

MANDALORIAN MERCS

# BATTLECRY

ISSUE 8

## KIT CATASTROPHES

No, it isn't just you.



## IRON CRUSADE

The tale continues.

## IN THE WORKSHOP

Mandalore shows you how to make a great helmet amp.



# THE MERCS ARE MARCHING ON

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# WELCOME

It's hard to believe that 2014 is already starting to come to a close. Two years ago Richard and I shared a crazy idea about putting together some kind of newsletter/magazine to showcase MMCC members around the world. That idea, along with a huge amount of hard work from the News Team, has turned into one of the best regular publications released by a Star Wars fan organization. As you read through this issue, please take a moment to appreciate the amount of time News Team members have invested in putting BattleCry together and into your hands.

As MMCC's 8th year dawns, by now we have or are single digits away from our 1000th Official Member. MMCC is also now a registered 501 (c) (4) tax exempt non-profit corporation in the US, which is a major accomplishment for us. This status helps legitimize what we do as a group, and the good things we are doing to help others around the world. MMCC also celebrates its growth into new areas of the world with the formation of Twin Suns Squad in Belgium, and Red Fist Squad in Russia. Being a child of the Cold War Era, it's heartwarming that a country I was raised to fear as a child would be a country whose residents I would call "brothers/sisters" as an adult. We are united globally by our love for Mandalorians and Star Wars, in the best and worst of times we will always have something in common.



Looking into 2015, it's set to be a potentially huge year for MMCC and Star Wars. Celebration VII is right around the corner, and many of us are working diligently to ensure MMCC's presence is the very best. Episode VII hits the big screen next December, which I'm sure will push events to record levels. Through it all you can bet that BattleCry will be covering what's happening around the world in MMCC.

Faithfully in your service,

Tom Hutchens  
Mandalore the Uniter

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**Battle Cry has a UK English Editor but all US English contributions have not been changed. The Mercs are an International club where all cultures and languages are respected.**

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# KIT CATASTROPHES

I remember it fondly. My first troop with the illustrious Buurenaar Verda Clan, one of the biggest groups in the Mandalorian Mercs: a three hour, two mile, parade. It was the first real shakedown of my kit, and I was absolutely mortified when, moments after we started marching, my shin armor popped off. It hung sadly dangling from my leg, and proceeded to do so even after several adjustments, for the rest of the parade. I finally wound up just taking it off and it rode along behind me on the parade float. I was plagued with problems, in fact; one of my knee plates gave me issues that night. And I also found myself stumbling through a great deal of the march due to the complete lack of visibility I had in my fogged-up visor.

I remember thinking "That's it. I'm fired. These folks will NEVER troop with me again".

But instead of being shunned as a walking disaster, after the troop we all got together and everyone was talking and laughing about the various things that had gone wrong. I was shocked - others had experienced costume problems too! I quickly learned, over the next few months of trooping, that malfunctions happen frequently to even the most experienced troopers. No matter what costume group, everyone can have issues.

Here are a few stories shared by the members of Florida's BVC to make you both smile and remember that we are all united not just in our love of Star Wars, but also in the fact that we are human and can have some pretty spectacular bloopers happen when we troop!



Ahhhhhhh nuts!



Most Mandos have a deep love hate relationship with the RF.

Sometimes the issues happen right from the start, even while creating your kit. One of the BVC members writes "I was lit on fire with a blow torch the first time we tried to shape my backplate." Or before we even make it to the event; we have had members forget their boots at home, their flight suits, and even jet packs and buckets.

There are problems like one might expect, such as problems with the armor itself. "At my first official troop my back plate lost its shape and wouldn't stay on," writes one of our newest members. He explains "I tried to bend it back to shape by hand and it snapped in half down the middle vertically." One member describes his first trial run with his kit involved it disintegrating on him as he walked along, with sticky back velcro peeling off and plates falling to the floor. Another bemoans the ongoing saga of his cod piece, which worked fine the first time he donned the armor as an unofficial member during a 3 mile parade. Once he became official, however, every time after that the cod broke. He has attempted everything from gorilla glue, to a full strength JB weld fix, to a combo of weld and hot glue, tape and 5-min epoxy... yet still the cod defies him and breaks on nearly every troop!



