

THE OFFICIAL MANDO MAGAZINE

BATTLECRY

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CERAR CLAN - MEET THE PRIME MINISTER - TOOLS OF THE TRADE - UNDER THE BUCKET

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**BATTLECRY IS THE
MANDO MERCS OFFICIAL
MAGAZINE WHICH IS
RELEASED MONTHLY TO
THE WORLD EXCLUSIVELY
ON THE MERCS HOLONET.**

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

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IN THIS ISSUE

3. CLAN SPOTLIGHT: CERAR

6. MEET THE PRIME MINISTER

8. TOOLS OF THE TRADE: ARMOR SHAPING

10. UNDER THE BUCKET

11. PATH OF THE WARMASTER



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CLAN SPOTLIGHT: CERAR

-ARTICLE BY: PARJII SAVIIN



Editor's Note:

Observant readers of BattleCry may have noticed that we had already spotlighted Cerar Clan last year, and so, why are we revisiting? Well, to be frank, we didn't do a very good job on the last go around. That's on me, so, with my apologies to Cerar Clan we're going to give it another go.

Cerar Clan is a part of the South Central Region, covers all of Colorado, and temporarily oversees the Wyoming stronghold. Parjii Saviin sent a comms request to the current Alor'ad: Bryn Cin Prudi to provide information concerning the beloved Mountain Clan.

The clan started to form in 2009, and by February 2010 they were able to officially form a squad. After that, they gained traction and became a clan on August 29th, 2010. Within the first year, the clan grew by five members but saw the most significant influx of new members in 2018. Currently, Cerar Clan is 42 Official Members strong with 44 approved kits! With the constant communication between clan members and numerous armor parties, they are expected to grow exponentially by the end of 2023.

The Clan name originated from the Mando'a translation for "Mountain," as Colorado is known for their mountainous terrain and hiking trails. This translation inspired the original clan logo, a Ram (the Rocky Mountain Big Horn Sheep)

but later evolved to the current mountain-themed sabertooth logo, which is affectionately called "Celadon".

This mountain theme continues to play into the sister costume groups with which Cerar Clan has a great relationship. The 501st Mountain Garrison, the Rebel Legion Mountain Base, and the Sith Dynasty Dathomir Temple can be seen working in unison for many events throughout the year. The summer months, mainly, are when various sister groups can be seen in action. Later this year, they will be invading the Denver FanExpo, Denver Pride Parade, and Colorado Springs Comic Con, just to name a few. If you want to see the clan in action, be sure to look up the dates for these events and say "hi" to our Vode from Colorado!

While conventions are highly memorable, many look forward to the Children's Hospital of Colorado holiday parades. Not only do they bring smiles to ill children, but they are also able to boost the kids' morale, helping to make their time in the hospital a little better. Bryn mentioned, "we are grateful to have these experiences and our helmets to help hide the tears." The various troops appeal to the palette of those who appreciate the glitz and glam of big conventions or the intimate events of a charity organization. No matter the troop, Cerar clan members do this to share joy, their love for Star Wars, and be with their Clan family.

Upon asking Bryn what makes Cerar Clan unique,



he mentioned that "it comes down to the family we have with our fellow clubs. We share events, members, and nearly everything with our peers in the other clubs. While we each have separate command staffs, and separate leaders, we always end up cleaving together for events and building a more prominent family. This has only continued growth in recent years - sharing in the plastic or metal space people love. I do not doubt that; sometimes, the Mandos outnumber theimps or rebels, but we are all there with the same goals in mind. We are very fortunate to have members who are incredibly active and supportive. The Official Members make it easy to lead with their empowered involvement and desire. They always push for things to be better and stronger: together." As quoted by another Cerar Clan member, "Consistency. That is what has helped us so much over the past few years in dealing with COVID and other issues. No matter what happens, the clan was always there. Armor parties, events, hangouts - we could always count on seeing our friends in armor."



Thank you, Bryn, for your report and for heeding the call! We are excited to be able to participate in future events with you! Until next time! Oya Vod!



