

THE OFFICIAL MANDO MAGAZINE

BATTLEFRY

NOVEMBER 2025

MERCSCON 4

THE HIGH REPUBLIC

MANDO WEDDINGS

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**BattleCry is the
official magazine of
the MMCC**

**It is released
monthly to the world
exclusively on the
Merces Holonet.**

**Armor Tips,
Interviews, Features
on Members,
Conventions, and so
much more!**

On the Cover

Mandalore the Uniter
by Malcolm Byers

Editorial

Raymond "Scarif Mando" Gayleard (PRO)
Mike "Diz Ge'tal" Porter

Staff Writers

Alex "Katra Dromaar" Maciel
Retta "Mira Tal" Gamboe
Ben "Midge" Egloff
Lee "Tea" Fryberger (Comic Strip)

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FROM THE EDITOR



Greetings Vode!

I've been thinking back to when I was a little guy in the 1970's, and there was this movie that came out during the summer of 1977. It was called Star Wars and, oh boy, did I want to see it. Every night on the news we would be shown pictures of lines of people that stretched around the block. These were the days before you could buy your tickets in advance, on line, and most theaters only had one screen, so you would just have to stand in line for the ticket booth, and then wait for the next showing if the current one sold out. I was 8-years-old then, and I would beg my parents, "Please! Can we go see Star Wars?" Well, it must have had some affect, because, my Dad finally took me. It was the end of the run, and Star Wars was starting to leave the theaters. Dad took me to the old Centre Theater, that used to sit on the corner of 300 south and State Street in Salt Lake City. We didn't have to stand in line, because the hype had passed, and seemingly, everyone in the world had already seen it. We found some seats (this was before assigned seating as well) and the movie started.

With that first note of the fanfare that began the Star Wars Theme and the introductory crawl, I was transfixed and surprisingly to me, so was Dad.

My life changed that night in that dark theater, I found a fandom that would bring me friends. My Dad and I found something that we could have in common and would carry us though my teenage years and into my later life. We found Star Wars. Now, I don't want to put too much credit on a mere movie, but, there was something special about that movie at that time. It gave us hope that, some how, some way, the good guys can win when faced with incredible challenges. A New Hope... as it were.

That's important to remember the next time we're faced with challenges, don't you think?

Diz

Editor, BattleCry Magazine

ANNOUNCING: MERCSCON 4

By: Retta "Mira Tal" Gamboe

MercsCon is a conference held every few years for members of the Mando Mercs. Previous MercsCons were held in Daytona Beach (2018), New Orleans (2021), and Denver (2023), and the next one will be August 6 to August 9, 2026. I sat down with the rally master, Gaanla Solus Teh'Birov, to discuss the next MercsCon and what attendees can expect.

MIRA: Where is MercsCon 4 going to be?

GAANLA: We're having it in Old Town Alexandria, a few miles south of Washington, D.C. We'll be staying at the Embassy Suites Old Town, which I've stayed at a few times as well. Everything has easy access with great tours, a lot of history, and a vibrant nightlife. It's going to be a lot of fun!

MIRA: What can we expect from MercsCon 4?

GAANLA: We'll still have some of the same traditions we've established at past MercsCons, like the presentation of banners and the Q&A with the cabinet and Tom. We're bringing back popular events, such as the Quartermaster's Panel and the Victory Dinner.

We're also going to have some great daytime excursions before the event officially begins

to allow attendees to explore D.C. and the surrounding area with local Mercs acting as tour guides. We're setting up meet-ups and MMCC groups to go places like the National Zoo, various museums at the Smithsonian, and other sites. We're looking at setting up nighttime excursions into Old-Town Alexandria, maybe even a ghost tour! There should be a little bit of everything for everybody (just no Ghost Donkey).

MIRA: How will MercsCon 4 differ from past MercsCons?

**"WE'RE HAVING IT IN OLD TOWN
ALEXANDRIA, A FEW MILES SOUTH
OF WASHINGTON D.C."**

GAANLA: We're hoping to add more interactive panels and local excursions. We'll have some new guests (and more guests), though I can't reveal who just yet. The Embassy Suites is providing significantly more amenities and additions than our previous venues. For those getting the all-inclusive tickets with room stay, they're providing breakfast all four days, lunch on Friday and Saturday, and an evening reception with drink tickets. Those getting all-inclusive day tickets will get lunch on Friday and Saturday. Prices this year





will be at or below the cost of MercsCon 3. There are a lot of other unconfirmed things we're excited for but can't share right now.

Gaanla on the forums (username dipolley)!

out the roommate request form. Deposits are on sale now in the MMCC store! Be sure to like and follow the MercsCon socials and to join the MercsCon Facebook group to stay up to date on all the newest announcements! Still have questions? Feel free to message



MJRA: Are you planning anything cool for giveaways or a swag bag?

GAANLA: There will be swag bags and a raffle. We're bringing back the store so members can buy MMCC swag and other items at the event. We're setting aside time for a swap meet to trade swag like patches and coins, so be sure to bring your patches, coins, and other tradeables!

MJRA: Is there anything else you'd like people to know?

