

THE OFFICIAL MANDO MAGAZINE

BATCRY

JANUARY 2026



FORGE & FEAST ^ ORI'RAMIKAD ^ ZEBRALDORIANS
REFLECTIONS ^ COOKING WITH MANDALORE

The Mando Mercs Costume Club™ and Mando Mercs™ is a worldwide Star Wars costuming club and registered 501(c)(10) non-profit fraternal organization comprised of and voluntarily operated by Star Wars fans. While it is not sponsored by Lucasfilm Ltd., it follows generally accepted rules for Star Wars fan groups. Star Wars, its characters, costumes, and all associated items are the intellectual property of Lucasfilm. © 2026 Lucasfilm Ltd. & " All rights reserved.

Used under authorization.

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

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

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

On the Cover

Sara Kruse (Shortcut)
by Josh Kruse

Editorial

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

Staff Writers

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

Contributors

Nik & Nina Thurnbeck
Sara Kruse (Shortcut)
Mandalore the Uniter

Photos In the Issue

(pages 4-7) Photos courtesy of Nik & Nina
(page 9) Photos courtesy of DirkSteele
(pages 10-13) Briika, Ryn Terrix, Russaan Mii'ad
(pages 14-15) Farmed from MMCC Social Media
(pages 16-18) Concept art by Ralph McQuarrie & Joe Johnston (Copyrights remain with owners)
(Page 20-21) Photos courtesy of Mandalore

IN THIS ISSUE

- 3. From the Editor
- 4. Forge & Feast: Armor Parties that Bring Mandos Together
- 8. The Order of Ori'Ramikad
- 9. Masters of the Virtuous Order Ori'Ramikad: Meet DirkSteele
- 10. Zebralorians: A Growing Society with an Important Mission
- 14. A Reflection on the Year Past and the Year to Come
- 16. Mandalorians: Development of a People
- 20. The Beskar Chef: Cooking with Mandalore
- 22. Welcome New Members
- 24. The Verd'ika Pages

FROM THE EDITOR



Greetings Vode!

New year, new goals, new possibilities. I know, most of our goals will be forgotten before Valentines Day, but still, they are there now. 2026 will be the year that I finally finish my new bucket and my armor upgrades. I know... I said that last year... but now it's going to happen!

You may notice some things that are new about this issue of BattleCry. Yep, I've been playing around with the setup and some backgrounds. Fresh coat of paint, as it were, and you may notice new things from time to time as we go through the year.

Mandalore has taken over The Beskar Chef section, and I'll tell you what, I'm Jazzed about it.

If there is some kind of story or feature that you would like to see added to BattleCry, let us know. I don't know about you, but I'd rather hear from all of you that my mindless prattle.

So, there you go, open invite, let us know what you'd like to see in future issues. Tell us what we're doing well, let us know where we can improve.

pr@mandalorianmercs.com or PM on the forums to mporter

Diz

Editor, BattleCry Magazine

FORGE & FEAST: ARMOR PARTIES THAT BRING MANDOS TOGETHER

By: Nik & Nina

For the love of Mandalore.... And BBQ!

One of the earliest parts of our journey as Foundlings in the Mando Mercs Costume Club was leaning into the knowledge and skills of the Mandos who came before us. From those who built their helmets using an actual bucket to those who painstakingly molded Sintra over a mannequin form, the skill and craftsmanship of the early Mandos is undeniable. This, of course, is why armor parties are a key event within the Mando Mercs.



"If you leave hungry, you did it wrong!"

– Forge & Feast motto

It was September 2024, temperatures in Phoenix, AZ were breaking records with excessive heat. The best way to have an armor party was in a garage with fans and plenty of hydration. On one such occasion, the sun blazing down a toasty 106 degrees, four strong-willed individuals were determined to get work done on their Mando armor so they toughed out the heat and got to work.

They didn't know it then but these four would one day be dubbed "The Forge & Feast 4" as the combined brains that came up with what is rapidly becoming the can't-miss armor party in Arizona.



"Nothing brings folks together better than shared hobbies and getting your face stuffed full of great food."

– Kenny

Foundlings at the time, their costumes nothing more than a heap of half finished materials full of hope and promise to one day become a costume worthy of joining the Mando Mercs, Nik and Nina accepted an invitation to the home of Angela,



a Ruus'alor and her husband Kenny who is a Retired Member. The idea, to forge some armor while Kenny grilled up some delicious meats to feast on. Nik being a regular grill master himself jumped right into discussing BBQ and smoking meats with Kenny. A bond instantly formed. While the men were busy overseeing the grill, Angela was telling Nina all about their method of hosting armor parties with BBQ, what they called an "Armorque." We have all experienced a moment like this, shared ideas begin pouring out and someone inevitably says "we should do this!" More often than not, we enjoy the discussion and forget all about it. Not on this day. Nope, on this day, a collective idea began to form with the intent of making a weekend long, two day BBQ armor party event that would reignite the excitement and passion of Arizona's immense Mando family.

"If you have an idea, write it down. Contemplate how to make it effective and what the end goal is. Once you have a solid plan, take it to one of your clan officers, even if you are still a Foundling. A simple random idea could be something incredible just waiting to happen."

– Nina

Within a few days two Foundlings, a Retired Member and several Officers of Arizona's Shonare Vhekadla Clan were in a dedicated chat bringing this concept to life. In October of 2024 the first ever Forge and Feast BBQ Armor Party kicked off. The first day hosted at Kenny and

Angela's house while Kenny grilled incredibly delicious ribs.

