

THE OFFICIAL MANDO MAGAZINE

BATTLECRY

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HISTORY OF SW COSTUMES - BRELIN HOLAN - TWIN SUNS - SOCIAL SOCIETIES OF THE MMCC

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EXCLUSIVELY ON THE
MERCS HOLONET.**

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

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HISTORY OF STAR WARS COSTUMES

-ARTICLE BY: DIZ GE'TAL

From the shiny white helmets of Imperial Stormtroopers, to the rough, homespun robes of old Ben Kenobi, the costumes of Star Wars have inspired fans since it first released in 1977.

Star Wars costumes captured the imaginations of fans of all ages, whether kids looking for Halloween costumes, or those like us who have made it a year-round hobby and passion. We have a rich history of costumes to look back on, and we're here today to take a brief tour back through the years and see if we can learn something from the generations of daring costume creators who came before us.

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

In a move that was either a prophetic bit of strategy or a simple calculated risk that really paid off, a novelty Halloween costume company by the name Ben Cooper Inc. snagged the Star Wars brand license before the movie had even released.

With the commercial costume business still several years from really taking shape, costumes belonged to Halloween, and as many people saw it, Halloween belonged to Ben Cooper Inc.

These early costumes consisted of a painted plastic mask, and a silk-screened vinyl smock. The masks were generally fairly accurate to what was seen on screen (all things considered) though could be rather frightening with their eyes and mouths cut out, and were usually held on the wearer's head by an elastic strap. The lower part of the costume was usually printed with an image of the character or franchise logo rather than trying to replicate the character's costume as seen in the film.

The effect was somehow equal parts horrific and endearing. While significant financial troubles caused by an unrelated Halloween disaster brought about Ben Cooper Inc.'s demise not long after its massive Star Wars success, there's no question that the company played an integral part of Star Wars costuming history.

THE SAGA CONTINUES

Latex pullover masks were a step above their elastic-strap predecessors... or in the case of the Don Post Studios masks, perhaps several steps above. These latex masks brought a whole new sense of realism to the consumer Star Wars costume market, and showed the world just what was possible for dedicated fans. Some of the earliest works included the Gamoreon Guard, Wicket the Ewok, and Admiral Ackbar, but that was only the

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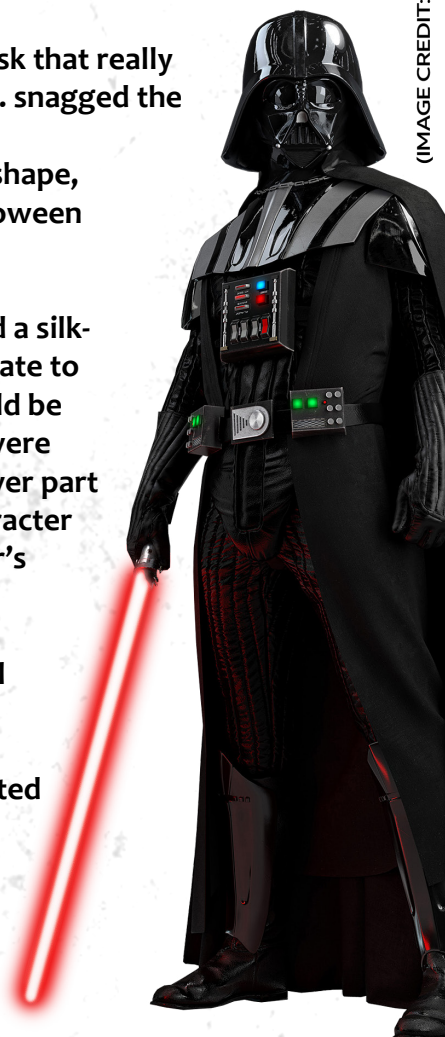
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beginning. Don Post Studios continued creating Star Wars masks through the release of the Prequels and some of these are (by my estimation) among the most impressive - especially Sebulba, Ki-Adi-Mundi, and Nute Gunray.

THE START OF SOMETHING NEW

The 501st legion got its start in 1997, and just 8 years later, in 2005, underwent a huge change when they decided to remove all non-canon costumes from the roster.

Tom Hutchinson, known today by most, as Mandalore the Uiter, credits this single event as “the fire that fueled the birth of the MMCC, and put custom Star Wars costumes on the map.”

Tom got his start in the world of Star Wars costumes in 1983 with a Darth Vader Halloween costume from none other than Ben Cooper Inc.

He would go on to spend some time in the Society for Creative Anachronism, drawing inspiration and gaining a deeper love for costuming from those days spent caring for and wearing reenactment costumes, before eventually creating the costuming family we know and love today by founding the MMCC in 2007.