GAANLA: If you want to go and need help finding a roommate to keep costs down, talk with your vode in your clan, or you can go to the forum to fill



MANDALORIAN WEDDINGS

By: Raymond "Scarif Mando" Gayleard (PRO)

I am excited to share with you all a personal story and event in my life. This past month, October 11th to be exact, I married the love of my life- Prini Nibal aka Nicole. Some of you may know her as the Regional Commander of the North East but I now know her as wifey. I met my love here in the MMCC in 2017. By 2020 she had become my best friend and adventure buddy. Nikki convinced me to get on an airplane for the first time to attend Mercs Con 2 in New Orleans. From there it was Star Wars Celebration Anaheim, Galaxy's Edge Orlando, and so much more. It was amidst these adventures that we fell in love.

The MMCC has been and will always be the foundation of our relationship. So when it came time to ask for her hand I sought the help of my fellow mercs. Secretly, I crafted a "Mando Photo Event". Many mandos from our clan and the surrounding clans came out to make the day special.

Fast forward just over a year later and we arrive at October 11th 2025. It was important for me that my mando family be at the wedding. For me, they are my family. My guest invite list was 4 blood relatives and over a hundred mandos. The bond that both Nikki and I found in each other is also the bond we have with this club. There will always



be people that view the MMCC as "just a costume club" but it is so much more. People find purpose in this club. They find drive, duty, family, honor, and now in my case, love.

It wasn't enough to have our mandalorian family invited to the wedding. We wanted a Mandalorian Wedding. Both Nikki and I were privileged to have been at the proposal and later the Mandalorian wedding of our dear friends

Josh and Sara Kruse. Tom known by most as Mandalore the Uinter conducted the ceremony. Without hesitation I got on the phone and "Tom, I



need you to officiate my wedding". He was happy to have the opportunity to perform another mando wedding. This club that he created and carefully curated for the last two decades continues to unite people, making new families and changing the lives of so many.

Mandalore explained to



me that he had a special ceremony he conducts for weddings. Nikki and I knew we wanted to be in armor and surrounded by our fellow members of the MMCC.

The ceremony was absolutely beautiful. MMCC members from all over the country attended. Some having to drive 8+ hours while others flew all the way from the west coast. Several of my brothers on the MMCC Cabinet were able to attend as well. Our local clan, Kyrimorut, had orchestrated an honor guard procession to escort us to the Crab Throne where Mandalore the Uniter stood waiting to receive us with Vastoom and Ru'star Rawr on either side of him.

We were asked to repeat the following to each other.

Mhi solus tome
(We are one when together)
Mhi solus dar'tome
(We are one when apart)
Mhi me'dinui an
(We will share all)
Mhi ba'juri verde
(We will raise warriors)

Nikki and I spoke the words and exchanged our tokens of affection. (I gave her a titanium chest diamond and she gave me a monkey lizard. For context she loves monkey lizards while I think they could have been left on the cutting room floor! Seriously, these things are now all over my house! lol) As per the ceremony custom we each had a defender of the union. I asked Kruser to be mine and Nikki asked Sara (Shortcut) to be hers.

It is truly an honor to not only serve in this club, but find absolutely everything I hold near and dear to my heart here. I will forever be indebted to the MMCC for everything it has given me. This is not just The Way, this is Our Way. Nikki and I can not thank everyone enough for making this day so special for us both and for giving us our dream wedding. We move forward even closer together as we start this next chapter of our lives.

This is Our way..



The wedding of Josh and Sara Kruse



ICONOGRAPHY OF MANDALORE

By: Alex "Katra Dromaar" Maciel

Continuing on from last issue's article, where we showcased Mandalore's wildlife, and in turn symbols derived from them, we now move on to elaborating upon more of the emblems common in Mandalorian culture.

JASTER'S FEATHER

Often misidentified as the sigil of Clan Fett, the crest was designed by Jango Fett to honor his adoptive father, . In the in-universe book *The Bounty Hunter Code*, he wrote; "This was Jaster Mereel's sigil as a Journeyman Protector on Concord Dawn. I displayed it to honor him and to remind myself that you never know the heart of another. Always assume betrayal is a moment away. You'll live longer." Besides the Fetts, one Clone Pilot in *Revenge of the Sith* is seen with it on his helmet.



CRUSADER AND NEO-CRUSADER SIGILS

First seen as a sigil on the mask of Mandalore the Indomitable in the *Tales of the Jedi* comics, the symbol later identified as that of the Mandalorian Crusaders evokes the serpentine Ouroboros seen in many an esoteric tradition in real life, which represents the cyclical nature of time. The Knights of the Old Republic series then built upon it for their successor faction in the Neo-Crusaders, overlaying a cranial icon vaguely reminiscent of the classical Mando skull.

MYTHOSAUR SKULL

To elaborate more upon it from last time, different sources have gone back and forth on the actual origin of the symbol known in Mando'a as the

Kyr'bes. While most identify it as, of course, an homage to the Mythosaurs of Mandalore's past, others denote it as in reality being in the visage of the ancient Rally Master named Jaing. Numerous variants exist - besides the "standard" skull, the other two most prevalent versions are that of the True Mandalorians, and the design used in *The Old Republic* MMO, which replaces the eyes with the visor of Shae Vizla's Powertech helmet.