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MEET THE PRIME MINISTER

-ARTICLE BY: BRYN CIN'PRUDII

As many of you know, Mandalore has had some medical issues as of late, and pursuant to the club bylaws, Kruser, the club's Prime Minister has stepped in to handle the day-to-day operations of the organization. This being the case, we thought that we should introduce Kruser to the membership.

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

Kruser: My first encounter with the MMCC was at Rose City Comic Con in Portland, Oregon. I had been into costuming for some time before learning about the club and was wearing the TMNT Krang costume I had just finished building while walking the convention floor when I came across a boat load of Mandos at a booth. I was blown away! I had no idea there was a club dedicated to custom Mandalorians. The folks I met in Concordia Clan were very warm and friendly. They let me know that they were hosting a panel about the club and invited me to attend later that day. During the panel, I learned about the charitable aspect good that costuming could bring to the community. The whole time I had been into costuming I had never thought that my creative outlet and hobby could benefit others. The idea of taking something that I love to do already and combine it with making a positive impact in other people's lives is what caused me to dive in head first and never look back. I had already made a custom Mando costume based off of the Mandalorian PowerTech I played on Star Wars: The Old Republic MMO. However, it was using floor mat or EVA foam. After logging into the forum and creating an account, I found a wealth of knowledge and help on the forum. I immediately began ordering Sintra from Amazon and began working on a design for my first official MMCC kit as soon as I got home. I joined the forum a little over 7 years ago on December 20th, 2015 and got approved 5 months later on May 9th, 2016. By the end of the 2016 Gurreck Clan was founded and had a total of 8 Official Members.

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

Kruser: Family. My family means everything to me. My character's name, Adenn Cabur, translates to merciless protector. I have two sons, Jacob and Jaxson, for whom I would do anything. Through the MMCC, I met the love of my life, Sara aka: Shortcut. It's hard to separate my life and the MMCC because since becoming a member, it has encompassed such a huge part of it and changed it completely. Professionally, outside of the Mercs I have been in the telecom industry for close to 20 years. My first job in the industry was with a very small dial-up internet provider called InterLink. I spent 16 years at Comcast and now I am a Telecommunications Engineer for Mason PUD3 where I design fiber optic networks to provide access to broadband symmetrical gigabit speeds to underserved communities within Mason County, part of Kitsap County, and a portion of Grays Harbor County here in Washington State.

BATTLECRY: Tell us a bit more about your role as Prime Minister:

Kruser: As Prime Minister, I am the Vice Chairman of the MMCC and governing Minister over the Conclave of Regions. This position serves as the top link in the chain of command between the Clan level officer and Mandalore the Uniter. Duties of the Prime Minister include representing the entire membership at the highest level in the International Command Council as their elected representative. I am responsible for providing guidance and support for the Conclave of Regions where elected Regional Officers are to bring questions, concerns, and issues from the membership in their respective Regions. The Conclave serves as the conduit from the membership to the ICC through the chain of command. Every member, from every clan, in every country has the ability to be represented and have their voices heard with a straight shot to the ICC if they utilize the chain of command and the officers they elect to represent them. As an elected position, our governing documents state that the Prime Minister has a term of 2 years and a limit of 2 consecutive terms. As this is my 2nd consecutive elected term, it will be my last. It is my hope that the foundation that my Conclave Warden, Candice - candygirl_mn13, and I have laid will ensure the success of the



Conclave for years to come. We have worked extremely hard to lay out foundation built on an effective, solutions-oriented, servant mindset leadership approach built upon a bedrock of strong communication processes that, if followed, will guarantee that the membership will always be informed, have a voice, and be heard at all levels within the MMCC for years to come.

BATTLECRY: Recently our beloved leader, Mandalore, had to take a step back for his own health. How does your role here help the club and what are the rough governing policies for things like this?

Kruser: The governing documents state that in the absence or disability of Mandalore, the Prime Minister shall perform the duties of Mandalore, have the powers of Mandalore, and be subject to the restrictions of Mandalore.

