

THE OFFICIAL MANDO MAGAZINE

# BATTLECRY

MARCH 2026



MERCSCON4 ^ THE ALIIT ^ SYN'S SOCIETIES  
THE HERO'S JOURNEY ^ COOKING WITH MANDALORE

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

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# FROM THE EDITOR



Greetings Vode!

I know it doesn't feel like it to you vode on the East Coast of the USA, but here in the Mountain West, where I live, spring is in the air. Well to be fair... winter never showed up for us.

So, It's time to break out those kits, make the repairs and upgrades that you've been planning (or putting off) and get ready for trooping season!

We have a lot of exciting things planned for BattleCry this year. More Clan Spotlights, interviews, maybe some build ideas, fewer of my weird essays, stuff that you would want to read. So, if you have any ideas of what you would like to hear about, let us know!

Finally, Path of the WarMaster is live for this year, so if you would like to donate to help keep this club moving forward, head on over to the supply depot and donate.

*Diz*

Editor, BattleCry Magazine



# PREPPING FOR MERCSCON4

By: Wayne "Ge'tal Ruus" Marper

Founded in 1749, Alexandria, Virginia served as George Washington's hometown and it's historic Potomac Port played a key role in early American trade. This year, it adds another milestone to its illustrious history by hosting MercsCon 4.

BattleCry recently sat with the Alor'ad and Ver'alor of Firestorm Clan, this year's Hosts to get the lowdown of how things are coming together.

At time of writing, the event itself is still six months away and the planning meeting is yet to take place, but that doesn't mean that plans aren't being forged.

For both Alex (Frostfyre) and Emily (LadyHawke), not only is it a first for the clan to be hosting, but this is the first time that they will be attending MercsCon. The event is being held at the Embassy suites in the aptly named Old Town area.

For most there will be an element of travel involved. Preparation is key

Flying In? It's an easy option for most, especially

where distance is concerned but for those wanting to travel with kit, there are a few options. Firstly if putting it in the hold is a concern for you, there is the option of shipping it ahead. Of course, this means that you'll be separated from it for a while, and while efficient for travel, it can end up being costly. Shipping to the hotel to "Hold for guest" is something that can work but has a storage price tag attached. If you're considering this option, call ahead so you're not caught out with hidden fees etc.

If you're checking the bags onto an aircraft, be sure to label your weapons as props, don't try and carry them on, it likely wont end well!

Alexandria itself hosts a plethora of things to do. It's great for foodies and socialites, being host to numerous eateries and bars. There's cuisine for everyone.

The world famous Smithsonian museum is also in town, and if you should visit the Steven F Udvar-Hazy Centre, it holds a replica of an x wing prop for the more discerning traveller.

If you decide to brave the roads, local intel tells us to "watch out for virginian drivers" there's a real melting pot of people from all over and some may

have some unusual habits.

Metro links are reportedly excellent within Alexandria itself.

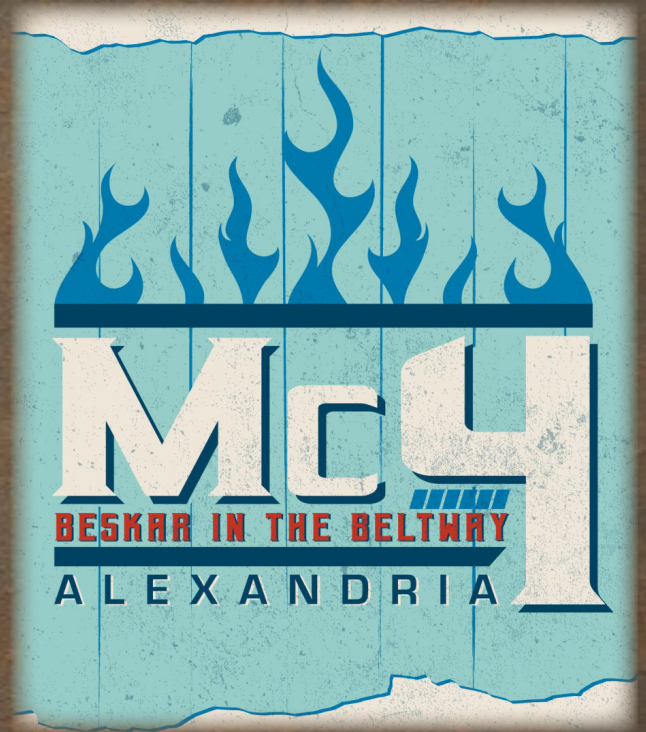
Weather in June is something for out of towners to think about too. While temperate, it has a tendency to become hot and humid, so remember to stay hydrated, especially if you're donning armour. Temperatures can reach over 30°C with around 90% humidity.

