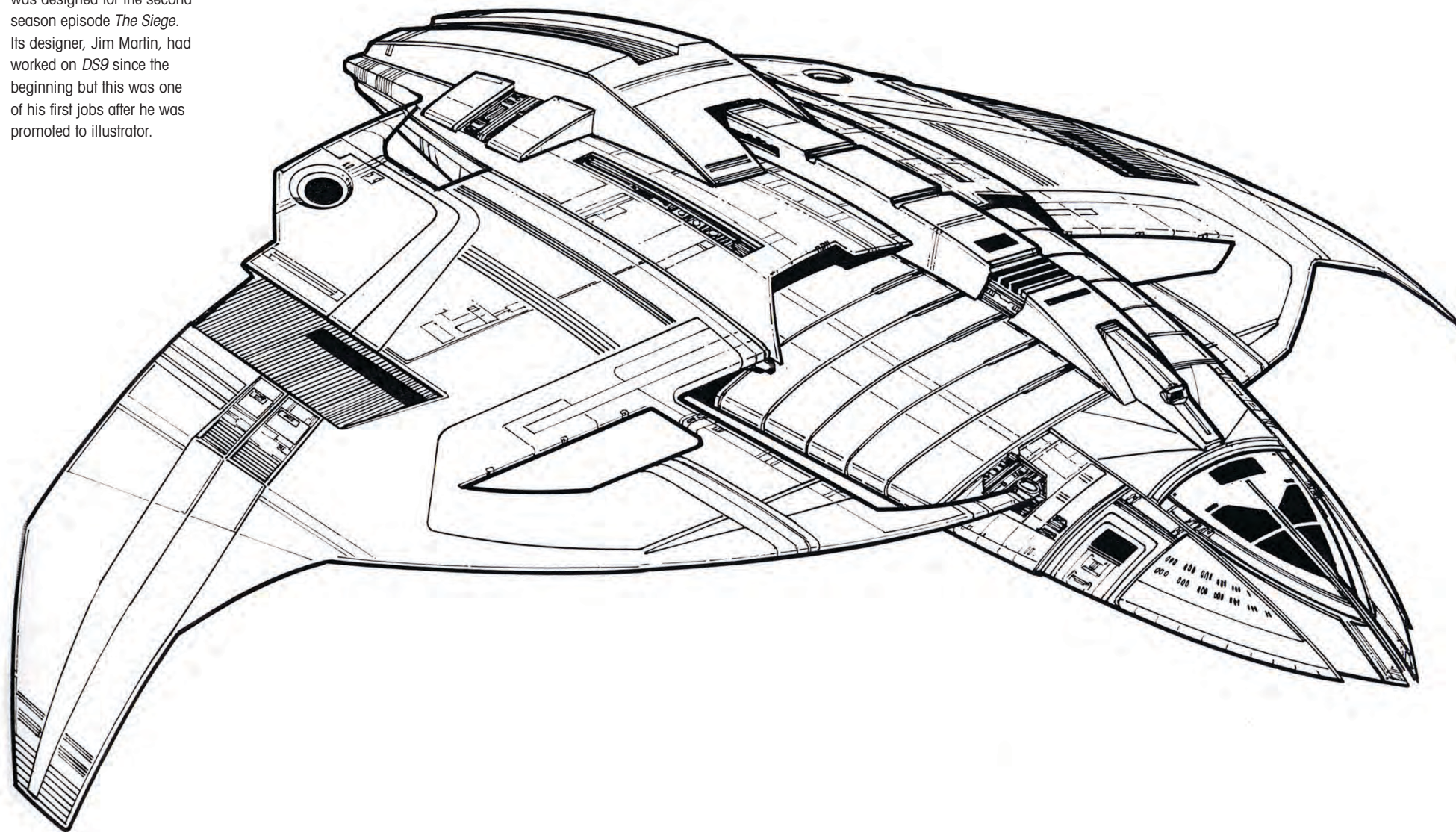
According to Kira Nerys, the Bajorans did not have any type of ship that was comparable in maneuverability or defensive capabilities to Starfleet Runabouts.

