

THE OFFICIAL MANDO MAGAZINE

# BATTLECRY

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**PRIDE IN THE MMCC - TRASK - HYDRATION - FAMILY IS MORE THAN BLOOD**

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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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# PRIDE

## IN THE MMCC

-ARTICLE BY: KOSHKAYA VASHTA

In today's world, embracing LGBTQIA+ diversity within organizations is not just a matter of inclusivity; it is imperative for fostering a truly equitable and progressive environment. Recognizing the importance of LGBTQIA+ diversity means acknowledging and embracing the rich tapestry of human experiences, identities, and perspectives. By welcoming individuals of diverse orientations, identities, and expressions, organizations unlock a wellspring of creativity, innovation, and empathy that drives growth, enhances collaboration, and builds a foundation for a more just and inclusive society.



### PRIDE

Diversity and inclusivity also promotes social cohesion and understanding, breaking down stereotypes, prejudices, and fostering empathy toward not only our fellow Mandos but also the people we engage with on a daily basis. Ultimately, embracing diversity in a community such as the Mando Mercs Costuming Club is a commitment to equality, social progress, and the celebration of all individuals' inherent worth and dignity.



As a sign of solidarity with the LGBTQIA+ community the MMCC changed their colors on social media for the month of June to include the Pride flag colors. Though this show of support may seem small it speaks volumes to the community. "Changing the logo can be a powerful tool for conveying the message of solidarity to current [Mando Mercs OM] and prospective members that are LGBTQ+." Says Kayde Tabris, OM, "... it is essential to prioritize the values of inclusivity and respect above all else."



Kayde goes on to say, "As humans, it is imperative that we exhibit empathy and understanding towards our most vulnerable members, particularly those who may belong to a minority group. It is disheartening to hear stories of mistreatment and discrimination against LGBTQ+ members from other clans to the point that they are ostracized from them."



Diversity is a cornerstone of vibrant and thriving communities and the Mando Mercs are no exception. Embracing diversity within a community is crucial for several reasons: It brings a



wealth of perspectives, ideas, and experiences that enrich social interactions, foster learning, and spur innovation.

Avor Braisa, OM, added, "...This group is a family and has members of every shape, background, and identity. We should be able to show that with pride..." By demonstrating to the wider community that diversity is not only accepted but celebrated in the MMCC the club can serve as a role model for other organizations, encouraging them to embrace diversity and create inclusive spaces as well.

Showing support for LGBTQIA+ people involves both personal actions and advocating for broader change. So what can you do to help foster a more inclusive and diverse environment for yourself and your Mando Clan? Here are some ways individuals

can demonstrate support:

### EDUCATE YOURSELF

Take the initiative to learn about LGBTQIA+ history, terminology, and issues. Educate yourself on different orientations, identities, and experiences to better understand the challenges faced by LGBTQIA+ individuals. (Check out the [Human Rights Campaign](#) or [GLSEN](#) to learn more about being an ally)

**Listen and Validate:** Create a safe and non-judgmental space for LGBTQIA+ friends, family members, or colleagues to share their experiences. Listen actively and validate their feelings and identities. Respect preferred pronouns and chosen names.

### SPEAK UP

**Challenge** homophobic, transphobic, or discriminatory remarks and actions when you encounter them. Use your voice to promote acceptance and equality, even if it means having difficult conversations with others.

**BE AN ALLY:** Show your support openly and visibly. Wear symbols such as rainbow pins or flags to signal your allyship. Attend LGBTQIA+ events, marches, and rallies to demonstrate solidarity.

**OFFER SUPPORT:** If someone you know comes out as LGBTQIA+, be supportive and affirming. Offer resources, information, and emotional support if they need it. Respect their journey and allow them to share their story on their own terms.





**DONATE TO CHARITY:** Sometimes showing your support can be as simple as “putting your money where your mouth is.” Supporting LGBTQIA+ charities such as The Human Rights Campaign (hrc.org) or the Trevor Project (thetrevorproject.org) are just two charities out of hundreds that help the community.

Remember that supporting the LGBTQIA+ community is an ongoing commitment, and it is essential to listen to the needs and perspectives of the community itself. Actively engage with LGBTQIA+ individuals and organizations to ensure your support is meaningful.

