

BATTLECRY

JUNE 2020



MERCSONLINE

FIELD OPERATIONS

THE WESTAR BLASTER

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Greetings Vode,

As cities, provinces, states, and countries begin to ease their COVID-19 restrictions, we must be cautious in how we move forward with our event programs. In-person invasions will still be extremely rare, and I don't foresee education or family events starting back up any time soon. It's extremely important that we do what we can do to protect our fellow members, ourselves, and the public.

In late May I began issuing exemptions to the invasion suspension on a very limited case-by-case basis, and will continue to issue those exemptions if a clan can meet the social distancing criteria I request. The IAC is also working with me to create a comprehensive policy of guidelines, suggestions, and instructions for events moving forward. More information will be available through your respective commands once these guidelines clear the International Command Council.

Shifting gears, let's talk about that MercsOnline! First I want to thank MMCC's PR Officer and all our members who worked so diligently to make the virtual event a reality. The bar was set extremely high for future online events. Seeing members from different parts of the world interacting with each other just solidified the idea that distance is the only thing that keeps us apart, we are a global family. On top of that MMCC managed to raise over \$2700 for the UNICEF global COVID-19 relief fund. That's outstanding, and is proof that even though we can't troop events we can still do good for the world.

This is the way,

Tom Hutchens
Mandalore the Uniter

WAR STORIES

By Parjii Saviin



February 28th 2020 marked the first troop that would allow for me to earn my kill stripes. While I had trooped as an Unofficial Member and a Verd'ika several times, this would be my first time representing my clan at C2E2: Chicago Comic and Entertainment Expo. I had only gotten official the week prior and was ready to don my official kit.

Friday, I was beyond overwhelmed as I snapped my armor pieces together and my helmet became my face to the public. I could barely contain my excitement as I saw many of my Mando family members whom I have not seen since Celebration Chicago. Trooping alongside clan members from all over the Midwest was a fantastic experience and many of the official costuming members opened me with warm arms as I trooped my first official troop.

The remainder of Friday was a blur. However, I do remember walking down the convention halls and being called a Mandalorian and stopped for photos. This was the first convention I was not called "Boba Fett", "Jango Fett" or a "stormtrooper". Being recognized as a Mandalorian made my day.

The second day of the convention started bright and early. Little did I know, my boyfriend, whom had been working on his Mandalorian armor himself and Cin'Ciri Verda's Alor'ad and best friend: Mark Kleisner, Sarlel, had planned something special for finally making official status in the Mandalorian Mercs Costuming Club.

At around noon time, all Star Wars customers- from the 501st, Rebel Legion, Mandalorian Mercs, Dark Empire, and Galactic Academy were rallied around the main booth area.

Mark brought me to the front of the crowd and began his speech. It started off with "it has been 8 years of you working on armor. Now, I induct you into the creed. Do you know what that means?"

I was completely speechless as I swore to uphold the Creed of the Mandalorian traditions and to live by the code of warriors. As I turned around to greet my new found family, my boyfriend, James, dropped to his knee and held up a ring box with a Mythosaur Skull. Right in front of family and friends, my life changed forever.

All in all, the rest of the weekend was an emotional rollercoaster and much of it was shadowed behind this life changing event.

Not only was I an official member, I was inducted into the club and engaged to an amazing person. C2E2 was the start of my journey with the club and the beginning of a new journey with my fellow Mandalorian cyar'ika.



GOT A STORY TO SHARE?

Send your feature to pr@mandalorianmercs.com or by PM to Jaryn Solus

Got something you want to tell the club about?

Got an interesting new build in progress or been to an amazing troop or event?

We want to hear about it!



MEET THE COUNCIL

EDUCATION OFFICER

NAME: Havelock/Brett Chrisner

MMCC E-MAIL: education@mandalorianmercs.com

DATES: I became an OM in March of 2017, and took up the duties of the Education Officer in December of 2019.

WHAT DOES YOUR ROLE COVER?

