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BATTLECRY

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TOOLS OF THE TRADE - KRANAK CLAN - SIGNET MASTER - NEW TROOPING REQUIRMENTS

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MONTHLY TO THE WORLD
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MERCS HOLONET.**

**ARMOR TIPS, INTERVIEWS,
FEATURES ON MEMBERS,
CONVENTIONS, AND SO
MUCH MORE!**

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TOOLS OF THE TRADE -EXPLAIN THE JARGON

-ARTICLE BY: ALDWYN KASS

A commonality in almost all social groups, clubs, and franchise fandoms is a culture unique to each gathering. Every community has its own feel, its own jokes, and its own abbreviations, shorthand, and slang.

The MMCC is no different, and so this month I'm here to play the part of your costuming club cultural translator! I'll do my best to provide definitions for MMCC slang and abbreviations, talk about the most commonly used Mando'a (the canon Mandalorian language) words and titles, and just generally try to provide a beginner's guide to the MMCC and its unique culture.

FORUM ABBREVIATIONS

Let me start by covering a few of the most common abbreviations you'll find on the forums. This list is by no means exhaustive, but I hope I hit all the big ones.

MMCC - The Mando Mercs Costuming Club.

UM - Unofficial Member. Someone who is still in process building their costume and has not yet been approved as an Official Member.

OM - Official Member. A person who has a finished costume approved by the MMCC.

CRLs - Costume Requirements Lists. The list of standards that costumes must meet to be approved in the MMCC.

BRLs - Brigade Requirements Lists. A further, more detailed extension of the CRLs which costumes need to meet in order to be approved for a Brigade.

WIP - Work in Progress. Usually refers to the forum thread in which a member records their costume build process.

TDH - The Dented Helmet. A forum and costume resource for Mandalorians, especially those looking to build canon character costumes, like Boba Fett.

RPF - The Replica Props Forum. Forum for cosplayer props and WIPs (not just Mandalorians).

WOF/WOF Templates - Wizard of Flight. These templates are the most commonly used armor templates for MMCC builders.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF MANDO'A

Before we go any further, I want to give a quick overview of the mandalorian language and give credit where due to the masterminds behind it.

The Mandalorian language was first created in written form by Philip Metschan in 2002, and can be seen on the display screens of the Slave I in Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones. It would later show up in select episodes of The Clone Wars and Rebels.

Fast forward to composer Jesse Harlin and we get the first spoken form of the language, invented for use with a choral in his work on the 2005 Republic Commando video game soundtrack. Very shortly after this, author Karen Traviss first named the language “Mando’a” and greatly expanded it in her Republic Commando novel series. These novels and the mini Mando’a dictionaries found in the back of each one are where the Mandalorian costuming community’s most commonly used words and phrases come from.

You’ll see quite a few Mando’a words and titles used in both official and casual ways in the MMCC and among its members, notably including the names of clan command staff’s officer positions. We’ll look at those next.

CLAN COMMAND STAFF, AND OTHER POSITIONS

There are 3 main elected officer positions for each clan within the MMCC. These officers are responsible for maintaining good order and smooth operations of club business, and can be recognized at a glance by the colored rank ropes they wear. These 3 elected officers may be assisted by a handful of support staff which can be appointed to their positions as needed by the elected officers.

We’ll just cover the elected command staff here, with a brief description of their duties.

Alor’ad - Mando’a word for captain. Your Alor’ad can be identified by their braided red rank rope, worn over the right shoulder. This is the leader of the local clan, who’s main responsibilities include overseeing clan operations, making and leading the implementation of plans for membership growth and community engagement, reporting to the regional command staff on clan activities and operations, and keeping and maintaining general records.

Ver’alor - Mando’a word for lieutenant. This is the clan’s second in command, and the Ver’alor can be identified by a braided green rank rope, worn over the right shoulder. This officer’s main responsibilities include the recording, reporting, and allotment of clan resources and funds, merch design, sales, and shipment, and assisting the Alor’ad in maintaining the clan’s efficient operation.