When Tom called me the night before Christmas Eve to let me know he was heading into the ER, after our conversations about his health and my concern for him and Elisha were addressed, he asked me to take the reins. My heart was in my throat. The gravity of the situation hit me more than I could have imagined. The man I admire, who built a club that has formatively changed my life, who married Sara and I, is asking me to fulfill my duty to the MMCC and pilot the ship while he recovers. Since that night, I have done all that I can to ensure the processes and procedures are followed club wide, the membership be informed, elections take place as scheduled, Council business continues as scheduled, and with the immense help of my Conclave Warden, the Conclave continues with the guidance, training, and communication necessary. Most importantly, doing all that I can to keep Mandalore's stress at a minimum while he recovers. As he eases back into the throne, I stay in constant contact with him taking items off of his plate as he sees fit so that he can get back into the swing of things at a rate with which he is comfortable.

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

Kruser: Anyone can build a costume. You do not need a club to build a costume. This club provides opportunities.

The opportunity to meet and bond with people who want to use this wonderful hobby to make a positive difference in other people's lives. This is a reason to join the MMCC. The opportunity to make a positive impact in the communities in which we live. This is a reason to join the MMCC. The opportunity to be a part of something bigger than yourself.

This is a reason to join the MMCC. The opportunity to put the things in life that divide us aside and focus only on the thing that unites us, the love of Star Wars and all things Mandalorian. This is the reason to join the MMCC.

You will get out of the club what you put into it. If you put forth positivity, passion, and dedication, that is what you will get out of it.

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

Kruser: The Mandalorian Proverb, "Family is more than blood." is something we have all heard time and time again. The MMCC lives it every single day. I cannot count the number of times I have seen our community be there for each other when they need it the most. I have experienced it first hand and I have had a number of opportunities to be there for others. It is never a question of if I can help, it is always how can I help.

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) ?

Kruser: After a very long time out of the shop, in February I will be heading back into the shop to start working on what will be my 4th approved costume. My Christmas gift from Sara was a commissioned custom Post Imperial flight suit, vest, and cumberbund. I will be making Post Imperial Kruser in the very, very near future and am extremely excited to get that project started.

LIGHTNING ROUND!

BATTLECRY: Blaster or Melee Weapon?

Kruser: Blaster all the way.

BATTLECRY: Favorite Ship?

Kruser: Tied... Both Slave 1 and The Executor - Executor-class Star Dreadnought Super Star Destroyer are equally my favorite.

BATTLECRY: Favorite Character?

Kruser: ESB/RotJ - Legends - Boba Fett

BATTLECRY: Favorite Show?

Kruser: Star Wars: The Mandalorian

BATTLECRY: Favorite Movie?

Kruser: Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back

TOOLS OF THE TRADE: ARMOR SHAPING

-ARTICLE BY: ALDWYN KASS

There is perhaps no more challenging step in building Mandalorian armor than ensuring proper shape and spacing of your armor plates, especially for a modern era kit.

A stunning design, perfect paint job, and the most incredible props can all be brought down by sloppy plate spacing or a poor shaping job.

But don't worry! Battlecry is here today to help you with the basic Dos and Don'ts of getting that armor to fit just right. This month we'll look at shaping, and in next month's issue we'll cover placement and spacing!

THE GOAL

Before we can achieve our goals, we need to know what those goals are. Basically, we want our armor to look Finished, and Fitted - finished, meaning we want it to look like we did more than cut some shapes out and stick them to our body with a loop of tape, and fitted meaning we want the armor to look like it was tailor made specifically for us (because it was!) But let's get a little more specific than that. What do the CRLs say?

"-(Armor) Must be fitted and spaced correctly and consistently depending on armor/body type. Generally, maximum spacing should equal no more than 1" or 2.5 cm between the collar/chest/abdomen plates and no more than ½" or 12 mm between the diamond and chest plates.