The second day hosted at Nik and Nina's house with Nik smoking a savory pork-butt. It was the biggest armor party gathering Arizona had seen since before 2020, but it was only the beginning. A solitary sewing machine was stitching cloth into CRL compliance, leather was being worked into weapons belts, and armor was being sanded and painted. With about 15 people in attendance each day, exciting things were happening.



And just like that, it was time to plan the next Forge and Feast. It had been decided that the most effective plan for this event would be to host it twice a year, when the good weather season begins in late October and again when the good weather season ends in late March. In October we are able to prepare for the busy trooping season. In March we are able to focus on getting Foundlings to the finish line of the build in hopes of becoming an Official Member in time for Arizona's Phoenix Fan Fusion, the final large scale event before it is too hot to do much outdoors.

"My favorite part of Forge and Feast is after the food is served, and all conversation stops dead in its tracks. The sure sign of good food is when nobody is talking, they're all just eating."

– Nik

As with everything else in life, we learn and grow with each new experience. The first Forge and Feast was challenged with spatial limitations and accessibility, as well as the extra work of setting up and breaking down the event each day. So in March of 2025 it was agreed that Forge and Feast would be held in Nik and Nina's backyard where there is plenty of room for multiple canopies and tables, allowing the event to remain setup overnight. Kenny and Nik grilled up their ribs,



pulled pork and burnt-ends. Attendees brought mac n cheese, potato dishes and delectable desserts. With about 25 people in attendance each day, two sewing machines were in operation, even more leather-working underway and armor being forged for new and old kits alike.

Forge and Feast definitely saw growth, both in attendance and in concept, but it needed more. After messaging attendees for feedback, the overwhelming request was for more shade. It's simply too hot in southern Arizona when you can't avoid the sun. In preparation for October 2025, Forge and Feast 4 opened a donation sign-up. Attendees could volunteer their canopies, tables and chairs for use during the weekend. The SVC family answered the call and brought the shade! A total of 11 canopies covered most of the backyard. Each table had a sign for the specialty people could get assistance with from one of our skilled volunteers who were stationed at that tables. With 35-40 people in attendance each day, extra sewing machines and leather-working tools were in use. Armor was being forged everywhere. If it got too hot outside people were encouraged to sit inside with an ice pack to cool down.

"I found the forge and feast was the perfect venue to meet official members and other foundlings... I feel like a true foundling welcomed to the clan. This group reminds me that being Mandalorian isn't just about armor and blasters, it's about unity, respect, and the willingness to lift each other up. I'm overwhelmed with gratitude and really excited for this journey toward membership and my first kit."

– Foundling Matthew

Our SVC family also showed up with the food. The feast had truly become a potluck style family affair. The motto of Forge and Feast, "if you leave hungry, you did it wrong!" Mac

n cheese, broccoli salad, green bean casserole, chili and potatoes, pulled pork and grilled chicken. Fruits and veggies for fresh food snacking and mouthwatering desserts filled with pudding, homemade cookies and whipped toppings. The feast became a delicious collective of culinary skills coming to life. With goals to have 50 people per day in attendance, a goal we are likely to reach within the next year, Forge and Feast has hosted eight Foundlings who have since become Official Members as well as two new kits for existing OM's.

“Just being around everyone and seeing their progress and all the different projects going on was so inspiring. I left with a lot of inspiration and new ideas for mando projects.” - Vicki

Nik and Nina are now OM's who have been appointed SVC Ru'cabor and Jor'lor



respectively, Kenny is close to coming out of retirement with a new kit, and Angela is now a member of the Approval Team as well as maintaining her role as a SVC Ruus'alor. This fun little idea casually discussed in a garage one hot September day has found its footing. The Forge & Feast 4 and SVC are dedicated to this favored Arizona event, continuing the growth of Shonare Vhekadla Clan is a fun family way. Forge and Feast is here to stay!



THE ORDER OF ORI'RAMIKAD

By: Master of the Virtuous Order of Ori'Ramikad
Sara Kruse (Shortcut)

The Order of Ori'Ramikad: The Supercommandos of the Mandalorian Mercs

In the vast galaxy of Mandalorian culture enthusiasts, few honors shine as brightly as induction into the Order of Ori'Ramikad. Within the Mandalorian Mercs Costume Club (MMCC), this prestigious order is a beacon of excellence, recognizing warriors who embody the Resol'nare—in armor and action.



In Mando'a, "Ori'Ramikad" means "Supercommando," a title for elite Mandalorian warriors of unmatched skill, tenacity, and resolve.

The MMCC Order continues this legacy with a modern focus: selfless service to the community, club, and others—without seeking recognition. Induction is never pursued for distinction; true worth lies in selfless contribution.

Brought into existence by a Mandate from Mandalore The Uniter in 2011, the Order celebrates Official Members who go above and beyond with tireless dedication and outstanding contributions. These members elevate their clans and the entire club, embodying the best of the Mercs and our shared "Way."

A yearly tradition welcomes new inductees, announced with great ceremony by the Steward. Inductees earn exclusive patches bearing the

iconic Ori'Ramikad insignia—a proud mark worn worldwide.

The Order leads by example, originating additions to the Code of Conduct and striving to improve and streamline overlooked

processes as needed. This aligns with the MMCC Codex of Honor's core values: serving as positive examples and ambassadors; promoting creativity in costume building; respecting others; supporting the club's mission; continuous self-challenge through learning; following leadership; community improvement via charity; proud representation in armor; and generous knowledge-sharing. Making



growth integral to our journey upholds these values for both club and Order.