Ruus’alor Sol’yc - Mando’a phrase for first sergeant, easily identified by a braided blue rank rope, worn over the right shoulder. This is the clan’s costume compliance officer and CRL expert. The Ruus’alor’s main duties include monitoring and enforcing official member compliance with MMCCs costume standards, and overseeing and assisting prospective members in understanding MMCC International Costume Standards for official membership and the clan pre-application process.

Beyond the clan level, there are a few other positions (some with Mando’a names) that you might come across on the forums:

Ori’ramikad - Mando’a for “Super Commando”. The Order of Ori’ramikad is a program for honoring official members of the Mandalorian Mercs who have shown immense dedication and commitment to the Mandalorian Mercs and who have gone above and beyond in their service to the club and its members. This is the MMCC’s highest award.

Dar’manda - Mando’a for ‘no longer mandalorian.’ This refers to a forum user who has been banned and is no longer in good standing with the MMCC.

App Team - Nickname for the Application Approval Team. A trained team of MMCC members who process membership applications and work to help maintain the club’s costuming quality standards.

COMMON MANDO'A AND CLUB SLANG

Aside from the abbreviations and the “business” side of the club, there are quite a few words and phrases that get tossed around amongst the Mandalorian costuming community that outsiders or newcomers may find confusing. No way I could list them all, but here are all the most common ones I see and often use myself. I'll start with the Mando'a, in no particular order.

Vod/Vode - (Pronounced “VOHD” or “VOHD-ay”) Mando'a for brother, sister, or sibling. Often used to refer to a friend, brother-in-arms, or comrade. Vod is the singular form, while the ‘e’ (“ay” sound) added to the end of the word makes it plural.

Ori'vod - (pronounced “OH-ree VOHD”) Mando'a title for one's big brother, big sister, or special friend.

Aliit - (Pronounced “ah-LEET”) Mando'a for family, or clan.

Su'cuy - (Pronounced “soo COO-ee”) a Mando'a greeting.

Vor'entye/Vor'e - (Pronounced “vohr-ENT-yay” or “VOHR-ay”) Mando'a for “thank you”, and “thanks” respectively.

Kandosii - (pronounced “kan-DOH-see”) A Mando'a exclamation of approval. Used much like “Awesome!”, “Cool!”, “Well done!”, “Congrats!”, or “Nice one!”

Oya - (pronounced “OY-yah”) A Mando'a exclamation of enthusiasm, this small word has many meanings and uses - though it is always positive and triumphant. Used like, “Cheers!”, “Let's go!”, or “Hoorah!”

Beskar'gam - (pronounced “BES-kar GAHM”) Mando'a name for a Mandalorian's armor. Literally, “Iron skin”.

Shebs - (pronounced “shebs”) Mando'a for backside, buttocks, or rear. The forum will generally autocorrect any term used other than butt, and change it to ‘shebs’.

Beyond the Mando'a, there is some general slang that's common not only among the MMCC, but throughout the Star Wars costuming community as a whole. Let's take a look at that next - again, in no particular order.

Kit - the costume and all of its accessories.

Kit up/kit down - to put on or take off the costume, respectively.

Kit box - the tote or box in which a member stores and transports their costume.

Soft goods - Any of the fabric parts of a kit, such as the flight suit, gloves, boots, belts, and vest.

Flak vest - The vest onto which a Mandalorian's chest, back, and shoulder armor is mounted.

Invasion - An event that members of the club have been invited to and will attend in costume.

Troop - The 501st Legion translation of the MMCC term “Invasion”. Can also be used as a verb to refer to dressing in kit and attending an event. Both terms are relatively interchangeable in general speak,

but for PR reasons, please refer to any official or unofficial MMCC event as an invasion when using any social media platform.

Bucket - A helmet. Shortened form of “brain bucket”; a common military euphemism for a soldier’s helmet.

Con - short for “Convention”. Refers to any larger, commercial type event with vendors, panels, celebrity guests, cosplay contests, etc. Examples: San Diego Comic Con, Indy Pop Con, Chicago Comics and Entertainment Expo (C2E2), etc.

Face Character - a costume replicating a character whose face is seen and well-known in Star Wars media, as opposed to one who is always wearing a mask. Examples within the MMCC: Bo Katan, Jango Fett, Sabine Wren.

Canon - Star Wars story and character material that is set in stone and is undisputed.