Since then and to this day, The Mando Mercs Costuming Club has left its mark on the history of Star Wars costuming by welcoming those creative costume makers who want to make their own unique mark in the galaxy, and by giving fans a place to bring their own dreams and ideas to life, and encouraging every creator to be the best that they can be.

INTO WHATEVER COMES NEXT

It was only natural that from the first moment the world was introduced to the brooding and mysterious bounty hunter, Boba Fett, movie goers young and old would wonder what their world would look like from behind that dark T-visor.

As we look forward into the future of Star Wars costuming, we have a rich history to look back on and learn from, and much to thank our predecessors for.

It seems that every year brings new innovations, and with all the new Star Wars content in the form of books, movies, and TV, the creative minds behind the Star Wars costumes of today and looking forward to a bright future in the days ahead.

The world of Star Wars fan costumes has changed a lot since those early first attempts in the 80s. Who knows what kinds of exciting things await us next?



GETTING TO KNOW YOUR ICC MINISTER: **BAELIN HALON**

-ARTICLE BY: BRYN CIN'PRUDII

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

BAELIN: I learned about the Mercs when I was trying to find some info on building a Jango Fett Costume. I joined the forums and discovered the opportunity to build a custom character, which I found to be more of a challenge, so I dove in head first and became official about 60 days later. That was 13 years ago in 2009.

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

BAELIN: Outside of the Mercs, I'm a husband and father. My wife and I will celebrate our 21st wedding anniversary this December. I've recently returned to the workforce after spending the last 7 years as a stay at home dad to my two boys. I love watching stand up comedians with my boys. I'm also an advocate for cancer research and screenings. Get checked! It could save your life. Around the time this gets published, I'll be celebrating 1 year since my cancer went into remission.

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

BAELIN: The ICC is basically the Board of Directors for the MMCC. We are tasked with running committees to develop new programs to build and retain membership, provide oversight into the overall running of the organization, write and develop policies for the governance of the club. This year alone we have added or clarified so many things that help to make this club better. The troop requirement for this year and the Toxic Behavior Clause are two stand outs because they truly help set a positive tone for the membership.

I also have an open door to all members of the club. I'm an email or a PM away if you wish to contact me with questions, comments or concerns. I will do my best to answer or point you in the right direction in compliance with the governance of the club.

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

BAELIN: Just one? Start simple. Our kits are never truly finished, so don't try and do everything all at once at the beginning. Get familiar with the CRL's and start simple. Add more and upgrade as time goes on and you learn what does and doesn't work for you. Not only will this save your sanity, it saves your wallet.

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

BAELIN: The people. The vast majority of the SW community are good people that believe in doing the right thing. I've seen them stand up for bullied children, raise money for hundreds of charities. Despite what a few bad apples might make you believe, this community does its very best to take care of its own. I know this from experience.

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) ?

BAELIN: Once my term on the ICC is done, I plan to step back from the politics of the club and just focus on being a member. I'll see where the tides take me. Currently I'm working on some upgrades to my kit and some booth props for my clan. I love helmets, so will probably continue adding more to my collection.

BATTLECRY: Blaster or Melee Weapon?

BAELIN: Depends on the situation, but I do have a soft spot for my ax.

BATTLECRY: Favorite Ship?

BAELIN: The Ghost from Rebels.

BATTLECRY: Favorite Character?

BAELIN: Luke Skywalker. Thought I was gonna say someone else didn't ya.



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CLAN SPOTLIGHT: TWIN SUNS

-ARTICLE BY: DIZ GE'TAL

For this month's clan spotlight, I thought that it would be fun to head back across the Atlantic to the small European country of Belgium, home of the Twin Suns Clan.

I was able to toss a couple of questions to the Twin Suns Alor'ad, Dar'suum Kote, about the clan he commands.

According to Dar'suum, the Clan started to be formed in 2013 by "D'eks Targh, Ser Valance, and Burn'nye, three friends sharing a common passion for Star Wars and airsoft," and thought that they could combine these two hobbies, and started building costumes. They started out on their own but achieved clan status in 2014 with five official members and, today, boasts 27 official members.

Over the last few years, Twin Suns has been able to forge a spirit of cooperation with the other Star Wars clubs in Belgium, combining their charity efforts to be more effective. Recently, Dar'suum decided that it was time for a new convention booth, and together with Kaine Trattok, Aneira Velca'Rusc, and Trygve Kal'bur, they were able to build a "beautiful Tattooine Inspired [Mando] hideout."