Being part of the Order is more than an award—it's a call to redefine what it means to be a Mando Merc. These members lead by example, showing that the strength of every clan and the Club flows from the heart of its warriors.

MASTERS OF THE VIRTUOUS ORDER ORI'RAMIKA'D

MEET DIRKSTEELE

By: DirkSteele

I saw Star Wars a New Hope in 1977 in a drive in theater, I was 5 years old. Something about the movie resonated with me in a way that very few other stories have.

It was all consuming for my friend group. 1979 Stormtrooper costumes for Halloween. After ESB we modified those costumes into Snowtroopers. The endless debates on whether Vader was lying when he told Luke he was his father.

Sometime between ANH and ESB my father took me to department store that had Shoney's attached. They were doing a "breakfast with Star Wars characters", and I got to meet Chewbacca, Darth Vader, and R2-D2. My mind was blown seeing these characters come to life off the big screen.

Flash forward to 2008, the Clone Wars animated series had just come out. I took my 6 year old



twins to the DragonCon parade dressed as Clone Troopers. When the Star Wars clubs got to them, they stopped the parade and pulled the boys out for an impromptu photoshoot.

Seeing the impact of this and the joy on their faces when the costumed members came by to give them high fives made me want to participate and to pay forward the experience these members had given to my children.

In 2010 I committed to making my sons and I each a set of Mando armor for DragonCon. I woefully underestimated the amount of time and effort required. I got theirs completed a week before the Con and put mine on the back burner.

It was not until 2020 that I found the time to pick the project back up, but I had been planning my kit in my head for 10 years. I got my approval about 9 months later, just in time for the DragonCon Parade. A few months later we did an event at a special needs school, and the experience with the kids was truly humbling.

In the time since I have done a wide variety of events, charities, parades, conventions. Each is fun in its own way, but what really fulfills me is events that are focused on the kids. Where we can bring them a bit of that magic that I remember from when I was 6 years old.

There are other fantastic elements that have come from being a member and things that drive me, the camaraderie, the creative process, new friends with shared interests. But what makes me excited is looking forward to the next time I can help create a sense of wonder and joy for the children.

ZEBRALORIANS: A GROWING SOCIETY WITH AN IMPORTANT MISSION

By: Ben "Midge" Egloff

Welcome to 2026 Vode! A new year and a new in-depth look into one of our social societies. This month we are going to feature the Zebralorians, one of the MMCC's Unofficial Societies. They have not yet gone formal, but they are still doing great work, building a community centered around members who have Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome or other hypermobility spectrum disorders. They have called themselves the Zebralorians as a nod to a common phrase "When you hear hoofbeats, think horses, not zebras." Their forum page says that this mantra is one that is used in medicine to discourage medical professionals from immediately considering rare diagnoses. Since EDS is itself a rare diagnosis it means that the average time of ten years passes from symptom onset to official diagnosis. The zebra has also been adopted as the international symbol for EDS.

Our Zebralorians struggle for sometime before diagnosis and the additional care that brings. It is amazing that this society has begun to assist those who are migrating life with this disease and those wonderful people that support them. With members in 3 countries and 15 clans, the Zebralorians have garnered quite the reach since their inception in May of 2025.

As I have done in the last couple of articles, I was able to speak with the founder and current Keeper of the Zebralorian Society, Briika, who was more than happy to answer questions about the society and what its mission is.



BATTLECRY: Take a second to introduce yourself and give us a little bit of your history with the Mando Mercs?

BRIIKA: Hello! My name is Naomi Aliza, but I go by Briika within the mercs and on the forums. I have been with the MMCC in Vok'chi Clan since July of 2024 and cleared my PI Covert kit in April of 2025.

BC: Looking over your forum thread it is clear that you founded the Zebralorians, but what prompted you to do so?

BRIIKA: Everyone faces kit challenges while working on kit and some those challenges are made worse when mobility and hypermobility



issues are added into the mix. In addition not everyone is even aware of what and Ehlers Danlos Syndrome (EDS) and Hypermobility Spectrum Disorders (HSD) are so it's hard to communicate and get support from clans who may not have interacted with someone with this condition before. EDS and HSD are a spectrum and affect each person differently and those effects can change day to day meaning kits need to be able to accommodate both the good and the bad days. With EDS/HSD we can tend to be at risk of dislocating bones just by walking/moving so it's a constant worry of 'will this kit CRL cause issue or can I fit a brace under this etc.' I wanted others to not have to face the same difficulties I did when building my kit and to potentially have way to interact with others who have faced similar issues and found ways to build/modify kit to fit our medical needs. If you can't safely wear your kit, then that's a huge issue. I wanted a way for members in all building stages to have a place to find support and help from others who are going/ have gone through the same issues.

BC: Tell us a little about the Zebralorian Society, including its overall mission and purpose?

BRIJKA: The Zebralorian Society is a social society for members with Ehlers-Danlos syndromes and hypermobility spectrum disorders. The goal of this social society is to educate members of the MMCC about EDS/HSD and how these conditions affect us in hopes of helping others adapt their costumes to their needs, reach official membership, and support each other along the way. We understand that all clans may not have people who understand these conditions and that getting the help you need to adapt along the way can be difficult, and that on the flip side, understanding the needs of your clanmates and foundlings can be a challenge for the many who have no prior knowledge about EDS and HSD. We want to offer a safe space for everyone to discuss and offer tips and tricks for trooping and building, as well as being a safe space to vent and ask for help. Over all our mission is to support members with EDS, HSD and JHS and



provide info and knowledge and help members in all stages of the Mando journey.

