

**MANDALORIAN MERCS**

# BATTLECRY

**Issue 20**  
**Winter 2018**

**ARMOR PARTIES**  
3 reasons to keep attending.

**THE LAST JEDI**  
Mercs at the world premiere.

**SAN DIEGO COMIC-CON**  
Adam Savage becomes an honorary member.

**SPOTLIGHT: CRUSADERS**  
Get a glimpse of living Mandalorian armor history.

**THE FATE OF THE MANDALORIANS**  
"Rebels" creator Dave Filoni talks about what is to come.



# MANDALORE ON THE RED CARPET

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# MERCSCON

MercsCon is a chance for all Mandalorian Mercs members to meet socially and to discuss the organization face-to-face. This is an opportunity for all members to learn more about the structure of the club and to get more involved, to help the Mercs grow and improve as the most elite Mandalorian costuming organization in the galaxy.

**Daytona Beach, FL**  
**November 9-11, 2018**  
**Shores Resort & Spa**

For FAQs, comments, and ticket information, please visit

**[WWW.MERCSCON.COM](http://WWW.MERCSCON.COM)**



# WELCOME!

The dawn of another year has never looked brighter.

Before we move into that dawn, let us take a moment to think about the milestones of 2017. For the first time ever, MMCC had the largest fan-group exhibit area at a Star Wars Celebration. I'd like to personally thank everyone who invested their time and money to help make that possible, you are a testament to why this organization is so great.

In August, MMCC made its first appearance "at the table" with its 4 sister organizations as part of Lucasfilm's first "Jedi Council Meeting" at LFL headquarters and Skywalker Ranch. To be accorded such an honor is proof of MMCC's place as a global leader in the larger "Star Wars" costume and fan community.

December saw the passage of our first major update to the MMCC Charter, Bylaws, and Handbook since MMCC was incorporated in 2013. These updates allow Clans and Regions more possibilities for self-governance, and opens up the ability for members to have a bigger stake in the paths MMCC takes as an organization.

As we move into 2018, we have even more milestones on the schedule to accomplish. For the first time, MMCC will allow specific soft costumes to be part of our official member ranks. The launch of MMCC's "Council Committees" will allow members to have a seat at the table of MMCC's governance. We'll also be hosting the first ever MercsCon in Daytona Beach, Florida.

2018 is shaping up to be another hallmark year for MMCC, but we all have to work hard and do our individual and collective parts to ensure we reach the goals that have been set. I look forward to working with each and every one of you, to make these goals come to fruition.

OYA!

Tom Hutchens  
Mandalore the Uniter

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Jill Atin of France and Switzerland's Orar Galaar clan celebrates the first snows of winter.

Photo by Brunelie Lauret.

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New year, new editor.

# KEEP THE PARTY GOIN'

Armor parties don't end once you earn your kill stripes. There are plenty of reasons to keep attending once you hit official status.

By Zerxus Dral, Haaronover Clan

Photos courtesy of Margie McKinnon

Armor parties are the most important way to grow a clan, and they can be an area that lots of people can easily ignore or forget about once they become official members. These events are truly unique to our community and only really exist within the major costuming clubs. Everyone in a local clan has an opportunity to play a part. Beyond that, here are just a few reasons that you should keep attending them, even after becoming an OM.

## 1. MENTORING

"First and foremost, an armor party is the easiest way to pass along knowledge that you learned from your build," says Haaronover Clan Ruusalor Batnor-Goor'verd.

This knowledge may come from you building your kit without help at an armor party, or upgrades that you have added or changed because of things that you encountered while trooping that others may not have encountered, for whatever reason.

This knowledge is easy to pass on and can save people from having to make major changes to their kits once they have been accepted as official members. In many cases, such as slight modifications to how you hang the straps on a legacy kit so that you can twist your torso, this knowledge may be too difficult to provide online, but only takes minutes to help change in person. This knowledge is invaluable to newer members and helps speed up the work on their kits and makes the Ruus'alors' job easier by removing a change that would need oversight once the member was approved.

## 2. CHALLENGING YOURSELF

The second reason to attend armor parties is for your own sake. As Kol Var'Das said, "I personally consider a kit finished when it is at a point where it can be submitted for approval. Even though a kit is considered finished, however, this does not mean that the work is over. As an artist and a person constantly looking for new challenges, I am always finding new goals and directions on my armor. Members will usually work towards getting into a brigade after receiving their kill stripes, and the brigades are a fantastic way to improve overall kit quality."