JOE JOHNSTON CONCEPT ART

The source of numerous icons comes from Joe Johnston's concept art for Boba Fett in *The Empire Strikes Back*. The most famous of these is undoubtedly the Jaig Eyes, which lore-wise are only awarded after a great act of bravery in defense of others. In the early stages of production for *TESB*, the first Boba Fett prototype helmet featured the symbol, but was replaced by the time filming began. The symbol was reused only two years later, for Fenn Shysa in *Marvel's Star Wars* issue #68. There are even some non-Mando characters displaying the Jaig eyes, including Clone Captains Fordo and Rex, and even the Jedi Knight Kanan Jarrus.



HAWKBAT

Besides the Jaig Eyes, perhaps the most prominent of these symbols would be the one tentatively identified as a Hawkbat - no official source has ever confirmed it, but it bears a striking resemblance to the Coruscanti reptavian mid-dive. First re-used on the helmet of an ARC

Trooper pilot in the Clone Wars microseries, it was again utilized as the symbol of Fenn Rau's Mandalorian Protectors in Star Wars Rebels, where it was stated that he trained clone pilots - a nice inter-continuity nod.

Finally, our very own Mandalore the Uniter wrote an article for the official Star Wars

website in 2013 on this very subject - you can find it following the link here:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20170717130800/https://www.starwars.com/news/mandalorian-mysteries-the-icons-of-mandalore>



PATH OF THE WARMASTER

STARTING IN 2023, MMCC INITIATED THE
"PATH OF THE WARMASTER" FUNDRAISER TO
RAISE FUNDS FROM MEMBERS TO HELP FUND THE
FOLLOWING MEMBER AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

MMCC MEMBER SUPPORT FUND

MMCC supporting members affected by major emergencies.

MMCC MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP

MMCC supporting members' journey towards higher education in the fields of
art and education.

MMCC FOUNDLING FORGE

MMCC supporting foundlings working on Official Membership who are limited
by access to resources.



Contributions to the fundraiser is open to ALL membership levels of MMCC. A valid MMCC forum account is required for Supply Depot access. Contributions may be made in \$10 increments, or as the full \$40 contribution amount.

**VISIT THE SUPPLY DEPOT TO
MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION TODAY!**

THE HIGH REPUBLIC

AN INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR:

TESSA GRATTON

By: Mike "Diz Ge'tal" Porter

While walking through FanX, the Salt Lake City Comic Convention last September, I was surprised to meet Tessa Gratton, the author of several *Star Wars: The High Republic* novels. Fortunately for us, she was gracious and willing to sit down for a short interview.

BATTLECRY: What was your first introduction to the Star Wars Universe?

TESSA GRATTON: It's actually one of my first memories, when I was about 4 years old, we lived in southern California, and we went to drive-ins all the time, and my brother and I would play in the back of our van while my parents watched the movie. So, this was 1984 and all of a sudden, I saw teddy bears on the screen, and I abandoned my little brother and watched the last forty minutes of *Return of the Jedi*. I was so enamored of the murder teddy bears, that I demanded a teddy bear onesie, so that I could pretend to be Wicket. I don't remember this, but I apparently stopped answering to my name for a while, and only answered to Wicket. So, I've been a life long Star Wars fan.

BC: How did you begin your writing career?

TG: I was always a writer. I wrote in my free time, mostly just for fun. I did, what I didn't realize was fan fiction, because the internet didn't exist, and I was a kid. Um, also original fiction. It wasn't until

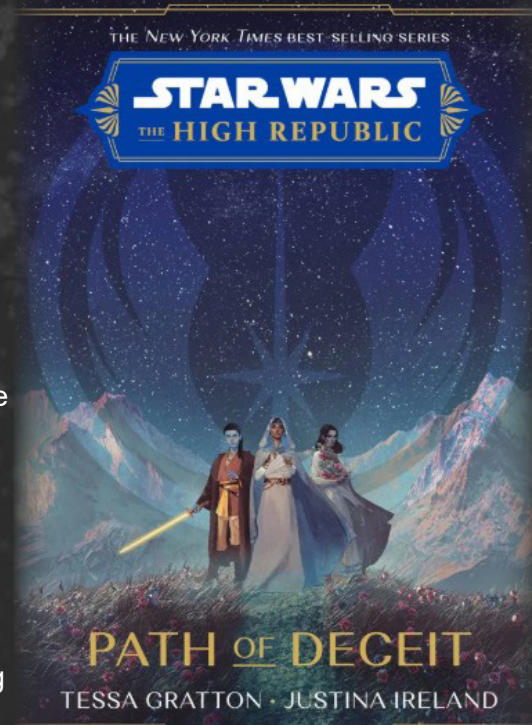
I was in graduate school, around 2005, that I realized what I was pursuing as a career, which

was politics, was really turning me into a really angry, terrible person. I was driving people away, and I was, like, "I can't do this. What do I actually

want to do?" I wanted to go into politics because I wanted to make

the world a better place. So, I was like, "What else can I do to make the world a better place?" and I went, well, what made me this way was the way I was raised, which I can't give to everyone, and the books I read when I was a teenager. So, since I'd always written, I [thought] that I [wanted] to try to write science fiction and fantasy books for teenagers that ask questions about justice and create empathy, so, hopefully make other people question the structures of the world... also [I wanted] to make the world a better place. And so, it took me about five years, from that point, to sell my first book.