**BAJORAN SPACE**

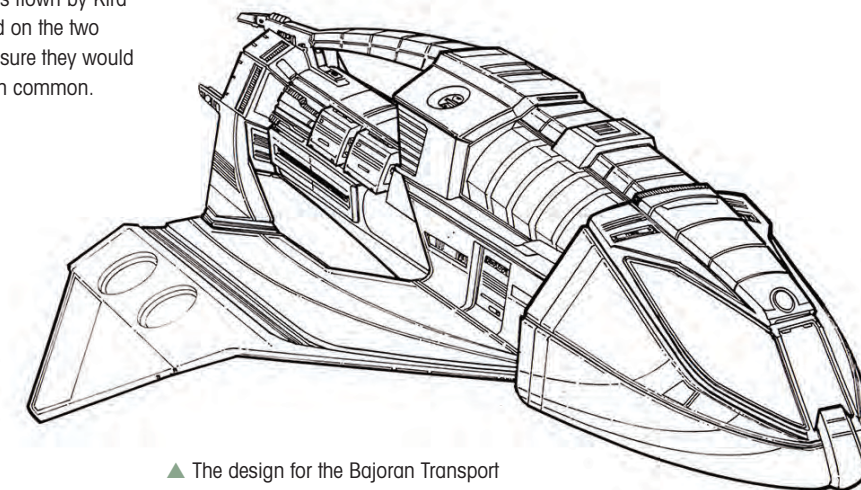
The Bajoran system was 52 light years from Earth and contained 14 planets. Bajor was the 11th and largest planet of the system. It had five moons, including Derna and Jeraddo. The Bajoran wormhole was located near the hazardous Denorios Belt between the ninth and tenth planets of the system.



► The Bajoran Transport was designed for the second season episode *The Siege*. Its designer, Jim Martin, had worked on *DS9* since the beginning but this was one of his first jobs after he was promoted to illustrator.



▲ The transport was designed at the same time as a smaller Bajoran ship - the Raider - which was flown by Kira and Dax. Martin worked on the two ships together, making sure they would have design elements in common.



▲ The design for the Bajoran Transport came together very quickly but the Raider went through several passes before Martin arrived at the final design.

## DESIGNING THE

# 'BAJORAN TRANSPORT'

It was a ship of firsts: it was the first Bajoran ship design, and the first official job for *DEEP SPACE NINE's* newly minted concept artist.

The second year of *DEEP SPACE NINE* was an important time for Jim Martin. After a year working as a PA in the art department he had been promoted to concept artist. The first

design job that landed on his desk, involved a pair of Bajoran ships that were needed for the three-part story that would open the season.

"Herman came back from the script

meeting with a list of his needs for the coming episode," Martin recalls. "I needed to design two Bajoran ships: there was a small ship, "Kira's Raider", and a large transport ship."

Perhaps surprisingly, Martin had very little to go on - a year in to the show and we still hadn't seen a Bajoran ship. "These were the first Bajoran ships done for *DS9*," he remembers, "so there wasn't an established ship style to follow. Herman had me look at the Bajoran architecture we had done for previous episodes, and also the Bajoran

symbols to help me get a flavor for what the Bajoran ship aesthetic might be. We talked about graceful sweeping wings and Bajoran shape language."

