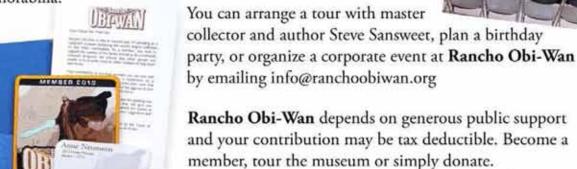


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Rancho Obi-Wan is a 9,000-square-foot non-profit museum located in Petaluma, California. Officially recognized by Guinness World Records in 2014, it houses the world's largest collection of Star Wars memorabilia.



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For more information, visit us at www.ranchoobiwan.org

WELCOME

Greetings members, friends, and fans,

Talk about going out with a bang, that's exactly how 2015 exited stage. Episode 7 has arrived, and with it a renewed interest in Star Wars worldwide. If you haven't seen the movie yet, go see it. If you have seen it, go see it again! It's worth a few watches before the pause before DVD/Blue Ray release. Mandalorian Mercs members had the privilege of attending red-carpet premiers around the world, as well as helping raise interest through various TV and media outlets.

As we go into 2016, we have some major milestones and goals ahead of us. Celebration London will be held in July, and our European Clans are already busy on getting MMCC's on-site presence finalized and built. I don't want to spoil anything, but if all goes as planned it should be another outstanding show under our belts.

In January we'll be kicking off a major global fund-raiser to undertake a project years in the making; MMCC Headquarters. Consisting of a museum to showcase the history of MMCC, a school for teaching costume & prop design, workshop for prop production to support large-scale events, and Mandalorian/Star Wars-based retreat where you can come

be your character for a weekend. Keep watching the MMCC website for news on how you can leave a permanent mark on the HQ through your support.

I look forward to watching the continued growth of MMCC, and being able to provide you all with a place you can call your "Star Wars Home".

Remaining faithfully in your service,

Tom Hutchens Mandalore the Uniter

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Mandalore the Uniter introduces the magazine.

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Workshop returns, this time with Sidi Ren at the helm.

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We look at the Mercs' highest award.

6 - Brigades Focus

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7 - Iron Crusade

The next installment of the game that never was.

11 - Canon Kits

Looking at how the Mercs deals with canon.

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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IN THE WORKSHOWS YOU HOW IT'S DONE

Sidi Ren here from Vhe'rang Clan to bring BattleCry readers a new feature detailing costuming tutorials and tips. We're starting out with kamas, loincloths, and shemaghs. I am throwing capes in as well, just because they are all extra bits that are not really required, but things we all need to take into consideration. I am going to go over the bullet points made first on the CRLs and then into a little more depth in what you can look at to improve these unrequired pieces to your kits.



GENERAL POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Kamas are acceptable.
- Loincloths are an acceptable replacement for cod armor, or can be used in conjunction with cod armor and/or kama.
- Loincloths should be worn UNDER the belt or waist sash.
- Loin cloths must be constructed of quality material (heavy fabric, leather, or vinyl) in a design that compliments overall costume quality.
- Shemaghs will fall under the quality clause and if the App team deems it takes away from the quality of the kit than the shemagh will be requested to be removed from the kit.
- Capes are similar to cod pieces and loincloths. Capes can replace back armor as long as the material is high quality and covers the back so you can not see the lack of armor.
- Always check the CRLs and consult with a member of the Apps team for up to date rules.

LOINCLOTHS

These can be made in a similar way as the kamas but remember if you are replacing your codpiece this has to function as if it was protective - hence why they ask for vinyl/leather type fabric. I suggest doing much the same as the kama but remember the loin cloth needs to be worn under your belt so that it doesn't hide it.

You can use another portion of the same skirt if you find something for a kama.

SHEMAGHS

One person has this in our local clan and he uses it as sort of a hood wrap that he can pull up over his helmet - it really looks great. I would not personally use this as a sash or kama because it doesn't have a way to fasten securely.

Your best bet is to alert the App team of your intentions and how you are going to use it, so they can give you feedback.

CAPES

Capes are also optional and not required to be part of your kit. Some people choose capes to replace their back piece because it is cost effective or they are having a hard time with the back armor. When you do this, be sure you cover the entirety of the back so that you can not see the missing armor.

