

THE OFFICIAL MANDO MAGAZINE

BATTLECRY

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MEGAICON RECAP - UNDER THE BUCKET: DYRE VOX - RAZORCREST - TOOLS OF THE TRADE

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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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MEGAACON

RECAP

ARTICLE BY: KOSHKAYA VASHTA



Megacon was a four day super convention in Orlando Florida hosted at the Orange County Convention Center from March 30 to April 2, 2023. In attendance were members of House Buurenaar Verda, Aiwha Riders Clan, Batuu Clan, Protectors of Lothal, as well as visiting members from Blue Moon Clan, Cerar Clan, Gurreck Clan, Naast Clan, Raquor'daan Clan, and Taakure Clan. In attendance were also Judicial Officer, Rene Diaz and the Conclave Prime Minister, Josh Kruse and his wife Sarah, Public Relations Office Donald Pennisten, and from South East Regional Command, Ash Hill. This combined club support made for a Megacon unlike any other!



The con opened at 2PM on Thursday but began much earlier for the set up crew as they transported and set up The Mos Rodina Spaceport. This multi-club set is a multi-building, multi-faceted interactive event that allows attendees to step off of the con floor and into a fully-immersive Star Wars experience complete with the Armorer's forge, a cantina bar, a jail cell, and speeder bike garage. Though Thursday was notably one of the slower days of the con there were still plenty of travelers roaming the outpost excited to see what was on offer.



Friday started off with a bang as local news stations, Fox 13 and Telemundo interviewed members of the Mando Mercs Costume Club as well as the 501st Legion and Rebel Legion. This media push is always a welcome addition to the usual con experience since it informs the public as to the club's combined fundraising mission. This year the Mando Mercs Costume Club, 501st Legion, Rebel Legion, and Saber Guild partnered together to raise money for Give Kids the World. Give Kids The World Village is an 89-acre, nonprofit "storybook" resort in Central Florida. Give Kids the World provides children with critical illnesses and their families a weeklong, cost-free vacation and has been a long-time partner with the costuming clubs in the state of Florida.



We were honored on Friday afternoon to also induct Vivien Lyra Blair, 10 years old, as the youngest honorary member of the Mando Mercs Costume Club. Attending the con as a celebrity guest with her mother, Vivien visited the Mos Rodina Spaceport



and was given her MMCC honorary member plaque as well as several patches and coins from both the local Florida and attending clans by Aiwaha Riders Clan Alor'ad, Marin Sivid. She then posed for photos in the Armorer's forge and signed the wall before going on to take photos on the speeder bike built by Order of Ori'ramikad member, Shev'la Ram'ser.



Friday night DJ Hent kept the party going at the Sand Dunes Cantina for the first annual Megacon Multi-Club Bash! Members from the MMCC, 501st, Rebel Legion, Saber Guild, Droid Builders, and Dark Empire were in attendance. This conglomerative effort was the vision of several members of the MMCC and orchestrated by members from each club in attendance. Door prizes were given out as well as swag to those in attendance and a silent auction was also held to raise additional funds for Give Kids the World.

Saturday the numbers of the con climbed significantly as the most heavily attended day. Though it was crowded, members came out in force to interact with attendees, working in shifts and making sure the full-immersion experience was still felt even when so packed. Mid-day on Saturday the

entirety of the set was roped-off for a multi-club photo with nearly 100 members of the combined clubs present. This included Albin Johnson, the founder of the 501st Legion, as well as several other high ranking members who had traveled to attend this event and see the collaborative effort of the clubs first hand.



Later that afternoon, at his panel, Hayden Christensen was also inducted as an honorary member of the MMCC and was awarded his plaque by several members of Local, Regional, and International Command Staff.

At the end of day club members gathered once again as a combined group at UNO's Pizzeria & Grill for food, friendship, and swag trading! With over 100 members in attendance the restaurant was filled to the brim.

Sunday, the second most attended day of the con, Emily Swallow visited the Mos Rodina Spaceport, escorted by a Mandalorian entourage, and marveled over the Armorer's forge. She took several photos and videos for her personal social media accounts with the forge and Aiwha Riders Clan's Armorer (SuncoastArmorer) then placed her signature on the wall.

Later that afternoon SuncoastArmorer was invited, along with the 501st Legion's Din Djarin, to attend Emily Swallow's panel. She was then asked to help draw a name for the raffle the actress was holding to raise money for the charity Voices Against Cancer. Voices Against Cancer is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that raises funds and awareness for pediatrics, pediatric cancer, and pediatric cancer research.

As the con came to a close on Sunday evening at 5PM members of the MMCC, 501st, Rebel Legion, and Saber Guild tore down the set, bringing yet another Megacon to a close. In total Megacon drew a crowd of 160,000+ attendees from every corner of the country and globe. And through the collaborative effort of all of the clubs, raised nearly \$10,000 for Give Kids the World.