For the event itself, Firestorm Clan has some interesting pieces to showcase. An EWEB cannon and some props made from real glass to name but a few.

Both Alex and Emily will be looking forward to enjoying a working vacation for MC4, and connecting with people in person for the first time whilst extending their inter-clan networking opportunities.

Here at BattleCry, the Team is looking forward to disseminating more information as it arises. Stay tuned folks!

For information about visiting Alexandria, VA, please visit: [www.virginia.org/blog/post/alexandria-neighborhood-guide](http://www.virginia.org/blog/post/alexandria-neighborhood-guide)



# THE ALIT

By: Nik & Nina

Joining the Mando Mercs Costume Club is a lot like an onion. There are several layers to the process. The first layer is that simple desire to be a Mandalorian, to be a part of the Star Wars universe. So many of us know exactly what that feels like; having watched movie after movie, TV show after TV show, depicting this fantastic world that we all want to be a part of. Once you peel that first layer away you have discovery. The discovery of this wonderful world of costumers who share this one specific love with you. And thus begins the journey of peeling away layer after layer as you navigate through the process of building your own custom kit and becoming a member of the Mando Mercs.

What happens once you become an Official Member? Isn't this the ultimate question early on? You've gone through this painstaking process of designing, forging, and creating this incredible costume. But to what end? For a lot of people there is simply a desire to wear it to the occasional Comic-Con. For others they want to give back to a particular charity that impacted their life at some point, so they sign up to troop events benefiting that one organization. For others, they want to be a part of charity, change, and growth by diving deep into all that the Mando Mercs have

## THE MOST IMPORTANT INGREDIENT IS FAMILY

to offer. So, what happens once you become an Official Member? You show up.

You show up for your local community and the MMCC community worldwide, how involved is up to each individual. From attending charity events and fundraisers to assisting the next wave of Foundlings at Armor Parties, you are immersed and yet you still haven't reached the center of the onion. The truth is, you may never reach the center because the possibilities are endless within the MMCC. Beyond trooping a couple or a dozen





as a family? Well, that's just what we encourage, and we even have an officer role just for this. The Ru'cabur, morale officer and clan historian. We can all take part in the development of clan social events but the role of the Ru'cabur is specifically focused on the planning and execution of family time and social engagement.

In Arizona, where this pair of writers are from, we recently took advantage of the

troops, there are opportunities to become a Clan officer, seek a Regional or Command position, and much more within the Club. While everyone in the MMCC has a voice, these higher positions within your local Clan and the Club are where the true possibilities lie as it's in leadership that you can affect change and growth on a larger scale.

We are going to hone in on one particular opportunity, one very specific layer of that onion. Aliit. The family we have gained. We see this family at those various events previously mentioned as well as local cons, LFL official events and parades. Let's face it, one of the best parts of wrapping up a troop with our family is deciding where everyone will go to eat afterwards; right? Everyone cramming into a lunch spot to socialize and fill our bellies after hours in costume is something to pleasantly anticipate.

*"I really like the after troop dinners we do. After big events, we go get dinner with our sister groups (501st Legion, Rebel Legion, etc). I enjoy the sense of community and the reflection of the day's work." - Daryc Sal of Meshurok Clan (Idaho, United States)*

But why limit us to club specific events? We know we have shared interests, why not expand upon those and design other ways to simply hang out

local Renaissance Festival to go out in a different kind of costume, eat meats on sticks, and laugh ourselves silly with comedy shows and simple family fun time. It was an event our Ru'cabur planned that has rapidly grown to be a preferred annual family day. Knowing how fantastic this experience was for us, we reached out to other Ru'cabur to find out what they've been up to. Join us as we peel back this little layer of onion to dive into the vast possibilities of clan socials and genuine family time.

