

Master Chief - Who is he?

Known only by his rank, Master Chief is genetically-altered super soldier is humanity's last hope for survival in the face of the deadly Covenant onslaught in "Halo 2."

A human, conscripted into the Spartan II program - a highly successful military project to genetically engineer and raise perfect human soldiers - Master Chief began training at the very young age of 6. The Spartan soldiers, as Earth's last line of defense, were never available in sufficient numbers to hold off the alien Covenant advance. However, the tenacity and strength of the Spartans caught the Covenant off guard and slowed their inexorable progress. The conflict was weighted heavily in the Covenant's favor however, and humanity was pushed back from its colonies, and millions have perished in the Conflict, including almost every single Spartan. It is believed that Master Chief, Spartan 117, may be the last of his kind.

Trained from an early age in weapons, tactics and command, Master Chief is augmented with a neural interface that connects him to his MJOLNIR MARK VI battle armor - giving him superhuman strength, stamina and the ability to interface directly with AI (artificial intelligence). The armor is the latest iteration of the Spartan battle armor and is a combination of advanced human alloys, and Covenant energy shielding, reverse engineered to help protect the already formidable suit. The energy shields, while resilient, can be depleted by sustained assaults of either projectile or energy weapons. The shields must be recharged, and while that process is incredibly rapid, it is unfortunately quite difficult to find such respite in the heat of battle. Once the shields are depleted, the alloy armor is relatively exposed to attack. The suit also provides life support functions, including insulation from vacuum, and a neural interface which allows an AI to operate in tandem with the Spartan.

Altered to be stronger, faster and tougher than other humans, Master Chief has genetically enhanced senses, smell, sight, hearing, even touch, and his muscle fiber is denser and more elastic than a normal human's. He recovers faster from injury, and his immune system is incredibly tough. Stronger bones, and lightning fast reflexes are all part of his genetic makeup. Every Spartan is possessed of higher than average intelligence too, and far from being order-following automatons, the Spartans are remarkably thoughtful and independent.

In his battle, Master Chief is not completely alone. Providing a tactical edge to Master Chief's physical prowess, Cortana is the artificial intelligence that was downloaded into Master Chief's MJOLNIR battle armor during the space battle leading up to the events on Halo, the artificial alien world. Designed in conjunction with the SPARTAN-II project and adept in tactical matters, Cortana specializes in decoding enemy transmissions, operation of machinery and computer equipment among other useful skills. Underneath a sardonic sense of humor, Cortana is fiercely protective of Master Chief and has proved to be an invaluable resource in his battles against the Covenant.

A master of all weapons, human and Covenant, and adept pilot of all vehicles, from Warthogs to Banshees, Master Chief now must race to his greatest battle—to save Earth in “Halo 2.”