BC: Who can join and in what capacity?

BRIJKA: Anyone who is interested in joining MMCC, who is either an Unofficial Member/ Foundling or an Official Member can join as a full society member regardless of if they can see the social society pages (ie not OM or paid forum member). We have 2 membership types, one for Medical Zebralorians, (MZ) (which includes anyone with a diagnosis or suspected diagnosis of EDS, HSD, JHS and other hypermobility disorders). Associate Zebralorians (AZ) is the membership type for anyone who does not fit the medical Zebra definition but would like to offer support, spread awareness or just learn more.

We have even adjusted our rope colours to differentiate between medical and support members, with all society members being able to wear black and white cords (as long as it is not done in a cobra pattern) and medical zebras being able to add teal/turquoise to the black and white. We feel that it's important to let all Mados join, regardless if they are paid forum supporters or OMs. We are just happy to have you and hope we can assist you in your journey to OM status. We encourage our foundlings and OMs to wear their zebra chords with pride, be it medical or supporter. If you're interested in joining us check out our page in the informal society section of forums or send Briika a DM for those unable

to see the society pages.

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

BRIJKA: While the forums contain a lot of information, it's hard to search them when there's a lack of uniformity in terminology used making finding others like us difficult. Wearing armour with health conditions and hypermobility is difficult and it's something not often visible, making it extremely stressful and challenging to ask for help or even tell clan members about our conditions, which makes building armour even harder.

It's important to have a dedicated space to help support our UMs/Foundlings and OMs so they can feel comfortable talking to their clan or mentioning it in their application to assist them in getting the help they need. While the CRL includes a statement about mobility aids it is vague on disability leading to some feeling that disability modifications may not apply to them as they don't fit the "standard definition" of disabled.

BC: What does the Zebralorian society thread provide for its membership that the forums at large do not?

BRIJKA: We are not just on the forums we have an active discord, a lot of our communication occurs there as it allows UMs/Foundlings a way to communicate with the rest of the society. The membership roster is updated on both the forums and discord as are any important society announcements.

Our discord and thread offers a safe place to vent, a place for tips and tricks, useful advice and support for our range of conditions that otherwise does not have a centralized hub. Our Discord/thread also offers a safe space for feedback from people who understand what's going on when there are hypermobility related kit issues since we have the same or similar issues.

It also helps members that are working towards medical diagnosis have validation that their needs for potential adjustments of their kits to fit their needs is possible. It also provides a way to disseminate medical terminology to help our

members more clearly describe medical issues in a way which communicates how those issues affect the appearance of items in kit. For example uneven shoulders, curved spine, turned out knees or hip unevenness, which are common issue with hypermobility and affect how plates sit and how a whole kits would appear on members when they are simply trying to wear their kit safely. It is not always understood that your kit should fit you, you should not have to force yourself to fit a kit that is dangerous to wear/ causes injury or pain. Having hypermobility should not stop you from making an approvable Mando kit that works for you.

BC: As the Zebralorians grow, what do you hope to be able to do in the future as a society?

BRIJKA: We hope that with increased awareness and education we can help make sure that membership in MMCC is accessible to everyone and that they are able to pick any of the CRLs without concern of medically required accommodations being rejected. We hope that the society page on the forums can help to provide suggestions and ideas and ways to provide kit adjustments to fit mobility aids and normalize the use of these aids such as braces and crutches. In the future we



also hope to find a way to have a conversation with the CRL team and help to more clearly establish medical first CRL's. As we get more members, we also hope to build a library of medical phrasing and accommodation tips and tricks based on successful past work of existing members. A long term goal is to organize educational events and potentially fundraisers to help support the wider EDS/HSD community.

As I have worked on these society articles, I have found that there are so many corners of the forums and of our community that are striving for and pushing the club toward awareness of things that affect its members. We as the MMCC are always striving to increase our accessibility to all who want to join and be a safe and welcoming place for all who wish to become a Mandalorian. With members like Briika and her Zebralorians, and other societies leading the charge to support education and awareness our little corner of the universe only gets better and better. If you are someone who deals with EDS or other hypermobility spectrum disorders, or if you just want to support those that do and learn more about how you can help, check out the Zebralorian Society.

A REFLECTION ON THE YEAR PAST AND THE YEAR TO COME

By: Ben "Midge" Egloff

It is not often that I get reflective around the new year, however, this year is a bit different. As I delved further and further into this club over the last two years, I found not only a second family, but

a group of



people who genuinely want to change the world for the better. Everywhere I look I find members of this unique family going out of their way to plant the seeds of hope to those that need it most. Coming out of the holidays, the hustle and bustle and highlights of the season quickly give way the world and its troubles. The news is constantly talking about conflict and turmoil. But here, amongst the ranks of the Mando Mercs, the story is very different. All over the world we are changing the script, fighting tooth and nail for positivity, change, empathy, support, and inclusion. Where the world closes ranks, we have fought, turned our attentions

outward and found the places where our skills and our presence can be a source of joy and inspiration. This holiday season I have watched as our members have celebrated, mourned, laughed, cried, and poured their collective spirit out to be shared.

This club, the Mando Mercs, a collection of Star Wars nerds from across the world has used its platform to showcase the diversity of our membership, bringing to the forefront the concept that we are stronger together. In every facet of our day to day I see members calling attention to the issues and awareness days that affect not only our membership, but those in the larger world. It makes me shine with pride knowing that the membership of this chosen family chooses to accept everyone as they are. Living with the philosophy that our differences strengthen the whole and I have seen

an



organization of people who are not afraid to revel in those differences.

