

MECHA VS. KAIJU



Mecha: Giant humanoid robots controlled by human pilots. Kaiju: Giant monsters spawned by atomic radiation. *Mecha vs. Kaiju* portrays the epic struggle of heroic mecha pilots in their towering war machines, defending the people of Japan against gigantic radioactive monsters.

The setting is based on two unique influences from Japanese pop culture.

The kaiju detailed here are based on monsters such as the ape-like Gargantua, the noble insect Mothra, and the unstoppable Godzilla—all products of the legendary Toho film studio. Inspiration for the heroic Mecha Assault Force comes primarily from anime series like *Mobile Suit Gundam*, with a healthy dose of *sentai* (taskforce) teams (best known in the west as “Power Rangers”) thrown in.

The heroes in *Mecha vs. Kaiju* are members of an elite taskforce of pilots and specialists willing to do whatever it takes to defend their

homeland. They train endlessly for the cataclysmic moment when giant robots, bristling with bleeding-edge technology, go toe-to-toe with the massive and destructive kaiju. But members of the Mecha Assault Force must be equally capable outside their war machines, as they confront a 50-year conspiracy to undermine their homeland from within.

A *Mecha vs. Kaiju* campaign features opportunities for every heroic role to shine. Adepts use psychic and spiritual power to augment their towering battle vehicles and confront inhuman foes. Experts use their peerless skills in a variety of ways, from maximizing the power of their mecha to running down the most cunning and dangerous human foe—the ninja! And of course, warriors use their combat prowess to fight diabolical enemy agents as well matching their mecha one-on-one against the awesome might of the kaiju.

HISTORY

The year was 1945, and Japan stood at the brink of defeat. With Okinawa crushed and America poised to invade, the military overlords of Japan swore to fight on. Their will was broken at 8:15 a.m. on August 6th, when a bomber dropped its atomic payload on the city of Hiroshima. The plane took photographs of the growing mushroom cloud for several minutes, then left. They did not witness the true devastation that walked out of the cloud on two legs.

The people called it Kaiju, or “mysterious beast.” At the time they thought the bomb and the monster were both dropped by America. Later, it was theorized that the kaiju was somehow generated by a massive spontaneous mutation caused by the explosion. Similar mutations caused by subsequent above ground nuclear tests have lent credence to this theory. Whatever its origin, the creature wreaked havoc on the ruins of the city, then began moving south across the face of the nation. Harassed by the remains of the Japanese army, the creature made its way towards the southern island, where it was destroyed in a second atomic blast in Nagasaki. Japan surrendered and the remains of the kaiju were gathered for study. But in the Cold War struggle that followed, North Korean forces sought to use the kaiju as a weapon.

Building upon Japanese nuclear experiments once conducted in their own lands, the scientists of North Korea were somehow able to grow their own kaiju at the Chosin Reservoir, unleashing them against the American military during the Korean War. Though quickly outlawed as offensive weapons by the United Nations, the effect of giant monsters in the Asian theatre would have long lasting results. In 1956, a kaiju broke free from the Korean demilitarized zone and swam across the Sea of Japan, destroying a fishing village and leveling Tokyo before it was defeated.

This incident led to the formation of the Japanese Self Defense Force, and its two specialized corps, the “Anti-Kaiju Force” and the “Mecha Assault Force.” It is the mission of these two agencies to defend Japan against kaiju raids. Today, in addition to rogue giant monsters, the M.A.F. must contend with the growing threat of North Korean intelligence agents operating on Japanese soil. In order to combat this new, unconventional threat, the organization has begun recruiting new members from outside the military. Yet with so many enemy agents infiltrating the home islands, can the M.A.F. even trust its own?

“IRON STRIKER, INBOUND!”

LT. ACE KASURAGI PILOTED HIS GLEAMING WINGED VEHICLE OVER THE STREET, BLOWING OUT WHAT WINDOWS REMAINED, FOLLOWING THE SWARM OF MISSILES STREAKING TOWARDS THE GREAT BEAST. THE MISSILE'S COOKIE-CUTTER TECHNOLOGY SWERVED THE PROJECTILES AROUND HIS COMRADE'S IRON ANGEL MECHA AND INTO KAIBUTSU'S CHEST.

IT PAUSED FOR A MOMENT, DISTRACTED BY THE FIRE AND SMOKE AS THE STRIKER FLEW OVERHEAD, AND THE ANGEL MOVED OFF. UNABLE TO FOLLOW THE ONE STREAKING AWAY FROM THE COMBAT, IT TURNED DOWN THE STREET TO PURSUE THE OTHER.

A VOICE CRACKLED OVER ACE'S RADIO. “YOU BOUGHT THE CAPTAIN SOME TIME, ACE. NOW LET THE SARGE FINISH THE JOB!”

SGT. KEIKO WATANABI PUSHED THE HULKING FORM OF THE IRON DEMON THROUGH THE SHATTERED REMAINS OF A BUILDING, BLOCKING THE CREATURE'S PATH. HER BATTLE CRY FILLED THE STREETS AS TWIN GRAVITY BEAMS OPENED UP ON KAIBUTSU. THE CREATURE STUMBLER BACKWARDS AND TOPPLED TO THE GROUND, UNMOVING.

“GOOD SHOT, SARGE! WE'VE GOT JUST ENOUGH JUICE TO GET BACK TO BASE.”

CAPT. FUJITA, THE IRON ANGEL'S PILOT, RADIOED BACK. “LEG ACTUATORS ARE FREEZING UP. LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE HITTING A RIDE BACK WITH YOU.”

ACE, IN THE STRIKER, HAD A BETTER VIEW OF THE BATTLEFIELD. CAPT. FUJITA'S SMILE FADED AS HE HEARD, “UH, TEAM, I HATE TO BREAK THINGS UP BUT...KAIBUTSU'S NOT DEAD!!!”

CLAMBERING OUT OF THE RUINS, THE GREAT BEAST STOOD TALL, ENRAGED BY THE INSECTS THAT WOULD DARE COMBAT HIM. IT STRODE FORWARD, READY TO CRUSH ALL IN ITS WAY.

“CAPTAIN, WHAT DO WE DO?”

CAPTAIN KIHARU FUJITA GRITTED HIS TEETH, RESET HIS SYSTEMS, AND PRAYED. “WE DO WHAT WE ALWAYS DO, SARGE. WE FIGHT FOR THE DEFENSE OF OUR NATION. MECHA ASSAULT FORCE...ICHI-MASU!”