As a former Ruus'alor myself, I echo this sentiment. I'm always working on something. I move straps around, reweather plates, change weathering patterns, and add/remove sigils and killstripes depending on my mood and how the kit looks in photographs at the last event I attended. Your kit is only as finished as you let it be. It is a living piece of art, and as such, it should grow and change

with you in hundreds of little barely perceptible changes.

Another example of this is Batnor-Goor'verd, who has never trooped a con with the same belt hangings as he had before. He always adds, changes, or removes different trophies for each event. For Celebration this year, he and I both wore chest diamonds on our belts for each clan member who wasn't able to make the trip.

As Senaar Ordo said, "The upgrades never stop. A kit can reach 'completion,' but little adjustments and fixes will always happen. Maybe you get a cool idea for your character, maybe you want a different weapon or accessory, maybe you want to add more armor, maybe you want to redo your paint job because your skills have improved. The list is endless. I believe that's one of the best things about Mandalorians, because you're never "stuck." Don't like something about your kit? Work with your Ruus'alor and change it. Think you want to go from light to heavy armor? Go for it! That's the wonderful thing about the Mercs."

## 3. CONNECTING

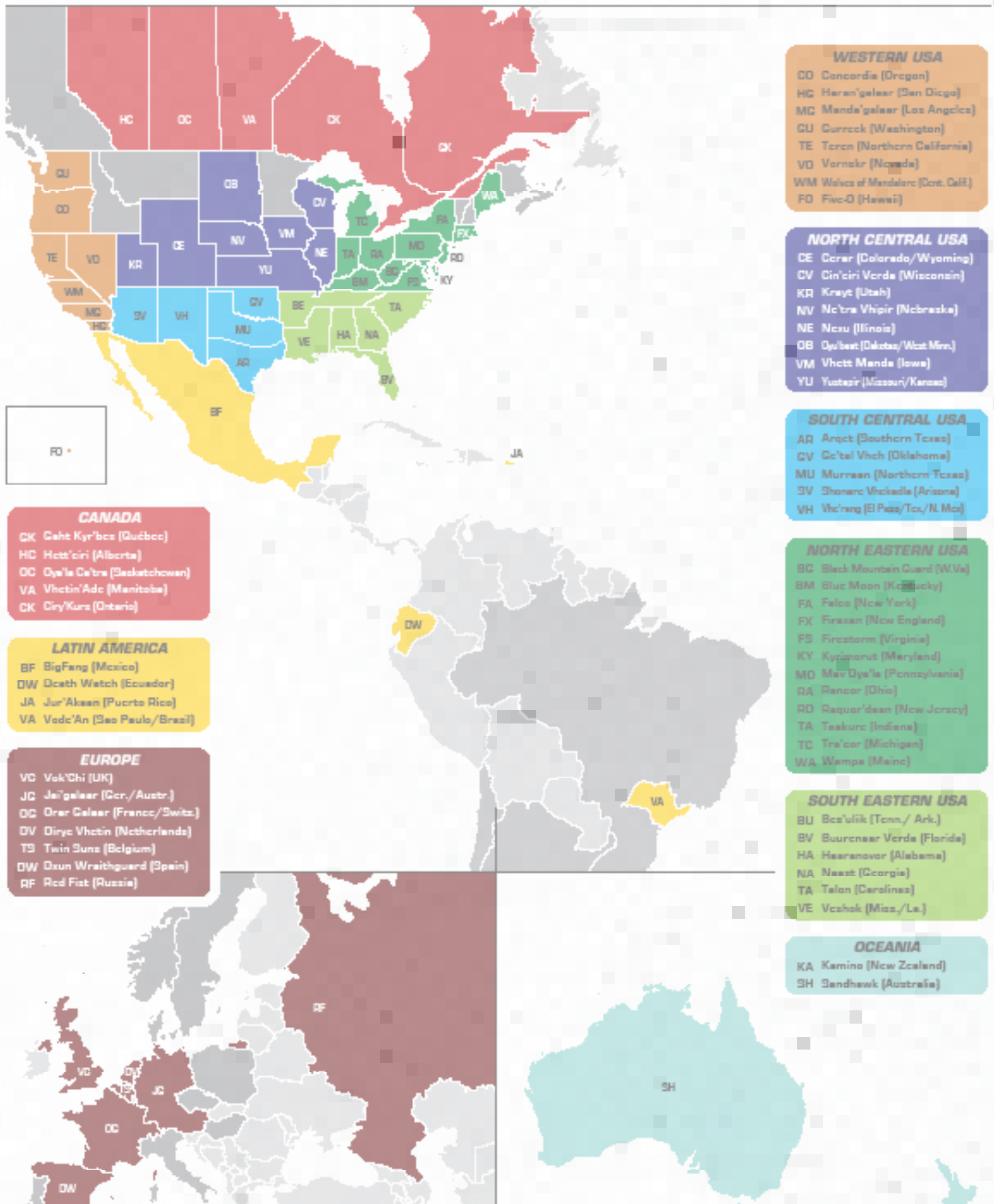
Another reason to attend armor parties as an official member is because this event opens you as an individual to the community aspects of the clan at a local level. As Rolyat Kebiin says, "Beyond working on your kit and assisting the potential members with their kits, an armor party is a good way to stay connected with your clan mates and plan for future events." You can make friends who will become your roommates for cons, carpool to troops, not to mention that logistics like these can be quickly and easily arranged in person rather than throwing something up on the forums and hoping that someone reads through your entire post.