From the top echelons of leadership, down to the smallest clan and stronghold I have witnessed people

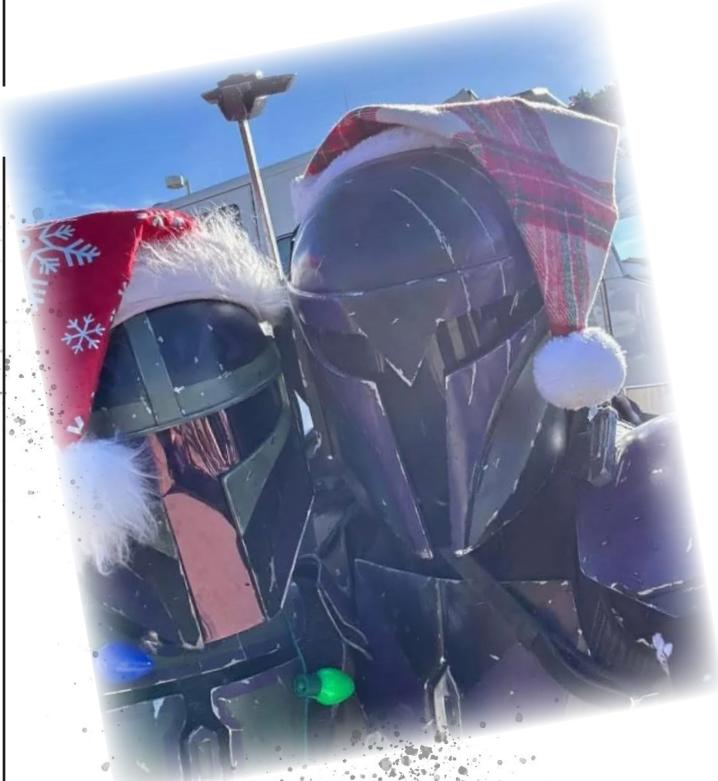


opening their hearts to give their time and money to so many causes designed to improve the world around us. I absolutely know there are more, but over the last 12 months members of this club have supported the Beskarta Foundation, Little Warrior International, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Susan G. Komen Walk for a Cure, Adopt-a-Family, the Special Olympics, the Wounded Warrior Project, and a veritable plethora of organizations that supported people on the West Coast during the California Wildfires. There is a generosity of spirit among our ranks that has lead to pies in the face, plunges in the freezing waters of the Atlantic, and miles of steps taken to support great causes all over the globe.

I know that the Mandalore will soon give you a breakdown of the hours spent, members joined, money raised, and events attended, and those things are wonderful to see and know. But I urge you my friends, to look back on those moments and give meaning to the numbers. Remember the smiles on children's faces, the light in the eyes of an 80 year old who for the first time

was standing next to a Mandalorian, the small moments the push this world forward every single day. Remember what we have done in the past year and make it your personal goal to do more, be more, and give more. To quote a very good friend of mine, "be the positive change you want to see," and I for one plan on fighting like heck to do that very thing.

Take the momentum from 2025 into 2026 and let's go out and create a million small moments that will change the world.



MANDALORIANS

DEVELOPMENT OF A PEOPLE

By: Mike "Diz Ge'tal" Porter

In the spring of 1980, my 11-year-old self sat in a tightly packed theater, my keds firmly stuck to the floor by the remnants of countless spilled sodas. I had waited 3 long years for *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back* to hit theaters and this time my parents took me to see it without my having to ask a million times.

Empire Strikes Back (ESB) was everything that I had been waiting for and a few things more. Epic battles, an ancient Jedi master, humor, romance, a tauntaun that doubled as a sleeping bag, and then one hour and two minutes into the movie came the first line from the coolest character in the Star Wars saga, "As you wish." It was at that moment that my life changed forever, and I didn't even know the name of Boba Fett, because he

"WHAT WAS IT ABOUT THE MANDALORIANS THAT IMPRESSED ME SO MUCH AS A PRE-TEEN"

was only ever called "bounty hunter" in *ESB*. I'm not really sure when it was that I learned his name. It was probably when I got the action figure, and even then no one in the sixth grade could agree on how to say his name.

I think that the first time that I ever heard the word "Mandalorian" was while watching *The Clone Wars* with my own son who, at the time, was the same age that I was when *A New Hope* premiered. The Mandalorians, those who weren't pacifists, were incredible and everything that I had thought about Boba Fett and his clone father, Jango.

It wasn't until late in 2014 that I discovered the MMCC, and twenty two months after that, that I became an official member with my own set of armor which I had formed "to my liking."

What is it about the Mandalorians that impressed me so much as a pre-teen in



1980 that I would go on to actually build my own armor as a middle aged father of four? Who came up with the Mandalorians? What evolution did they go through to arrive in the form that we find them today? This is what I hope to

explore today.

It seems that an original idea for *ESB* was to have an elite, white armored, unit of super commandos who were trained and equipped for the express purpose of fighting Jedi.

For the design of these super commandos, Lucas turned to production concept artist Ralph McQuarrie and production designer Joe Johnston who came up with a distinctive style of armor that was quite different from the mandalorian armor that we would recognize today. As with all things, however, the super commandos continued



to evolve as George Lucas continued to revise the script for *ESB*, and the armor designs by McQuarrie and Johnston continued to evolve as well until, ultimately, the commandos were cut entirely from the *ESB* script and replaced with the Clint Eastwood inspired “lone gunman” bounty hunter, Boba Fett. I’ve read, but cannot confirm, that the production had already built a wearable prototype of the white super commando armor, which was then repainted and reconfigured for Fett so that it would appear that the parts had been scavenged from multiple sources and adorned with trophies, most notably wookiee pelts.