As the Education Officer, I oversee the various Education programs of the Club, mostly through the efforts of the Education Team. I also oversee the Verd'ika Corps. I'm also responsible for any other educational efforts, programs, or initiatives for the Club, whether it's solely for internal consumption, or available for the general public.

WHAT TEAMS ARE YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR?

I'm responsible for the Verd'ika Corps and the Education Team. The Verd'ika corps is extremely self-sufficient and the staff are all very dedicated and talented.

The primary focus of the Education Team the past few months has been to get the Ruus'alor Solyc training produced, and ready to go live. We'll be adding further training to cover the new CRLs being published, and looking at doing training materials for assessing Canon kits. The Education Team also includes translating our CRLs and even tutorials and guides into various non-English languages, and they've been doing a stellar job.

One aspect of the Education Team as it was originally set up was to handle all production of tutorial materials for the Club. I feel that, while the Education Team includes some amazing people, there are many members of the Club, from UMs to Brigade members, who are talented and creative who produce tutorials, and depriving the Club of that wealth of talent isn't in anyone's best interest. So the Education Team is shifting from production of all tutorials and guides, to accepting tutorial and guide submissions, editing the submissions as-needed, and acting as a central repository, rather than the sole generator, of tutorials.

I'm very pleased that my teams are chock-full of very talented and dedicated people who do a wonderful job.



BRIGADES

FIELD OPS DIVISION

EVERY VICTORY IS BASED ON GREAT SUPPORT

Not every job can be accomplished by the more straightforward minded mandalorians of the Vanguard and Striker divisions. That is where Field Ops comes into the picture. Applying skills to back up the tip of the spear and guided by Marshall S'keara Charev and Captain Erio J'uni, these vods are the base from where the spear is thrust.

SPECIALISTS AT HEART

Any good operation needs a great support to be effective. Great support is the selfless act of service for others to be able to do their job. Whether it is by utilizing beasts or hunting creatures too dangerous to let roam free, the Beast Master Brigade knows how to handle the situation. From the arctic plains of Hoth over the desert wastes of Tatooine to the dense forests of Kashyyk, Environmental Brigade members have specialists to aid in any surrounding. Every Mandalorian gets wounded in battle sometime and it helps to have one of the Medical Brigade vods around at those times. In a similar regard it is handy to have a Mobile Engineer close when your rustbucket of a ship decides it would rather nosedive into a planet's surface than fly on.

TO HUNT AN ANIMAL, ONE MUST BECOME THE ANIMAL

Beast Masters are a special Brigade well-versed in understanding the ways of animals, and well prepared to face the uncharted wilds of the galaxy where the rarest and most dangerous beasts roam. They have to be tough and determined with a strong survival instinct, sharp reflexes and an insight into the mind of the beast. Beast Masters have a deep connection and respect for the natural world and the creatures within it. They are patient and fearless, unafraid of leaving the comforts of civilization to track their quarry to the ends of the galaxy. Their gear is battered but tough, etched with the scars of many encounters and decked with the trophies and mementos of successful jobs. Whether it is to heroically remove an animal threat from ravaging a town, defeat a personal goal or family challenge, generate a large profit, or employ an animal to better get the job done, Beast Masters are the men and women you can rely on!

These vods come in two skillsets, those that hunt the beast and those that tame the beast. The Beast Hunter specializes in the tracking and termination of beasts, taking parts as trophies to display their prowess. The Beast Tamer on the other hand prefers to tame the beast into submission and use it in their other activities.

KNOWING THE TERRAIN IS HALF THE BATTLE

Environmental Ops are a highly specialized group, perfect for venturing into places no one else will go. The Enviro crew are survivalists, through and through. You'll never find a tougher or more determined group. No matter how cold, how dry, or how toxic the environment, Environmental Specialists are prepared not only to survive, but to get the job done with speed and effectiveness. They are masters of the extreme and there is nowhere a quarry can hide that they won't be found. Enviro Ops are not only adept at dealing with harsh landscapes, but also with the equally unforgiving sentients who live there. They know the local cultures and customs, and their gear is specially tailored and designed to blend right in with both the native climate and the denizens who make it their home.