- Must be of adequate size in proportion to your chest area."

So there's the target. Now, what do we need to do to get there?

SIZE

Before we can think about shaping and spacing, we have to have plates to shape and space! Ensuring your armor plates are the proper size is an important foundational step that will make every step afterwards that much easier.

Work with your Ruus'alor and other OMs from your clan to make sure you're starting with plates that are proportionate to your body! And be sure to check out the Tools of the Trade section of the April 2022 issue of Battlecry magazine for a much more in-depth discussion of proper armor sizing.

SHAPE

Once you have plates, it's time to shape them. Since Sintra (expanded PVC board) is the most common material used by members of the MMCC for their armor plates, that's what we'll focus on here.

***A NOTE ABOUT SAFETY:**

PVC BOARD RELEASES NASTY FUMES WHEN HEATED WHICH COULD PROVE HARMFUL. ALWAYS WORK WITH SINTRA IN A WELL-VENTILATED AREA, AND CONSIDER USING A RESPIRATOR.*

Sintra is heat-moldable, which means it softens when heat is applied, becoming pliable, and then hardens in its new shape as it cools. Shaping and forming your plates to your own body can be a bit of a challenge, so I very much recommend enlisting the help of some of your fellow clanmates for this process. I have found that having someone else available to shape the plates while you act as the form is far easier than trying to shape them against yourself.

Alternatively, making a duct tape dummy of your own torso onto which you can form your plates can be a huge help. However, the initial creation of the dummy is impossible to do without an extra set of hands or two. There are many easy to follow tutorials available online, and with a friend's help, the whole process shouldn't take more than a couple hours, leaving you with a duct tape copy of your own body to work from!

The best way I've found to heat armor plates is using a heat gun, though other methods I've seen for softening Sintra include using things like a toaster oven, or an electric griddle. None of these methods are without their own

unique challenges and dangers, and burning Sintra will not only ruin your armor plate, it also smells awful and releases some nasty fumes. So whichever method you decide to use, remember to work in a well-ventilated area, and keep a close eye on your armor plates so you don't overheat and burn them.

GENERAL SHAPING

In no particular order, here's a few general tips and tricks for heating and shaping your armor plates.

- Helping Hands

Get ahold of your local clan and see if you can get someone to help you shape your plates. While it is possible to mold your plates to your own body, it's a long and tedious and difficult process. Having some helping hands and a few extra sets of eyes who know what to look for and have done this sort of thing before will be tremendously helpful and will likely save you a lot of time and frustration.

- Don't burn your plates!

We just covered this, but it's important so I'm going to say it twice. If you're using a toaster oven or electric griddle, use a low heat setting, keep a close eye on your plates, and only heat until the plastic just becomes pliable. If you're using a heat gun, the same rule applies, but also don't forget to keep your heat gun moving and try to heat the whole surface of the armor plate evenly.

- Work top to bottom.

Especially for chest plates, I've found it's easiest to shape the collar plate first, then move down to the chest plates, then the belly plate. Working top to bottom like this means you're shaping each plate to line up with the one above it, rather than bouncing from plate to plate trying to get them all to match with one another. (When we start the next step - spacing - we'll do it the same way, working top to bottom. But we're not quite there yet. Check back next month for a full breakdown of spacing and placement!)

- Wear your vest.

Shaping your plates onto what you will be wearing when your kit is complete will ensure a better fit and save you some adjustments in later steps. If you wear your flightsuit and vest while shaping your plates, you can get the most accurate shape the first time around.

- No floating.

Keep an eye on the edges of your plates and make sure to form them to lay as flatly as possible against your body. "Floating" is what we call it when improperly shaped armor plates (especially the edges) stick out away from the body. Your plates should be form-fitting and tailored to you.

- Reheat

You might not get it perfect on the first try, and that's okay. Sintra can be heated and reheated. If you're not totally happy with your shaping the first time around, reapply some heat until the plate becomes pliable again and retry. Also, if you're using a heat gun, you can shape just portions of a plate to make minor adjustments only where needed instead of heating the whole plate and starting over. Just remember to keep the heat gun moving so you don't create a burnt spot.