According to an issue of the newsletter for the Official Star Wars Fan Club from 1979 (*Batha Tracks*) the armor worn by Boba Fett was said to be that of “Imperial Shocktroopers” who were “warriors from the olden time” and who were almost entirely “wiped out by the Jedi Knights during the Clone Wars.”

Prior to *The Clone Wars* television series, which introduced me to Mandalorian culture, there were several Legends sources that helped to form and create the creed that we know in the canon sources that we have today. It seems that Mandalorians were

introduced in the *Star Wars* #68 comic book by Marvel Comics published in 1982. It is within this issue that the Mandalorian’s history fighting in the Clone Wars was established.

It is within other Legends sources that Mandalorians are established as a creed that can be joined by members of any species who choose to “walk the path of the Mandalore.” While canon film and television sources have not yet caught up to this tradition, it is something that the MMCC continues to follow today with many members who portray non-human mandos.

While researching this essay, I found something that I found fascinating. The language that we know as Mando’ a started as a simple alphabet created by Philip Metschan, a visual effects designer for Industrial Light & Magic. The Mando’ a alphabet was created for no greater purpose than to be shown on the display screens of Jango Fett’s Firespray in *Star Wars: Attack of the Clones*. It was then used again in the *Clone Wars* and *Rebels* television shows.

The first spoken form of Mando’ a was created as a choral work for the *Republic Commando* video



game by composer Jesse Harlin. This spoken form was then greatly expanded in the *Republic Commando* novel series by Karen Traviss.

As an English Major, this is what I found most interesting about this invented language.

First, Mando'a is an agglutinative language, which basically means that the language forms new words by "gluing" other words together. Take my mando surname, Ge'tal meaning "Red." I gave myself that name because I'm a redhead, or at least, used to be before I got old and turned gray. Anyway, the word Ge'tal is made up of two words: "Ge," meaning "almost" and "Tal," meaning "blood."

Second, I found it interesting are that Mando'a lacks gendered nouns and pronouns.



Third, Mando'a lacks a passive voice. Meaning that the subject of a sentence always acts upon the object. This is called the "Active" voice. In English it is possible for the object of a sentence to act upon the subject. We call this the "passive" voice. While this is a bit of a faux pas in English, it's still possible to do.

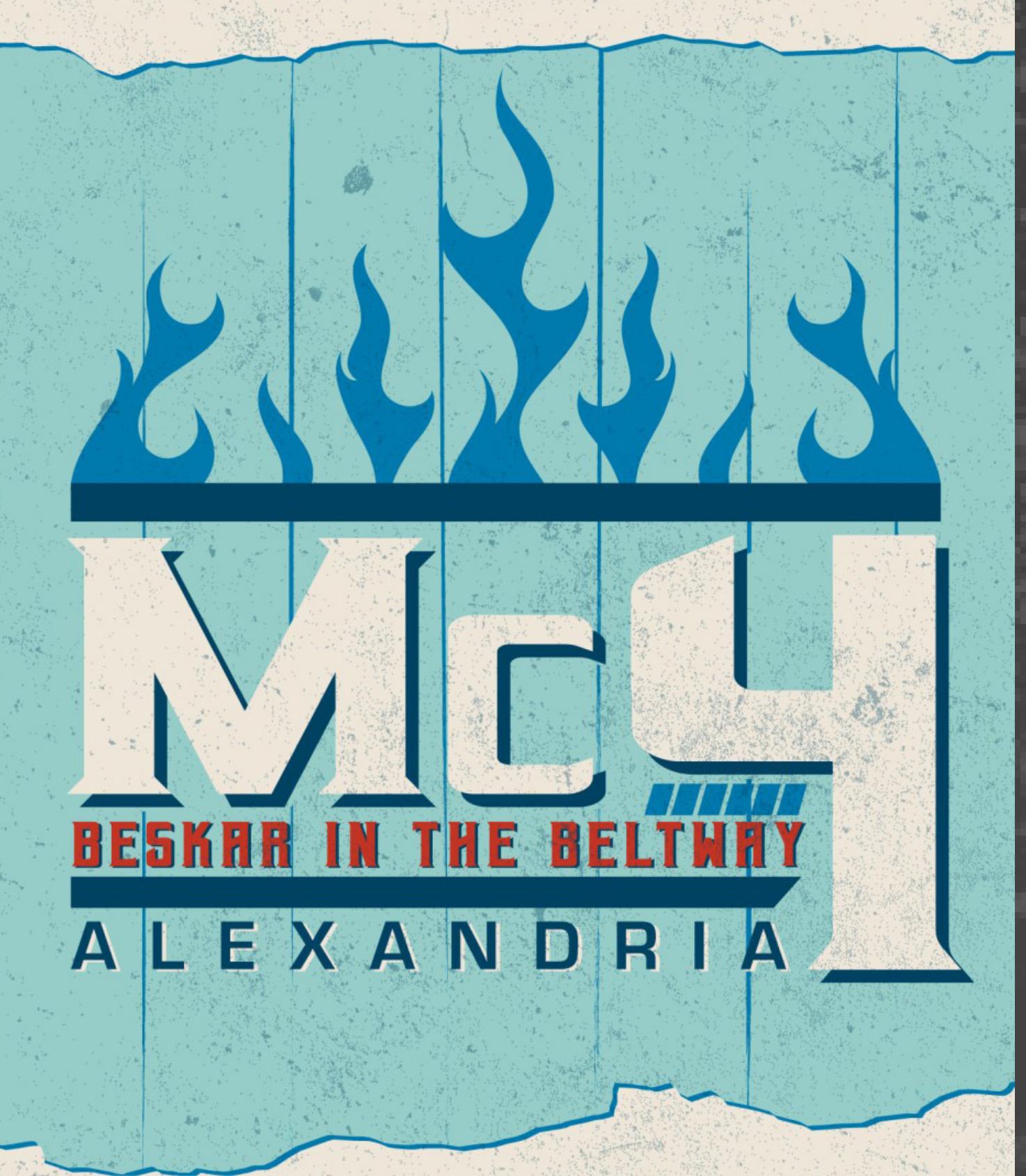
Finally, while Mando'a does have past, present, and future tenses, speakers tend to only use the present tense.