In conclusion, fostering inclusivity is not just a moral imperative but a crucial step toward building a better and brighter future for all. By recognizing and embracing the diversity that exists within the MMCC, we create spaces where every individual feels valued, respected, and empowered. Inclusive environments promote collaboration, innovation, and empathy, leading to stronger communities, organizations, and institutions. As we break down barriers, challenge biases, and promote equal opportunities, we unlock the full potential of individuals and foster a society that celebrates the richness of human experiences. Let us strive for inclusivity in all aspects of life, ensuring that everyone has a seat at the table and the chance to thrive.

Together, we can create a world where diversity is not just accepted but cherished, and where everyone can contribute their unique talents and perspectives for the greater good.

## 2023 MANDO MERCS PRIDE



**WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE MMCC'S 2023 PRIDE LINEUP. WITH THIS YEAR'S NEW DESIGN, WE ARE TAKING A STAND AGAINST HATE.**

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# UNDER THE BUCKET TRASK

## ARTICLE BY: DIZ GE'TAL

This month's Under the Bucket comes to us from Trask Cryl of Krayt Clan, who has been an OM since March of 2017 and has been one of the clan's more active members. Trask comes from a family of Star Wars costumers with her parents and sister all members of the 501st and she had planned to build a death trooper until running into the mandos at Salt Lake City's FanX convention. While there, she turned to her mom and said, "I wanna build a mando."

Her choice of being a Chiss Mando, and her palace guard paint job were inspired by her love for the Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic game.

Trask loves being a Chiss mando, and says that "she's so unique and she stands out," and she does stand out any time that she has her Bucket off because of her deep blue skin and piercing red eyes.

The troop that she told me about was a May the 4th troop at an elementary school involving members of the various Utah Star Wars clubs.

Many of the costumed people at the troop were non-speaking characters (jawas and storm troopers who lacked mics and speakers) and so Trask acted as the, unofficial, voice for the group.

"It was super special that many of the kids at this school... loved talking and asking questions because they felt they could." Trask told me during our short interview, "We weren't just standing figures, but having someone they could talk to directly really made the event for them."

"I remember one little girl telling me that I was her favorite of the group," Trask told me, "and a lot the girls especially loved seeing me there because I was a noticeable girl... and it made them feel more involved and welcomed in Star Wars, when Star Wars is often considered by most kids as a boy thing."

"It is moments like that" she went on, "that gives me all the reasons I need to put on this armor and go to these events, because of how the kids light up when seeing these awesome characters come to life."

Thank you, Trask, for sharing your experience with us and for being such an active member of Krayt Clan.

If you have an experience that you would like to share with the rest of the MMCC, please send a PM to our editor through the forums at mporter.





# HYDRATION

-ARTICLE BY: DIZ GE'TAL

Summer has finally shown itself in the northern hemisphere, which means it's time for our yearly reminder about hydration while trooping.

If you're new to the MMCC, you may not understand the amount of water you can lose in a very short amount of time. I remember my first Star Wars night at our local minor league Ball Park on a hot evening in July. After walking the concourse for 30 minutes or so, my flight suit was soaked, and no amount of water would quench my thirst. So what could I done better?

## HYDRATE BEFORE YOU TROOP

Being hydrated before a troop makes it easier to stay hydrated while trooping. Start hydrating several days before the troop so that your system will be prepared for the heat and stress of the troop. The NHS recommends drinking 1.2 liters (6 to 8 glasses) of water each day to maintain proper hydration. You should also limit your caffeine and alcohol intake, as they can cause dehydration, and can put unneeded strain on your circulatory system when the weather heats up.

## HYDRATE DURING THE TROOP

Drink before feeling thirsty. If you start feeling thirsty during the troop, you are already behind on your fluid replacement. The CDC recommends that you drink 8 ounces of water every 15 to 20 minutes while working in the heat. This translates to about 32 ounces of water per hour, and drinking small amounts at shorter intervals is better than drinking a lot of water all at once.

Now, one word of warning, be careful not to drink more than 48 ounces of water per hour. Doing this can throw off your salt levels in your blood causing a medical emergency.