BC: I've found that most of the writers that I've talked to, that have begun to write for Star Wars,



were invited. Is that your story as well?

TG: Yes. I was invited, very specifically, to write for *The High Republic*, for *Phase Two*, because originally it was just five writers, and they were writing so many books, and they just couldn't do it, just themselves anymore, for the ambition of the project. So, they wanted to invite three or four more writers in. Justina Ireland, one of the original architects, was one of my long time friends, writer friends, and we had written before, in the past, and so she's the one who said, "Tessa Gratton would be great to co-write *Path of Deceit* with me," and so, that was the beginning of the end, and here I am.

BC: Because *The High Republic* wasn't really "Canon," we only knew about the "modern era" of Star Wars, how did you go about building this history, three hundred years before the time that everybody knows?

TG: That was, actually, one of the best things about *The High Republic*, is that, that was the point of it, to develop this undeveloped time in the history of the republic, and particularly the history of the Jedi, because in the Skywalker saga era, the Jedi are either, already kind of crumbling, arguably a little corrupt because of how much "in bed" they are with the republic governance, and then in the original trilogy, they're nonexistent except as myth. So, during *The High Republic* there are ten-thousand Jedi, no exaggeration. They have a huge hierarchy and it's functioning really well. We, kind of, call it their "Camelot Era" in the writer's room and everything. So, we were given a lot of leeway as a group of writers to try to figure out how to tell the stories, and have a chance to have so many different Jedi, and they were able to have different relationships with the Force, and with each other. It was a time of expansion for the Republic, and so the Republic, politically, with the Outer Rim was very different because most of the Outer Rim was unaffiliated at this time, and so it's like an age of exploration. We just were given these broad strokes, then allowed to run with

it. We just stayed in constant communication with the other writers, so that everyone was moving in similar directions. Like different aspects of the same, overarching, history.

BC: You're quite vocal about being a part of the LGBTQ+ community, and a lot of your writing seems to center around that, how did you bring that, or did you bring that, into the Star Wars Universe?

TG: Part of the purpose of Project Luminous, was to lean in to the idea that Star Wars is for everyone. The original architects were, like, sexual identity diverse on purpose, and so, that was one of the original points of the High Republic, and so, when they invited more writers in, they kept doing that. We were encouraged to find ways to make all of our characters have diverse identities, to really reflect that for our readers, because it really is something that has been missing from Star Wars for a very long time, and it was very much encouraged by Lucas Films and Disney Publishing, and also Del Rey, Random House World, everybody who was involved. There was, to my knowledge, never any push back, about including different racially diverse and gender and sexually diverse in it. We really were given free reign. I was personally

surprised about how far I was encouraged to bring my "gay agenda" to the novels.



SOCIAL SOCIETIES OF THE MMCC

AN IN DEPTH LOOK AT CABUR AKAATA AND THE BETA BRIGADE

By: Ben "Midge" Egloff

In last month's edition I began a series all about the Mando Mercs social societies with the goal of highlighting the unique nature of these societies and the benefits one can derive from becoming a member. While doing charity costuming, we continually find ourselves in the position of focusing outside of ourselves, giving to the community around us, and devoting our time and resources to spread joy, raise money for worthy causes, and be a beacon of hope for those who sometimes do not have it. One of the things that I love about the societies is that they focus on growing relationships inside the club, strengthening and supporting the membership of the MMCC who then go out and do these wonderful things. Two of those societies, Cabur Akaata and The Beta Brigade, do important work to help support the mission of the social societies, and those societies will be the focus of this month's installment. November felt like the appropriate time to delve into these two societies because this month is pretty important to both of them.

Cabur Akaata translates from Mando'a to **Protector Battalion**, a very fitting name for the society dedicated to the brave individuals who serve, or have served, in the military all over the world. Within this society veterans from all different forms of service can come together and find camaraderie in that shared service. With Veteran's Day here in the United States, and similar celebrations around the world like Remembrance Day in Canada and the United Kingdom, Armistice Day in France, Belgium, many countries mark the end of World War I as the day to remember and celebrate their military veterans. With these somber holidays in mind I caught up with Marciavel Sturn, the current Keeper of Cabur Akaata, and got a chance to get a more in-depth look at the society and what it means to its membership.

BATTLECRY: Introduce yourself and give us a little bit of your history with the Mando Mercs?

MARCIAVEL STURN: The (Mando-)name is



Marciavel Sturn, I have been with the Mercs since 2017. After originally researching for a Jango Fett Kit (which I never built) I stumbled across the forums and got hooked. I became official in October of that year and have been an active member of Jai'galaar Clan ever since, and built my second kit last year. I made a lot of friends in my almost 8 years in the club and although it might sound cheesy I don't want to miss a second of it.

BC: Tell us a little about Cabur Akaata and what its overall mission and purpose is?

MS: Cabur Akaata means as much as "Protector Battalion" in Mando'a. It is a society for all active and former military-service members all around the world. The mission is to give all members a common space to talk about their service time and have some friendly banter. I'd say the overall purpose is to give all mercs that serve an anchor, a place where they know they are understood and there are people that have similar life experience and can relate.

BC: What drew you to Cabur Akaata?