Alright, enough of this geekery...

While we like to think of Star Wars as having been written down by George Lucas fully formed, I hope that I was able to show that Star Wars and especially the Mandalorian people were the result of many people working alongside Lucas to create the people and society that we all find ourselves drawn to.

This is our way!





MMC

BESKARR IN THE BELTWAY

ALEXANDRIA

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

MMCC 19

THE BESKAR CHEF

COOKING WITH MANDALORE

By: Mandalore the Uniter

KELDABE STYLE CHILI BEANS

“TIN LO’PAAK”

Ingredients

1- medium (or $\frac{1}{2}$ large) red onion, diced small.
2 cloves of crushed & chopped (or 2 tsp minced) garlic
1.5lbs ground beef, chicken, or turkey.
2 cans kidney beans (or whatever beans you like)
2 cups 93/7 lean ground Beef (or Chicken if using Chicken) broth
2 cans crushed tomatoes
1 can diced tomatoes
1 can fire-roasted tomatoes (if available, otherwise regular diced tomatoes)
2tbsp Cooking oil (I use Olive or Avocado oil)
3 tsp chili powder
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp Salt
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp Cumin
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp Dried Oregano leaves
1tsp Pepper
1tsp Garlic powder
1tsp Onion powder
1tsp Smoked Paprika
3 pinches dried Cayenne or crushed Red Pepper

Optional - 1 small pack of sun dried tomatoes.

Recipe Serves 10 - 12



Directions

STEP 1 - gather all ingredients.

Pro-tip: When dicing or slicing onions make sure to only remove the stem of the onion and cut down to the root. You won't shed any tears if you cut the onion in this way.



STEP 2 - On a medium/medium-high heat range (or Sautee - High for Instapot), add 2tbsp cooking oil to a large pot and

allow to heat up for 2 minutes. Add diced onion first and let cook for 2 minutes then add garlic. Cook for a total of 8 minutes or until onions become slightly browned and tender.



Pro-tip: Adding garlic later reduces

the chance of scorching/burning the garlic and making it bitter.



STEP 3 - Add ground meat, salt, and pepper. Cook until ground meat is "mostly" browned.

Pro-tip: While you can add all the spices when you add the beef, it's best to wait until cooking develops the meat's flavor.



STEP 4 - Add the remaining spices and stir well into the ground meat, making sure there are no large clumps of ground meat, then add the 2 cups of Beef (or Chicken) stock. Simmer for 10 minutes.

STEP 5 - Add 2 cans of Kidney beans

Pro-tip: Other beans that can be used: Black beans, Great Northern/white beans, or Pinto Beans



STEP 6 - Add tomatoes and stir well.

Pro-tip: Adding a pack of whole, sun dried tomatoes really kicks the chili up a notch in flavor by adding both a tangy and earthy flavor. I used fire roasted tomatoes because that's what I had on-hand, and they also give the chili a nice earthy campfire flavor.

STEP 7 - Your chili should have a nice red-brown color. Using a small spoon, give the chili an initial taste. Does it need more salt, cumin, or cayenne/red pepper, or chili powder? Now is the time to add a little extra to make it taste the way YOU want it.

STEP 8 - Cover and let cook slowly on low for 3 hours.

Pro-tip: The chili's spiciness is up to you. Personally, I love just enough spice to get a little tingle in my forehead. Remember that heat only adds to flavor in small amounts.

STEP 9 - Enjoy with some cheddar cheese, sour cream, and either some tortilla chips or torn up flour tortillas.