Capes can easily be made from blankets, throws, and more. Boba's cape is a simple rectangular two toned fabric hung from one corner at his shoulder. Remember quality is everything!



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order of the ORI'RAMIKAD

The Order of the Ori'ramikad is a special and unique group in the Mercs. The membership ranges from the long term leadership of the club, to new and rising members. They, as members, have diverse and wide ranging opinions of our club as it stands today and where it is going. The members of this select group are submitted by their peers for this honor and rarely have any clue that they have been nominated until they receive it.

According to the Mandalorian Mercs website, "The Order of Ori'ramikad was created for one purpose: To honor and celebrate the official members of the Mandalorian Mercs who distinguish themselves through their dedication to the organization, outstanding contributions, and inspirational ability. The name 'Ori'ramikad' in Mando'a means 'SuperCommando', and was reserved for Mandalorian Warriors that were considered to be the best of the best by their leader. The name is fitting for those members of Mercs who have motivated themselves above and beyond."

These members always strive to reach another level with what they bring to the table. They always find the time to help, or to suggest a different way to try something even with their very busy, hectic lives. They always want to make the club, and its members look better, and they seek to aid in the function of the organization as it strives for excellence and perfection. The drive and energy of these members is contagious and their participation in a project is always an amazing addition to its eventual success.

In many clans where these members live, their names become the stuff of local legend and stories get passed around at cons about the time they saved an event, or went to go get more sandpaper during an armor party and returned from the store with a couple of brand new recruits who had never heard about the Mandalorian Mercs until they spoke in the checkout line at the hardware store.

The membership of the Order of Ori'ramikad includes many names you may recognize, such as Solus Raam, Thaxos, Sarsk, Ohl'd Vart, Ulrik Kanteer, Dar Kyram, and Dexa. The Mercs honored by their peers with membership in the Order of Ori'ramikad represent the very best of what a Mandalorian Merc should be, and exemplify what every member of the Mandalorian Mercs should strive for. They lead every member they encounter through their examples and choices that they make, and they make their local clans and fellow members better by their presence.

When interviewing several members of this group, one finds that they are all overwhelmingly humble about they have contributed to the organization as a whole. However every one of them is known for going out of their way to help any Mercs in need, or to help a potential new member find their way. If one was to take a look at the boards one would find many of these members helping out in many diverse areas, and you find them helping almost everyone they encounter.

When questioned they all wax almost poetically about how they didn't deserve the award, and about how they see a bright future for the club as it continues to grow, and with members who work this hard it will.

FEATURED MEMBERS: FORCE-HUNTERS BY FETTSKI

Several years ago, I became an Official Member of the Mercs. I was excited to get out and start trooping. There was no Clan established in my area and I built the first version of my armor on my own with the help of the forum to guide me.

My skill at making a costume was limited, so I stuck to the basics and focused on getting them right. I built only a few of the components from scratch and obtained most of it here and there. I was impressed by other people's kits, and after meeting other Mercs at DragonCon 3 years ago, I decided it was time to upgrade. I wasn't sure what direction I wanted, and looked at the Brigades for inspiration. I fell in love with the concept of a Force Hunter. A Mandalorian skilled in the techniques to counter a Jedi or Sith's abilities. I looked at the requirements, what I had, and what I needed to change, and began upgrading.

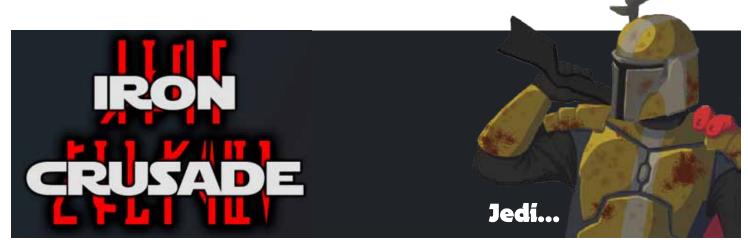
My initial kit was light armor and I needed to upgrade to at least medium, so I had to add thigh and bicep armor that I made from scratch with Sintra and nylon webbing. Neck protection was needed as well so I don't lose my head, and that was added with some engraved PVC pipe and mounted to my neck seal with Chicago screws. My first version of this character had a cape because I wanted to keep it easy and the thought of adding a backplate was more than I wanted to worry about at first.



