



FRONT LINE ASSEMBLY - BIO

Front Line Assembly is the primary focus of Vancouver-based musician Bill Leeb. A founding member of Skinny Puppy, Leeb moved on to form FLA in 1986 with Michael Balch, releasing some cassettes (since released as *Total Terror I & II*) which paved the way for their 1987 releases: *The Initial Command*, *State of Mind*, and *Corrosion*. In late 1988, they recorded the mini-LP *Disorder*, since combined with *Corrosion* and released as *Corroded Disorder*. Their 1989 release, *Gashed Senses and Crossfire*, further cemented their popularity in the industrial scene, and prompted their first world tour. By 1990, Balch had departed and Rhys Fulber rounded out the duo, releasing *Caustic Grip*. But it was two years later when the duo released the classic album, *Tactical Neural Implant*, which has become for many, the genre's crowning moment. To this day, *TNI* still defines the best of industrial music.

FLA enraged many of their fans in 1994 when they began to experiment with their established electronic-only sound. *Millenium*, with its heavy doses of live and sampled metal guitars, dared its audience to grow and expand with the band beyond industrial's perceived barriers. Front Line stepped to the firing line again in 1995 with *Hard Wired*, which reflected both a return to form and a continued embracing of the guitar. *Hard Wired* not only picked up where *Implant* left off, it improved on the sound by adding in elements of all of their side projects. A fall European tour was recorded for the 1996 release *Live Wired*, their first concert CD ever. Also in 1996, Front Line Assembly followed up *Hard Wired* with two CD singles, "Circuitry" and "Plasticity", and toured North America with Numb and Die Krupps.

1997 saw the first realignment of Front Line Assembly since 1990, with the departure of Rhys Fulber and the addition of Chris Peterson to the ranks. Front Line's 1998 album, *FLAavour of the Weak*, featured the band's first flirtation with electronica. *Re-Wind*, a twin CD of remixes, followed later that year. The duo then released *Implode* in 1999 followed by *Epitaph* in 2001. *Epitaph* exhibited building intros, trance-inspired synth lines, pulsing beats, and solid melodies, which proved to be contagious anthems for a new future of industrial music.

After the 2001 release of *Epitaph*, another changing of the FLA "guard" occurred: Chris Peterson left and original member, Rhys Fulber (Fear Factory, Conjour One) returned. The newly charged Front Line Assembly delivered the highly anticipated *Maniacal* single in late 2003. The successful single laid the ground work for the 2004 album *Civilization* and *Vanished* EP which featured three unreleased tracks.

Then in 2005 came the event that everyone had been waiting for, a Front Line Assembly fusion. Bill Leeb, Rhys Fulber, and Chris Peterson with new members Jeremy Inkel, , and Jared Slingerland began working on the 2006 album, *Artificial Soldier*. The newly reformed line-up managed to create an album that not only lived up to the expectations of Front Line Assembly fans, but surpassed them. Heavy pounding beats, atmospheric strings, percolating melodies, dynamic synths and Bill Leeb's trademark vocals couldn't be fused together any tighter if you tried to do it at an atomic level. As if all of those factors weren't enough, two guest vocalists appear on *Artificial Soldier* – Eskil Simonsson from Covenant (on "The Storm") and Jean-Luc De Meyer from Front 242 (on "Future Fail")! After the release of the album, the band embarked on a successful world tour, and released the remix album *Fallout* one year later.

In 2010, a new line-up has emerged featuring Jeremy Inkel, Chris Peterson on programming duties, and Jared Slingerland on guitars, and FLA was joined by Three Inches of Blood guitarist Justin Hagberg, and guest keyboardist Craig Huxtable of Landscape Body Machine. The result of this reinvigorated lineup yielded the album *Improvised. Electronic Device* showcasing the *Shifting Through The Lens* single. And as if Front Line Assembly's legacy and namesake alone weren't enough for the album, Al Jougensen from Ministry contributed his vocals to the song "Stupidity."

2012 again brought change and band members Bill Leeb, Jeremy Inkel and Jared Slingerland brought the critically acclaimed instrumental soundtrack "*Airmech*" to the gaming world. The soundtrack "*Airmech*" was released by Carbon Games as the backdrop for their free-to-play realtime strategy game. With a directionally different sound for the band, fans and critics alike embraced it wholeheartedly.

While FLA was putting the finishing touches to "*Airmech*," they also began work on what would become of their most highly revered efforts in the history of the band. "*Echogenetic*" was released on July 9, 2013 and was well-received by fans and critics alike. The band broke new ground with this release by combining multiple styles to create a reinvented modern soundscape of their style – combining the past with the present to create a welcome-to-the-future sound. "*Echogenetic*" was quickly followed up by its remix album, "*Echoes*" which again, broke new ground for an interpretive remix album. The release included two new tracks "Contagion" and "Next War" that were co-written by Ian Pickering of the *Sneaker Pimps*.

Throughout the years, FLA has seen many line-up changes. Bill Leeb remains the constant behind the band. Bill's work can also be heard on a wide number of side projects, including Delerium, Noise Unit, Fauxliage, InterMix, Cyberaktif, Equinox, and Synaesthesia. Bill has also contributed music to the popular video game, Quake 3 - The Arena.

Front Line Assembly's current lineup consists of: Bill Leeb, Jeremy Inkel, Jared Slingerland and Jason Bazinet