MS: I served in the German armed forces for two years in a parachute signals company and was not out for long when I joined mercs. I had a hard time readjusting to the civilian way of doing things. The Cabur Akaata was a way to connect with vode around the globe and I loved to learn about their service history as well as finding similarities and differences. It helped me with not feeling alone in this situation.



BC: Who can join Cabur Akaata and in what capacity?

MS: Everyone that served in a military branch, no matter the occupation. We don't care if it has been 6 months or 10 years. Just simply comment on our main forum thread that you want to join and when and which unit you served in. It's that simple.

BC: Why do you feel that it is important to have a dedicated space for your membership?

MS: I think it's important to make the service members visible, the Mandalorians are a warrior culture, so it absolutely makes sense to honor the warriors in our ranks. Without the society I probably won't have even known about the people in my clan that served, the society helps with that.

BC: What does the Cabur Akaata society pages provide for its membership that the forums at large do not?

MS: As I stated earlier, it's great to have a place to share experiences and struggles with each other. It's kinda like a safe haven for the cranky military humor and everything related that would be out of place in the rest of the forums.

BC: As Cabur Akaata grows, what do you hope to be able to do in the future as a society?

MS: We are really looking forward to producing some Cabur Akaata livery next year, so we can raise money for charities that support veterans & help them battle PTSD and other service related trauma.

As Marciavel said, we stand behind our military veterans and the sacrifices they make on the daily to protect and serve their fellow citizens. If you see one of our Mercs out there while trooping who wears the coyote brown society rope of the Cabur Akaata, please be sure to thank them for their service. If you are a veteran who is looking for a place to hang out with other military service members, head over to Cabur Akaata's boards, they would be glad to have you.

November is also worldwide Diabetes Awareness month and one of our newest Formal Societies, **The Beta Brigade**, is dedicated to all those who struggle with diabetes and other blood sugar related issues. It is a place

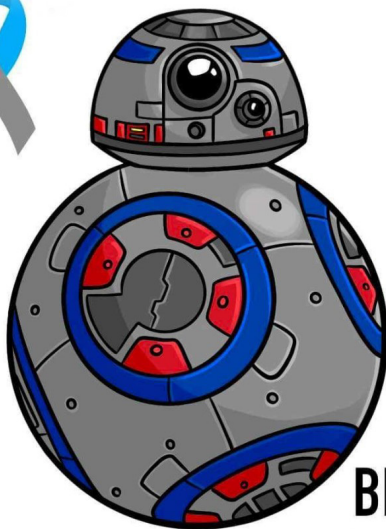
of support for those who either have diabetes or support loved ones who do. It is a place designed to create camaraderie and connection through shared experience.

The society was founded by two active members of the MMCC, Flo Brin and Mira Tal, who have long advocated for visibility for this disease, going so far as to incorporate their medical devices into their kits in a visible way. As part of this society myself, it was a joy to sit down with both of them and explore why they started the Beta Brigade.

BATTLECRY: Introduce yourself and give us a little bit of your history with the Mando Mercs?

FLO BRIN: My name is Gracie, but the forum folks will know me better as Flo Brin! As of October 19th, I've been an OM with Clan Yustapir for 2 years. My Alor'ad took me in and taught me the importance of the legacy we contribute to, and I've kept that with me through all I do here. I've been working with the club behind the scenes for the better part of my two years here as part of App Team and in other various roles. Other than co-founding the Beta Brigade with Mira, my favorite contribution to the club has been my work as the illustrator for the CRL visuals.

MIRA TAL: My earth name is Retta, and my forum name is Mira Tal. I got approved in June 2023, and I served as Cerar's ru'cabur in 2024 and now as ver'alor in 2025. I joined the PR team a few months after



BB-21

LADA, prediabetes, and more. Those directly affected are called BB Units, and they're the heart of why our society exists. We also have AJS Units, or Apple Juice Supplier Units, which are our family and friends who help keep our spirits and blood sugar up.

Our group welcomes anyone connected to the fight, whether it's through a related condition, being a parent of a diabetic child, or honoring someone they've lost. However someone finds their way to us, they're welcome just as they are. Every story matters, and every fight makes our community stronger and adds to the legacy we're building together in the MMCC.

BC: Why do you feel that it is important to have a dedicated space for your membership?

FB + MT: Each experience with diabetes is unique, and that individuality can often feel isolating without a community to turn to. Having a dedicated space is important because, while our paths may differ, we're all navigating the same challenges. This community gives us a place to rendezvous at the end of the day to ground ourselves and share strength.

BC: What does the Beta Brigade society pages provide for its membership that the forums at large do not?

FB + MT: It gives us a place

getting approved, first as part of the podcast team and now as a writer for Battlecry.

BC: We know that you founded the Beta Brigade together, but what prompted you to do so?

FB: Mira and I met through our shared interests in Star Wars, becoming Mercs, and living with type 1 diabetes. Finding support in each other made diabetes feel less isolating and overwhelming. The idea for the Beta Brigade started back when we were both UMs, and one of our goals in becoming OMs was to bring that idea to life. We wanted to create a social society where people affected by diabetes could find the same kind of understanding and motivation we found in each other.

BC: Tell us a little about Beta Brigade and what its overall mission and purpose is?