*"We've been inspired to host another social event that allows anyone to participate. SVC had a great Ren Faire outing I'm quite jealous of!" - Ryno Mar of Manda'galaar Clan." (greater Los Angeles area of California, United States)*

With so many available methods of communication these days, we can chat with other clans easily. This also means we can get inspiration easily as well. For example, the Western Region has a Discord page that encourages social engagement amongst the region's Clans. While all official business within the Club happens on the Forum, there are many Facebook pages and other forms of social media with which we can all stay connected, share, and learn from each other. For example, the

Western Region Discord has been hosting watch parties of The Mandalorian show leading up to the release of the Mandalorian and Grogu feature film. They have also begun a Western Region Game Night, spearheaded by Daryc Sal.

For many the Club, and particularly their local Clan, really has become their family in every sense of the word. For those that live far from their families, and those whose families have passed on, the Club can fill that void in their lives. From Holiday parties to a simple lunch with a member on their birthday, the ways we can connect with one another and enrich each other's lives are nearly endless.

*"My favorite event had to be the holiday party last year. It was really nice to be able to spend an evening with members of my clan, especially as someone who has no family in this area. Firaxan has become that for me "my family" and I hope it continues to grow. The bonds I've formed with my fellow clan members are strong, and I truly feel that I can rely on them when things get hard."*  
- Tör Castien of Firaxan Clan (Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, United States)

So, if your Clan doesn't have the Ru'cabur position filled, why don't you volunteer to fill the role? Doesn't it sound like an incredibly fun and rewarding way to participate just a bit more? And if you have some great ideas for possible social events, but this role is already taken in your Clan, share them with your Ru'cabur. We are all a part of what makes the Mando Mercs Costume Club so great and that greatness truly comes from our shared ideas. We Engage as One!

We've taken you on a little culinary road trip into the depths of possibilities within the MMCC, through some of the layers of onion and yet there are many more layers still. For now, we are going to leave you with some tips on how to implement successful family social events for your clan.



*"Some tips I can share are to just communicate with everyone. All events start with brainstorming ideas. You're never alone, and never have to shoulder the burden of planning alone."* - Daryc Sal

*"Advertise early and don't be afraid to make executive decisions about when and where. I've gone so far as to make visual calendars for the clan to help everyone organize their lives by conventions and High Profile Events for all to plan accordingly. You can never be too organized in recruiting for the cause or the hunt!"* - Ryno Mar

*"Don't be afraid to try new things. Sometimes you need to experiment a bit to find out what people really enjoy. Try to keep the entry point to events as low as possible so no one feels excluded due*

*to cost or logistics. Most importantly, never forget that the goal is for everyone to have a good time and get to know each other better. Building those connections can take time, so don't lose hope or get discouraged if turnout isn't perfect right away." - Tör Castien*

Now that you have plenty of social planning to consider, perhaps you should flip the pages to find out what recipe Mandalore the Uniter is cooking up in The Beskar Chef; will there be onion? Only one way to find out, then you can plan a family night to test out the latest recipe and work on planning many more family socials. After all, this is the aliit we have chosen.



**NOW OPEN IN THE SUPPLY DEPOT**

MMCC 9

# SYN'S SOCIETIES:

## A LOOK AT WARRIORS AMONG WARRIORS AND THE XENO MANDO GUILD

By: Ben "Midge" Egloff

Happy March MMCC!!! As we start rolling into early spring weather here in the US our stroll through the society boards on the MMCC forums continues. Once again you guys are getting a twofer here, as it just so happens that two of the societies that I wanted to feature at some point share the same Keeper. I guarantee that you have seen them around the boards and on social media, but I was able to sit down and talk to Syn about the two societies that she founded and still runs! They are very different in their missions, one is formal the other is not, but they fill important roles in the social landscape of the MMCC boards.

I first asked Syn to tell us a little about herself and her journey with the Mando Mercs:

**SYN:** For me, it all started with a simple conversation with a friend while watching Jango Fett: "What if we made a mando armor?" As a teenager, I started with whatever I had on hand. Then I met the Orar Galaar (my local clan) (*Orar Galaar Clan includes our Mercs in France and Switzerland.*) at an event. They were so handsome, and I was very shy, haha, but they were friendly, gave me good advice, and I took the plunge into the forum, starting it again.

In the meantime, life hit me hard, and I became disabled, with terrible pain everywhere. I was in medical limbo. Without knowing what was wrong with me and with no solutions between appointments, I decided to continue my armor project. I decided it would be my new strength, my reason to get up when everything was going



wrong and seemed hopeless. Today I can say it: the MMCC saved my life.

