

THE OFFICIAL MANDO MAGAZINE

BATTIFORY

JUNE
2022



GIANCARLO ESPOSITO - TRA'COR CLAN - WIP LIKE A PRO

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

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GIANCARLO ESPOSITO H.M. INDUCTION

-ARTICLE BY: PARJII SAVIIN

Giancarlo Esposito, who played the part of Moff Gideon in the Star Wars live-action show: *The Mandalorian*, was recently inducted as an Honorary Member of the Mando Mercs Costume Club! I was able to speak with Kal Revik about his experience of inducting such an important person to the Star Wars universe and *Mandalorian* culture.

“Vhe’rang Clan had the honor of inducting Giancarlo Esposito as an Honorary Member of the Mando Mercs Costume Club at El Paso Comic Con in April.” Kal Revik said, “It was a very surreal moment for everyone who helped us induct him. We were joined by Veshok Clan (Mississippi Clan) and Shonare Vhekadla Clan (Arizona Clan) in inducting him, which made it all the more special. We had members Conveyus and Nexus from Shonare Vhekadla Clan, the new Adjutant General Aa’ray, the new Rally Master Myriot, and myself.

“My clan actually wanted to induct him last year at the same convention, however, we learned that he had some change-ups in his schedule that prevented him from being there. The clan was a little bummed out but we understood. However, when we had the chance to do it this year, we took the opportunity and requested to induct him. We had the plaque and badge ready to go for him from the last time. All that was needed was to set a time to be able to meet with him.

“We had to organize around his schedule to get the best possible moment to present him with his membership. We were finally able to secure a slot after his panel was over, thanks to the convention owners who were also being so supportive and helpful. We waited outside the doors to the panel room until they were ready for us. They brought us in towards the stage to silently wait for this wonderful person to end his panel. Once he did we were called up to see

(IMAGE CREDIT: LUCASFILM LTD)

him.

“He called us up to the stage and we gave him his badge and plaque. He was happy, enthusiastic, and very respectful towards us when we presented them both to him. He said some kind words about the award as well as us Star Wars fans in the costume clubs. He finished talking and turned around to hug each and every one of us on stage. These were full-on bear hugs and it couldn’t have been a more special moment for all of us. We walked off that stage smiling and excited. He was very excited about being inducted into the club.

“I am very proud to say that he is Vhe’rang Clans 4th Honorary Induction into the MMCC. We had the honor of inducting David Accord (the sounds behind Grogu), Tait Fletcher (Paz Vizsla), and Carl Weathers (Greef Karga). Our clan is small but it was a big honor to do this with two other clans and friends. But the best part of the whole thing was sharing it with our brothers and sisters of the MMCC.”

Thank you Kal Revik for sharing your story of inducting such an important member of the galaxy and fandom! Not only has Mr. Esposto been an influential member of the Star Wars community, but he also has an amazing repertoire, earning the New York Games Award in 2022 for his best overall acting in Far Cry 6, and multiple awards for his involvement in Breaking Bad. While Moff Gideon may have been on the wrong side of the war within the views of the Mandalorians, Mr. Esposto is an amazing person we should applaud for his talent and dedication to the film industry.







CLAN SPOTLIGHT: TRA'COR CLAN



-ARTICLE BY: VIRRA TENAU

This month, I got the privilege to dig more into the background for a Great Lakes clan - Tra'cor Clan! I got the chance to talk with both Nico Fett, Jor'alor, and Laaran Dala, Ru'cabar, regarding the history and the growth of the clan.

You may not know it, but Tra'cor Clan is a somewhat recent name for the Michigan Mandos. Originally, it was called Suumpir'ade Clan before receiving its current name, Tra'cor Clan. As of this year, it will be their 12th year as a clan. Since the clan has been established for some time, not many of the founding members remain. However, Anjo Makee is the final remaining founding member and attends as many annual events and gatherings as he can, still very much a part of their clan family.

Events like Motor City Comic Con was one of the first initial draws for many of the members, especially in the clan's infancy. Tra'cor would host a booth at Motor City Comic Con to spread the word about the Mando Mercs and Tra'cor Clan, and for a time that was their largest event. Now, with 38 active Official Members, Tra'cor Clan has a stronger presence. Recently, they attended Tulip City Comic Con, Star Wars Night at Comerica Park, USA Hockey's Star Wars Night, and more.

Laaran Dala was kind enough to share the "Legend of the Ficus" with me. There was an event a few years ago where members of Tra'cor decided to "relocate" all of the ficus trees in the building where the event was being held to their booth. It effectively turned the Mercs booth into a jungle right out of Episode VI. They received lots of laughs from attendees and even event security. At the end of the event, they put all of the plants back in their original spots. To this day it's still a story that comes up whenever there's a large get-together as a clan. Laaran says that the series of that event is personally one of her favorite memories with Tra'cor Clan.

Tra'cor Clan is a very tight knit group of Mandalorians. They consider themselves family, and support each other in and out of kit. Many will gather outside of armor parties and invasions to show support at dinner post events or even at clanmate's weddings!