These examples should help motivate and drive you towards attending your clan's next armor party and some ideas of how you can both benefit and contribute. Remember that these events are what you take from them. If everyone pitches in, these events can be great experiences for everyone involved.



Members of Georgia's Naast Clan work on projects at a clan armor party. Parties like this are a Mercs tradition, building strong armor and stronger clan bonds.

# MMCC CLANS LOCATOR MAP



As of Fall 2017

# MERCS DESCEND ON

Members from around the world meet up on the red carpet to usher in the next chapter in the saga.

By Kad Solus, Teren Clan

Photos courtesy of Char Jekurra and Kaden'Dha Runi

On December 9, 2017, members of the Mandalorian Mercs Costume Club from all over California and as far as New Orleans, North Carolina, and Iowa attended the red carpet premiere of "Star Wars: Episode IX - The Last Jedi." The Mercs along with other Galactic Senate costuming clubs have been invited each of the past three years to line the red carpet for the premieres of Star Wars releases in Hollywood. This year was a special treat as Mandalore himself made the trip to Coruscant, Los Angeles.

The experience began early for those who arrived the night before with a trip to the "Star Wars"-themed cantina bar, "Scum and Villainy," on Hollywood Boulevard. It was a great night for members from all over to reconnect with one another.

The day of the premiere started with a massive Mando lunch, and rolled right into the suspense of waiting for the premiere. Fans from all the clubs stood only a few hundred feet from the red carpet passing through various security checks and signs in. The wait was well worth it once we stepped foot onto the sprawling red(white) carpet mimicking the salt covered planet of Krait. Towering over us all was a massive AT-M6 walker and turbo laser embankments complete with lights and sounds.

The response from members was resoundingly positive.

Bill Stellin of San Diego's Haran'Galaar clan, "I often say that it was the third best day of my life, after the birth of my kid, and my wedding day. I've been a major "Star Wars" fan for 42 years, and attending a premiere was an absolute dream come true". The trip also held a much deeper meaning to some.

Cabé Jusik of the Central California Wolves of Mandalore Clan said "I got to meet the heroines from my childhood and into adulthood, and I got a chance to thank them for giving me, my daughter, and girls and boys everywhere a series of films where everyone gets to be the hero, regardless of gender, age, or ethnicity."

Fans from the 501st Legion, Rebel Legion, R2 Builders, Saber Guild, and MMCC lined the red carpet. After an epic



battle back and forth of who could scream the loudest to show their love and support. Mandalore the Uniter himself was impressed with the passion that everyone brought. "My absolute favorite part was watching how much energy and excitement MMCC members had for the event and movie."

As the sun set over Hollywood the premiere began with celebrities walking the red carpet. From celebrity fans like Donald Faison to cast members, they walked the carpet interacting with the fans lining the sides.

Stellin was able to meet and get an autograph from a childhood hero, "My absolute favorite part of the evening was being on the red carpet and being able to see and speak with my childhood heroes. A selfie with Mark Hamill, and getting his autograph, will be a moment I cherish forever."

The red carpet ended with the Mercs being led into the theater and placed in our own reserved seats to watch the movie with all of the cast and celebrities in attendance. Rian Johnson brought the cast onto the stage and held a brief moment of silence for the late Carrie Fisher.

Rian was a positive spark throughout the night with a constant smile. He had already left a positive impression with Mandalore, "Having the opportunity to meet and speak with Rian Johnson at Skywalker Ranch this past August made me realize just how much of a fan he is, and how much of himself went into the movie."

After watching the movie, I, like most others around me were stunned and amazed with what we had just seen. However, the event continued with dinner, drinks, and games in the theatre which allowed members to relax and meet other attendees of the event.

The experience was emotionally and physically draining from the excitement of the red carpet to watching the story of the Last Jedi unfold.