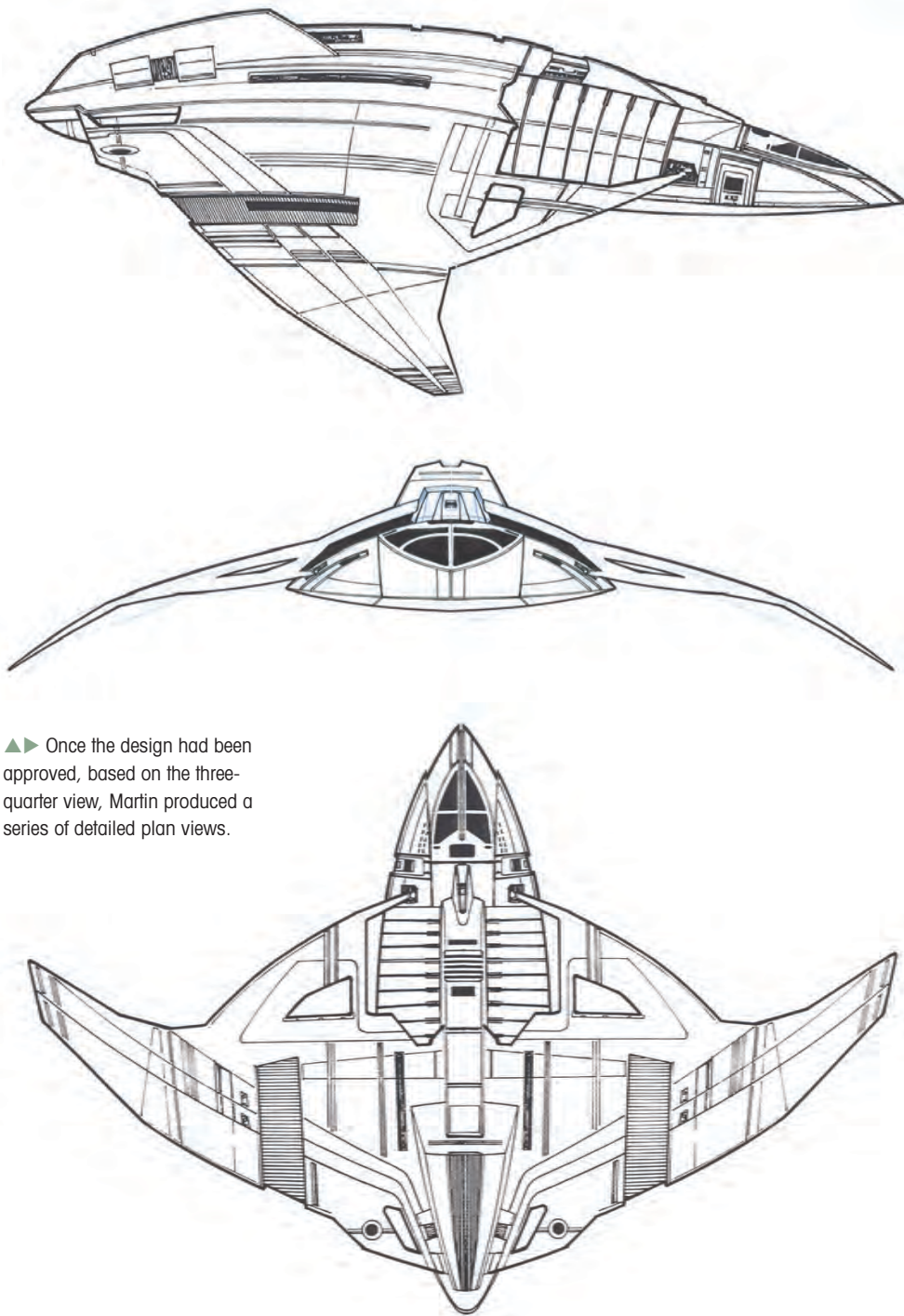
### LINKED BUT DIFFERENT

Martin had about a week to come up with his ship concepts before they would be shown to the producers. He

designed the two ships together, ensuring that they would have a lot in common, implying that they were produced by the same culture, but at the same time they had to be clearly different to one another.

"Both designs were due that week and were submitted together at the production meeting. Since I drew them





▲► Once the design had been approved, based on the three-quarter view, Martin produced a series of detailed plan views.

back-to-back, I had the chance to think about them both at once.

"The Bajoran Raider was meant to be a battered and outdated fighter that Kira and Dax manage to fly, and the transport was newer, more regal and meant to transport dignitaries like Kai Opaka. I believe that the script called for a large Bajoran ship, something bigger in scale than a Runabout."

Martin began by producing a series of quick sketches, which Zimmerman commented on, approving a basic design direction that Martin could pursue. The design that Martin came up with was something of a departure for *STAR TREK*: neither of the ships had obvious warp nacelles, instead they had conventional wings, more like modern aircraft. In the case of the fighter, the

wings were short and stubby, whereas for the transport they were wide and sweeping, like a bird of prey.