There are probably as much different environments as there are species in the galaxy, so specialized experts are needed as well. Freezing temperatures, snow blizzards and ice storms are where the Arctic Environmental Specialist feels right at home. The endless sand wastes with sweltering heat and





BRIGADE MARSHALL

Su cuy'gar,

My name is S'Keara Charev, the current Brigade Marshall for the Field Operations division. I'm very honored to serve in this position and love to see the amazing kits we have coming through.

My love of Star Wars began when I was 6 months old and was taken to see the first Star Wars movie after my parents adopted me. It was the first thing they did when they got me. From then on, I loved Star Wars.

I found the Mercs in March 2017, became an OM in Late June 2017 and approved for my first Brigade October 2017. I was the Division Captain for Striker from January 2018 until January 2019 when I was promoted to Brigade Marshall of Field Operations.

It is my utmost pleasure to help members become a Brigade member in whatever way I can. I find it an honor and joy to serve as the Field Operations Marshall and it is amazing to see all the amazing developments that are ongoing with in Brigades, as well as the club in general.

We are always glad to help, look forward to hearing from you and appreciate wholeheartedly everything that the MMCC is and does ...as it is amazing.

Jatne,

S'keara
Striker Marshal.

humidity levels barely worth mentioning are what makes the Desert Environment Specialist the expert in these situations. Surviving in the seemingly unending woodlands, staying hidden in the undergrowth and how to construct a wookiee hide, the Forest Environmental Specialist has you covered. Climbing the highest peaks, scaling the steepest cliffs and doing it all while tracking their target, the Mountain Environmental Specialist has no fear of heights. Toxic atmospheres, planets with such conditions that only the most resilient species live there, it is what the Hazardous Environment Specialist thrives in. Polar opposite to a desert planet, an aquatic planet has its own set of difficulties to handle. Crushing depths, altered ways of moving and creatures that are adapted to the water, there is nothing the Aquatic Environment Specialist can't handle.

HEALING IS THE SAME AS KILLING, ONLY IN REVERSE

Medical Corps are a special Brigade skilled in bringing not death, but healing. Medics have nerves of durasteel and the ability to remain calm and collected under pressure. These brave men and women are vital in keeping their vode patched up while on the job or on the battlefield. Mandalorians treat each other as brothers and sister and protecting each other not only preserves valuable resources, but family members as well. It is the Medic who acts as a bulwark against the meat grinder of war and stands shoulder to shoulder with their vode, defending the wounded and bringing them to safety. It takes nothing short of a Mandalorian Medic to perform life-saving surgery, surrounded by a sea of blaster fire and the heat of combat. They may make it their duty to save lives, but never underestimate their deadliness – they know the names of all your bones and exactly how to break them. The medic symbol on their armor is a welcome sight to many but can spell death for the unlucky.

Even the best get hurt sometimes. Whether it happens in the middle of battle or by simply tripping

over that pesky mousedroid, wounds happen. Always standing by to patch, bandage and sew together those that do, the Medics of the Medical Brigade are valued vode that hold a place of respect in their circle. For those mandos that are too far gone, the medics are those that deliver the grace of eternal sleep, lessening the pain.

A THUMP, A WHACK, SOME OIL AND SHE'S GOOD TO GO

Mobile Engineers are the quiet, vital specialists who make everything work, whether it be equipment, or the flow of communications. Without their efforts, a squad is blind and immobile. The skill and expertise of the Mobile Engineers ensures that nothing slows down the mission, no matter what the mission may be. Their chosen tasks may not be as glorious, but it only takes one piece of misinformation or one downed ship to ruin a mission and their vigilance prevents that from happening. Knowledge and technology is power and often it is the Mobile Engineers who hold that power in their skilled hands.