FB + MT: In short, the Beta Brigade is a covert of sorts for the diabetic community of the MMCC. It's a place where we get to come together, rest, vent, and bond over our shared battle. Our mission is to unite in the name of diabetes while keeping our fire lit for diabetic mandos to find. Our mission is an anthem to really living above diabetes, not just living with it.

BC: Who can join and in what capacity?

FB + MT: Our ranks are open to the whole diabetes community! This includes Type 1, Type 2, Type 3c,



to gather, it gives us somewhere to rest. The forum is a figurative expansive mansion where we all live, but the society page is our room where we hang out. We have a lot of diabetic Mandos who find our community and breathe a sigh of relief when they step into our room. We get to really zero in why we're gathering when we have a quiet place to talk about things like glucose numbers and positive management moments, it's really wonderful.

BC: As the Beta Brigade grows, what do you hope to be able to do in the future as a society?

FB + MT: We want this place to be here long after we're gone, and that's the main goal. No one affected by diabetes should feel like they're fighting alone. One thing we really want to do one day is do a fundraiser alongside the club to raise money for diabetes research.

The Beta Brigade proudly sports a blue and gray society rope, and the BB chest diamond that is the society's sigil. Flo and Mira, along with the rest of the Beta Brigade, welcome any of our vods who struggle with blood sugar issues or just want to be supportive of those who do, to stop by the society page and join.

These two societies are very different, but the goal is the same: support, togetherness, and community, forming close knit bonds between Mercs across the world.



UNDER THE BUCKET

MEET KILLE DRAGG

By: Mike “Diz Ge’tal” Porter

BATTLECRY: How did you discover the MMCC?

KILLE DRAGG: Ah, Halloween, my gateway drug into the world of Mandos. I’ve always gone all-out for the holiday. In fact, my first date with my wife was on Halloween 18 years ago. That love for creativity and costume-building stuck with me. I usually start months in advance, crafting decorations from whatever I can scavenge around

“IT’S ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO STAND BESIDE YOU, SUPPORT YOU, AND PUSH YOU TO GROW”

the house. One day, I stumbled on a YouTube video showing how to make a Mandalorian/Boba Fett helmet out of EVA foam, and that was it, I was hooked. I built a Din Djarin kit from foam and even made a Bo-Katan costume for my wife. We ended up winning a costume contest, which only added fuel to the fire.

Later, my wife mentioned one of her coworkers talked about some local Star Wars groups on Facebook. She sent me a link... which I promptly lost. A couple months later, I found it again and reached out to the local clan—and the rest is history.

BC: What inspired you to join?

KD: It was the energy. The commitment. The insane craftsmanship. But mostly? It was the learning curve. I loved seeing people push their skills using new materials and techniques. Being part of the MMCC challenged me to up my game. You don’t stay stagnant here, you grow, evolve, and get better by surrounding yourself with a

tribe of builders who genuinely want to see you succeed.

BC: Describe your kit. What did you do with your design that makes it uniquely yours?

KD: My kit is a Guuny build from MakerBak3d (HK7335) on Etsy. At the time, I knew nothing about 3D printing but decided to go all in. I knocked out a full kit, head to toe, and painted it in a month. It took four tries to get approved (because I was stubborn and didn’t ask for help), but I got there! It’s a medium-heavy kit painted

in oil-rubbed bronze with antique brass accents. In low light, it looks black or charcoal, but in sunlight, the rich browns really pop. The more I used the bronze paint, the more obsessed I became.

I upgraded the chest plate to a Paz Vizsla style heavy chest after the original didn’t pass approval. The thigh plates have holster notches, which I thought were a smart and stylish touch. I later added Sintra flank armor that connects front to back, LEDs to the gauntlets for whistling birds and flamethrowers, and fans & LEDs to the helmet’s back vent.

Weapons/Accessories include:

- (2) DE-10s: Molded, cast, and made by me
- IB-94: Bought, filled with resin for that satisfying heft
- (2) Vibro knives + (3) thermal detonators: Made by me
- EE-3 Carbine rifle: Bought
- (3) Custom leather holsters: Handcrafted
- Z6 rotary cannon: My “Big Boy” – also handmade
- Working on: Force pike or lightsaber staff

For reference, I’m 6’4”, 235 lbs so going mid-to-heavy Mando just felt right. I wanted to vanish into

the shadows and strike before anyone knew I was there.

BC: When you contacted me, you described yourself as a “disconnected Mando.” What does that mean, and how did it affect your build?

KD: So, I originally started with [a different clan]. After attending Merc Con 3, I realized some internal issues needed addressing. I won’t get into the details, but I chose to transfer out in the spirit of “be better, do better.” I wanted to be around people who were building each other up, not tearing each other down. That’s when Clan Concordia welcomed me with open arms, even though most of them hadn’t even met me. That’s family.

But I’m what I call a “Disconnected Mando,” I live 2.5 to 3 hours away from my clan in Portland. I often build alone, which makes the process tougher, but also more rewarding. And even though I’m distant, I’ve never felt more connected.

BC: You mentioned you do volunteer work at a national cemetery. Can you tell us more about that and why it’s meaningful to you?