Rohm Iy'Kadaysh of Northern California's Teren Clan, explained it perfectly, "...it was the collective, from start to end that made the experience what it was. The build up to entering the event venue. Being on the





carpet and seeing the cast give their interviews brought even more to their on screen characters. Walking in the theater and seeing the screen...Watching the movie and then the time to reflect on it afterwards was all together just amazing. Topped by being able to share it with those from my MMCC Clan and friends."

Since opening on December 15, "The Last Jedi" has grossed more than \$1.3 billion worldwide according to website, Box Office Mojo. Fan reaction to the movie was overall positive.

Jusik was empowered by it, "It was incredibly empowering and made me feel like a little girl watching Leia all over again."

Iy'Kadaysh was happy with the direction of the newest trilogy, "I felt that the direction, writing and acting was a natural and seamless evolution from "The Force Awakens." The art direction was exceptional and the ultimate path that I see the stories heading is building even more excitement and confidence in the story group and people behind it."

Mandalore also gave it his approval, "I really loved TLJ, it's my second favorite SW movie at this point."



**(Top) Members of the Mercs gather on site before being ushered into their area at the premiere. In addition to watching the movie, guests attended the after party, played casino games, and mingled with stars and other celebrities.**

**(Above) Cpt. Murdoch, 14KillStripes, Knox Tenau and Teren Clan Alor'ad Kad Solus capture memories in their buckets during the premiere event.**

**(Left) A First Order AT-M6 keeps watch on the premiere.**

# THE MERCS TAKE SDCC

Merces from around the country descend on San Diego for geekdom's premiere summer event.

By **Coryn Jusik, Wolves of Mandalore**

Photos courtesy of Coryn Jusik and

Any good bounty hunter knows that if you want to find your prey, you go to where the people are. And so in July, Mandalorian Merces members from various clans descended on San Diego Comic-Con International from July 19 to 23, along with thousands of other beings drawn from all corners of the universe.

At least 20 Merces, from Southern California's Haran'galaar and Manda'galaar Clans, Northern California's Teren Clan and the Wolves of Mandalore, Nevada's Vornskr and Arqet Clan of Texas, wandered the halls of the San Diego Convention Center, prowled the streets of San Diego's Gaslamp District, staffed a booth along with more than a dozen other costuming organizations and hosted a panel for aspiring Mandos. "San Diego Comic-Con International is one of the biggest and highest visibility cons in the world, so you can imagine the pressure of representing the Merces well," Haran'galaar Alor'ad Kendar Jun said. "Even though we don't get a spot on the con floor, we still manage to bring a lot of positive attention to the club by hosting a costuming panel and participating in numerous photo shoots. Overall, I think we do pretty good."

Jun and his clan had help from around the United States, including Clan Arqet, Clan Ruus'alor Mira Skydatt, a veteran of three SDCCs.

"Last year at SDCC was my first time meeting Merces outside of Clan Arqet as an unofficial member, so being able to kit up again this year as not only an OM, but also a clan Ruus'alor, was even better," Skydatt said. "I felt that I could actually represent the Merces now."

The panel, "Oya Manda: 10 Years and Hunting," gave guests a chance to speak directly with Merces and learn the details of the club and its mission. Jun said the crowd was smaller than in past years, due primarily to the panel being held off site at the Marriott Marquis - next to the convention - in a late Sunday timeslot, but that did not

stop the Southern California Merces from bringing their best.

"This year my command staff and I chose panelists who really reach every seat in the house with their passion and love for what we do. Vexos from Manda'galaar and Mesh'la Cuyan from Haran'galaar both made people in the audience tear up from how passionate they were about the Merces, including myself," Jun said.

In addition to the panel, Merces from around the US met up at another off-site event, the 501st Legion Imperial Sands Garrison's "Wampa Ice Ball," a social event for Star Wars costumers, on Friday, July 21, at the San Diego Central Library.

A fully-catered meal, Star Wars-themed DJing, charity raffle and silent auction greeted attendees, and they socialized, danced, and laughed the night away, all while raising more than \$6,000 for Stand Up For Kids, a charity dedicated to helping homeless children.

"The bash at comic con has quickly become one of our favorite events at SDCC. Being a member of all three clubs (MMCC, 501st, RL), nothing brought me more joy than to see all my friends celebrating and having fun together," Jun said.



(Top) Manda'galaar Clan Ver'Alor Vexos laughs during the Merces' "Oya Manda: 10 Years and Hunting" panel on Sunday, July 23.

(Left) Merces members from around the United States posed for photos and answered questions from other attendees during the five days of SDCC events.

(Above) Cabé Jusik from the Wolves of Mandalore patrols the outer ring of the convention. The air-conditioned convention center gave some refuge from the warm Southern California summer for armored attendees.