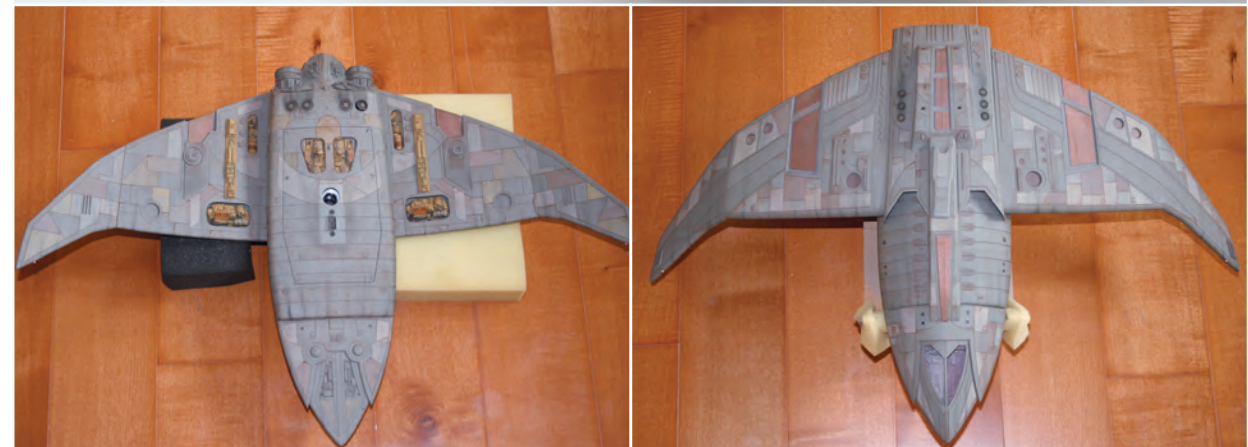
"I remember that for the transport Herman wanted something graceful in keeping with the Bajoran design aesthetic," Martin says. "I worked up a three-quarter view, which we took to the production meeting. Sometimes ships or props would be approved in a single meeting, and this time we got lucky. I remember that the Bajoran transport was approved in the initial design pass and didn't need further exploration, though Kira's raider did have a couple of design passes before it got the go ahead."

#### MAKING IT REAL

Now he had an approved design, Martin returned to the art department and produced a set of elevations that would be handed over to the VFX team, who worked with Tony Meininger's model shop, Brazil Fabrications & Design. As the model was built, Martin's design was refined, with a significant change being made to the design of the front part of the wings.

"The art department had an amazing relationship with Tony Meininger and the model shop," Martin says. "They did great work and always brought their craft and know-how to the ships. So the final design was usually a wonderful collaboration. I always enjoyed seeing the final model when the effects were being shot. That's a reward as an illustrator: to see the realization of a design you began. Sketches and drawings are great starting points but model builders know how to make the designs come alive."

The finished model made its debut in the season opener, *The Siege*, which was rapidly followed up with an appearance in the *TNG* episode *Pre-emptive Strike* where it was shown as one of the Maquis ships that was



taking on the Cardassians. For story reasons, onscreen the scale of the ship varied massively – in *The Siege* it is clearly a medium sized vessel, but in *Pre-emptive Strike* it is only the size of a shuttle.

The physical model, which measured 27 inches across continued to be used throughout the remaining seasons of

*DEEP SPACE NINE*. It was eventually rebuilt by Digital Muse as a CG model for the massive battle sequence in the season 7 episode *Shadows and Symbols*. Internally, at least, the ship was now referred to as a troop transport, and was scaled out to be 70m long. The physical model was sold at auction in 2006, when it fetched \$4,500.

◀ The practical model of the Bajoran Transport was constructed by Tony Meininger's model shop and made over 20 appearances on *DEEP SPACE NINE*.

◀ As the model was made, the design was refined. Most noticeably, the shape of the wings was simplified. Meininger's team also established the colour scheme for the ship.

◀ VFX house Digital Muse recreated the Bajoran Transport as a computer-generated model for an appearance in the episode *Shadows and Symbols*. Shots of the practical model also continued to appear on the show.