EU - “Expanded Universe”. Refers to any character and story material that is outside the original body of Star Wars media. That is, anything that is not in the films or series.

Legends - Any story or character material that is disputable, or outside of established canon. Includes many books and video games.

Sintra - Brand name used as shorthand for expanded PVC board, one of the most commonly used materials in the Mandalorian armor building community. Sold in sheets which can be cut, and then molded by applying heat. The two most common thicknesses for armor building are 3mm & 6mm.

Bondo - Brand name often used as shorthand for automotive body repair filler.

Scratchbuild - Something that is built from raw materials as opposed to something that is purchased. Most common scratchbuilt pieces are helmets and armor plates.

Pepakura - Papercraft. Pepakura designs can be downloaded, printed, cut out, and assembled to make paper versions of various pieces of a kit. These paper versions can then be reinforced with bondo resin and fiberglass to make wearable armor pieces. Most common pepakura items are helmets.

Like any living culture, the Mandalorian costuming community’s jargon is always evolving, changing, and growing. Hopefully this brief overview has helped give you a clearer understanding of some of the current atmosphere and most common turns of phrase so you can dive a little deeper yourself and join in the fun.

LET’S GET OUT THERE AND BUILD SOME ARMOR, VODE. OYA!

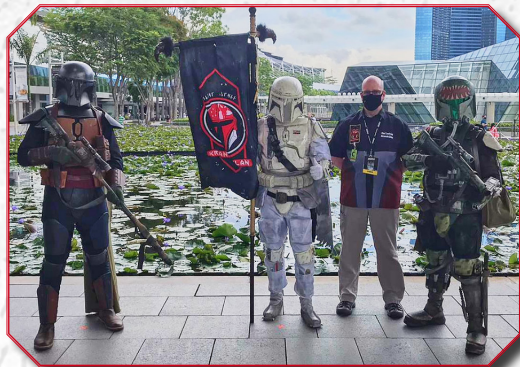
CLAN SPOTLIGHT: KRANAK CLAN



-ARTICLE BY: VIRRA TENAU

This month's clan spotlight is a clan that Kat Kiele holds near and dear to her heart. Kranak Clan was founded in July 2018. This rather young clan decided on the name 'Kranak' as it directly translates to 'a fortified settlement surrounded by water' in Mando'a. The name describes Singapore as the country is a sunny island that has a robust defense system and well-trained military. However, Kranak clan is the only clan within the region, therefore they will assist their brothers and sister strongholds in the South East Asian territories.

Kranak Clan's sigil melds together the Mandalorian traditions with that of their nation. As the national colors are red and white the artist had chosen to add the symbolism. The red symbolizes the universal brotherhood and equality of man which the white signifies pervading and everlasting purity and virtue. Along the top of the diamond is the saying "Darasuum Kote" meaning "eternal glory". Along the left side of the dome, the Singapore flag rests on the helmet. The crescent moon represents the youngness of the nation ascending to becoming a greater country and the five stars stand for the Singaporean values: democracy, peace, progress, justice, and equality. The Ka'rta Beskar, Mandalorian Iron Heart, represents the clan's allegiance to Mandalorian culture.



In 2018, the clan started off with their original seven members but have slowly been growing and are currently up to ten club members. Covid has not been easy on Singapore as they have been under strict limitations on events, which means less prospective foundlings to recruit. However, their notable May the Fourth weekend last year and hopefully more events in the upcoming future!

Kranak Clan Fun Facts. They have paved the way for the Mando Mercs within the Asian communities as they are the first and only clan in Asia! Whenever the clan meets up, their go-to food is fried chicken, it's tradition. Despites COVID restrictions, they have been able to have two local patch runs

and challenge coins made within the year. However, they are looking to having a run sometime in the future that will be worldwide.

Kat fun fact: She got to meet the Singapore Garrison in 2015, trooped with them in an open event before she was an official member and sparked the inspiration for those in the Bounty Hunter's Guild to start making custom Mandalorian Armor.