# GOING TO CALIFORNIA



Mandalorian Mercs Costume Club leaders join their counterparts for a whirlwind tour of “Star Wars” and Lucasfilm production landmarks.

By Coryn Jusik, Wolves of Mandalore

Photos courtesy of Saz and Coryn Jusik

It started with some cryptic social media posts. Mandalore the Uniter boarding a plane for “Coruscant,” other costuming leaders sharing photos from airports. Sharp-eyed members of the Mandalorian Mercs Costume Club knew something was up, but it wasn’t until embargoes were lifted that the truth was revealed, that history had been made in August 2017, involving leaders of all the major “Star Wars” fan groups.

On Aug. 12, Mandalore the Uniter, accompanied by Public Relations Commanding Officer Saz, flew out to Northern California to meet with representatives from Lucasfilm and leaders from the 501st Legion, Rebel Legion, SaberGuild and R2 Builders, as well as representatives from Star Wars-based websites, to discuss the role of fan groups, and ongoing partnerships with the parent company.

“Lucasfilm has a relationship with us that no other movie franchise has with its fans. We should always remember how special,” Mandalore said. “It’s because of George Lucas that the relationship began, and it’s because Lucasfilm believes in us that it exists today.”

The visiting dignitaries also toured iconic “Star Wars” real-world locations, including Rancho Obi-Wan, Steve Sansweet’s “Star Wars” museum near Petaluma, Lucasfilm and Industrial Light & Magic in San Francisco, and Skywalker Ranch in Marin County.

“I don’t think there are enough words to really explain the amount of feelings I had during all this. The best way to explain it is to think about something you’ve always wanted to see, for as far back as you can remember, as a child. Then actually getting to see and experience it, there’s no way to explain that. Lucasfilm HQ was great, but Skywalker Ranch was the single biggest highlight of the trip for me. To be at the place where George wrote most of the ‘Star Wars’ movies, it’s like a fan’s Mecca. Skywalker Ranch was built as a place to inspire creativity,



Members from “Star Wars” costuming groups and fan groups met in August for a series of tours and discussions, including visits to Lucasfilm and Industrial Light & Magic headquarters in San Francisco’s Presidio, home of one of the famous Yoda statues.

free of the shackles of the film industry, and just being there is inspiring in and of itself,” Mandalore said. And due to the way boundaries are drawn in Northern California, the stops fell in both Teren Clan and Wolves of Mandalore geographic territory, giving Mandalore and Saz time to meet with their members from both areas. The two clan met for dinner in Novato, not far from Skywalker Ranch, giving Mercs of all ranks and levels, from new recruits to the literal top of the clan, a chance to interact casually. Several of the visiting Mercs were even presented with hand-drawn representations of themselves from Wolves recruit “Little Mando.”

“There’s a Mandalorian proverb I wrote once that was based off a much longer and older proverb, but it goes: “A great general lives among their troops.” Mandalore said. “I care about every single MMCC member, no matter what their opinion of me may be, and it’s my duty to spend time and meet when them at every possible occasion. This is what I like to call ‘Mandalore’s Mission,’ because if the troops don’t know you, you can’t expect them to march for you?”

# MASKED CRUSADERS

Mandalorian history is celebrated as members take on the task of crafting Mandalore's past warriors.

By Naran Baatar, Tra'cor Clan

Photos courtesy of Kritika Dha Werda

## BACKGROUND

This era covers the rise of the Mandalorians and the peak of their power. The Mandalorian Crusades began in the ancient times of Mandalorian history with Mandalore the Conqueror and stretches forward until Mandalore the Avenger. This is an era of Mandalorian warriors, of a massive standing army with a military might unmatched in the galaxy. The Mandalorian Crusaders are not simple bounty hunters or mercenaries; they are the true third power in the universe.

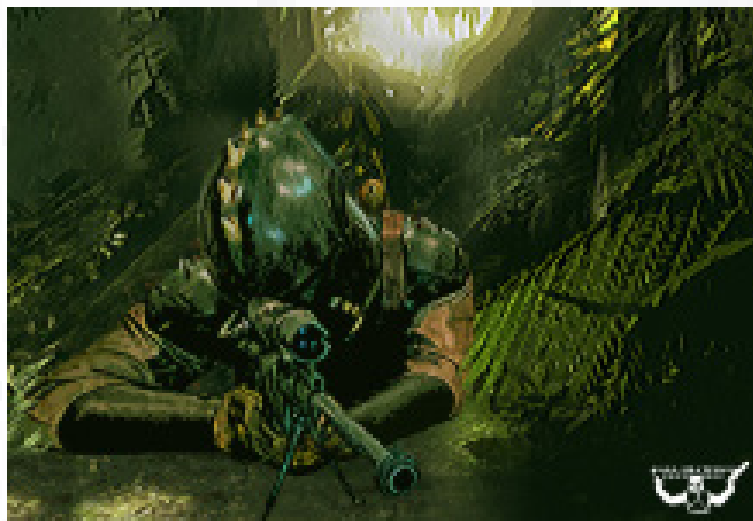
The Crusader Era is the longest running era within the Legends banner of "Star Wars." It begins with one set of CRLs—the Early Crusader Era—and ends in another—the Crusader Era. Even the aesthetically different Neo-Crusaders fall within the timeline of the Crusader Era, although they, like Early Crusaders, have their own separate set of CRLs.

