

From the Line of Fire: Inside IAR-2 Abolishers

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Ask any of the new RPAs around about the Abolisher robot and they'll immediately steer the conversation to the newer faster Skull Smasher design. Afterall, the Abolisher has been in service of the Coalition forces so long there's nothing new that can be said about it—at least in the minds of the guys who pilot them. The most exciting thing to happen to the Abolisher in the last 10 years was an armor upgrade to make the gigantic behemoth tougher.

Of course if you're on the receiving end of the Abolisher's auto-cannons there seems to be no lack of excitement. When I was traveling with the 12th Field Artillery, a battlefield artillery unit that supports a combined arms battalion, we attacked a stronghold of Tolkeen refugees. They were holed up in a make-shift firebase and were making hellish use of magic and terrain to hold back the attacking infantry. Enter the 12th Artillery...

The gigantic Abolisher robots created a firing line well outside the range of most magic and began an awesome barrage. Each unit spun around three hundred sixty degrees at the waist, twelve auto-cannons firing in rapid succession. The battery of sixteen Abolishers dropped an unprec-

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Tolkeen Prisoner

“ ented volume of fire on the stronghold, magic force fields yielded to the barrage, man made obstacles and shelters were torn asunder, and the ground shook under the assault. The infantry advanced under the hail of fire, and the magical defenders had no choice but to surrender, they were so suppressed by the unyielding fire from the “Thornheads.”

Interviews with the prisoners, those not deafened by the results of sixteen Abolishers “firing for effect”, were spell bound by the assault. One d-bee on its way to interrogation said “It was like angry god raining down vengeance on an unrepentant people.” Some of the more military minded prisoners offered a tactical perspective. One merc praised the effectiveness of the fire “We wanted to fight back, but the concentration of fire was so devastating we didn't dare climb out of our cover. Some of the more inexperienced fighters tried to

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Overall, the IAR-2 has evolved over its service life time from a front line infantry assault unit to a mobile artillery support system. If you can keep enemy ground troops away from its huge above and below blind spots the unit can turn the tide in a battle, especially against fortified enemy positions. The best description of the unit comes not from behind the cannon, but from in front of it.

Firepower Magazine details the weapons of war used across North America. Production is done with the permission of the Coalition States and with cooperation from Northern Gun Armaments, and Traix Incorporated.