MegaCon has become the gold standard of what happens when every club works together for one cause. Together we can overcome anything and show the world what kind of an impact we can make, TOGETHER!



UNDER THE BUCKET

DYRE VOX

ARTICLE BY: DIZ GE'TAL

Dyre Vox, the "Stealth Mandalorian" of Nexu Clan was contacted for this month's Behind the Bucket! He was excited to give us some insight into the making and design of his Stealth Hunter.

Dyre Vox explains that his time in the mercs has been impactful to his life, but there was one event that was the most meaningful to him. That was at a charity event where he was able to support a child who was being bullied. During the event, he participated in a video message and the video editor was able to send that to the child giving them some hope in a circumstance that seems never ending.

According to Dyre Vox, It was a fundraiser in Aurora, IL, his second event since approval with the MMCC. Just as fellow mercs and legion members were finishing kitting up, they were asked to do a quick support video for a young boy who was being bullied and who loved Star Wars. The idea was, as they left the changing area, everyone would walk by the camera, wave, and express a positive message. As it was explained, he overheard that the bullying was due to the boy having a cleft lip, which is something Dyre Vox had also been born with, and was bullied about as well. Dyre went on to say that he explained his connection to the event organizer and asked to be placed at the end of the line. After all the amazing costumes passed by the camera expressing their support, he stepped up last, stopped, and removed his bucket. At that moment, he told the boy that he had a cleft lip just like him, and that he knew what it's like. According to Dyre, "I wanted him to stay strong". This is when he walked away from that with a sense of belonging - that he was in the right place, at the right time!

While this was one of the meaningful events for Dyre Vox, the positive light for him doesn't stop at that event, but a continuous stream of light at the end of a dark tunnel. He felt warmly invited and welcomed with open arms on his first troop, at the exciting Celebration Chicago convention, and the Indiana Convention where he met a veteran Mando, Ordeyn, who would later become his future spouse! Whoever says that the Mandalorian Mercs is not a match making group clearly has not met this power team!

Like many who walk the way of the Mandalore, it does not matter what your past was, but who the warrior you will become. During the time of his Mandalorian build, Dyre had bought his first house, but lost his job of 12 years a month later. He felt that his kit was a good time to build anew and walk the way of Mandalore. Now, Dyre is building his life and turning it into a life of positivity surrounded by family members not of blood.

Oya vod! Thanks for speaking with us Dyre! We wish you the best in the future and continue to see you at events!

If you are an OM and have a fun or special trooping story and would like to be featured in Under the Bucket please contact our Editor at forum name: mporter





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CLAN SPOTLIGHT: RAZORCREST

-ARTICLE BY: VIRRA TENAU

Today's spotlight takes us to the great state of Minnesota, where a certain neon Twi'lek mando is becoming increasingly familiar. Recently elected Clan Alor'ad Katmya Nehutyc was enthusiastic in sharing her passion for the clan, and the Mando Mercs as a whole.

Razorcrest Clan was formed in 2019, right around the time that The Mandalorian was originally released. Katmya informed me that the show itself had a large part in the dedication to the clan's name. Din Djarin's ship is an ST-70 class Razor Crest M-111, commonly known simply as "the Razor Crest", and the clan fell in love with the name. The clan's original Alor'ad, Shar Dagger, created the clan's sigil that is still in use today.



Shar Dagger was also one of the first canon characters that the clan had, becoming approved with the live action Bo Katan at the beginning of 2022. However, Shar is no longer the only canon character. In February, the clan welcomed its ninth official member, Tyr52, as a canon Din Djarin. That's not the only growth it's had either.

At the time of this interview, Nehutyc reported a grand total of 42 recruits within the Razorcrest ranks. The secret to obtaining such a number? Being an extrovert. Katmya is an outgoing individual who volunteers in many different venues, and her passion for the club is well known. It would not be unusual to find the Alor'ad offering to show an interested recruit the ropes and quickly incorporating the said recruit into the Razorcrest family.

After all, Katmya's first kit was built and approved in 18 months, and her second approved kit (the recognizable neon Twi'lek) only took four months. Katmya also informed me that the soft parts are already completed for a third kit in the works. When asked as to why Nehutyc chose to go with the neon look for the Twi'lek mando, the answer was somewhat comical. Another recruit had joked with Katmya that their first kit wasn't bright enough, so Katmya decided to take it to the next degree and go with the neon look.

With such a passion for building, it is little wonder that others are also curious as to how to build their own kits with such fervor. Katmya admitted that "the [Costume Requirements List (CRLs)] look far worse on paper than they actually are." When quizzed as to any advice for incoming recruits who might share some trepidation after seeing the CRLs, Katmya advised this: "Breathe. It's a marathon, not a sprint." Before taking on the role of Alor'ad Katmya was the Razorcrest Ruus'alor Sol'yc, so there is little surprise that the passion for building continues strong within the clan's recruits.