## ANCIENT HISTORY

### 500,000 YEARS AGO

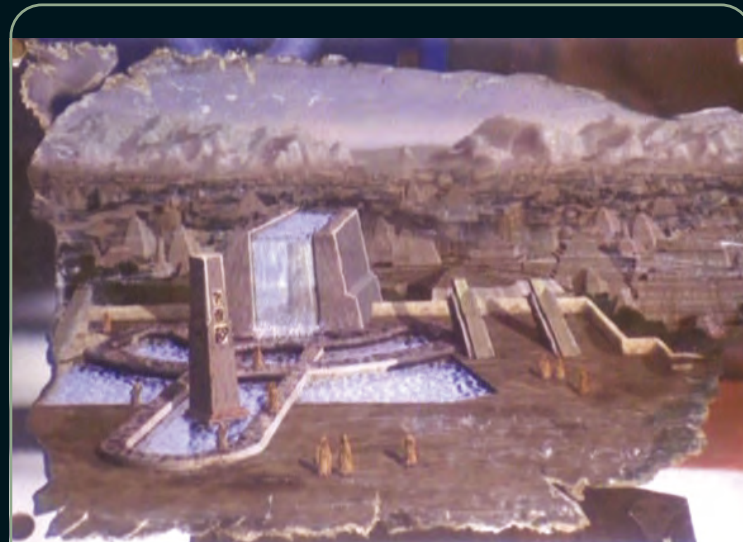
Records of Bajoran history went back half a million years, making it one of the oldest civilizations in the Alpha Quadrant. Their ancient history was filled with accounts of many great architects, artists, musicians, builders and philosophers, long before humans made tools or even spoke.

### 10,000 YEARS AGO

An historically vital event occurred when an Orb, a mysterious but tangible artifact, was retrieved from space, changing Bajoran religion forever. Every 1,000 years after this, another Orb appeared nearby in the Denorios Belt. The Bajorans believed that these Orbs were given to them by non-corporeal entities that they called the Prophets and worshipped as gods.



▲ An Orb shone brightly, emitting a calming hue. Orbs allowed meditators to experience visions of great significance, often revealing the future.



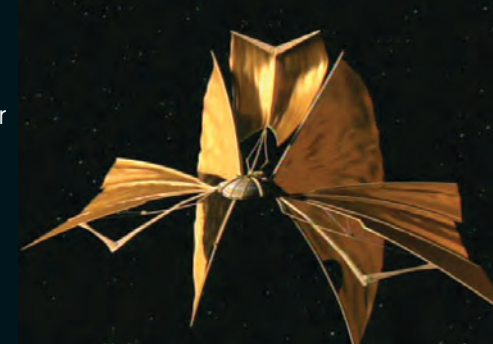
▲ An icon painting depicting the ancient city of B'hala was the only proof that it existed before it was unearthed many centuries later.

### 20,000 YEARS AGO

The revered holy city of B'hala was lost to history. The question of its whereabouts baffled Bajoran scientists, but a prophecy predicted it would be found by someone who was close to the Prophets. In 2373, Benjamin Sisko rediscovered the city 200 meters underground after he experienced a vision. This reaffirmed Sisko's status as Emissary of the Prophets among the Bajorans. Another ancient Bajoran artifact was discovered under the ruins of the city that was even older. This was the Reckoning Tablet that was inscribed with archaic ideograms on it. Sisko tried to decipher their meaning, but when he became frustrated at being unable to do so, he picked up the tablet and smashed it against a wall. This released a trapped Prophet and Pah-wraith, initiating a 'reckoning' or battle between them.

### 800 YEARS AGO

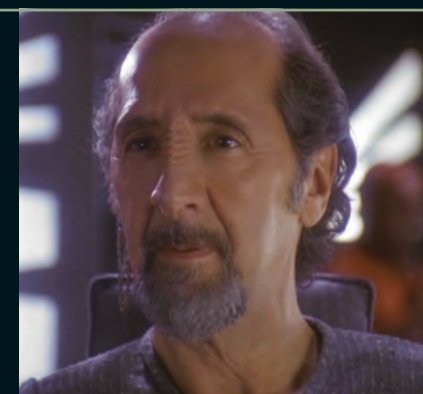
The Bajorans reached space in solar sailing ships hundreds of years before humanity managed a similar achievement. These craft were extremely light, with large wings that could catch solar winds. They could even travel faster than light if they got caught in a tachyon stream, and evidence showed that they went as far as Cardassia in the adjacent star system.