Shenanigans-based damage is more common than you think.

Occasionally, we overestimate our own abilities while in kit and hilarity ensues. One BVC member discovered that he could not easily climb into a sports car while in kit, and paid for it by getting his blaster caught, and crunched, in the door as he closed it. Another member confesses "When I debuted my pilot at C6, I wanted to sit in the snow speeder prop. Not realizing how far down the seat was, and never having actually sat in my kit before, my ejection straps had come undone and were hanging below my knees...making it impossible for me to get out on my own. Luckily, the Belgian crew were very gracious and not only helped me out, but helped me fix my strapping as well."

And then there are those moments that can only be categorized as things that truly seemed like a good idea at the time. One of our members writes "I made one of those hard fiberglass backpacks that you see in the clone wars pilot and attached to my backplate. I drilled 3 little holes in the bottom of it and whenever I'd go on a troop I'd fill it with ice and carry drinks in there. At MegaCon I was really easy to track down because to find me you only had to follow the 3 trails of water that were on the floor." He certainly found a way to make an impression!

Whatever your bloopers may be and whenever they happen, it's important to remember that we ALL have them. One of the best things about these malfunctions is that you quickly discover your Mando family is right there to help - someone will always rush in with needle and thread, duct tape, or even glue and bondo. The best way to deal with these problems is to learn from them, move on, and laugh it off. And who knows - something better may even come from it!

- Misha

Photograph credits:

Shy Lopez, Ryan Raven, Ben Faircloth & Misha Nell

## A LITTLE BIT OF FUN...

MACHISIMO



by Jon Nichols / Taglar Dreskk





With nearly 50 official members and dozens of handlers, the MMCC was well represented at this year's DragonCon in Atlanta, Georgia. One of the most anticipated conventions in the eastern United States, DragonCon has become one of the largest annual gatherings for Mercs in costume.

This year the Mercs were featured at their booth, in numerous panels, the Mercs' Death March and the 13th annual DragonCon Parade (which is the largest parade in Atlanta and the second largest parade in the state of Georgia).

The Mercs were not the only Star Wars costumers in attendance. The 501st, the Rebel Legion, the R2-D2 Droid Builders, the Dark Empire and the Dark Alliance joined the MMCC in sharing the love of Star Wars with fans through their respective booths and joining in the parade. As one of the largest gatherings of costumers, it was not difficult to find many costumers displaying their fandom of Star Wars.

DragonCon is such a large event that it is not held in one convention arena, but instead within five separate hotels and their respective ballrooms, atriums, and events spaces.

Many of those hotels are connected to each other by skyways and all are located within a couple of city blocks. This layout is especially useful during the Mercs' Death March when members have an opportunity to showcase their costumes.

During this event Mercs travel through the majority of the convention space by marching single file through the hoards of people from one end of the convention, looping through as many walkways as possible, and ending at the furthest hotel.

With the coordination of the event planners and the handlers, the 2nd annual Death March was, yet again, a huge success.

## 5 Mandalorian Mercs Battle Cry





Along with the many formal, official events, the Mercs also hosted a dinner at the Mellow Mushroom on the first evening of the con and an “impromptu” gathering on the last night of the con.

Both events were huge successes and overgrew their respective venues, requiring additional space for attending club members and their friends.

The Mellow Mushroom adapted quickly, bringing in their patio furniture and providing ample seating and staff. The final night’s “room” party grew so quickly it was forced to overtake the 10th floor of the Marriott.

Plans for DragonCon 2015 have already begun. Although Celebration VII will also occur in 2015, the Mercs are expecting attendance numbers from members, recruits, and friends to be similar to this year’s. If you are interested in DragonCon, check out the MMCC forums and find the DragonCon thread to stay updated with information for next year.

- Ken





# IN THE WORKSHOP

## MANDALORE OFFERS TIPS AND TRICKS TO HELP YOU BUILD YOUR KIT



### ELECTRONICS

This issue I hand over this section to a person who has a lot more experience in the subject than I do.