To join the Brigades, I needed to get over it, and so I added a vac formed backplate. Sometimes those Force users like to jump or use the Force to push opponents away. I had just the thing for that, I built a jetpack, but no ordinary jetpack. It is more like a jump jet and has the ability to deliver short powerful bursts that will counter a Force push and the ability to make short jumps into the air if they try to jump above me. I wanted something no one else had, so I built it from scratch. I have some plans to upgrade it this winter.

On my left thigh plate, I have a pair of Saber trophies and on the right, I have a heavy blaster pistol held in place with magnets. Around my neck, I wear a Taozin amulet from my neck to hide my presence from the Force. On my belt, I carry a few saber crystals as trophies from past bounties that were collected. My Force Hunter design specializes in melee combat, and has a Beskar vibroblade carried on the belt to engage in close combat with a lightsaber. The left gauntlet has a beskar shield to block attacks and is equipped with rocket and flame thrower. These upgrades were in addition to the basic, cod, boot, shin, knee, chest, collar and shoulder armor that was on my V1, these plates are made from a mix of metal, vac formed, and plastic bin. To pull it all together, a heavy amount of weathering and black wash was added to give the appearance of being worn in many conflicts. I broke off the rangefinder and melted the end to simulate lightsaber damage. I also added a burn on my chest plate that was accomplished by burning the paint on the metal armor.

If you think you have what it takes to hunt for the some of the most challenging bounties, check out the Force Hunter Brigade, you might just have what it takes to be a Force Hunter!!



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!

On a cushion of repulsers the Final Countdown entered the docking bay. With a groan and hiss the extended struts accepted the weight of the freighter and, once surely grounded, primary systems began to cycle off. A ramp descended with a hiss and Captain Sereda Firewind descended flanked by Kael and Beviin.

"You wanted to hide." Sereda stated as she surveyed the busy and unkempt docking bay. "Over Reach station is about as hidden and you can get and still have a way to make a living. Try not to get knifed in a crawl space." "Good hunters don't get hunted." Beviin retorted.

"And some of us lack squishy organs with which to be threatened by pointy objects." SI-83 said as the droid disembarked the ship, clearly stating the obvious.

Kael was still lost in the turmoil of his mind. So many lost, so little gained, and no answers as to what or why. So many gone.... A slap of a hand on Kael's shoulder pulled him out of the dark thoughts that whirled within.

"Time you learned the art bounty hunting." Beviin said in his normal, self-assured manner. Kael looked up into his visor and wondered how the man could lose his entire team and act like nothing happened. Pushing it from his mind, he gave a nod and followed his mentor.

"Please don't get us thrown off before I can get supplies." Sereda yelled after the trio. A series of whistle-chirps cut through the air as a very angry Chadra-Fan ran across the docking bay towards Sereda.

"Whoa," Replied Sereda to the offended alien. "Next time I'll ask first." The alien continued to speak in its strange language at high speed.

"How much? I'm not paying that to dock here!" As the two argued a small form, cloaked in a dark grey cloth, slid between pistons on the ramp and into the ship.

Kael counted and recounted the creds in his hand. Almost a thousand just for turning in a Wequay who had been trying to duck some debts he owed. He had never seen so much money, much less earned it himself. "Keep this up and we will be very well off." Beviin said encouragingly

As the three reached the ramp a cloaked humanoid was exiting the Final Countdown. The full body grey cloak hid details, but they were looking over their shoulder and holding the power processor.





"Excuse me!" Beviin shouted. His voice caused the figure to jump from statement.

"I believe that's ours." Kael added.

"You will let me pass." A young female voice came from the dark of the hood as she waved a hand. Kael felt something lethargic roll through his mind but shoved it away with mental discipline.

"I don't think so." Beviin replied as he pulled a blaster pistol and held it at his side.

With a sudden jerk her hand slid into the cloak, but Kael was already on her. A quick twist, shove and he was holding a strange tube as the intruder staggered back.

SI was already up the ramp with a mechanical fist full of cloth. The youth of only fifteen years lifted from the ground, shedding the cloak in the process. She wore layers of blue over brown held together by a brown utility belt and matched by a pair of boots. Her hair was light brown and short enough to just brush her collar.