I asked about their distinctive sun shaped sigil, half red and half yellow and was told that "Since Belgium is a tri-lingual [country], but mostly French and Dutch/Flemish, and the country is split in a North and a South, we went with the name and design of the 'Twin Suns.' Our in-universe logo, which we put on our armor, indicates which part of the [country] we are from. The North (Flanders, Flemish speaking) carries the yellow sun on top, the South (Wallonia, French speaking) the red sun."

This way, they quickly know which of the two languages the other clan members speak, and if you don't happen to know that language, they can switch to a more universal language, in this case, English. As Dar'suum explained, "Not everyone speaks both languages properly and so we make communication easier."

When asked about their favorite troops, one of the members, Tytus Alba, told me that, "every event or hangout with my clan is something I look forward to. In the eight years that I've joined Twin Suns, they've become an extended family for me. We share laughter and sorrow, celebrate holidays,

or just spend casual Sundays together." When pressed for a specific event, Tytus said, "I'd have to pick 'Spangdahlem,' the SciFi Convention on the airbase in Germany. Meeting up early in the morning in a highway cafe with my clan members. Road tripping through beautiful German landscapes hidden in the fog. All of the awesome crew members at the convention, who always have a beautiful big coin for us to add to our collection. The families and little ones are in awe of our costumes and joining in on the trivia."



SOCIAL SOCIETIES OF THE MCC

-ARTICLE BY: VIRRA TENAU

It is no secret that many of the clans within the Mando Mercs pride themselves on being close. After all, one of the most common sayings is that “family is more than blood”. However, many of the clans are small and members within those clans may have more interests than just armor. Mando social societies allow members of the mercs to find other like-minded individuals within the club with similar interests, yet many don’t know which ones exist. While we will cover some of them in this article, we encourage members, and recruits alike, to check out the complete list on the forums under “Social Societies”.



The Elegant Mando’s Tea Society (“EMTS”) is the first society we will cover. Starting in 2013, the EMTS began to serve the “finer” tastes of the Mando Mercs. This means that although most would assume that the primary focus of society is tea parties, the society carries a focus on all of the finer things. This means that anything that makes you feel fabulous in your kit is encouraged! Some of the members have photos of themselves eating pastries, others have delicate designs on their armor. The sky is the limit when it comes to the Elegant Mando’s Tea Society.

Another popular society is the Mando-Tough Society (“MTS”). Focused on being in the best possible shape you can be in, this group encourages mandos in any phase of their physical well-being journey. Whether they have been working out forever or are brand new to the game, the group encourages each other. With roughly 112 members and “a million more on the way”, the group is centered around positivity and achieving the goals you’ve set for yourself. Although working out in kit or even just your bucket seems like quite the challenge, mandos like Karl Dha’Werda make it look like a piece of cake!

Of course, we can’t cover social societies without hitting on the largest society of all: the Builder’s Societies. There are multiple sub-societies within this one. Essentially, there is something for everyone. From the Old School Builder’s Association for the mandos who like to “build using the old ways” to the Free Dimension Mandos that focus on the finer points of 3D printing, there is something for everyone. The Verpine Rifle Collectors Association does as the name suggests: they collect specifically Verpine rifles. Not to mention the Brethren of Bucket Builders for helmets, Nerf-Herders Unite for the miraculous transformation of Nerf guns, S.P.A.R.C.K. the Electronic Builder Society, and MABEL for the mandos who prefer the portable high ground. Each group has numerous members with various levels of participation, but each shares the goal of bonding together with a common interest or goal.

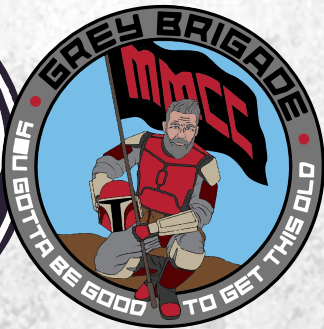
Just these societies alone have over 477 mandos listed within their ranks. Aside from the three main societies, there are numerous sub-societies. The Oribu Akaata Emergency Battalion is for current, former, or prospective members of the emergency

response and care teams. This includes, but is not limited to, dispatchers, fire teams, law enforcement officials, correctional officers, and the EMT community.

In addition to Oribru Akaata, there are other societies such as Vode Against Black Strills (“VABS”). VABS allows support for mandos suffering from depression, anxiety, PTSD, and other mental health struggles. It is a space that allows support for those experiencing these struggles and for the MMCC family to come around them. They truly embody the code of “family is more than blood”.



While we have only covered a few of the amazing societies that the MMCC has to offer, we here at BattleCry encourage everyone to log onto the forums to check out the numerous other groups. There truly is something out there for everyone within these societies, and joining one will allow you to become closer to your fellow vod. Until next time, oya!



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