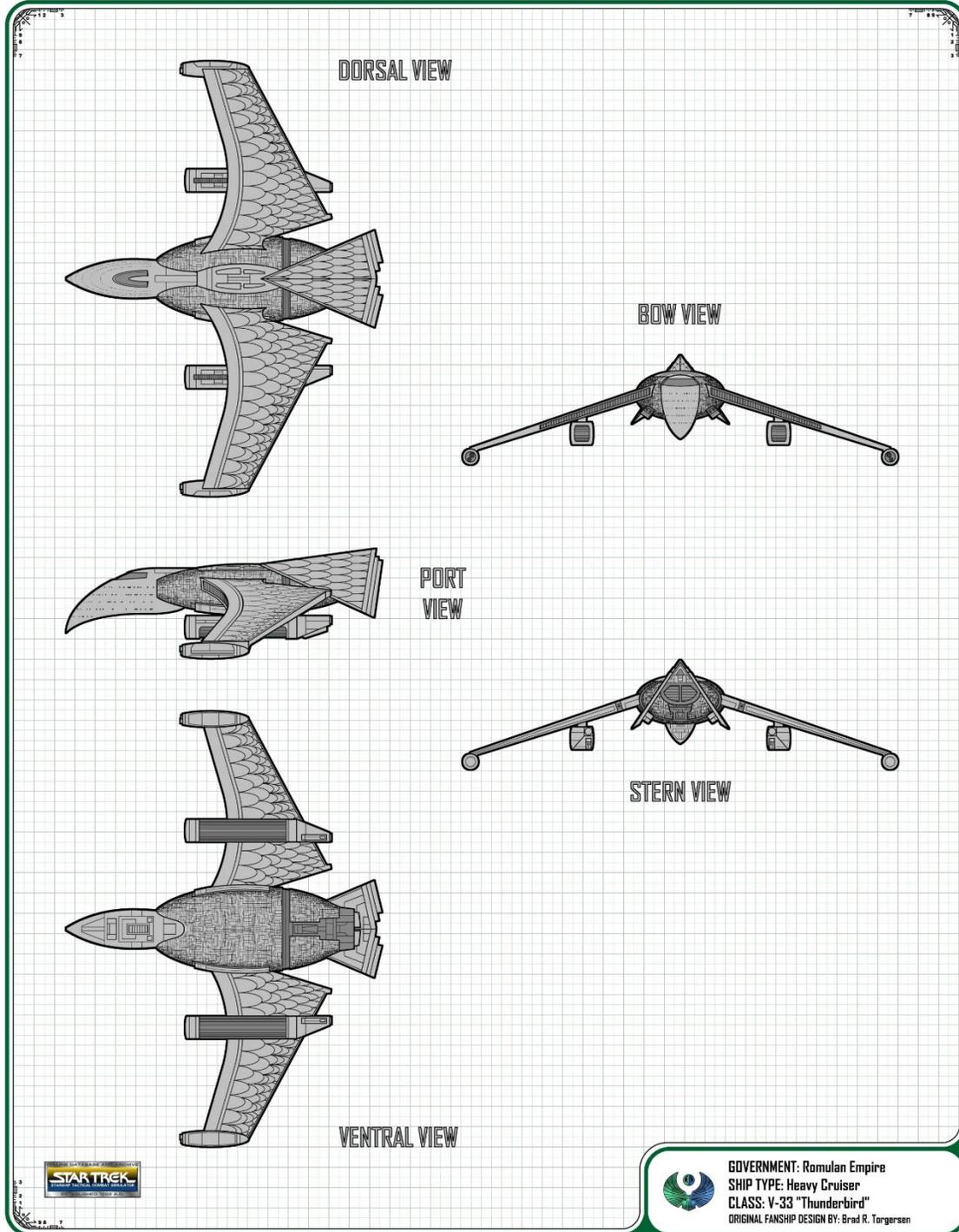


# V-33 "THUNDERBIRD"-CLASS ESCORT CRUISER

Entered Service: 2285



## Dimensions

Length: 233.5 meters

Beam: 322 meters

Draft: 72.8 meters

All art by Brad R. Torgersen of the STTCSOLD&A

**Overview:** First commissioned in 2285, the V-33 “*Thunderbird*” class was designed by the Romulan Star Empire to serve as a supporting escort cruiser for its most powerful warship at the time, the Z-1 “*Nova*”-class battleship. While capable of operating on its own as a battlecruiser, the V-33 was more often deployed as a screening vessel to protect the Z-1. This meant that the V-33 tended to be stationed in and near the Romulan core star systems to assist the Z-1 battleships as a bulwark against invasion. Even so, the V-33 was sometimes assigned to covert surveillance and was equipped with a cloaking device to facilitate those missions. The V-33 was named for the *vas'khenn* (“bird of thunder”), a large and omnivorous bird native to Remus that is fond of rain and electrical storms. The V-33 cruisers remained in service until the 2340s when they (and the Z-1 battleships) were placed in mothballs.

**Capabilities:** The V-33 carried a crew of 410, was equipped with a shuttlebay large enough for 4 shuttlecraft, and had a cruising speed of Warp 7 (OCU) and a maximum speed of Warp 9 (OCU). Like many Romulan ships, the V-33 was equipped with a cloaking device. The V-33 was armed with 3 dual-emitter disruptor banks, (1 forward-port, 1 forward-starboard, and 1 aft). In addition, this vessel was also armed with six photon torpedo launchers (4 forward, 1 port-aft, and 1 starboard-aft). As with many Romulan vessels, the combination of the V-33’s cloaking device and forward weaponry enabled it to sneak up on an enemy while cloaked and then uncloak and release a devastating barrage of firepower.