Syn brought up her medical history, which was the impetus for her creation of the Warriors Among Warriors informal social society. This society is an important support system for mandos who have some form of disability or those that are support people for someone with a disability. It is a community designed to strengthen bonds, boost awareness, and help those who have underlying medical conditions that would make building or wearing a kit more difficult. Their boards are

full of uplifting moments, encouragement, and solidarity. Syn was more than happy to provide me more info about WAW.

**BATTLECRY:** We know that you founded Warriors Among Warriors, but what prompted you to do so?

**SYN:** Being disabled is very taboo. As much in cosplay as in all aspects of life. At first, I cosplayed without telling anyone, then only one or two people. We're not always comfortable with it, and rightly so; I've already been mocked at festivals. And then one day I realized that it was all solely due to the lack of visibility of cosplayers with disabilities. And as soon as I talked about it on social media, I received messages from people asking me for advice on adapting their armor, or telling me they wanted to try cosplay themselves.

I realized that we needed a space within the club to discuss kit adaptations. Because making armor and wearing it when you have a physical disability is reserved for the Warriors Among Warriors (hence the name WAW team).

**BATTLECRY:** Tell us a little about the society and what its overall mission and purpose is?

**SYN:** The initial idea was to be able to discuss all kinds of adaptations, whether it's managing a backplate with a wheelchair, sanding without arms using adapted tools, or dealing with migraine breaks at festivals. Every disability is different, but we still share a set of symptoms, interconnected problems, and solutions that can be found together. Some solutions are discovered after many trials and years of adaptation, so we might as well share the tips we can!



Furthermore, visibility is very important. Yes, you can be a mando if you have a disability. The club can adapt certain aspects of the CRLs on a case-by-case basis, and you shouldn't hesitate to discuss it (if you're comfortable doing so, because remember that physical condition remains a matter of medical confidentiality; we only discuss it if we feel comfortable doing so). Therefore the social society is there to discuss adapted building techniques, trooping difficulties, and also the best way to assist a disabled vod during a troop.

In a way, I'm just a mando making my way in the galaxy, trying in my own small way to create the best possible environment for sick and

disabled people during trooping.

**[BATTLECRY:** Who can join and in what capacity?

**SYN:** To be a member of this social society you must be a member (Official member/Verd'ika/UM supporter) and have a disability or physical difficulty.

To be a "supporter": If you are an OM/UM valid/able-body, you can become a supporter of the social society, you are welcome here to ask questions and learn how to best help your disabled vode during troop, or just to support. This is the way!

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

**SYN:** Since becoming a member of the MMCC, I've seen the club become increasingly more inclusive. I'm delighted about this and I

try to contribute in my own way. I think we all understand that accessibility for people with disabilities comes down to very small details and that it's impossible to achieve perfection, even by imposing strict rules. This is important because every disability is different, and therefore every person with a disability is different and has different needs. However, it's by giving a voice to everyone involved that we can strive for improvement.

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

**SYN:** Members can find a listening ear if they have problems related to their disability or daily difficulties. They can find advice on how to deal with a symptom, or if they are looking for ideas on how to place medical devices on their kits or how to customize mobility aids.

**BATTLECRY:** As the society grows, what do you hope to be able to do in the future as a society?

**SYN:** The WAW team was the first social society based on medical issues, and today there are several sister health societies working together and sharing members. Others focus on more specific illnesses, while the WAW team remains focused on the broader theme of "mandos who have physical difficulties."



I don't know how things will evolve, but I will always be there to help our members in need if I can.

In this galaxy, far too many people experience medical uncertainty, and some will never have a diagnosis for their ailments. With or without a diagnosis, you are welcome to talk about your difficulties in a supportive atmosphere. Because this is the way.

As Syn mentioned, there are several societies, both formal and informal, that are banding together to raise awareness about all sorts of conditions that our members deal with. It has been a joy to watch these groups work together, to engage all of their members in a way that lifts up those with medical struggles.

Syn is also the Keeper of the Xeno Mando Guild, which is one of our formal societies here within the MMCC. It is a melting pot of all the alien mandos that the MMCC has to offer, and is steadily growing as more and more builders take the plunge into the complexities of a kit based on an alien race. If you haven't rolled through the pictures of their membership roster I highly encourage you to do so, there are some truly superb builds in there and some absolutely wonderful folks.