With panic in her face and tears in her eyes she struggled in the vice grip of the war droid. Beviin retrieved the power processor from the floor and shook it in the girls face.

"Who sent you? How did you find us? WHY IS THIS SO IMPORTANT?!"

"Drop her." Sereda's voice brought instant silence from everyone including the trespasser.

"After I get my answers." Beviin replied with equal force as he turned back to the girl.

"No," Sereda popped the strap over her blaster with a thumb. "You will drop her right now."

Everyone stood still for a moment as wills battled invisibly.

"Put her down." Beviin relented and SI obeyed. The girl crumpled, tears streaking her face.

"Now," Sereda continued as she secured her blaster. "Ask nicely."

"Why are you stealing this power processor." Beviin asked, now sounding bored with a hint of rage under the surface.

"I was sent by the Jedi Council to retrieve it." The girl stood and attempted to collect herself. "My name is Ky'rina, I am a Jedi Knight."

Kael examined the object in his hand, then held it up and gave it a shake. "Jetii'kad." He said confirming that much of the story.

"That object," She continued, pointing to the power processor. "Is unremarkable...."

"So I've noticed." Beviin scoffed.

"Except," The Jedi continued. "That it possesses a negative presence in the Force." The corridor stood silent for a moment as everyone tried to wrap their head around what she was saying.

"So, you can track this?" Beviin asked as gears seemed to churn in his head.

"Yes. That's how I found it here."

"Are there more?"

"At least five."

"Good." Beviin turned to Sereda as he slid the processor into a pouch. "Button up Captain, we need to get moving."

"Where are we going?" She asked as the trio of mandalorians walked past her.

Kael stopped and looked back to answer the question, the excitement in his voice unmistakeable. "Hunting!" To be continued...





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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







SCUM.COM STAR WARS COLLECTING NEWS



The Canon costumes of the Mandalorian Mercs Costume Club, such as Boba Fett, Bo Katan, and Sabine, are the face characters of our club. Since they are the most recognizable, and identifiable Mandalorians they are seen as the patrons of our club. These well-known characters must be screen accurate, and correct, down to the tiniest of details in order to continue our club's commitment to presenting quality representations of the characters.

To become official with a Canon kit, the costume is judged by both the App Team, as well as the Brigade Team. As with all kits, a Canon applicant's photos are provided to the App Team for review. However, the application process is far more strict for these costumes. The review process is the same, but the App Team members judge the kits with a much keener eye, paying careful attention to the slightest details. This higher level of scrutiny insures that any Canon kit approved through the Mandalorian Mercs is a top notch representation of not just a well-fitting Mandalorian kit, but of the character itself.

There is a special Canon/Legends Brigade that includes the well-known costumes such as Boba Fett, as well as those that are lesser known, but still considered to be Legends such as characters like Jodo Kast, who is often seen in comics. Brigadier Roki explains "For a Canon character to join the Brigades, the applicant must first pass the App Team. This means the kit must first be up to snuff with the general CRLs and be an Official Member of the club, just like joining the Brigades under any other circumstance. Just like any other Brigade, there is extra criteria the applicant must meet to be a Brigade Level kit. Think of it as the difference between a Tier 1 and Tier 2 or 3 requirement for the 501st or Rebel Legion. The Basics are covered with Tier 1 (CRLs), but to be part of the Brigades the applicant has to have the extra little details covered."

An interesting aspect of Canon kits is that they can be approved in other LFL costuming groups as well including the Rebel Legion (Sabine Wren) and the 501st Legion (Boba Fett, Bo Katan, Deathwatch grunts, Pre Vizla, etc.). Our App Team members are often asked whether prior approval in another group guarantees admission into the Mercs, and the answer may surprise you. We explain to our members who are approved in the Mercs and apply to other groups that they should not expect ensured admission. Similarly, the same understanding must be held by those members who gain membership in another group first and then apply to the MMCC. Approval in one group does not automatically guarantee approval in another, and there are several key reasons we maintain our own separate application process.

Since our App Team members are Mandalorians who wear this very same armor, they are extra aware of just how the armor should sit and look. The plate spacing, the fit of the soft parts, the way the jetpack sits on the backplate, etc. These are things that they scrutinize and review for accuracy. The team's familiarity with these elements comes from their own personal experience wearing and building the materials. Other reviewers from other clubs may have not had the same experience with wearing these particular kits. In other organizations, the reviewer may not have a Mandalorian costume, but our reviewers are intimately familiar with the costume, look at them every day, and go through training to pay attention to each individual detail in order to pass approval.