A blaster that refuses to shoot, a speeder that pulls to the left or a droid's motivator that's gone bad; the Mechanic knows how to fix it all with his skills and a bit of spitshine. Communication is key, every good Mandalorian knows this, so a good Communication Specialist is invaluable in a battle.

SUPPORT JUST WHERE YOU NEED IT

As you can see, the Field Ops Division holds those vode that are crucial to the workings of a well-oiled operation. The support they provide is indispensable. If you're interested in joining any of these professions, they are to be found on the forum under the Field Ops board at the Brigade section.

Aliit Ori'shya Tal'din!
Ahn'vil Burk'yc

NEW BRIGADE MEMBER



RICK RUNI'KAL

Clan/Squad: Kranak Clan

Brigade: Special Operations

Brigade: Airmobile / Special Weapons / Environmental Operations

Profession: Aerial Assault

Secondary Profession: Pistoleer

Environmental Overlay: Mountain Ops

Congratulations to Rick Runi'kal on the triple threat! Oya!

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

By Tarron Lok
Images © StarWars.com

THE WESTAR 35 BLASTER

The Mandalorian; A veritable walking armoury. Often bristling with enough weapons and gadgets to make an Arnie gearing up montage look like a children's tea party. While there is no such thing as too many weapons, with so many objects of mass destruction to call upon, what is a modern day Mando to choose when it comes to picking the right tool for the job? Of course, when it comes to packing heat, it's not just the size that counts and many factors must be considered (not least how does it compliment the lines of your dazzling new armour). To help you with this quandary gentle readers, we will be discussing a classic in blaster design and versatility. So sit back*, pour yourself a glass of fresh blue milk and let us take you on a journey to explore a time honoured side arm that will suit even the most stylish of Mandalorians; the Westar-35.

Brief History

The Westar-35 (or MandalTech Jai'galaar) is a true icon of Mandalorian heritage. The weapon itself plunged into the spotlight by the use of iconic characters such as Sabine Wren, Pre Vizsla, Gar Saxon and members of the Death Watch clan. Originating from the great minds at Concordian Crescent technologies, this heavy blaster pistol was so reliable and efficient, it was used throughout the clone wars era, the age of the empire, galactic civil war and beyond. Even in 9 ABY, several members of the tribe can be seen wielding this iconic weapon while battling the Bounty Hunters' Guild.

** We understand of course that sitting down for some Mando's is but a thing of legend, in that case, please stand as comfortably as you can while looking enviously at your lounging brothers and sisters who decided against wearing a cod*



Technical Overview

So with the history part covered, let's have a look under the hood shall we! Let's find out what makes this weapon tick and dive inside that elegant interior. The Westar-35 sports a rather fetching precision barrel, lovingly crafted to ensure that each shot hits their mark, even under pressure*. Alongside this, we will also find a cutting edge cooling unit to avoid any singed fingers and a rapid burst power cache for those of you in a hurry. The versatility is further layered with a gas and power cell cartridge slot, a stun mode (for those wanting to bring their bounties in warm) and a flash suppressor for the stealthier among you. In order to avoid any embarrassing mishaps, the magnetic handle grips allow a firm hold, while a pulse system will alert you to low power (as we all know, there is nothing worse than dropping your weapon or running out of juice mid-way through a job!). Finally, say goodbye to all those blisters with a feather light, pressure-sensitive trigger system.

Wardrobe and style

"Well all that technical jargon is great en' all, but Tarron" I hear you say "talk to me about style!". I hear you loud and clear, so let's look at the style features this blaster has to offer. Firstly, the Westar-35 is able to emit a variety of different coloured bolts such as red, blue and yellow (and if you change your name to Samuel, you might even get away with adding purple to that list too!). If this wasn't enough for you style savvy Mando's, the unique boxy chassis allows for the application of a variety of paint jobs, decals and designs. Let's also not forget that this weapon is often used in pairs, which allows further design choice; will they both look the same? Will they be individuals? The choice gentle readers, is all yours! But perhaps one of the most alluring style qualities of this weapon over the many options available, is it's a darn sight easier to sand than an A-180!