Tom has been making electronic gadgets for himself and the Mercs since he created the club back in 2007 and his current set up includes a voice to speaker amp that's contained within his helmet.



We get to show Mandalor's concentration face for 2 issues running!

#### Every Mando has something to say.

The voice amplifier is probably the most commonly used piece of electronics in a mando kit. If you've ever tried to listen to what someone is saying under the helmet, then you know why voice amps are the single most useful piece of electronics.

While there are MANY "off the shelf" brands of amplifiers, I have built most of my own systems around the idea of having a helmet-contained arrangement where you don't have to worry with externally fed cables. A helmet-borne voice amplification system can be made to work in virtually any size and style of helmet.

I've found there are 2 great amps that work for DIY applications. Both can be used in-helmet or externally.

#### #1 (Beginner level) Radioshack Mini Audio Amplifier

This is a great little beginner voice amp for a helmet. It comes with a speaker, it's not the best quality, but it gets the job done. For around \$20 in store when available, or \$14 online with shipping. They come in black or white, and run fairly efficiently off a 9 volt battery.

To install in the helmet, you'll want to take off the case and pull out the amp circuit and speaker. The case is held together with 1 screw in the back.

De-cased, the amp circuit is fairly small - around 2 inches x 2 inches. This circuit works great with a powered Lavalier (lapel) microphone, but you will want to enclose it in a small box or cover it with duct or electrical tape. I built a nice box for mine using scrap sintra pieces, but make sure you leave the volume knob accessible so you can adjust the sound for distortion and feedback.

The total cost for this type of voice amp is going to run anywhere from \$30-\$50 depending on the type microphone you purchase. If you don't want to spend the money on a lapel mic, you can also make your own powered microphone using a condenser (electret) microphone. There are several tutorials on Youtube on how to wire up condenser mics which will be extremely helpful if you decide to create this type of microphone.





## #2 (Intermediate/Advanced) Adafruit 20watt Stereo Amp

This is my current amp of choice, and it works like a champ. However, this amp isn't for the faint of heart! You're going to need some decent soldering skills to put this amp together because it comes totally unassembled. However not being assembled does have some great advantages, which we'll talk about briefly later. This amp runs \$19.95 plus shipping off the Adafruit website, and you get exactly what is pictured to the right: a small bag with loose parts ready to be assembled. This unit runs off a much wider range of voltage from 4.5-14 volts. That extra power means greater volume, a benefit to this more complicated setup. This circuit also uses a Class D amplifier, which is extremely efficient on power. This amp lasted twice as long as the Radioshack amp on a 9 volt battery.



Fully assembled, this unit measures 2.1 inches x 1.6 inches, so it's also smaller than the Radioshack amp circuit board. Being a stereo amp means that it has both left and right output channels, and 20 watts peak on each channel. There's also a small volume control knob (10k potentiometer) included so you can dial in the perfect volume level. One of the best parts of the amp is that the input, power, and speaker outputs are screw-down terminals. This means you don't have to solder speaker and microphone wires to the board. There's also an input plug for both the power and mic, but I find that the plugs can limit where you can put the amp.



As this amp comes unassembled, you can modify the assembly to work with your helmet. If you want to be able to adjust your volume on the fly, you can solder wires to the volume knob and then run those wires around the helmet to the amp's location. Because the input, power, and output are on screw-down terminals, you can also run those wires from anywhere in the helmet. Distance from the microphone, speakers, and battery is no longer an issue with this kind of amp.

### Microphones

If you do not want to deal with wiring up your own mic, the best option for you is the powered Lavalier (lapel) mic. These microphones are powered by a small 1.5 volt button-cell battery, and plug directly into the input on nearly every type of amp available. They are made in both omnidirectional and directional, although the latter is usually the most expensive. These mics can run anywhere from \$10 to \$50 depending on the brand and type you get.