11 Mandalorian Mercs Battle Cry

As such, they may not catch some of the elements that our App Team members and Brigade Marshals look for in order to ensure that the kit is as screen accurate as possible. So each kit is required to go through the MMCC submission process so that the App Team members can take these things into consideration.

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App Team Member Ref Al'drann, who specializes in Canon costume review, described the methodology of the Canon App Process: "When the App Team writes our canon CRLs, they try to make sure they match other club's CRLs. That's not in an effort to dodge work, but instead to try and maintain consistency for the same costumes across club lines. Some of the MMCC's authored CRLs in turn have influenced CRLs for other clubs. It's a way for our Club to share and make things easier on applicants.

Sometimes canon applicants who are approved by other clubs will require some fixes to join the MMCC. This is usually due to a couple things - firstly, we require weapons for all canon applicants where some other clubs do not. Secondly, our application team is one team that sees ALL applications rather than having regional teams, etc. Because we only see Mandalorians every day, it's not uncommon for us to catch things that a regional team (where Mandalorians may be rarer) do not. I want to point out that just because someone has a club approved canon costume, that doesn't mean it's perfect, and additionally, if a canon (or any) costume doesn't get approved that doesn't mean it's bad, it just needs some fixes to make it better. We can all be better."

Additionally, while the basic CRL's are shared for the characters, there are some components that are optional for other clubs, but are required for the Mercs. A great example would be Bo Katan's trademark Westars. In other groups these are an optional accessory. However for approval in the Mercs, members must sport this weapon. Members who have prior approval may not meet all of the additional requirements necessary for the Mercs and should be aware that they may be asked to add elements upon application. Ulrik Kanteer, the Club's Personnel Officer, explains "We're going to hold the canon characters to a standard that is different than the other clubs but still within the confines of the character." Those Canon Mandalorians who are established in the public eye will continue to require additional attention and detail on both the part of the applying members as well as the reviewers, thereby insuring the Club maintains its image of approving the most accurate kits possible.

- Misha

FROM THE



So...

What did you think of the film?

Unfortunately, the way print works is that I will have written this long before I get to see the Force Awakens and I know that when it is read that a whole lot of you will have seen it.

So, my asking will we be seeing any Mandalore characters as the subtle hints in the trailer might lead us to believe will end up being an answered question.

If Mandalorians do appear, what should we expect?

If anything Mandalorian will happen, you can bet that they'll update the helmet, much like they have with the Stormtrooper and X-wing pilots. Whilst our colleagues in the 501st and Rebel Legion have already got screenshots and costumed mannequins to pore over, we Mandos have had to resolve ourselves to the scant information.

Will Boba make a return? Fett is the highest grossing retail icon of the Star Wars franchise and I think they would be silly not to have him return, in some form or another, anyway.

I hope you all enjoyed trooping the Force Awakens events and hope that our gun ban over the period did not inconvenience you too much. A part of our clan charter means that we have to troop in relative safety and with discussion with Lucasfilm, we agreed with them that we should keep our members safe.

Just remember, whilst our members are predominately from the USA, we are a global costume club and we have to take into account events and our members overseas.

I am hoping that everyone's events go smoothly and without incident, I hope that in hindsight we are thought to have been overly cautious and certainly not right.

I hope you guys had a great Christmas and will be reading this in a new year and we can all look forward to another great year of trooping (with our guns back) and see how the next May 4th awards begin to shape up.

Finally, it's been 5 years since I was asked to be the PR Officer for the club and I have seen a lot of ups and downs, a lot of members come, stay and some go. All I can say is that it is a privilege to serve you guys and girls and bring new ideas to the table. This magazine was born from the hard work that you guys put in.

I am also privileged to see a lot of members grow over the last few years. I won't name you, but I am proud to see our members blossom into organised and efficient members, taking on roles of responsibility and making their mark on the club.

Have a great new year and here's to a wonderful year's trooping!

Oya!

THE END CREDITS

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Contact Richard Whittaker via pr@mandalorianmercs.com regarding this magazine.

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