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Images © StarWars.com



Choices, choices, choices

Aside from the classic choice, over the years some variants have been constructed to make your Mando stand out of the crowd even further. If size is your thing, you might be interested in the larger carbine variant. While the iconic look remains the same, nothing shows you mean business more than a matching selection of blasters. Try one pistol and one carbine, or go full business with twin pistols and a back slung carbine. For reference, see The Star Wars Hero Cad Bane sporting one of these on his back in season 4 of the clone wars.

Want to try for something more exotic? Perhaps a look at the Westar-34 might be in order. These blasters were custom made by Concordian Crescent technologies for daddy Jango. Boasting a similar technical load out, these blasters are a sleeker model, designed for more up close and personal work. They do differ quite significantly in terms of style however, but much like the 35's, are often used as a pair. Why not treat yourself and go full gunslinger with matching 35's and 34's, spicy!

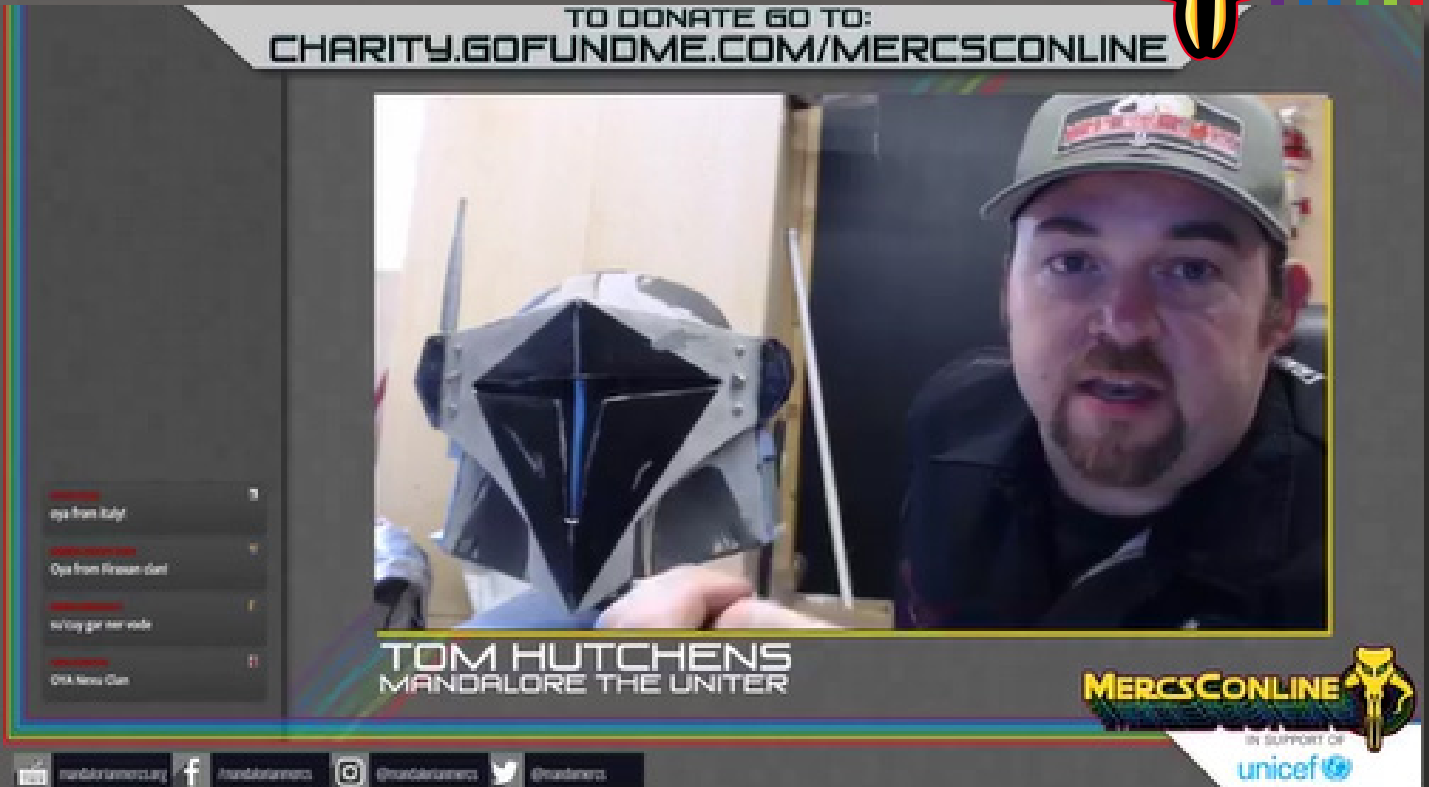
Final thoughts

I do hope that you enjoyed our brief look into one of the most iconic Mandalorian blasters the galaxy has to offer. When looking at your load-out, you really can't go far wrong by strapping on a pair of these bad boys and getting to work. Stay safe out there and happy hunting!

MERCSCONLINE



TO DONATE GO TO:
[CHARITY.GOFUNDME.COM/MERCSCONLINE](https://charity.gofundme.com/MERCSCONLINE)



WERE YOU WITH US ON THE 22ND TO 24TH MAY?

MercsOnline took over the Mandalorian Mercenaries Facebook page for the weekend, with a packed schedule of interviews, guides and commentary from clans and members across the world.

Coming together to raise money for UNICEF, and their "Humanitarian Action for Children Campaign". It is estimated that 1.3 Billion Children across 186 countries have been affected by the current pandemic, 370 million of them deprived of health and nutritional support services through the closure of schools.