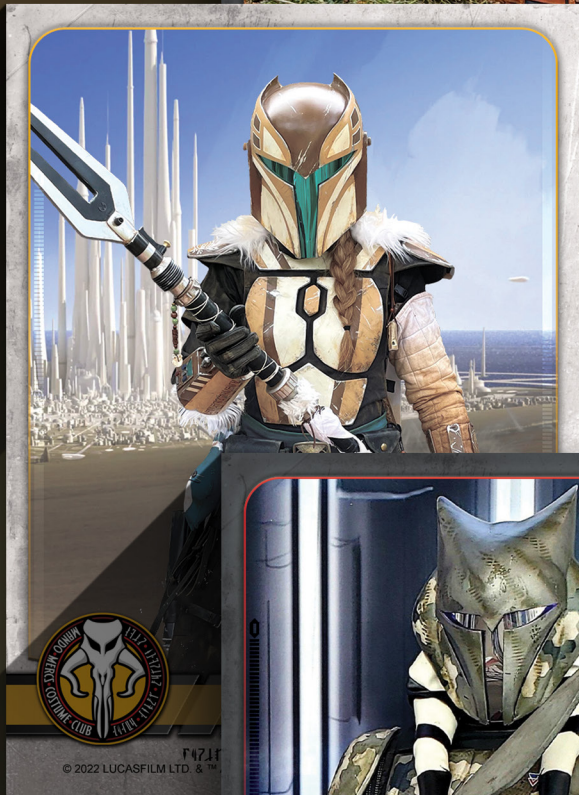
With the continued growth in the Michigan area, it is possible that Tra'cor Clan may see an influx of new recruits coming their way soon. According to Nico Fett, the sign up list for events is getting to the point where it's quite extensive.

"...it's always a pleasure to see the amount of T-faces in our group shots and SelfFetts grow," says Nico. Both Laaran and Nico say that as the Tra'cor Clan continues to grow, they all desire to keep a close knit relationship and the same family bond. Additionally, with a growing number of seasoned Official Members, the entire clan is looking forward to recruits learning from those same members as they build their armor and carry on the work of Tra'cor Clan for years to come.



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WIP IT LIKE A PRO!

-ARTICLE BY: ALDWYN KASS

The first step to getting involved with the MMCC is to get on the forums, find your local clan or stronghold, and introduce yourself.

The second step is starting a WIP ("Work In Progress") thread and start posting your ideas.

The first step is pretty easy, but that second step... what exactly is a WIP thread and how do you make an effective one?

Let's talk about that this month. We'll break down why a good WIP is important, and how to go about making and maintaining one.

WHAT IS IT?

Your WIP thread is like a journal of your build process. It's where you chronicle your progress step-by-step from concept to completion. It's also the place where your fellow builders and MMCC members can chime in to answer questions, or offer suggestions and helpful advice along the way.

WIP threads often include a lot of pictures, and ideally are updated often with a detailed description of your process as you work on your armor build.

WHY WIP?

But why do you need to make and maintain a detailed WIP thread? Well, there's a couple reasons, not the least of which being, so we can help you!

Building armor can be a long, sometimes complicated process. All of us find ourselves at some point needing a helping hand, and the WIP thread can be the fastest and easiest way to get advice and answers from those who have gone before. Your clan mates are a wealth of knowledge and inspiration, and getting several sets of eyes on a project is always good.

The second reason a good WIP is important is because seeing a builder's process start-to-finish can be a huge help to others. The MMCC is like a big family, and we all learn from each other's mistakes, and ideas, and discoveries. Sharing each step of your build process in detail can help others on their journey from UM to OM. Sometimes the best way to learn about the different parts and processes is by reading through WIP threads from other builders. A well done WIP can almost be a sort of informal tutorial, showing how to build a kit, step-by-step.

Another great reason to maintain a good WIP thread is so that the App team can consult it when you submit for approval.

When viewing an application, sometimes the app team has questions about a specific part of a kit - whether that be the method of construction, or the material used, or something else. Having a detailed WIP thread that shows each part of the kit and how it was built can provide answers to those potential questions and can sometimes prevent your application approval from being delayed. The more clearly the app team is able to see that your kit meets the CRLs, the faster you're likely to

get those killstripes! Why waste time going back and forth with questions and clarifications when you could just chronicle the process as you go and have all the answers available in advance?

SO HOW?

So the last question we have to ask then, is what exactly does a good WIP look like?

First, your WIP thread is a great place to gather concepts and brainstorm ideas. Having a goal in mind when you begin, and some details about color and design for your clan mates to look over and provide feedback on can be a good anchor for you as you build. Reference images color schemes, and idea lists can help remind you of where you're going, and give you ideas for next steps when you get bogged down. It can also be fun to look back at the end of the process and see how far you've come, or compare your initial ideas to the final product and see how much (or how little) your concept evolved along the way.

Another important element of a good WIP thread is, of course, pictures! The old saying holds true that a picture is worth a thousand words. Visually chronicling each checkpoint along the way as you build, along with an informative description of the process and steps of the in-between stages can be hugely helpful - to others looking to do something similar, to the App team wanting more details about a particular piece of your kit, and to you as you get the nearly inevitable, "How did you do that?" questions. If you update your WIP often, and keep a good visual record of your process, at the end of it all, you'll find that you've made a kind of scrapbook, detailing your armor building journey from start to finish.

As you're posting your concepts and progress updates, don't forget to provide detailed descriptions of your process. Don't just show us your finished paint job - tell us about the different layers, the masking process, and what kind of weathering techniques you applied.

Likewise, but on the other side of that, don't forget to ask questions! WIP threads are a great place to get feedback, constructive criticism, encouragement, and instructions. Use the knowledge and experience of those who have gone before and let them carry you through when you don't know what to do next.

WIP threads often get overlooked, but if it weren't for the chronicled knowledge of all those who have gone before, very few of us would be where we are today.

So do yourself, and the rest of the MMCC community a favor, and ask good questions, take good pictures, and share what you're learning in your WIP thread. You never know who might benefit from getting a look at your armor building journal.

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