WELCOME NEW OFFICIAL MEMBERS

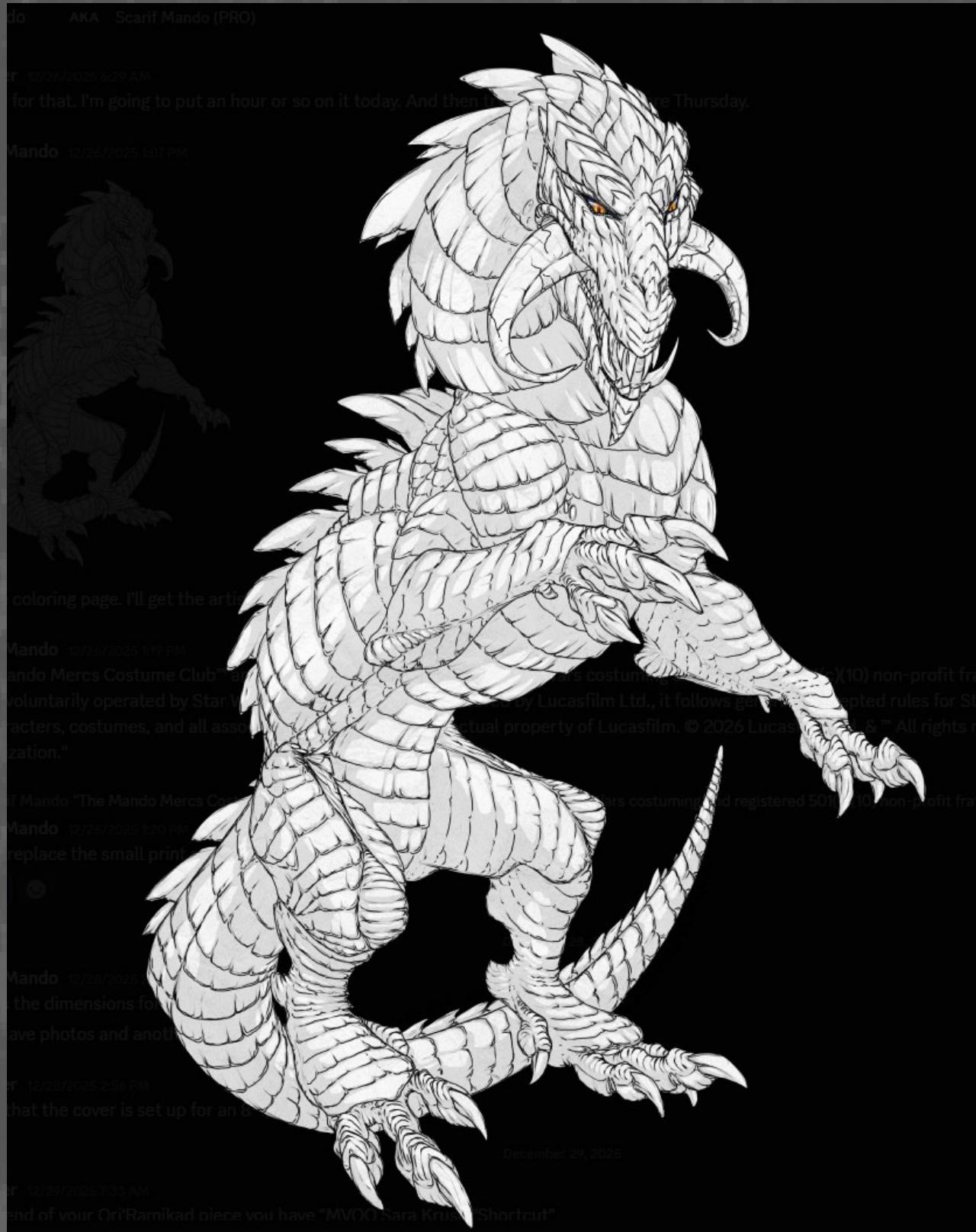
BattleCry would like to welcome our newest members from the month of December (OM#, Character Name, Forum Name, Clan). Please help us in making these new Vode feel welcome! Oya!

WE WANT YOU



for the **MERCs**
ENLIST NOW
WWW.MANDALORIANMERCs.ORG

THE VERD'KA PAGES



Mandalorians

NWXL CQPEEPFUFHURTGS
YNPREVIZSLALPPMREGWD
CLJGUPKTRISTANWRENUT
KOSKAREEEVESDINDJARIN
ASATINEKRYZEKYPCEHEN
NHHXJGGARSAXONTNFFHI
YOCQKROOKKASTAUKGVS
ZBIKHSYQTBZWELWOKVIK
BOBOBAFETTYGQMDWTXJE
EKWRAHECTKXMIETMJPAT
TATJFAYVXALRICHWRENS
ATISTRTHEARMORERJPGU
LABYKKSFSAUVRDCKTVAAOO
MNELHZPFXXXSETEPXZFN
EKRSABINEWRRENVEOZVEY
RRSLIQGIWTYWMSIPEITO
RYAYFIRIOWCBNDMZYZTZ
IZXTTLZDVFENNRAUSSCO
KEOTDZVFERDHYNWXHLP
VPNTUZFQSURSAWRENAAZ

Bo-Katan Kryze	Satine Kryze	Koska Reeves	Hark
Tarre Vizsla	Tristan Wren	The Armorer	
Tiber Saxon	Alrich Wren	Sabine Wren	
Din Djarin	Tal Merrik	Ketsu Onyo	
Pre Vizsla	Boba Fett	Rook Kast	
Gar Saxon	Ursa Wren	Fenn Rau	
Jango Fett	Paz Vizsla	Axe Woves	
Almec			

Mandalorians



NWXL CQPEEPFUFHURTGS
YNPREVIZSLALPPMREGWD
CLJGUPKTRISTANWRENUT
KOSKAREEVEVESDINDJARIN
ASATINEKRYZEKYPCEHEN
NHHXJGGARSAAXONTNFFHI
YOCQKROOKKASTAUKGVS
ZBIKHSYQTBTZWELWOKVIK
BOBOBAFETTYGQMDWTXJE
EKWRAHECKXMIETMJPAT
TATJFAYVXALRICHWRENS
ATISTRITHEARMORERJPGU
LABYKKSFIAUVRDCKTVAAOO
MNELHZPFXXXSETEPXZFN
EKRSABINEWRENVEOZVEY
RRSLIQQIWWTYWMSIPEITO
RYAYFIRIOWCNDMZYTZ
IZXTTLZDVFENNRAUSSCO
KEOTDZVFERDHYNWXLPS
VPNTUZFQSURSAWRENAAZ

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 www.mandalorianmercs.com