- Adjustments after Paint

Most of your shaping should be done before you paint, but minor adjustments can be made after paint, as long as you're careful. Just be aware that applying too much heat could damage your paint finish, and may also release more harmful fumes, so it's doubly important to ensure proper ventilation, and keep your heat gun moving!

- Don't overdo it!

Just as under-shaping your plates can cause the edges to float, over-shaping your plates can cause them to lift in the center if your edges are bent too far inward. The goal is for the plate to lay as flat as possible against your vest (and by extension, lay flat against your body)

With these basic tips and tricks in mind, you should be well equipped to get those plates cut and shaped. As always, don't forget that your clanmates (and especially your Ruus'alore) are here to help you, and the MMCC forums are a wealth of information.

Don't forget to check back next month for a quick and easy guide to spacing and placement! Until then, happy crafting!

UNDER THE BUCKET

-ARTICLE BY: VIRRA TENAU

If you have spent any time with the Mandos of the MMCC, you probably know that invasions, also called troops, are the lifeblood of the Mando Mercs. In short, they are why we hold our armor and the members who wear it to such high standards. Invasions are also how we bring joy to both members and non-members around the globe. With our new segment "Under the Bucket", we hope to take you into different experiences that official members of the Mercs have had during invasions to motivate and inspire you during this coming year.

This month, we had the chance to speak with the Ver'alor of the Montana Beskar Gett'se Clan about one of his first invasion experiences as an official member. Da'am Keldau was able to attend Salt Lake City Comic Con with other official members throughout the region in addition to the members of Montana in the fall of 2016. Krayt Clan was in charge of the Mando Merc's presence at the event, and it also happened to be the first time Keldau was able to meet other Mercs outside of Montana. As he told me about preparing for the Salt Lake City invasion, he admitted that the troop itself was a huge driving factor for getting his kit approved in a timely fashion.

You see, this was no ordinary invasion. Salt Lake City Comic Con had the late Jeremy Bulloch, also known as the original Boba Fett, at an official-members-only pizza party and photo op. Knowing that, Da'am knew that he absolutely had to get his kit finished and approved for the chance of a lifetime; to meet Jeremy Bulloch. Although he had already started on his kit, the invasion added further motivation to the dedicated mando's drive. With help from other Montana Mandos, he was able to achieve his goal. He, as well as other current members of the Beskar Gett'se Clan, had the experience of being able to talk candidly with Jeremy and spend time mingling with the other

members of the MMCC. Da'am says that he will always look back at that time and remember the excitement and joy of the entire weekend.

Jeremy Bulloch wasn't the only highlight of the invasion for the mando, though Da'am did assure me that it made the top of his list. Keldau says he remembers being so excited about his first official invasion that he donned his kit at the hotel before heading to the convention center, worried that he wouldn't have enough time. Prior to meeting Bulloch, members of the MMCC participated in a march around the convention center to usher in non other than Luke Skywalker himself. Mark Hamil's arrival on the stadium stage was a headliner event, and Da'am was eager to participate. Aside from

being able to see and meet Mark and Jeremy, Keldau also got the chance to see other celebrities and interact with all different types of cosplayers. Without a doubt, Da'am claimed the invasion was a smashing success and a memory for the ages.

Invasions, troops, or whatever you may call them have such a lasting impact on both the members or recruits that participate in them, as well as down to the very staff you see at the events centers. In this case, just the knowledge of the invasion had a recruit excited enough that they finished their kit in time to participate. So what stories do you have from "Under the Bucket"? We would love to hear from you! If you would like to be featured in "Under the Bucket" please PM our editor "mporter" through the forums.



VIDEO MESSAGE FROM MANDALORE THE UNITER

PATH OF THE WARMASTER



TAP ANYWHERE ON THE PAGE TO WATCH THE VIDEO MESSAGE