

Cobalt Gas is a volatile airborne compound originating from experimental alloy synthesis and deep-core mining operations in Blespar. It was first encountered over 48 years ago, during early space-launch efforts that relied on locally refined high-density alloys. At the time, the incident was classified as an industrial failure linked to a failed rocket launch test. The affected zones were sealed, scrubbed from public record, and assumed neutralized. That assessment was incorrect.

Recent mining expansion and renewed aerospace activity in the same geological strata have uncovered the compound again, this time in a far more stable and persistent form. Subsequent analysis revealed that when cobalt-based alloys interact with specific trace elements under extreme pressure and heat, an anomalous gaseous byproduct is produced—capable of lingering, migrating through enclosed spaces, and resisting modern filtration systems.

Following rediscovery, multiple hostile and non-state actors began refining and deliberately dispersing a modified form of the compound. Particularly, the Verdant Pact operating under a new contract in the Eastern Paraq region- has ample usage of it. This weaponized variant is now formally designated **CX-8**.

The first confirmed operational use of CX-8 occurred in Strymia, where it was covertly dispersed against entrenched rebel forces. The deployment was not immediately detected as a chemical event. Within minutes, rebel command structures began to fracture. Intercepted comms describe widespread disorientation, loss of situational awareness, and escalating mistrust among units. Multiple engagements devolved into sustained friendly-fire incidents, with entire cells neutralizing themselves without direct external contact. Post-action intelligence assessments labeled the Strymia operation a strategic success. Rebel resistance collapsed in key sectors despite minimal conventional engagement, validating CX-8's effectiveness as a destabilization agent rather than a blunt force weapon. Survivors exhibited long-term psychological impairment, hallucinations, and memory corruption weeks after exposure.

CX-8 retains the core properties of the original gas but demonstrates enhanced stability, controlled dispersal potential, and increased neurological impact. In low light it manifests as a dark blue-gray vapor, often accompanied by a metallic or ozone-like scent that is not consistently detectable. Environmental behavior suggests partial reactivity to infrastructure materials, allowing it to pool in tunnels, launch silos, dense urban corridors, and subterranean facilities. Exposure to CX-8 produces rapid cognitive degradation. Initial symptoms include spatial disorientation, auditory distortion, and impaired threat recognition. Prolonged exposure results in tremors, memory fragmentation, paranoia, and severe breakdowns in motor coordination. Advanced cases escalate into neural cascade failure, catatonia, or violent dissociative states. Fatality is common within 6–12 hours of sustained exposure. Conventional medical diagnostics frequently fail to register damage until neurological collapse is already underway.

From a tactical standpoint, CX-8 is not primarily a casualty-maximization weapon. Its effectiveness lies in command erosion and psychological destabilization. Units exposed to even trace concentrations experience loss of cohesion, misidentification of allies, and escalating friendly-fire incidents. Entire facilities can be rendered operationally unusable without structural damage, making CX-8 especially effective in denial operations and covert destabilization campaigns.

Standard protective equipment offers negligible protection. Automated and unmanned systems show significantly higher survivability, though prolonged exposure degrades sensor accuracy. Containment efforts remain theoretical; sealing or collapsing contaminated excavation sites has shown limited success, but the compound appears capable of reactivating when disturbed particulate matter is reintroduced into the air.

CX-8 represents a new class of threat: an industrial anomaly converted into a weapon. Its existence confirms that the original Blespar incident was not an isolated failure, but an early warning. Intelligence consensus now holds that similar dormant compounds may exist elsewhere, buried deep and inert until uncovered.