NEW LOGO, NEW STORE, NEW MERCH

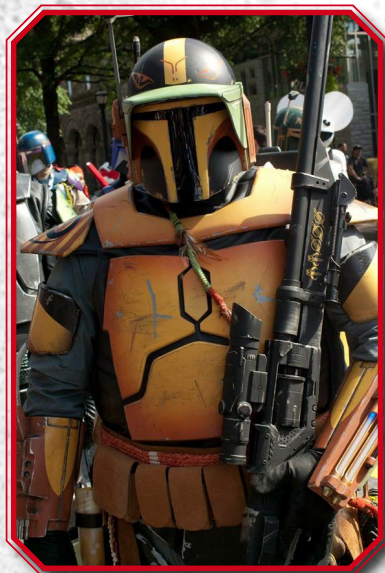


THE ENTIRE CLUB'S STORE, IN ONE SPOT!
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MEET THE SIGNET MASTER



-ARTICLE BY: BRYN CIN'PRUDII



This month, we sat down with Joshua Beach, JBSTUCKA on the forums, to find out a little more about the Signet Master.

BATTLECRY: How did you learn about the Mercs and When did you become OM ?

SIGNET MASTER: My friends and I attended SW Celebration 6 in Orlando in 2012. We participated in the sponsored Bounty Hunt game and thought it would be fun to create matching Mandos to wear while we competed. This is how FEAR Squad got it's start... it was our team name. We hacked together 5 sets of armor in a week and wore them to the show. We were invited in early for the local news broadcast and that's where we met two OMs from BVC and they introduced us to the existence of the Club. After that weekend, we decided to build 5 'better' kits all at the same time. We did everything from the ground up teaching ourselves how to do it along

the way. We wasted so much material in the beginning. Finally in 2017, after enough encouragement (pushing... lol) from members of BVC and Naast, we all finally became OMs as a group.

BATTLECRY: Tell us a little about yourself, What defines you outside of the Mercs?

SIGNET MASTER: I'm married with no kids. (Thank goodness, I don't like to share my toys. LOL) Outside the club... I'm a huge kid like most of us are. I spend a lot of time collecting toys. Star Wars of course as well as Transformers, Macross, Voltron and all sorts of model kits. My entire childhood was filled with making forts and cardboard castles, wearing cardboard armor of medieval knights, roman soldiers, battle beasts, just about anything that wore armor, and making model airplanes. If I wasn't making any of those things, I was drawing them. Which is why I pursued a career in illustration and graphic design. I'm still doing all the exact same things today... just out of more advanced (expensive) materials. I also have a huge passion for all things related to aviation and flight. I love flying, going to airshows, and doing aviation photography. I've been incredibly blessed to be able to build a career around all the things I've loved since I was a kid. I've been able to create art for almost every major brand or license that I've ever loved. I'm also extremely fortunate my wife is not only incredibly understanding about all these crazy things, she's also just as much into many of these same things. On top of that, I'm still constantly working almost every week with most of the same original FEAR Squad group... we're constantly digging ourselves into deeper holes with ever bigger projects (like most of us in the club).

BATTLECRY: The job of Signet Master is something new and not an easy one. Tell us about your role. WHAT IS IT YOU DO HERE?

SIGNET MASTER: The Sigil Master is in charge of overseeing the MMCC's overall visual aesthetic and branding through it's logos, merchandise, and PR Materials. It's my job to oversee the creation of

all logos associated with the core club, regions, clans, and strongholds. I work to ensure any time we create or change any of these logos, that they fit within the brand that we want to convey for the MMCC, as well as help to make each Clan an individual brand within itself. This involves creating brand guidelines and as well as multiple resources that clans can make use of on the local level. I also oversee any merchandise that the clans or regions want to create in order to raise funds. This was formerly under the Club's QM, who I work with to create club level merchandise. I have a team of artists (the team that was formerly under the PRO) that assists in creating art for this merchandise as well as being able to assist me in the creation of any art the club or clans may need. (If not for them, I'd never be able to sleep... Thank you to my team!) I also work closely with the PRO to create PR items that the clans can use to promote themselves at local events. I also need to make sure we stay up on licensing and copyright laws with everything we create. So essentially the club's art director.

BATTLECRY: What is the one piece of advice that you find yourself always giving future members of the Mercs?

SIGNET MASTER: Have fun and be yourself!

