

Bureau Office of Strategic Services

Type: Government Agency

Motivation: Metahuman Defence / Support

Funding: Government / Self - BOSS routinely creates a surplus of funding by licensing patents of inventions created by its R&D division.

Resources: Excellent - has access to resources controlled by many other government agencies, has its own research division.

Locations/Headquarters: BOSS Headquarters is located in Boston, Massachusetts occupying a former industrial complex on the city's edge. The majority of BOSS administrative offices, research and development, and training facilities occupy the Siegel Skyscraper Complex. An ultra-modern facility that extends nearly as far below ground level as it does above. Standard elevators have been replaced with cab-systems that move sideways through the building in addition to up and down. This allows a larger number of cabs to be available in a relatively small number of shafts. There are moving 'slidewalks' on the more open levels of the building as well as inside an enclosed walkway that connects the building to garage and the high-speed pneumatic trains that connect the complex with the nearby launch facility for BOSS's trans-orbital shuttles. The roof of the building houses a landing area for BOSS tiltrotors - vehicles that fly like standard planes, but whose wings tilt to allow them to take off and land vertically like a helicopter.

Separated from the main building are several smaller facilities. These include a garage complex, with civilian vehicles as well as electric cars and hovercraft usable on official business by BOSS agents, and the 'Scrapyard', BOSS's premier R&D facility. There is a small train station that links the complex with Boston's commuter train service, and a pneumatic train system that connects the complex with a small airport - serving as a launch area for BOSS's trans-orbital shuttles. The Mission Training Complex, nicknamed the 'Hazard Room' is also separated from the main building for safety reasons. The training area is equipped with sophisticated mechanical, holographic, and environmental systems to allow BOSS agents to train for almost any conceivable mission - from underwater to deep space. Agents are provided with computer controlled androids and robots as sparring partners in these simulations.

BOSS also has a highly secure containment facility for metahuman criminals located in the Appalachian Mountains known as Project Lockdown. The majority of cells are modular and adaptable to containing most known superbeings. Details of the facility are not available at this time. Prisoner/detainee escapes are rare, but have occurred.

Special Equipment/Vehicles:

- TO Shuttles:** BOSS trans-orbital shuttles were created as a much-needed method of rapidly deploying teams of BOSS agents throughout North America and the world. The shuttles are modified from a design called the Venture Star provided to NASA by Lockheed Martin as a replacement for the Space Shuttle. They are reusable launch vehicles that do not require separate booster rockets to attain orbit. BOSS's TO shuttles are capable of being launched and landed at most conventional air fields. Unlike the Venture Star they do not require a special ramp to be launched. The shuttles are 100 feet long, and contain supplies and equipment for up to 10 people, though twice that number can be sustained in an emergency. Special training is required to pilot the shuttles, so if none of the agents on board are qualified a pilot is provided by BOSS. The vehicles are capable of prolonged use in space, but are most often used to transport field agents rapidly from one area of the country, hemisphere, or world to another. The current shuttle vehicles are named after heroes of history and folklore including Beowulf, Gilgamesh, Arthur, Lancelot, and Robin Hood.

Personnel Divisions:

- Field Operations:** This division is comprised entirely of metahumans, these being the agents that BOSS deploys to aid in law enforcement and disaster relief efforts. Many are former vigilantes or criminals recruited to BOSS. They are allowed to maintain a certain level of anonymity (secret identities), and access to BOSS personnel, equipment, and facilities in return for providing support for BOSS operations.
- Recruitment/Assessment:** This division is responsible for providing power/capability assessments on metahumans. These include BOSS agents, prospective agents, criminals, criminal suspects, and any other known metahumans. They gauge information on powers and abilities the (alleged)metahuman possesses, provide a basic psychological profile, and past history. Based on this data they may recommend various new recruits for contact and processing. This division also handles the training/workouts of new and current BOSS agents. They are in primary control of the MTC, or 'Hazard Room' as it is known, and determine it's use and capabilities with the technical support of the R&D division.
- Metahuman Studies:** This division is really a subdivision of R/A who reports to additional sources outside BOSS on the status of various metahuman research projects. They are also responsible for maintaining the most comprehensive metahuman census on the planet.
- Research and Development:** This division is in charge of all of the technological and scientific research undertaken by BOSS. In addition, they maintain Project Lockdown, the Mission Training Complex, the TO shuttles, various gear assigned to field agents, the pneumatic train system, and all other resources directly under BOSS's control. Three of the most sought out technicians/scientists in the world are employed here: Zachary 'Zach' Kirby; James Byrne; and Timothy McFarlane. All three are responsible for enormous advances in weaponry and defence research and their creations have helped save the world on several occasions.
- Administration:** The bureaucratic arm of BOSS that interfaces with other government and world organisations, approves new agents, and deploys agents into the field. Unlike the administrative

arm of many other government organisations, these people have earned a great respect from the people they work with, and allow them to do their job - whether field work or research - with as little interference as possible. While BOSS reports on activities and research findings to a variety of organisations they are directly answerable only to the President of the United States and a handful of other people, and are usually allowed to work in complete autonomy.

Leadership: Director - Dr. Florence Ackerman - has been in the position since 1988. She gained notoriety in the metahuman area with her book 'People are monsters too!', published in 1980, which changed the way metahumans were regarded by most of modern society. The book traced the history of metahumans back thousands of years, examined what was known at the time about their biology and psychology, and did a day-to-day profile of three different metahumans of the time. She has been directly responsible for the current wealth of research being done on metahumans and metahuman culture.

Description:

The O.M.S., Office of Metahuman Services, began in 1941 in an effort to take advantage of the desire of a wave of new metahuman to assist the US military and the Allied war effort. It was directed by Hugh Barringer until it was disbanded in 1950 to be replaced by the current organisation. Early agents of the OMS included the Red Ant, Chess Master, Bouncing Betty, Captain Dynamo, and Jaeger. Barringer retired from public service with the dismantling of OMS in 1946. The organisation was replaced that same year with the Bureau Office of Strategic Services.

BOSS was originally directed by the super-intelligent metahuman known as the Chess Master, Lawrence King. Mr. King was responsible for setting up an impressive power base for the organisation in the form of both a large influx of metahuman agents and highly proficient support personnel. King managed to keep the organisation running smoothly, and protect his agents from public scrutiny, despite the efforts Sen. McCarthy and J. Edgar Hoover.

Today BOSS spearheads metahuman operations on a global scale by assisting federal, state and local officials in the US in the apprehension of metahuman criminals and other special aid, as well as participating in a UN taskforce as a quick-response peace keeping force. BOSS utilises the latest in advanced military and scientific hardware, and has access to the cutting edge in diagnostic and detection equipment for use in recruiting, training, and maintaining the world's finest metahuman agents.

In addition to their primary duties, BOSS conducts extensive research on metahuman origins, psychology, biology, culture, and sexuality. They also have the most complete census of metahumans on the planet. Much of this data is routinely shared with a variety of government, social, and scientific organisations world-wide.

Sample Agents:

| Agent Name | Division | Format |
|----------------------|------------------|--------|
| Stim | Field Operations | VV |

Campaign HQ Organisations

Villains and Vigilantes copyright 1982 FGU