For the purposes of the club, the Crusader Era covers two periods of time. The first is the Old Republic before the rise of the Neo-Crusaders and the Mandalorian Wars of Revan and Mandalore the Ultimate, and the second picks up during the Cold War era, which is featured in the Star Wars MMORPG "Star Wars: The Old Republic."

Currently, the Crusader Era wholly falls under the Legends banner, although there have been small glimpses into what the Crusader Era is like within Star Wars canon with stories and mural images coming from both the "Clone Wars" and the "Rebels" television series. We know, for instance, that Mandalorian Crusaders fought their way to the heart of the Republic using their skills with the blade and clever use of technology to launch a raid against the Jedi Temple itself.

## BUILD

The Crusader Era is without doubt the most diverse of the many eras of Mandalorian armor. While the materials used are similar to the modern era, the style and design of each set of Crusader armor is unique to the wearer. It is a sandbox unlike any other in the club, though it isn't



without its rules and restrictions.

Much like its Early Crusader counterpart, leather or heavy natural fabrics should always be used in place of nylon and other "modern" materials. While the armor itself is leaps and bounds more technological in nature than Early Crusader, it has a more rugged-tech appearance than modern with trauma plating, hoses, knobs, and connection points as common features across the armor. The challenge of this era is embracing the its freedom without losing sight of what makes a kit inarguably Mandalorian and not generic science fiction.

For anyone looking to strike out into this era, here are a few things to keep in mind before you join the Mandalorian Crusaders:

## VARIETY

The Crusader Era's hallmark is the fact that every Mandalorian Crusader's armor was made by the individual to fit their personal tastes and needs on and off the battlefield, which means that there isn't a single, iconic design to go by from this era, keeping in mind there must always no doubt that the armor is Mandalorian. To keep kits recognizable to the public, the CRLs are more restrictive than the reference images, but still allow more freedom than any other era; for example, Crusader visors may have T, TT, or + shape.

## REFERENCE MATERIAL

Because every Crusader built their own armor in this era, reference material is the only thing that can ground a kit from this period, so references are crucial in creating an approvable set of Crusader era armor. A kit doesn't



need to be a 1-1 rebuild, but the more reference images you have to “show your work” the better. The key here is to get a sense of the era’s character and range of possibilities, to develop fluency with the era, and then get creative while staying within the CRLs.

## RUGGED TECHNOLOGY

The armor and weapons of the Crusader era are often heavier and bulkier than their modern counterparts. The helmets often have trauma plating, and the armor itself has a much more 3-dimensional shape. Features like hoses, air tanks, and “greebs” such as connection points, buttons, and switches are common on the armor itself and add to the rugged-tech feel of the era.

## THINGS TO AVOID

Just like the Early Crusader Era, nothing modern can be used with a Crusader Era kit be it weapons, helmets, gauntlets, or plate design. If it looks like something you would see on Sabine, Fen Rauu, or Boba Fett, then it doesn’t belong on a Crusader Era kit.

This era is the height of Mandalorian power, a time when Mandalorians were a conquering army, united by a single purpose, not a set of individual bounty hunters. So get online and find some references, get creative, and get building.



Mandalorian Crusaders, who are depicted on murals in “Star Wars: The Clone Wars,” and in “Legends” materials, use more natural materials than modern kits, but aren’t as organic as their Early Crusader cousins. As shown in these images, metals and standard T-visors are often used.

For more information, visit the forums and check out our “Crusader/Neo Crusader” forum at:

<http://mandalorianmercs.org/forum/index.php?board=85.0>

# THE FATE OF THE MANDALORIANS

By Vicks Kartran, Firestorm Clan  
Photos courtesy of Lucasfilm.

“Star Wars: Rebels,” a story that began five years before “Star Wars: Episode IV — A New Hope,” is coming to a close with season four, and with it, the fate of the Mandalorians could be hanging in the balance.