KD: Not many know this, but I’m disabled. I lost my kidneys at 24 due to an autoimmune disorder. I spent 18 months on chemo and 7 years on dialysis before finally receiving a kidney transplant. I lost my house, my cars, and my independence, but in the end, it was a hard reset I didn’t know I needed. Those years showed me how precious life is. I met so many people who didn’t get a second chance, which is why I now give back every chance I get. I volunteer for Local food drives, Seattle Heart Walk (participant + donor), PIC Diaper Drive, Toys for Tots, Tahoma National Cemetery, where I help scrub moss

and algae from headstones to keep the grounds beautiful for those who served.

I grew up in a military family, so honoring those who gave their lives is a privilege. It keeps me grounded and grateful, and reminds me why we must always strive to do better.

BC: You say you drive several hours to troop with your clan. What troop is your favorite, and why?

KD: Oh yeah, [home] to Portland, every time. But it’s absolutely worth it. The Portland folks are amazing, so much talent, camaraderie, and passion. I’ve built some great friendships down there.

Favorite troop? That’s easy: RCCC (Rose City Comic Con). The Oregon clubs really know how to collaborate and throw down for an epic event. Everyone works hard to support each other and create something incredible. It’s a shining example of what MMCC is all about.

BC: What does the phrase “Family is more than blood” mean to you?

KD: To me, it means that real family isn’t just about DNA, it’s about the people who stand beside you, support you, and push you to grow. It’s about loyalty, love, and showing up, no matter what. The bonds we choose can often run deeper than the ones we’re born into.

Do you have a story to tell? We would like to hear it! Please contact our editor at PR@mandalorianmercs.com or directly through the forums at [mporter](http://mporter.com)



WELCOME NEW OFFICIAL MEMBERS

BattleCry would like to welcome our newest members from the month of October (OM#, Character Name, Forum Name, Clan). Please help us in making these new Vode feel welcome! Oya!

3319, Jax Vansteele, VoodooHex, Vhetin'ade
Clan

3320, Din Djarin, Rekindled, Kyrimorut
Clan

3321, Lorrان, Lorrان, Jai'galaar Clan

3322, Laaran A'den, Musicfreaxx, Krayt
Clan

3323, Kel'ma Took, M.J, Sandhawk
Clan

3324, Zev Rellic, Lammyjam, Mav Oya'la
Clan

3325, Ori Ulik, Panda-lorian, Veshok
Clan

3326, Treg Skirata, tgellen, Mav Oya'la
Clan

3327, Asp, Lady Viper, Kyrimorut Clan

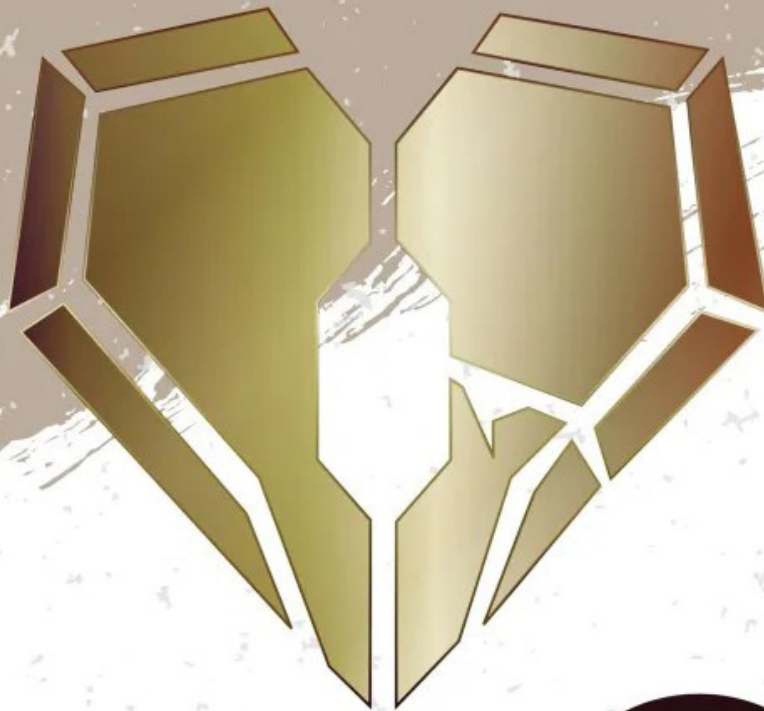
3328, Bruk'viin, BruteGrub, Arqet Clan

Notice: Last month, I was made aware that a few of the forum names on the list were transfered over incorrectly. I would like to apologize to those who were affected by this oversight. More attention will be paid in future. Thank you for your understanding.
-The Editor

THIS IS OUR WAY!

