

# The Real Heroes?

## Some Jargon

**AP** – Augmented Persons, people effected by MPD & developing implausible powers

**MPD** – meta-particulate dispersal; the original source of the AP condition. This appears to come from an alternative dimension.

## Organisations

**MAPS** - Monitoring AP Section. The Government agency with responsibilities for monitoring and evaluating APs.

**ACE** - Augmented Citizens Entente. AP vigilante organisation based in New York

**LOAF** - League Of Augmented Folk. AP civil rights group. Focus on the AP who do not have potent powers. Nationwide.

**BAST** - Brother- And Sisterhood of Transhumans. A Terrorist AP supremacist organisation.

**AAAAA** - All Americans Against Afflicted Aliens - Anti AP group. Extremely hostile and belligerent.

**WAPs** – Western APs. A loose group of AP from the West Coast of the US. They are characterised by their independence rather than being a unified group.

**Brightwater** – Private Security Consultants that employ AP

## MAPS

MAPS is a division of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) that has had a monopoly of state funding into AP research of all types for as long as they have been around. There has been some privately funded research but none has announced any positive results.

MAPS has had limited success in finding out the nature and cause of the AP condition and has mostly managed to create various taxonomies. They have recently announced that they can detect AP from cell samples.

They are the incumbent experts on all things AP and have resisted efforts from other agencies to encroach on this. They have made the case to reopen extra dimensional research as this would let them explore closer to the causes of the MPD outbreak and the nature of AP. This obviously had tragic consequences other time it was tried.

## LOAF (League Of Augmented Folk)

This is an AP civil rights advocacy group. It started out as a support group to help AP struggling with their changes (most AP develop powers as young adults). As anti AP sentiments rose and assaults became more common it developed into more of a civil rights group. Their core message is that AP are just people and have rights to be protected.

They try to act as mediators between the authorities and the other AP organisations with some success. They have concerns about the day to day treatment of AP and want "AP" to become a

protected characteristic. They also want clarity on legal reaction to the use of AP powers in day to day life and for example in sport.

## **ACE (Augmented Citizens Entente)**

Another organisation that has changed focus. Originally it was a loose group of AP vigilantes who came together to prevent further "blue on blue" incidents. It has become more of a way for them to defend themselves against the accusations of the press, law enforcement & "ordinary" people that they are no better than the criminals that they purport to chase. This is focused around the collateral damage they cause and the fact that they seem to flaunt the laws that would apply to ordinary people when they carry out their vigilantism. ACE usually counters it by stating they are simply responding to the escalating threat posed by the criminals. The presence of overtly criminal AP and non- AP criminals using heavier weaponry to deal with AP are seen as an escalation by the general public.

## **WAPs Western APs**

This is a loose affiliation of AP vigilantes operating on the West Coast of the US principally Los Angeles. They are similar to the early form of ACE. They coordinate enough to avoid accidental conflicts amongst themselves but they rarely act as a group and have little coordinated presence.

## **BAST (Brother- *And* Sisterhood of Transhumans)**

BAST has been declared an illegal terrorist organisation. Their policy follows the hard line as stated by Professor Peril, the organisation's spokesperson, that Transhumans (ie AP) are the next evolution of the Human race and "ordinary" people are a lesser species fit only to serve AP. The long term fate of these "muggles", as BAST dismissively refer to them, is to be phased out. Most members are believed to hold less extreme views but have become radicalised by their contact with Peril and by the treatment they and other AP friends and family have received. There is widespread distrust of AP and bullying & assault are very common at least of the ones without dangerous powers(!).

## **AAAAA (All Americans Against Afflicted Aliens)**

This is an anti AP advocacy group. They are not numerous but are vocal and have many sympathisers amongst the general population. They advocate extremely "strict" treatment of AP and the reduction of their rights. They condone (or incite) violence against APs and are believed to be on the verge of being declared illegal. This only seems to be prevented by the fact they overwhelmingly support the incumbent government. They call AP "Afflicted" .

## **Summary of MAPs Assessment of the Number and Power Level of US APs**

There are estimated to be between two and three million AP in the USA. This represents around 3% of those exposed to MPD. Of these 1% (30 000) are class 2 and above, which is MAP classification terms is exceeding heavily armed and equipped human abilities. One in twenty of these (1500) are category 3 or above which is one in 2 000 AP or 1 in 60 000 of the general population.

95% of AP, those of category 1 or below, are not dramatically more capable than the general "normal" population. They are however often more resilient to injury and disease and frequently possess powers that set them apart from everyone else though these are generally of limited utility, for example the ability to change colour.

MAPS have a lot of classification information they have assembled. This may or may not be useful and it may be that more useful schemes could be developed.