**BATTLECRY:** Switching gears, you also founded the Xeno Mando Guild. What made you decide there needed to be a dedicated space for alien mandos?

**SYN:** In my eyes, nothing is more Star Wars than aliens. You immediately know you're in a galaxy far, far away. I wanted to make a Twi'lek kit, and I spent many hours researching the WIPs of my fellow Rylothian vode to see how they made the helmet... And I thought it would be useful to gather all the alien



Mandalorians together who had had already constructed their kits. When I was contacted by several future Twi'leks who asked me questions about my helmet, I went for it. I knew that advice would be gathered in one place, that we could talk about lekkus, fur, makeup, prosthetics, and all the other things that go into successfully making an alien mando.

**BATTLECRY:** Tell us a little about the society and what its overall mission and purpose is?

**SYN:** The first objective is to promote the alien mandos, because it is the builders who have made an extra effort beyond the basic kit (which is already not simple!), who have racked their brains with particular cutting plans, with stilts, and hours of makeup. I wanted to highlight them and put them in contact to exchange advice.

**BATTLECRY:** Who can join and in what capacity?

**SYN:** To join, you must be an official member and have approved a Mandalorian alien kit (i.e., non-human). This means you must have researched the species' characteristics (horns or lekku, number of fingers, etc.) and successfully adapted the kit accordingly. Some aliens don't require kit modifications per se but have makeup under their helmets (like our Chiss friends, for example).

Come and present your kit or project, and we can guide you. If you're a Mandalorian alien, by all means, join us!

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

**SYN:** To unite and dominate the galaxy, of course! No, don't write that down... XD[BattleCry: We very much wrote that down for posterities sake. Just in case.]

Our social society is first and foremost a space for loving the little green men of a galaxy far, far away, and a place to exchange good advice on prosthetic purchases, makeup tutorials, fur making, etc. I think that when you start an alien project, you all have a moment when you have

absolutely no idea how you're going to do it... So it's best to ask those who have already tried!

Furthermore, the CRLs plan for case-by-case adaptations for aliens. For example, knowing that a Trandoshan doesn't need to wear boots because their feet are weapons and they move faster without them is important for launching the project! Any important questions should be asked in the Q&A section of the app team, but we can answer questions about what has already been done and accepted.

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

**SYN:** Our members have extensive knowledge of Star Wars aliens. We all have a wealth of sources (comics, novels, video games, TV series...), and we're ready to talk for hours about costume possibilities. We're also happy to share our tips and advice about aliens costuming.

**BATTLECRY:**As the society grows, what do you hope to be able to do in the future as a society?

**SYN:** I'm passionate about alien kits. I probably have unrealistic expectations, but what I'd really like is for us to bring together ALL the aliens in the MMCC. I'd like candidates who have armor projects in progress to join us so we can share our advice. I'd like us to be included in alien kit applications to give our opinions on the species and the kit's suitability, thanks to our extensive knowledge on the subject.

I want there to be more alien kits, because there are still hundreds of species that have never been attempted and would be amazing. Most of all, I'd love a huge Xeno-Mando gathering someday! In the meantime, I say De Wanna Wanga.

If you have any interest in either of these groups we highly recommend that you head over to their boards. Syn and her mercs, whether WAW or XMG, are some of the most welcoming and helpful folk that you will find on the boards.

# STAR WARS

## THE HERO'S JOURNEY

By: Mike "Diz Ge'tal" Porter

While researching the books and movies that inspired George Lucas to create Star Wars, a few things kept coming up time and time again. Primarily, Lucas's love for the Saturday morning serials that were shown at his local movie theaters every weekend. The swashbuckling adventures of Flash Gordon and Buck Rogers that filled his mind with possibilities. His second source of inspiration was a book, one that he probably read as a film student.