**THE
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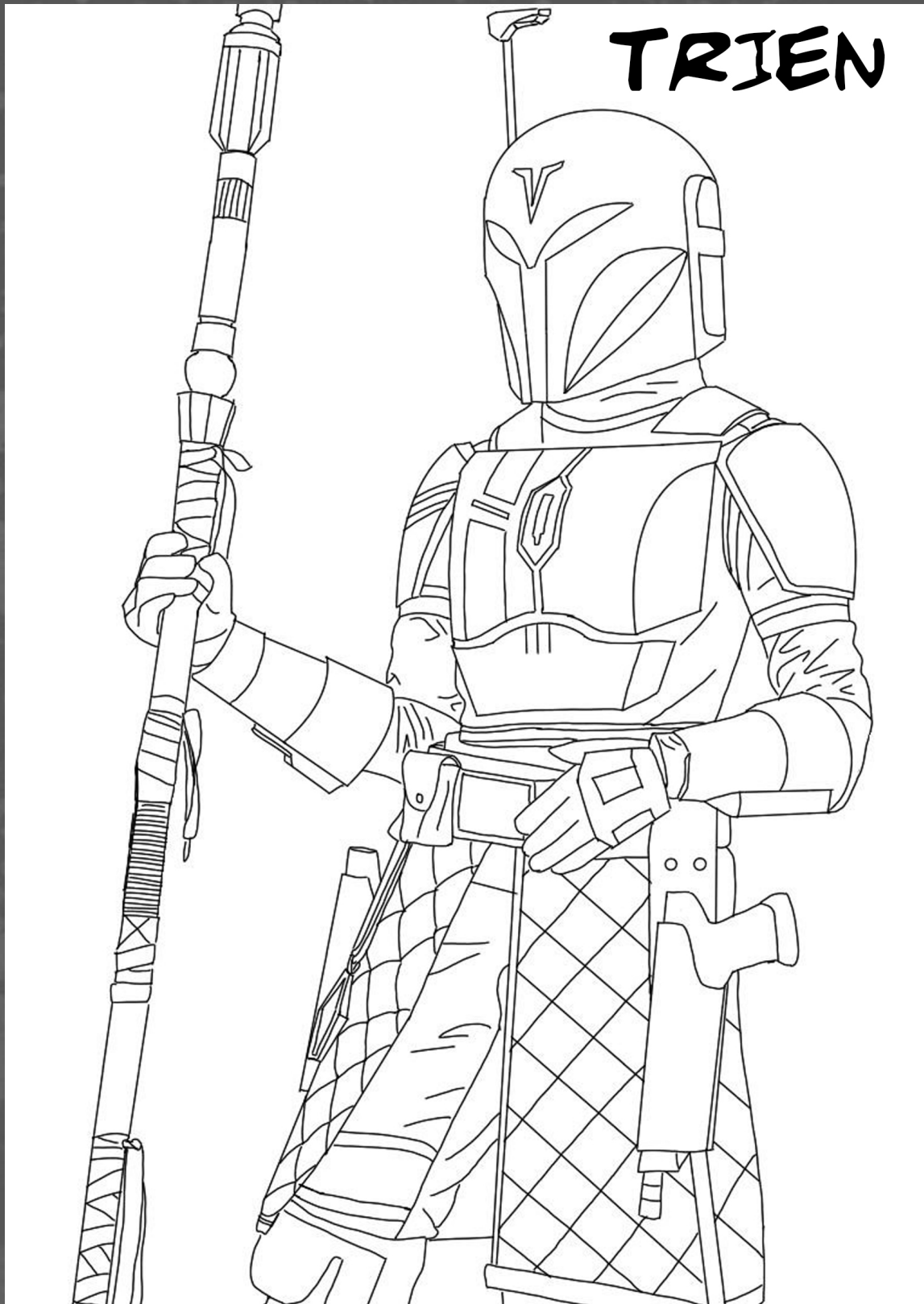
The members of the Mando Mercs Costume Club are a global family committed to not only bringing hope to children and families in need, but to each other.

**MAKE A
DIFFERENCE
TODAY!**



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THE VERD'IKA PAGES



1978 Holiday Special

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Jefferson Starship	Chef Gormaanda	Virtual Reality	Itchy
Storm Troopers	Tree of Life	Chewbacca	Luke
Mos Eisley	Boba Fett	Saun Dann	Leia
Red Robes	Life Day	Han Solo	
Ackmena	Krelman	Kashyyyk	
Lumpy	Malla		

THE BESKAR CHEF

LEFTOVER TIP-YIP SANDWICH

Ingredients:

Leftovers:

Tip-Yip (Turkey)

Dressing or Stuffing

Cranberry Sauce

Gravy

Sourdough Bread - 2 slices

Mustard

Cheese

Butter

Directions:

1. Spread Mustard on one side of both slices of bread, then lay a slice of cheese on each
2. On one slice arrange Tip-Yip and the cranberry sauce
3. On the other slice lay on the dressing and spoon gravy over the top
4. Carefully unite the two halves into one sandwich and spread the top side with butter
5. Heat a skillet to medium-low heat, and place sandwich butter side down
6. Spread butter on the exposed half
7. When the bottom side is golden brown and crispy, carefully flip the sandwich over and continue to cook
8. Remove from heat when both sides are crispy, golden brown, and the fillings are warm.
9. Enjoy

Do you have a favorite recipe that you would like to share? Please contact us at PR@mandalorianmercs.com or by PM to our editor at mporter on the forums.



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WORDSEARCH ANSWERS

BATTLECRY NEEDS YOU!

Do you have an idea for an article?
 Is there something that you would like to know about?
 Do you have a story to tell the rest of the MMCC?
 Is there something that you think that we need to do better?

We want to know about it!
 Drop us a line at pr@mandalorianmercs.com or to our editor on the forums at [mporter](#)