Over the course of its run on the Disney Channel, “Rebels” has been a constant in many Star Wars fans’ lives, showing its millions of viewers how a small group of individuals can help shape the future of the entire galaxy. Moving into its final season, some the crew of the famed Ghost, a modified VCX-100 light freighter, find themselves among their beloved crewmate Sabine Wren’s people, the Mandalorians, who are deadlocked in civil war and fighting for freedom from the Galactic Empire.

Although the Ghost and its crew are alluded to multiple times in “Rogue One: A Star Wars Story,” what will become of Clan Wren and the Mandalorians? Will they quell their civil war and unite as one or fall prey to the Empire’s clutches once again?

When asking Dave Filoni, director of “The Clone Wars” and “Star Wars: Rebels,” he indicated that the Mandalorian fight for freedom is something more than just a run-of-the-mill conflict.

“The Mandalorians are fighting for their identity,” says Filoni.

Mandalorian history within new “Star Wars” canon is rich with identity-oriented strife. During the Old Republic Era, Mandalorians found themselves caught in the midst of the wars between the Jedi and the Sith. Constantly

fighting off occupation or destruction from both groups and dealing with its own series of civil wars left Mandalore with a traditional, battle-forged philosophy.

Enter the Clone Wars, and conflict is briefly exchanged for pacifism and neutrality. Due to this drastic shift in culture, the Mandalorian splinter group, Death Watch, emerges. Civil war breaks out briefly, and a weakened Mandalore finds itself under Imperial Occupation.

Fast forward to two years before “A New Hope,” and Sabine’s own Clan Wren is working with the remnants of Clan Kryze, led by none other than Mandalorian royalty, Bo Katan-Kryze, fighting desperately against the Empire



Katee Sackhoff’s Bo Katan-Kryze returned to the animated universe, allying herself, and leading, the Mandalorians (above right) with the help of Clan Wren.



and their Mandalorian loyalists led by clan Saxon. Katan has taken up the Darksaber, a powerful weapon wielded by Mandalorian leaders throughout the ages, and the battle for freedom rages on. The Darksaber was recovered by Sabine Wren in season 3 of “Rebels” and presumably passed on to Katan to be the leader Mandalorians could rally behind.

Compound Mandalore’s own internal conflicts and an almost decimated home planet with an Imperial super weapon that vaporized entire regiments of warriors, and the stage has been set for what will likely be an epic conclusion to both the series and the Mandalorian fight for freedom and identity. Now, with the machine destroyed and the clans united against the empire, the systems of Mandalore finally have the opportunity to seize their freedom.

“I wanted to be able to explore a bit more of Sabine’s story and her family’s background,” said Filoni, regarding the airing of the “Star Wars: Rebels” season 4. “To do this, it became necessary to bring Mandalore more into the picture so that viewers could better understand what the situation was. Are the stories heavy? With undertones? Well, I like to think I told the story the way it needed to be told. There are big things happening, and this increases the drama and tension.”

In “Rebels” season 4, where will the Mandalorians’ story lead? Or will it end all together? After asking the Mandalorian Mercs Costume Club, several theories have arisen.

“The Mandalorians (in “Rebels”) always seem split

between factions,” hypothesized forum member Grantaire. “It seems like the Mandalorians always will be fighting amongst themselves about their own identity and tradition, but will always be resilient enough to last as an autonomous group from the rest of the Star Wars universe.”

Looking ahead to the close of the series, many new avenues are possible for individual characters such as the Ghost’s pilot Hera potentially becoming a Rebel general, so there is plenty of room for flexibility with our favorite T-visored culture. With this in mind, there is one certainty, and it is that Mandalore will continue to fight until all avenues are exhausted, as has been their nature throughout their history with few exceptions.

When asked if there is hope for Mandalorians to break free of the Empire in their conflict and avoid extinction all together,

Filoni provided sage insight:

“Hope? There is always hope, but also there are no guarantees.”

“Star Wars: Rebels” returns to Disney XD on February 19.

# FROM THE EDITOR

Don't worry, Saz is still around.

In fact, he, and the rest of the leadership of the Mandalorian Mercs Costume Club had to delegate the editor position of this magazine out because so much has been going on, as you can read about in this issue. Growth really seems to be the theme running through everything the Mercs do these days.

As I sat down to lay out this issue, my social media pages alerted me that the Mercs had hit Official Member #2,000, with the approval of Aneira Vela'Rusc from Belgium. I thought about the day I first posted about my approval, but even more, I thought about the first photo I posted on Facebook as I started this journey, it was a bunch of tools and materials I bought at Home Depot, as my wife and I set out to build our kits.