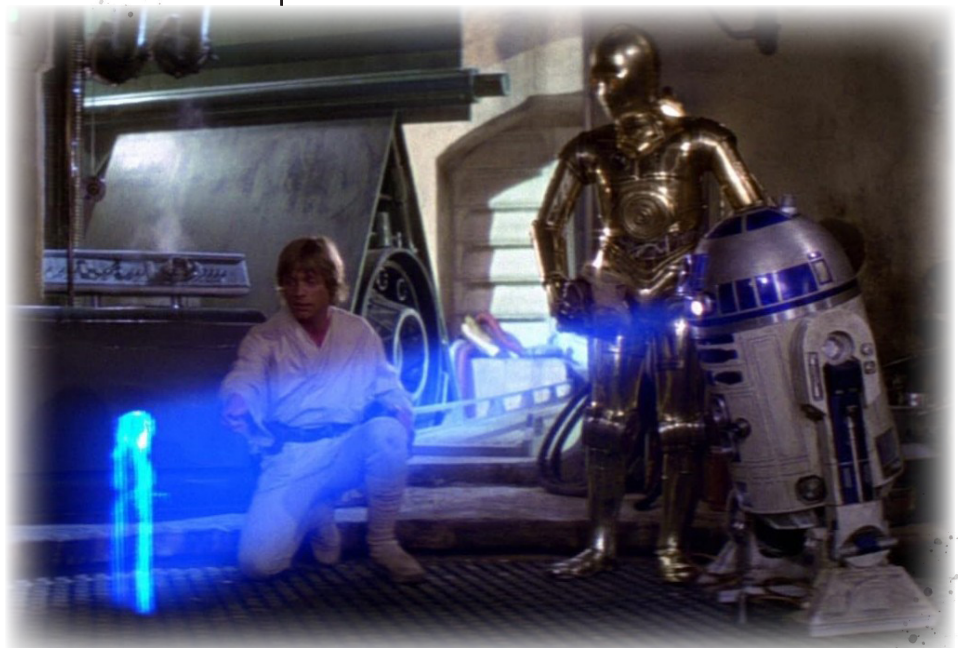
That book, *The Hero with a Thousand Faces* by Joseph Campbell has been the inspiration for hundreds of adventure stories, from Disney cartoons to super hero comic books, since its publication in 1949. I really can't find any information on when Lucas was exposed to Joseph Campbell, but of any one source of inspiration, *The Hero with a Thousand Faces* comes up time and time again in my research.

In *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*, Joseph Campbell lays out the archetypal hero's journey, a plot structure that he dubbed the "Monomyth." To Campbell, the monomyth is, in a nutshell, the basic plot structure or template for any hero who goes on a journey, has an adventure, or accomplishes

something that seems impossible. And this basic plot structure occurs all through time and seems to be independent of culture or genre, including for the hero's journey of the young Luke Skywalker in the space opera, Star Wars.

Not to get too complicated, but I've read some scholarly papers that identified some seventeen stages to the monomyth story structure. For simplicity's sake, I think we'll just hit a couple of the major stages that I can see clearly in the Skywalker saga, any more than that would be just silly. Also, for the purposes of this article, I will only be dealing with the original trilogy, episodes IV through VI, that deal with Luke's journey from simple

farmboy to Jedi Knight.



*Luke stumbles on the Message - Empire Strikes Back*

## CALL TO ADVENTURE

According to Campbell, every story begins with the "Once upon a time." In the beginning of the story the would-be hero lives in the ordinary world, living a safe and somewhat boring life, far away from conflict. They may long for adventure or feel discontent with their lives, but may also feel some obligation to stay in this life. We, as the audience, may not see much of this part of the hero's life, because the story begins, for us, when the hero's ordinary life is disrupted in some way, and they are called to adventure. This call can take the form of a particular event (the young Arthur drawing the sword from the stone), the finding of a mystical object (Frodo inheriting the One Ring), a tragedy (the murder of Bruce Wayne's parents), a blunder (Alice falling down the rabbit hole), or any number of events, characters, or happenstances that pull the hero from their comfortable life and into a more perilous one.

For Luke Skywalker, the Call to Adventure initially took the form of a blunder, in that, while trying to clean and repair the droid R2-D2, he accidentally triggers the holographic message from Princess Leia to the Jedi Knight Obi-wan Kenobi, and is tricked by R2-D2 into removing the restraining bolt keeping R2 from running away. He initially refuses the call offered by Kenobi ("I can't go to Alderaan... I've got to get home, I'm in for it as it is.") but the call to adventure was reinforced by the tragic deaths of his aunt and uncle. These two events literally shove Skywalker from his ordinary life of a moisture farmer and onto the path of becoming a hero of the rebellion and a Jedi Knight.