If you're able to wire up your own mic, the options are specific examples of condenser (electret) microphones. There is a simple 2-wire mic and a 3-wire mic (with a small built-in amplifier/gain control). My personal preference is the 3-wire mic, and while it costs \$7 you can better control the level of output. However the 2-wire mic you can usually scavenge from old electronics for free. The 3-wire mic is easy to wire up, while the 2-wire mic takes a bit of research and knowledge before you can get it working properly. Google and Youtube are your friends when looking for wiring tutorials and circuit schematics.

With a little patience and steady hands, you can build your very own voice amp that will not only give you better communications, but also kick your kit up a notch in the "realism" category.



- Tom



# UNDER THE HELMET

Although they fall outside the Mercs core Costume Requirements, many members choose to employ additional costume features on their face and head while not wearing their helmets at events that don't require a helmet to be worn at all times. This is in the spirit of the precedent set by the "headband" that Jango Fett wore in Attack of the Clones while piloting the Slave I through the asteroid field in pursuit of Obi-Wan. While some members choose to wear additional tactical gear, others utilize make-up, masks, or wigs to highlight an alien culture or species their Mandalorian character may also be a part of.

To enhance the look of the character when out of helmet; Eitanya uses a wig to portray Sabine Wren from Star Wars: Rebels.



Karas is a Kiffar Mandalorian, and features a distinctive Kiffar tattoo through make-up.



Garyth Skyblade's Mandalorian is more militaristic, and wears a beret featuring a Mythosaur skull.



To tell a bigger story about her character; Arden Fisk wears a mask to portray her original character Fidget, a Rodian.



Photograph credits:  
Brian McCulloch, Ian Lusk & Franz Wild



# KELDABE TALK RADIO

OFFICIAL PODCAST OF THE MANDALORIAN MERCS

Launched on December 1st 2007, Keldabe Talk Radio discusses all things Mandalorian and Mandalorian Mercs related. With a dedicated team made up of Mercs members, the show airs once a month and is ready to tackle the hot topics regarding Star Wars.

## FIND US ON THE MERCS





# IRON CRUSADE

## PART 4 - THE TASK



Iron Crusade was the name of a Mandalorian-centric game that, as sadly seems to be the case with most great ideas, never saw completion. However, we at Battle Cry don't let a story go to waste, so we asked Kell Ordo to rewrite his script as a story and every issue we'll get to play the game in our imaginations!

Kael continued to wander the camp, giving his body a chance to cool from the heat of the armor smith's furnace. The pressure of temperature rolled off of him even in Mandalore's sun, his skin pulsing in protest. Things seemed to continue to move around the camp with armored and unarmored bodies moved here and there like a well rehearsed ballet.

A collection of voices broke through the hush, drawing Kael's attention. It was the typical sharp and harsh tones of the native language but was also strangely punctuated with frustration. Rounding one of the many makeshift buildings, Kael found two Mandalorians, one of which seemed to be female, talking with another blonde haired human. Where the first two were fully armored, the blond haired man had only a flight suit and a scattering of plates on.

The three were talking about something that frustrated them, though Kael's nonexistent grasp of the language left his mind grasping at the possible context. As the conversation continued on, one of the helmets turned his way. Kael's heart gave one mistimed thump in his chest and his legs felt rubbery having to once again stare into another blackened visor.

"Ke'gyce di'kutla." Said the Mandalorian who saw him. A jolt of panic shot through his back at the sound of his informal title. He was now aware they were talking about him which could not be a good thing.

"Hey di'kutla!" The blonde man shouted. "Come over here!" Kael did as bid with an immediacy that was only partially fear driven.

"We haven't met yet have we?" The man started. "I'm Cassus, Beviin's Ver'alor. Doing anything right now?"

"Not really."

"Good, Head down this road," The man gestured with a scarred hand, "You'll find a building with a blue bottle painted on the side."

"Need me to pick up something?" Kael asked.

"Someone actually." The man corrected. "Wyver is down at the cantina and word has it he is being belligerent. Get down there and bring him back."

"What if he dosent want to come back?"

"Did I say give him a choice?" Cassus snapped. "Now get moving Di'kut." The elder Mandalorian turned and walked away leaving Kael with a long walk and a lot to think about.