Razorcrest Clan also does a wonderful job at operating like a family unit. Katmya fondly recalls that some of the best events for the clan tend to be at sporting events. A Minnesota Wild's game had a record number of clan members present, while a Saint Paul's Saints game had a Star Wars night that was a smashing success. Katmya admitted that the best part of the baseball Star Wars night was a ten year old child asking to have their hat signed... though the bouncy horse race and large scrabble took a close tie for second.

The quote "Family is more than blood" is well put into practice within Razorcrest Clan. Despite being a newer clan with a smaller number of approved members, the excitement and ambition that the clan has as a whole is palpable. With the large number of recruits, the entire MMCC is looking forward to seeing all 42 of the recruits become official members with the help of its wonderful leadership team. Next time you find yourself in Minnesota, keep your eyes peeled for any bright pink lekku, neon armor, or the shine of freshly polished beskar. Until next time, oya!



TOOLS OF THE TRADE:

ARMOR

-ARTICLE BY: ALDWYN KASS

As we briefly discussed in last month's issue, plate shaping and spacing can really make or break the overall look of a kit. We covered shaping last time, but today we're talking about spacing and mounting your plates.

Depending on what era armor you're building, spacing may not be as much of an issue given the style of your plates. Legacy era plates for example overlap like scales, and Post-Imperial armor is similarly stacked up as a single plate. This article will be most helpful for those who are working on Modern era kits, though the general principles can be applied elsewhere as well.

WHY IS SPACING SO IMPORTANT?

First, we need to ask what is our goal, and why should we be so concerned about spacing?

Armor plates that are spaced too far apart don't look like they can protect you, and plates not spaced far enough apart look rushed, crowded, and impractical.

The CRLs state that armor plates, "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."

If we've properly shaped our plates so they fit the contours of our body, then spacing shouldn't be a problem at all. But, it's worth noting that you may have to tweak and make minor adjustments to your shaping as we go through this spacing process.

HOW DO WE DO IT?

Let's start by donning our soft goods. Since we'll be attaching the plates to the flak vest, it's obviously important to have that on, but wearing the base layer that you'll have on underneath this (i.e. your flight suit) as well is important since what you wear underneath will change the way your vest fits. Spacing and attaching your plates to your vest without the proper base layer could mean that the plates don't fit properly once you have your flight suit on.

Just as it's important to have the foundation of our soft goods set up properly before we start working on our plates, it's just as important to space our plates in the right order. Just like when shaping the plates, work from the collar plate down, spacing everything from the plate above it to ensure a proper fit.

Generally (given the specific spacing guidelines given in the CRLs) we work according to the "Rule of Thumb" - that is, space your plates about a thumb width apart, ensuring even spacing all the way around. This will get you close to the required 1" without having to use a tape measure or ruler.

There are a few other spacing details that it's important to be aware of beyond just how far apart from one another your plates should be. We also have to watch the edges of the plates and try to position them correctly. The chest and collar plates are a good example of this.

Again, per the CRLs: "Chest plates should not exceed 1" or 2.5 cm beyond the outside edge of the collar at maximum."

So it's important to make sure there is enough and not too much of a gap between the chest plates and the bottom of the collar plate, but likewise, we need to keep an eye on the outer edges of the plates and make sure that we're within acceptable distance there as well.

Similarly, "Abdomen plates and backplates may not extend past the edge of the flak vest and may not touch accepted waist items."

This overlaps with sizing as well, but when positioning your plates, be aware of where they fall in relation to the edge of your vest, and to your waist items (girth belt, sash, utility/gun belt, etc).

OTHER SPACING CONSIDERATIONS

That's about all there is to it. Having another clan mate space your plates on your body while you wear your soft goods is the easiest and best way to ensure a proper fit. Trying to space your own plates on your own body is nearly impossible. A second place option (by my reckoning) is to create a duct tape dummy copy of your own torso and space/position your plates onto that. But since you'll need help to create the dummy, it might make more sense to just cut out that step and use that time and energy to have your helper do the actual spacing and shaping if possible.

Finally, as I mentioned at the top of the article, while spacing for chest plates is mostly a Modern Era concern, spacing is an important consideration for all armor pieces across all eras.

If your knee plates are knocking into your shin plates, that's a spacing issue. If your thigh plates touch your knees, that's a spacing issue. If your shoulders sit too far forward and touch the edges of your chest or collar plates, that could be a sizing/positioning/spacing issue.

"Additional body armor, such as bicep, elbow, cod, tasset, thigh, knee plates, shin armor and shknees should not overlap and crowd into other armor plates if they are separate, standalone costume pieces. This section does not apply to plates meant to be segmented or those attached to one another like that seen on the heavy infantry mandalorians or their appropriate era counterparts."

Proper size and spacing can seem like a daunting task, but with patience and little help from a friend, when you get your size and spacing right, you'll be a big step closer to getting those OM stripes!

So, remember the rule of thumb, consult the CRLs often, get assistance from your local clan, and take your time.

Until next month, happy crafting!

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