## HYDRATE AFTER YOU KIT DOWN

Even if you've been diligent with your hydration during the troop, it can take a few more hours of water drinking to properly replace what you have lost during the troop. This might sound gross, but it's something that I learned when I was doing a lot of running when I was younger. When it's hot out and finish with an activity where I was doing a lot of sweating, I like to take a shot of pickle juice. Half a dixie cup of pickle juice (I like kosher dill) is full of salt and electrolytes that help you with your hydration recovery.

## OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

While the CDC frowns upon them because of their sugar content, I find that downing a sports drink while I'm kitting up helps to keep my electrolyte levels up and makes the troop more enjoyable, especially on a hot day.

Be sure to watch out for each other. Check in frequently with the other members of your clan to make sure that they are taking in water on a regular basis. When you're in troop mode and having fun, it's easy to forget and to not recognize (or to even ignore) the signs of dehydration until it's too late.

If you are acting as handler during a troop, make sure that you have bottles of water with you in a backpack, and that you are offering them to the costumed members frequently. If they refuse more than a couple of times, put the bottle into their hands and insist. Also, make sure that you are drinking as well. While you're responsible for the costumed members, you are also responsible for yourself.

Trooping in the summer can be a fun and rewarding experience, be sure to take care of your health, so that you can continue to troop and have fun.



# FAMILY IS MORE THAN BLOOD: A LOOK BEHIND THE MMCC

-ARTICLE BY: VIRRA TENAU

Embarking into the realm of the Mando Mercs Costume Club (MMCC) is much like stepping into a different galaxy, where the concepts of community, camaraderie, and service are no longer restricted by the traditional view of “family”. This club, filled to the brim with shared enthusiasm, empathy, and assistance, carries the philosophy that family is indeed more than blood.

The pulsating life force of this unconventional “family” is evident in our armor parties; vibrant gatherings that not only serve as a venue for costume building, but also stand as a time for members and recruits alike to bond. Veteran members guide recruits in crafting their armor, lending their experience to the sometimes daunting process. One of the greatest feelings a recruit can have is getting their armor approved; it being a symbol of shared identity, unity and belonging. These parties enable that process, and build the deep bond found among MMCC members – a bond nurtured by a shared love for the Star Wars universe and a desire to help others in doing what they love.

However, the MMCC’s sense of kinship is not confined to the borders of armor construction or parties. The humanitarian strides, such as the relief efforts for Hurricane Ian victims, serve as stark illustrations of the club’s dedication to service. When faced with one of the most daunting natural disasters someone can face, the MMCC rallied as a beacon of resilience, amplifying their core values, and demonstrating their commitment to support their broader community during such a trying time. Members and recruits alike delivered supplies and offered hope to those around them, while those farther away contributed what they were able to.





A further embodiment of the club's familial bonds is the MMCC's Member Support Fund. This initiative provides for members in need, underlining the shared empathy and compassion ingrained in the club's fabric. A recent patch drive, spearheaded by Mandalore the Uniter, showed the strength of these bonds as orders poured in. This year the MMCC has also launched "Path of the Warmaster", which offers drawings and encourages members to donate to the support of members. By bolstering the Support Fund, this endeavor ensures that no club member- no family member- would ever face hardship alone.

As the MMCC ventures into the coming months, BattleCry will probe deeper into this unique familial narrative through a series of member interviews. This opportunity allows members to share how the club has made an impression on them, further solidifying that the MMCC family is a rich tapestry woven from diverse threads of individual experiences. These accounts will serve as a testament to the strength and unity within the MMCC community and further outline the club's guiding philosophy: "Family is more than blood."

In conclusion, the MMCC signifies more than a mere costume club; it represents shared passions, kindness, and unwavering support. It is a testament to the fact that families can be found in the most unexpected places, bound together by shared interests, empathy, and an unyielding commitment to stand by each other. The MMCC personifies the extraordinary power of a united community, truly embodying the notion that family is, in the end, much more than blood.

**ARE YOU AN OFFICIAL MEMBER WITH A KNACK FOR WRITING OR CONTENT CREATION?**

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