There was little on the road leaving a very visible building shadowed by the setting sun. Much like the other buildings he had seen so far, this one looked like it could have started as a hollowed out freighter. Several speeders were parked out front creating a diverse array of machines. Noises drifted through the open windows carrying the muted murmur of conversation spiked by sudden yells or laughs.

A shout cut through the wall like a beam drill.

"Tranyc nau'ul be ner ruin!" Needles of pain drove through Kael's ears and down his back "Vaii ganar dar!"

Kael entered the open door to find a large human wearing blue armor, with silver streaks in his brown hair. With a mug in one hand, he continued to bellow the lyrics to some song. The patrons covered their ears or wore their helmets to fend off the brutal assault. Some shouted at him but most ignored him.

Kael cautiously approached the big man from behind as he felt eyes from across the bar fall on him.

"Ta'raysh ibac hair vaar'ika brokar." Kael heard credits slide across the table behind him as he crossed half way across the Cantina. With a shaky hand, he reached up and pulled on the man's shoulder bell.

"Back off pup," The man whirled on Kael, splashing liquid from his mug across the floor, "or al break ya."

"Wyver?" Kael inquired. "Cassus wants you to come back."

"Tell him to sod off!" Wyver shouted. "Im not leaving."

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"He said to make you come by force if I had to."

"Did he now?" Wyver asked in mock consideration. "Then go ahead, if you think you can." With that, the big Mandalorian turned back around and leaned on the bar.

Kael considered his options but nothing seemed like a good idea. He doubted he could make Wyver leave, but he couldn't go back without him. He decided to attempt to reason with the big man.

"Wyver," Kael started as he reached up for the shoulder bell again. "Cassus wants you back and I really can't..."

Wyver's arm uncoiled from under him so fast Kael almost didn't see it. The bracer, loaded with various odds and ends, slammed full bore into his head. Pain flicked quickly through his mind followed by darkness.

Kael exploded upright as water poured down his face. Coughing and hacking, he fell backwards into the sun baked dirt and sucked in a deep breath. With the drowning crisis resolved, Kael realized there was a shadow standing over him.

"Thought you would drown before coming to." Wyver's rough voice caused an uncomfortable throb in Kael's now pounding skull.

"Come on," Wyver reached down and hauled up Kael by his wet shirt. "We got to get back."

The two walked the long road back to the Tal'kara camp, once again leaving Kael with time to think.

"If you were going to come back anyway," Kael broke the silence. "Why fight me?"

"Well I wasn't going to just let you walk me out of there." His laugh pulsed through the evening air. "Besides, you look good in mud."

Wyver reach up with a gloved thumb and smeared a blotch of muck across his cheek.

"Looks like the meeting's started." The big man pointed out as they entered the mostly empty camp. The dilapidated conditions combined with no one around, gave the entire area a truly abandoned look. As the sun dropped below the horizon, the illumination of fire light cast an erie glow in the distance.

A moderate fire sat at the middle of rings of tree trunks setup as makeshift benches. Mandalorians in various states of armor and clothing listened as Beviin slowly paced around the fire addressing the assembly. The respected leader stopped mid sentence and looked to Kael and Wyver as they entered the light.

"Welcome back Di'kut," Beviin addressed the two. "You took your time getting a simple drunkard back." The clan chuckled as Wyver bellowed some insult in the native tongue.

"It's still impressive," The leader relented. "If you had any skill with our language we could consider keeping you."

"Bah runi lo ner Aliit," A female voice cut through the air bringing the sounds of bodies shifting to find its source. "My soul into my Clan. He translated these words this morning." Kael's eyes caught the female mandalorian who worked with him in the library.

"Words don't make a warrior." Beviin declared disapprovingly. "Who would even be willing to stand beside him?"

"I would." Kael flinched as Wyver spoke up. "He's young and stupid, but he's got spirit. At worst he will make great blaster fodder." A chorus of laughter erupted, sending a nervous warmth rolling through Kael's body.

Beviin let out a heavy sigh, seeming to relent to the clan's wild idea.