## MEETING THE MENTOR

To my mind the mentor is one of the most important steps in the hero's journey.

After all, where would Arthur Pandragon have been without Merlin, Achilles without Chiron, Bilbo, and then Frodo without Gandalf, Harry Potter without Dumbledore, or even Rocky without Mick.

The mentor is more than just a trainer or instructor, they often serve as a father figure to the hero. They are a link to the hero's past who often knew or even mentored the parent of the hero. The Mentor is often endowed with secret knowledge or objects that can be passed along to the hero to aid in their journey or quest.

In my research, mentors seem to be almost always old men, but they don't have to be, after all, Cinderella was mentored by a Fairy Godmother, was she not? Okay, maybe not a perfect analogy, but I'll stand by it in any case.

In the journey of Luke Skywalker, he was mentored by the Jedi Master Obi-wan Kenobi, seemingly throughout the entirety of the original trilogy. After all, who taught Luke to force pull his lightsaber between A New Hope and Empire Strikes Back? Now, it is also true that Luke benefited from the tutelage of two mentors: Obi-wan Kenobi and Yoda. A pair of Jedi Knights who once taught Luke's father, who know the history of Anakin's fall from the light, and who could help Luke avoid his father's fate if he listens to their council.



*Merlin and the young Arthur by Gustave Doré*

## THE ROAD OF TRIALS

This phase is where the hero is tested and challenged, and probably makes up the vast majority of the hero's journey. The Road of Trials requires the hero to grow, develop new skills, and to gather allies so that they will be prepared to face the final boss, er... the central crisis of their journey.

As an example, one could consider King Arthur's challenges with Morgan le Fay and Mordred, the infidelity of his queen, the quest for the grail, the gathering of his round table, and several other wars and challenges depending on the various Arthurian authors who wrote the tales and developed Arthur as the Hero King that we know today.



*Luke faces challenges - Empire Strikes Back*

Grandmother, and on and on throughout the ages and across the world, and yet in all cases, the hero returned from this seeming death sentence to pursue his quest with renewed purpose. I'm not suggesting that Luke Skywalker was literally swallowed by anything along his hero's journey, but maybe he was metaphorically swallowed by... something. According to Campbell, it's at this point that the hero looks inward and looks at himself "beyond the confines of the visible world... to be born again."

Likewise, Luke Skywalker faced challenges along his road, including the many close calls that he and his allies faced while rescuing Princess Leia from the Death Star, the rebel attack that ultimately destroyed the space station, an encounter with a bounty hunter on Ord Mantell, and his fight with the wampa. All of these events and challenges, helped to build Skywalker into the hero that he would become by the end of the trilogy.

In the case of Luke Skywalker, envision with me the scene toward the end of *The Empire Strikes Back*, his hand has been removed and his father's lightsaber lost. Slowly, he makes his way out onto a work platform in the gas mining tunnels of cloud city, Vader hard on his heels trying to convince Luke that he is on the wrong side of the civil war. It is at this point that Vader says the oft misquoted phrase. The one line that made all of us gasp.

But no Hero's Journey is without pitfalls that seem to halt their progress.

### **THE BELLY OF THE WHALE / DEATH AND REBIRTH**

I know, there's something a little biblical about this title, but maybe not if you consider that even this has precedent across several cultures. The Irish hero Finn MacCool was swallowed by a Celtic beast known as a Peist. Red Ridinghood was swallowed by a wolf. Boba Fett was swallowed by the Sarlacc. The Polynesian hero Maui was swallowed by his Great-Great



*Jason and the Golden Fleece - Author Unknown*

## **"NO, I AM YOUR FATHER!"**

Following a string of denials, Luke then casts himself from the platform into the gas processors. Literally into the "belly of the whale," from which he will be born anew as a Jedi Knight while facing down his father within sight of the Emperor.

### **RETURN / BOON**

In his book *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*, Joseph Campbell writes, "the full round, the norm of the monomyth, requires that the hero shall now begin the labor of



*Athena reveals Ithaca to Odysseus by Giuseppe Bottani*

bringing the runes of wisdom, the Golden Fleece, or his sleeping princess, back into the kingdom of humanity, where the boon may rebound to the renewing of the community, the nation, the planet, or the ten thousand worlds.”