◀ Using solar winds and mapping tachyon currents, Bajorans were able to travel far from their homeworld in solar sailing ships. These vessels were fairly rudimentary, but if they got caught in a tachyon stream, they could accelerate to faster-than-light speeds.

## MODERN HISTORY

▶ Akorem Laan was a renowned Bajoran poet from the 22nd century. After inadvertently venturing into the wormhole, Akorem believed he had been chosen as the Emissary to the Prophets, but he later realized he was mistaken. He supported the claim that Sisko was the Emissary before he was returned to his own time.



### 2172

Akorem Laan, one of Bajor's greatest poets, departed the planet in a solar sailing ship, but got caught in an ion storm. He drifted into the Denorios Belt and entered the as-yet unknown wormhole. He stayed there with the Prophets until 2372 when he emerged believing he was the Emissary of the Prophets. In fact, the Prophets had intended that Akorem would convince Sisko that he was the true Emissary.

### 2319

After suffering difficulties, Bajor was offered help by the Cardassians, which they accepted. The Cardassians had an ulterior motive, however, as Bajor was rich in natural resources and they saw an opportunity to replenish their own dwindling supplies.

### 2328

The Cardassians officially annexed Bajor and took direct control of the planet – leading to the Occupation of Bajor. Despite the Bajorans' high state of cultural development, Cardassian technology was much more advanced and was why the Bajorans surrendered without any serious resistance at first.



◀ The Cardassians devastated the Bajoran landscape, as they plundered the world for its rich natural resources. Many Bajorans fled to other planets to escape the brutality.

### 2351

The Cardassians built a mining station in orbit of Bajor that was called *Terok Nor*. It was used to process ore stripped from the planet. Mass genocide was committed across the planet by the Cardassians, leading to the deaths of 15 million Bajorans.



▲ Bajoran slave labor was used to process ore on Terok Nor. Conditions were so harsh on the space station that it was effectively a death sentence.

# BAJORAN TIMELINE

Bajor had an ancient, thriving culture, but in the 24th century the people suffered greatly under Cardassian rule before the discovery of a wormhole thrust them into the center of galactic politics.



**2366**

The Occupation gave rise to the fierce Bajoran Resistance, which was organized into small cells operating mostly independently from each other on and off Bajor, and using guerrilla as well as terror tactics. Noteworthy Resistance fighters included Shakaar Edon, Li Nalas, Kira Nerys and Lenaris Holem. The Cardassians began to realize that the occupation could not continue.

► Shakaar and Kira were old friends after she joined his resistance cell as a child and went on her first raid at the age of just 13.

**2370**

A movement known as the Alliance for Global Unity, also called The Circle, attempted to overthrow the Bajoran provisional government by force. The alliance was covertly led by minister Jaro Essa, who was secretly supported by Vedek Winn – the conservative candidate to become the next kai. Jaro's involvement with the plot was exposed, and it emerged that the Alliance was unwittingly receiving weapons from the Cardassians, who hoped to break Bajor's links with the Federation.

► Jaro was assisted in his dealings by Vedek Winn. They believed Bajor should stand on its own without help from the Federation.

**2369**

A combination of factors persuaded the Cardassians to abandon Bajor. Most of the planet's resources had been mined – entire areas such as the north-west peninsula were incapable of supporting farms – and the terrorists were causing serious problems. Before the Cardassians left, they initiated a scorched earth policy, poisoning the earth and burning buildings to the ground. Surviving Bajorans managed to eke out a meager existence in refugee camps such as Valo II.

◀ Before the Cardassians withdrew, many Bajorans had fled to off-world colonies, such as Valo II, where they lived in extreme poverty.

**2369**

Immediately after the Cardassian withdrawal, Bajor established a provisional government. There were several parties vying for control of the planet, but a more 'liberal' faction had a slender majority and asked the Federation to share administration of the Cardassian space station *Terok Nor*, which was renamed *Deep Space 9*.