"Well if we are going to keep him he is going to need armor."

"We already started." The armorsmith stood up and pulled a bare metal Mandalorian helmet from a leather wrap. Firelight danced across its chrome surface and Kael could tell it really was the helmet from earlier.

"You're willing to learn our language, members of the clan will stand with you, and you now have a helmet." The leader listed in an unpleased voice. "I guess we have to keep you."

Cheers erupted as the clan jubilantly cheered the adoption of their new member. As Kael, who never had a home much less a family as long as he could remember, felt tears roll down his muddy cheeks.

To be continued...





**Australia****Sandhawk Clan**

facebook.com/SandhawkClan

**Brazil****South East - Vode An Clan**

facebook.com/vodeanbrasil

**Canada****Alberta - Hett'ciri Clan**

facebook.com/HettciriClan

**Manitoba - Vhetin'Ade Clan**

facebook.com/VhetinAdeClan

**Quebec - Gaht Kyr'bes Clan**

facebook.com/quebecmandos

**Europe****Germany - Jai'galaar Clan**

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**Holland - Diryc Vhetin Clan**

facebook.com/clandirycvhetinr

**United Kingdom - Vok'chi Clan**

facebook.com/VokChi

**Mexico****BigFang Clan**

facebook.com/BigFangClan.Mexico

**United States of America****Arizona - Shonare Vhekadla Clan**

facebook.com/azmandomercs

**California (LA) - Manda'galaar Clan**

facebook.com/mandagalaarclan

**California North - Teren Clan**

facebook.com/TerenClan

**California South East - Skirata Clan**

facebook.com/SkirataAliit

**California (San Diego)**

facebook.com/harangalaarclan

**Colorado - Cerar**

facebook.com/CerarClan

**Florida - Buurenaar-Verda Clan**

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**Georgia/Alabama - Naast Clan**

facebook.com/NaastClan

**Hawaii - Five-O Clan**

facebook.com/MMCCFiveOClan

**Illinois - Nexu Clan**

facebook.com/nexuclan

**Indiana - Taakure Clan**

facebook.com/groups/TaakureClan

**Iowa- Vhett Manda Clan**

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**Kansas & Missouri - Yustapir Clan**

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**Oregon - Seron Clan**

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**Pennsylvania - Mav'oyala Clan**

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**Texas North - Murraan Clan**

Facebook.com/ClanMurraan

**Texas South - Zakkeg Clan**

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**Texas East - Arqet Clan**

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Mercs

**Utah North - Krayt Clan**

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**Washington State - Oceanhawks Clan**

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# EAR GABBY...

## PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR THE PRACTICAL WARRIOR

Back again. So whilst I'm here I just want to make it clear, regardless of what the Editor is asking of you; STOP WRITING TO ME!

I've got better things to do, you know?

### Armour Woes!

Gear Gabby,

I'm getting ready to submit an application for membership. What is one thing I can do to really go above-and-beyond to impress the App Team members? Tame a rancor? Collect 1000 Gungan ears?

Krazykemist

You know what? I'd love to tell you that there is some magic formula, some cheat code or any amount of bribe money to get into the Mercs.

But there isn't.

It is pure hard work, it's listening to the more experienced members and it's a question of getting your basics done right. Mandalorians don't do things to impress, they do it because it needs to be done, so be practical, be ruthless with yourself and get it right first.

Then you can show off!

Here Kitty, kitty!

Dear Gabby,

What is the best way to capture a Nexu cub alive, without alerting the mother?

Thoranos Xast'or

Why would you want to even do that?

My best advice is to get someone else to do it. Preferably someone who's insane, or someone who REALLY likes the kit-teh.

Or even someone who's both, like Dar Kyrum.

A question of breeding.

Dear Gabby,

I'm a pretty fuzzy guy, what would my child look like if I were to have a Wookiee bear it?

Wha... I don't even... what?

I don't know, an Ewok perhaps?

Seriously, Boss. Where are you getting these questions from? The head injury unit?