The UNICEF campaign is a 4 step approach to provide appropriate Communication and Community Engagement, Infection Prevention Control measures, Continuity of essential Health & nutritional services and the continuity of education and essential protection services for children.

At time of publishing, the event raised \$2,755 - and if you're reading this in the first week of June 2020 you can still donate here:

<https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/mercsonline>

INTERVIEWS



GUIDES



If you missed the weekend's live events, all of the content will be available soon on official Mandalorian Mercenaries social media. Some absolutely incredible work was put into the guides created for the weekend and they are a great resource for Official and Unofficial members alike.

Thanks to all who joined us in the commentary over the weekend, the stars who joined us for interviews, and especially to all of those behind the scenes who pulled everything together.

HOLONET NEWS

By Parjii Saviin

Images © StarWars.com

SEASON TWO

The second season of The Mandalorian has been scheduled to air in October of 2020 on DisneyPlus. This new show will be able to give many Star Wars fans an escape from the quarantine, and may even recruit more Foundlings to the Mandalorian Mercs. The last episode of season one put us all on the edge of our seats, especially with the brief showing of the Darksaber.

There have been no definitive answers about how ISB Agent Gideon gained ownership of the darksaber, but given that it was last seen with Bo Katan-Kryze, fans can speculate how Gideon acquired the sacred symbol. The Child also known as “Baby Yoda” has captured our hearts of fans around the globe and the clan of two shall have a great adventure ahead of them, with the rumors of old and loved characters making a tentative appearance in this season. But until we have official confirmation, they are sadly all just rumors.



Previews have been shown on the official website: www.starwars.com and feature props and costume designs from behind the scenes.

A sculpture of a Gamorrean Guard was previewed on Jon Favreau's instagram with the hashtag: Season Two of the Mandalorian.

Only the Force knows what adventures the writers have instore for the newly founded clan!



MEET THE TEAM...