Bajor's situation changed radically in 2369 when Commander Sisko discovered a stable wormhole to the Gamma Quadrant in the Denorios Belt. Bajor's position near the wormhole made it an important center for trade and a vital staging post for exploration. This had a major impact on the political situation. The Cardassians instantly renewed their interest in Bajor, and many Bajorans felt that their alliance with the Federation was essential to keeping them safe. Perhaps more importantly, the Bajoran religious leader Kai Opaka, one of their society's most influential individuals, identified Commander Sisko as the Emissary, a vitally important figure in the Bajoran faith.

► Sisko changed the life of all Bajorans when he discovered a wormhole to the Gamma Quadrant and was named Emissary.

**2371**

A political crisis led to an uprising in the Dahkur province led by Shakaar Edon. This ended with Shakaar's election to the post of first minister. Under his leadership, Bajor reached the point where the Federation was preparing to offer it membership.

**2373**

Bajor's membership for the Federation was accepted. However, as war with the Dominion was looming, Sisko persuaded them to delay and sign a non-aggression pact with the Dominion. This saved Bajor from coming under occupation a second time when the Dominion captured *Deep Space 9* at the beginning of the war.



▲ The retaking of *Deep Space 9* by the Federation Alliance meant that the Bajorans were safe for the time being, and could openly help in the war effort.

**2374**

Once the Federation Alliance had recaptured *Deep Space 9* and pushed the Dominion back into Cardassian space, Bajor was able to throw off its impartiality and openly ally itself with the Federation.

**2375**

Kai Winn allied herself with Gul Dukat, who was posing as a Bajoran Farmer. They attempted to unleash the Pah-wraiths from the Fire Caves on Bajor, but Dukat double-crossed Winn and in her final moments before death she rediscovered her faith in the Prophets and the Emissary. Sisko then plunged himself and Dukat into the depths of the fire, which trapped Dukat in the prison with the Pah-wraiths, while Sisko was rescued by the Prophets. With the Dominion War now over, there was nothing to prevent Bajor from joining the Federation.



▲ The Fire Caves were a prison created by the Prophets to contain the Pah-wraiths. Sisko threw himself and a Pah-wraith-possessed Dukat into the fire.



# ON SCREEN



## TRIVIA

The Bajoran assault vessel was one of the last physical studio models to be transformed by effects house Digital Muse into a CG model for the *STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE* episode *Shadows and Symbols*. Curiously, it appears that both the physical model and the CG model were used in this episode in almost identical shots. The physical model was sold at the '40 Years of STAR TREK: The Collection' auction in 2006 for \$5,400 to American collector Adam Schneider.



A few months after *Shadows and Symbols* was aired, the desert filming location used for the surface of Tyree was seen again as desert landscape for the Delta Quadrant planet in the *STAR TREK: VOYAGER* episode *Gravity*, where a shuttle crashlanded.



The *STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE* episode *The Siege* concluded the first ever three-part story in *STAR TREK* history. No more three-parters were produced until *STAR TREK: ENTERPRISE*. The subject of these story arcs dealt with the Dr. Soong's Augments, the Vulcan Reformation and the Romulans' plot to incite war among their key rivals.

- FIRST APPEARANCE: 'PREEMPTIVE STRIKE' (TNG)
- TV APPEARANCES: STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION, STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE
- DESIGNED BY: Jim Martin

### KEY APPEARANCES

#### STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE 'The Siege'

Five hours remain before Bajoran assault vessels arrive at Deep Space 9 to take back the station on behalf of The Circle, an extremist group that has overthrown the Provisional Government on Bajor. The only hope of stopping them is to get the proof that their weapons have been indirectly supplied by the Cardassians to the Chamber of Ministers. Kira and Dax use an old Bajoran Raider to take the evidence Odo has unearthed to Bajor. On their way, they are fired upon by two assault vessels, but they must survive as the very fate of Bajor lies in their hands.

#### STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE 'Shadows and Symbols'

Sisko, his father and son and Ezri Dax search for the missing Orb of the Emissary in the hope that it will reopen the Bajoran wormhole. Worf, Martok, Bashir, O'Brien and Quark seek to honor the recently departed Jadzia Dax by destroying a Dominion shipyard in orbit around Monac IV. Meanwhile, Kira commands a Bajoran fleet from an assault vessel in an effort to set up a blockade that will stop the Romulans from arming the plasma weapons that they have secretly been stockpiling on Derna, a Bajoran moon.

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