BATTLECRY: What is your favorite thing about the Star Wars community ?

SIGNET MASTER: That it can bring such a huge amount of different people together with a common passion. I've met so many amazing people and made some great friendships with people I probably would've never had the opportunity to meet if it wasn't for being a part of the Star Wars community.

BATTLECRY: What are your future plans within the Mercs, any new builds planned, or projects you want to pursue (Any secret things you can share with our readers) ?

SIGNET MASTER: I've spent the last two years concentrating on building sets with two of my FEAR Squad boys to bring to Cons. I'd really like to go back to working on some full kits though. I've designed a couple rather crazy looking Mandos I'd love to get built. And possibly finish a few other SW characters I've started on. And one giant sized personal project I've dreamt about for years... but we'll just have to wait and see how things work out for that one.

BATTLECRY: Blaster or Melee Weapon?

SIGNET MASTER: Melee... I've always loved Fantasy as much as Sci-Fi... Knights, Elves, Orcs, Dragons, swordplay.. all good stuff.

BATTLECRY: Favorite Ship?

SIGNET MASTER: Y-Wing, Y-WING, Y-WING!!!!!! Everyone who knows me well knows I am obsessed with the Y-Wing. It takes the number one spot for me over all other ships in all other franchises.

BATTLECRY: Favorite Character:

SIGNET MASTER: Obi-Wan Kenobi - He's far from perfect and often makes mistakes, but he keeps a cool head under pressure and at least strives to do what he perceives is the right thing.

NEW TROOPING REQUIREMENTS

-ARTICLE BY: VIRRA TENAU

With the fall of COVID-19 cases, many members and recruits of the Mando Mercs are getting back to a new version of normal. With that new normal comes new changes to the guidelines put in place during the height of the pandemic. June 15, 2020, the MMCC restructured its requirements regarding events to protect members and recruits, as well as any who might be participating in an invasion.

All 2020 events were either suspended or canceled and were “attend at your own risk”, with the future uncertain for the remainder of the year and years to come. On top of canceling events, members were encouraged to refrain from physical contact, wear a mask at all times, and maintain social distance requirements, to name a few. Now, with the new executive order, some of those requirements will be changing.

The most notable requirement to change is that all official members must attend at minimum of one invasion per calendar year. However, the definition of an invasion has shifted slightly. Whereas before, a member would have to attend an event in person, now qualifying invasions can be a few things:

1. In-person invasion events;
2. Virtual invasion events;
3. A qualifying in-person armor party;
4. A qualifying virtual armor party; and/or
5. Handling/Wrangling at in-person invasion events.

These changes specifically allow members to stay involved with both the MMCC as well as their community, enabling those who are more susceptible to COVID-19 to participate. It can also play a role in some larger areas, allowing clans with recruits who have a considerable traveling distance to receive the help and engagement that they desire through virtual armor parties.

Qualifying armor parties, either virtual or in person, require a minimum of two people, with at least one official member present. In addition, any virtual armor parties require a post on the forums forty-eight (48) hours before the start time to qualify for someone’s invasion credit. The MMCC will be hosting virtual clan, regional, and international armor parties to encourage interaction within the clan, as well as encourage interaction and familiarity throughout the Mercs.

The most important thing to remember is that being a part of the Mando Mercs does not allow you to disregard the rules in your community or set by the invasion requestee regarding COVID-19. This means that if the event asks you to follow certain guidelines for COVID-19 (such as wearing a mask or social distancing), you cannot use the MMCC as an excuse to ignore said rules or requests. Such actions do not uphold our Code of Honor to positively reflect the Mando Mercs or the Star Wars fandom.

We understand that not everyone is comfortable or capable of participating in events for the 2022 year. An exemption can be requested by messaging the Archivist. Out of respect for the privacy of all members requesting exemption, no explanation needs to be given beyond “I am requesting a trooping exemption for 2022”.

Most mandos that I have talked to are beyond excited for things to get back to normal. Things such as this executive order are just another sign that the COVID-19 pandemic is perhaps coming to a close and we can get on with our new ways of life. We will do our best to keep you all in the loop as more changes arise. Until then, stay safe and healthy, vod!