# THERE'S MORE TO THE MERCS!

All year, Mandalorians and supporters have been working overtime raising money for charity. Over the last year the Mercs raised \$3760.20 for Little Warrior International; but what does that mean? Little Warrior International is the Mandalorian Mercs Costuming Club's very own charity. Staffed by volunteers from official members, the charity was officially created in 2007 and is a non-profit organization that works in tandem with our club. The mission of LWI is "To bring hope to sick and underprivileged children in need through the magic of Star Wars™" and this is often accomplished through donations provided by MMCC members.

The donations are often collected in two ways: through merchandise sales (such as clan patches and shirts) and through collections at different events. Each year, the board members of the charity decide how to distribute the proceeds from the annual fundraising. This year the Mandalorian Mercs plan to donate \$500 to the ALS association to fund research into a cure for ALS. The MMCC is also using \$1,000 to give scholarships to two MMCC members to help with school expenses. So far, the rest of the money raised will go to the Verd'ika fund to give holiday gifts to underprivileged families. The Mercs also launched Operation B.O.B.A. this year to spread awareness of bullying as a social issue.

Bullying is defined as unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children. This behavior involves either a real or perceived imbalance of power between the people involved. The aggressive behavior is often repeated, or can be repeated over time. Bullying can include actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, physically or verbally attacking someone, or even excluding a person from a group or activity. However, it's not enough to know what bullying is, the question should be, what can we do about it?

- Tanner

In 2014, Little Warrior International, the charity fund of the Mandalorian Mercs Costume Club launched an anti-bullying initiative called Operation B.O.B.A. Operation B.O.B.A., or the Bounty hunters Opposed to Bullying Alliance has a simple, yet far reaching goal: To raise awareness of the signs of bullying, and to educate people about the various ways to deal with national,



CLICK





# FROM THE EDITOR



I am genuinely excited about Star Wars: Rebels.

For two reasons really, the first being that I am looking forward to a set of new stories in the universe I remember, I've seen some of the pre-release shorts and, whilst I accept the criticism that it may be a little too "safe" in regards to the threat of the Imperials, I have to say that they have got the feel of the universe pretty darn well. Including using a lot of McQuarrie's original work as inspiration.

The second one is that my nephew is really excited about it. My family are Star Wars sceptics, my mom only appreciated Star Wars as the thing that kept me quiet in my room whilst I was playing with my figures, so it's really enjoyable to see myself through my nephew, the open and genuine love of Star Wars as a child.

Then there's Episode VII.

When I see Kevin Smith come out of Elstree crying, there has to be something good going on. Whilst I've been trying my best, you can't keep away from the plethora of images that have been "snuck out" of Elstree. I say that because I never trust a thing that JJ Abrams said after his "It's not a Wrath of Khan clone" and "We'll tone down the lens flare" lies.

One thing that does worry me is the upgraded Stormtroopers. Yes, I'm sure you love them and I admit they do look good in a futuristic "I am Robot" sort of way, but it leads me to the question of where the remnants of the Empire managed to get the money to not only build new armour, but the facilities to build and design them too. I would expect the Empire to be as bedraggled as the Rebels were during the original trilogy.

But at least it has us talking, which is what Disney wants, they want people excited for this movie, yet they have to know, like always, we'll go again this time to see if Star Wars has changed its ways.

I do think the important thing to take out of this is that Mandalorians, through our constant attention and keeping the powers that be in the know about the love of Mandalorians, are now in the mainstream. We have our first Mandalorian hero in Star Wars: Rebels, which has already opened up a load of people to more canon female Mando options. There is also rumour that Mandalorians will play a key part in the new film, and why not?

The point I am making however is that the Mercs through the talent and dedication of its members are shaping the way Star Wars reflects Mandalorian culture, even by standing there and looking cool, it's made clear that there is an avenue with the culture and there is an opportunity to make money from that interest group. Whilst that sounds a little fiscal, it also means a lot emotionally.

A lot of us have put our heart and soul into this club and not just at the staff or command level, this is about all of us, working together to create something better as a team of international Star Wars fans, what's not to love about that?

Keep trooping and keep doing the Mandalorians proud.

Oya!

# THE END CREDITS

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