Nearly 3 years later, we're both OMs, we've hosted armor builds, trooped all over California, met the strongest, bravest, oldest, youngest, silliest and wildest Star Wars fans at events of all sizes, and made some amazing friendships and memories along the way.

And one of the best parts about being a member of the Mercs family is that I know, whether you're a seasoned Ruus'alor or a fresh recruit with a raw helmet ready to paint, you can relate. We're all a part of that incredible journey, and this incredible community built around this legendary saga.

One needs only to look at our News section in the forums to see the insane number of events we do every week, and if you watch any coverage of major Star Wars events, such as Celebration or the recent "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" premieres in the US and UK, you're sure to see T-visors and mythosaurs.

As I write this, it's almost exactly two years to the day that I got that amazing email from Ulrik Kanteer, welcoming me to that next step on the adventure of costuming, official membership in the Mercs. I was, and am, Merc #1348, and it's incredible to think that in the two years since, the club has added nearly 600 members. If you factor in time for holidays, Celebrations and the thousands of troops our club takes part in annually, you realize that that means we add almost a member a day.

A day.

That's incredible, especially when you realize that every new members means the involvement of Alor'ads and Ruus'alors at the local level, regional Ruus'ols, App Team members and eventually that letter from Ulrik. As the saying goes "Verd ori'shya beskar'gam," a warrior in the Mercs truly is more than their armor, they are the dedication to the group and the craft, and the involvement of every level of this international organization.

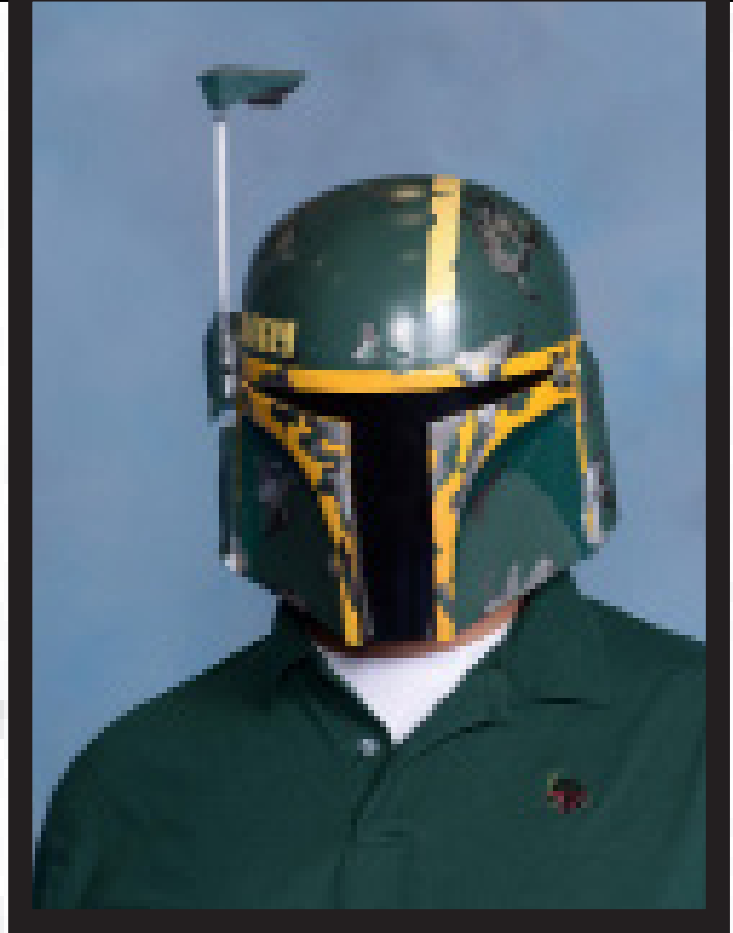
And as the group grows and evolves, we here at BattleCry hope our magazine follows suit. We've worked to include more information, more spotlights, more tutorials, and more contributions from you, the members. This magazine, like this club, is here to reflect you, and the amazing things you do every day.

Got something you'd like to see covered? Let us know.

Got a cool technique for crafting, weathering or prop-making? You let me know how much space you need, and we'll let you share that with an international audience.

Got a great photo from a troop or photoshoot? You might just see it on our cover.

Coryn Jusik  
Wolves of Mandalore Clan  
January, 2018



# BATTLECRY TEAM

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## BATTLECRY

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The Mercs official publication, designed, edited, and written entirely by Official Members, is released quarterly to the world exclusively on the Mercs Holonet. Armor tips, interviews, features on members, conventions, and much, much more! Download previous issues below and watch out for the latest issues!

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