Greetings and salutations, for this incarnation I shall be known as Tarron Lok. Based in the deep south of the UK, I was introduced to the MMCC after advice from an old friend while putting together an 'almost' canon Boba Fett costume for my 40th! I signed up last year and 7 months later, I officially joined the Vok'Chi as an OM! Now that's completed I'm beavering away trying to complete the upgrades needed for three Brigades...

My obsession with Star Wars started when I was a wee lad after being taken to the cinema to see The return of the Jedi at the tender age of 4. Despite a minor setback of selling my entire original Star Wars toy collection in my early teens for £20, I continue to avidly collect and consume all things Star Wars. My favourite character was of cause ol' Fett and it has been a joy to finally own my own set of Mandalorian armour, despite all the hours of sanding!



Aside from re-mortgaging my house to pay for airbrush paints, I'm an avid fan of all things sci-fi and fantasy. Back in a previous life I worked as an illustrator, so it has been great to dust off those skills again during this journey. The MMCC have been welcoming, helpful and all round jolly good eggs. I look forward to the end of our current apocalypse so we can all get out there and troop, 'It is known!'... err I mean; 'This is the way!'

MANDALORIAN MERCS BUILDERS GROUP

VITAL STATISTICS:

22 ADMIN / MODERATORS

3808 MEMBERS

OVER 850 PROGRESS POSTS

OVER 550 PROP BUILDS

OVER 500 HELMET BUILDS

FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/MANDOCOSTUME

THE BESKAR CHEF

Got a recipe you'd like to share? Send it to PR@mandalorianmercs.com

"LAZY MANDO" CHOCOLATE FRIDGE CAKE



INGREDIENTS

- 300g/10½oz dark chocolate, minimum 56% cocoa solids, chopped into small pieces
- 300g/10½oz milk chocolate, chopped into small pieces
- 100g/3½oz unsalted butter, diced
- 100ml/3½fl oz double cream
- 3 chocolate honeycomb bars, 2 left whole, 1 crushed to decorate
- 2 chocolate bars with nougat and crispy cereal
- 8 shortbread biscuit fingers, halved
- 200ml Whipping Cream (to serve)

DIRECTIONS:

1. To make the cake, line a 1kg/2lb loaf tin with cling film. Place the dark and milk chocolates and butter in a clean glass bowl. Place the bowl over a saucepan of gently simmering water, making sure the bowl does not touch the water. Leave over the heat for a few minutes, stirring occasionally, until melted, then remove the bowl from the heat, pour in the cream and mix well.
2. Pour half the melted chocolate mixture into the loaf tin and layer the chopped honeycomb chocolate bars, the nougat bars and shortbread fingers on top. Pour the remaining melted chocolate over the top. Place in the fridge for an hour or two until completely set. Sprinkle over the crushed honeycomb bar.
3. To make the cream, whip the cream with an electric or hand-held whisk until it holds soft peaks.
4. To make the white chocolate mocha, warm the milk in a saucepan until hot but not boiling. Remove from the heat. Add the white chocolate until melted. Stir in the espresso shots and then transfer to a mug.
5. Cut the cake into slices and serve with the cream and the white chocolate mocha.

FROM THE EDITOR



I hope you all got to enjoy MercsOnline in May - if not, all the content will be available on the Club social media pages. There were a lot of fantastic tutorials and some great interviews.

Behind the scenes was an incredibly fun event to work on, and I hope we see more in future!

As always, we're on the lookout for writing and creative talent, so if you'd like to get involved or just find out more, please feel free to get in touch!

To those of you who are still under lockdown restrictions, stay safe and stay well. Reach out to your clan and extended family if you need us.

Lee
Jaryn Solus

"Every question has a simple answer; it is people who make it complicated"
- Mandalore the Uiter

GET IN TOUCH

Got something you want to tell the club about? Got an interesting new build in progress or been to an amazing troop or event?

We want to hear about it!

Send your feature to pr@mandalorianmercs.com
or by PM to Jaryn Solus



WE WANT YOU



for the **MERCS**
ENLIST NOW
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