**Traits:** Romulan escort cruiser

## Systems

Comms	7	Engines	10	Structure	10
Computers	7	Sensors	7	Weapons	10

## Departments

Cmd	--	Sec	+2	Sci	--
Conn	+1	Eng	--	Med	--

**Scale:** 4

**Special Rules:** Cloaking Device (see STA Corebook, p259)

## Attacks

- Disruptor Banks
- Plasma Torpedoes
- Tractor Beam (Strength 3)

## Talents

V-33 “*Thunderbird*”-class starships have the following Talents:

- Cloaking Device
- Fast Targeting Systems
- Secondary Reactors

## *D'hathos*-class Variant

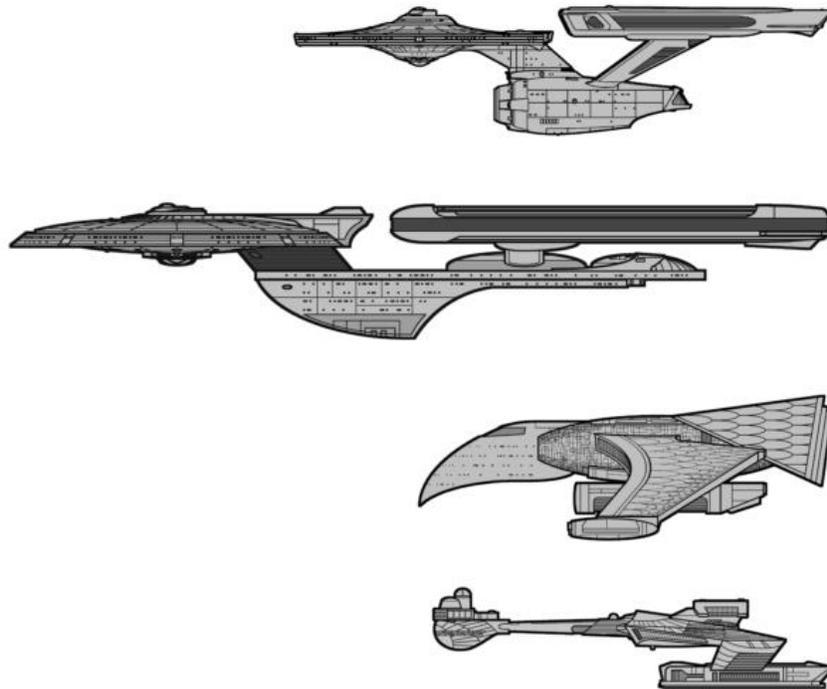
**Entered Service 2374**

When the Dominion War erupted between the Federation-Klingon Alliance and the Dominion at the end of 2373, the Romulan Star Empire was content to let their interstellar rivals attack each other while they remained neutral. However, all that changed with the Dominion’s assassination of Romulan Senator Vreenak in 2374. Now that the Empire was at war, new warships were needed to supplement the *D'deridex*-class Warbirds for wartime duty. A crash program to prepare mothballed starships for combat duty was initiated and the V-33 “*Thunderbird*”-class cruisers, along with the V-7 “*Whitewind*” cruisers, the V-30 “*Winged Defender*” cruisers, and the Z-1 “*Nova*” battleships, were chosen to be refitted. The *IRW D'hathos* was the first V-33 cruiser to be refitted for service in the Dominion War. (The word “d’hathos” means “great hunter” in the Romulan language.) The Empire upgraded the engines and other systems of the *D'hathos* to 24th century standards. In particular, the *D'hathos*’ weapons were upgraded by converting the V-33’s three dual emitter disruptor banks into

triple-emitter disruptor banks (for a total of 3 disruptors in the forward-starboard arc, 3 in the forward-port arc, and 3 in the aft arc) as well as an additional photon torpedo launcher (for a total of 3 torpedo launchers in the forward-starboard arc, 3 in the forward-port arc, and 1 in the aft arc). With its upgraded warp engines, the *D'hathos* could cruise at Warp 7 (MCU) and had an emergency speed of Warp 9 (MCU), allowing it to keep pace with most starships of the 24th century. Several dozen *D'hathos*-class starships came online in late 2374 and are expected to serve the Empire well in the war against the Dominion.

**Changes:** Add the Long Serving Trait. Increase Engines, Structure, and Weapons by +2 each, increase Computers and Sensors by +1 each.

Acknowledgements: I want to thank Brad R. Torgersen for both maintaining the [Star Trek Starship Tactical Combat Simulator Online Database and Archive](#) website and for providing the artwork of the V-33 "*Thunderbird*"-class Romulan Cruiser as well as for providing inspiration for my version of the V-33's backstory. (Remember, the V-33 is Brad's fanmade creation, not a FASA ship, so he deserves the credit for its very existence.) Finally, many thanks to Colin "Mephit James" Wilson and Michael Dismuke of [Continuing Mission](#) for their assistance with this rewrite of the V-33 "*Thunderbird*"-class Romulan Cruiser.



## V-33 "THUNDERBIRD" CLASS - HEAVY CRUISER

Here pictured in comparison with Federation Constitution (refit),  
as well as Federation Excelsior, and Romulan V-II class cruisers