What did Luke Skywalker return with? After all, at the end of Return of the Jedi, Luke did return victorious, did he not? The Emperor was dead, as was the Emperor’s feared second in command, Darth Vader, the second Death Star was destroyed, and Luke, himself, could now properly wear the mantle of the Jedi Order. Luke had come full circle and his adventuring days were done, and it seems that he had intended to rebuild the Jedi Order. But that is a subject for another time.

The boon that Luke carried back to the surface of Endor, at least to those of us who sat in the movie theaters back in 1983, was simple freedom from the oppressive empirical fist that they had lived under since the end of the clone wars. Luke and his friends in the rebellion, had returned order and democracy to the galaxy.

So, you can see, the story of Star Wars is a simple pattern played out through all of time, from the simplest campfire story to the most epic of

legendary tales. Star Wars, and the heroic journey of Luke Skywalker, is a part of the pantheon of heroes that will inspire generations to come.

# THE BESKAR CHEF

## COOKING WITH MANDALORE

By: Mandalore the Uniter

### KALVALA STYLE ROBA (PORK) WITH CITRUS MOJO

#### Ingredients

- 8 medium garlic cloves, minced
- 2 teaspoons (8 g) ground cumin
- 2 teaspoons (8 g) freshly ground black pepper
- 1/4 cup (about 1 small handful) minced fresh oregano leaves
- 1/2 cup (120 ml) fresh orange juice from 1 to 2 whole oranges (see note)
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) fresh lime juice from 3 to 4 whole limes (see note)
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) extra-virgin olive oil
- Kosher salt



#### *For the Pork & Finish:*

- 1 (6-8 pound; 3-3.5 kg) boneless pork shoulder or picnic roast
- 1/4 cup (about 1 small handful) finely chopped fresh mint leaves
- 3 tablespoons (about 3 very large pinches) finely chopped fresh oregano leaves
- Lime wedges (for serving)

#### Mojo Directions

**STEP 1** - Combine garlic, cumin, pepper, oregano, orange juice, lime juice, and olive oil in a large bowl and whisk. Season to taste generously with salt.



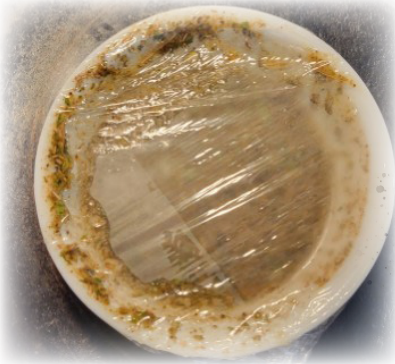


*Pro Tip: Don't use minced garlic from a jar, buy some garlic and mince your own. It's easy, and it tastes better.*

Once mixed together, your Mojo should look like this!

**STEP 2** - Transfer half of mojo to a sealed container and reserve in the refrigerator.

**STEP 3** - Add pork to remaining mojo and turn to coat.  
Optional: let pork marinate in Mojo for 2 hours OR overnight



**STEP 4 - For the Pork and to Finish:** Adjust oven rack to lower-middle position and preheat oven to 275°F (135°C). Line a rimmed baking sheet with a double layer of heavy-duty

aluminum foil. I like to fold 2 pieces together and make a double-fold crease to keep the juices in the foil.

**STEP 5** - Place pork and juices on top and fold up foil, crimping to seal loosely but making sure that there is room for air to circulate inside.



**STEP 6** - Place in oven and roast for 3 hours. Fold back foil, increase oven temperature to 325°F (165°C), and continue roasting, basting pork with pan juices occasionally, until pork shows almost no resistance when

a metal skewer or knife is inserted into it and the surface is crackly and brown, 2 to 3 hours longer. Remove pork from oven and let rest 10 to 15 minutes.

**STEP 7** - After resting, shred and pour reserved mojo over shredded pork with mint leaves and oregano. Serve with lime wedges.



# 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!

3369, Wolf, Illyaden, Kyrimorut Clan  
3370, Atin Ver'verd, BruteForceV1, Shonare  
Vhekadla Clan  
3371, Neoc Hacim, Neoc03, Cerar Clan  
3372, Arc Vityaz, Aseries, Vhe'rang Clan  
3373, Vassan Sharme, Vassan Sharme,  
Veshok Clan  
3374, Sabine Wren, MidnightRain, Naast  
Clan

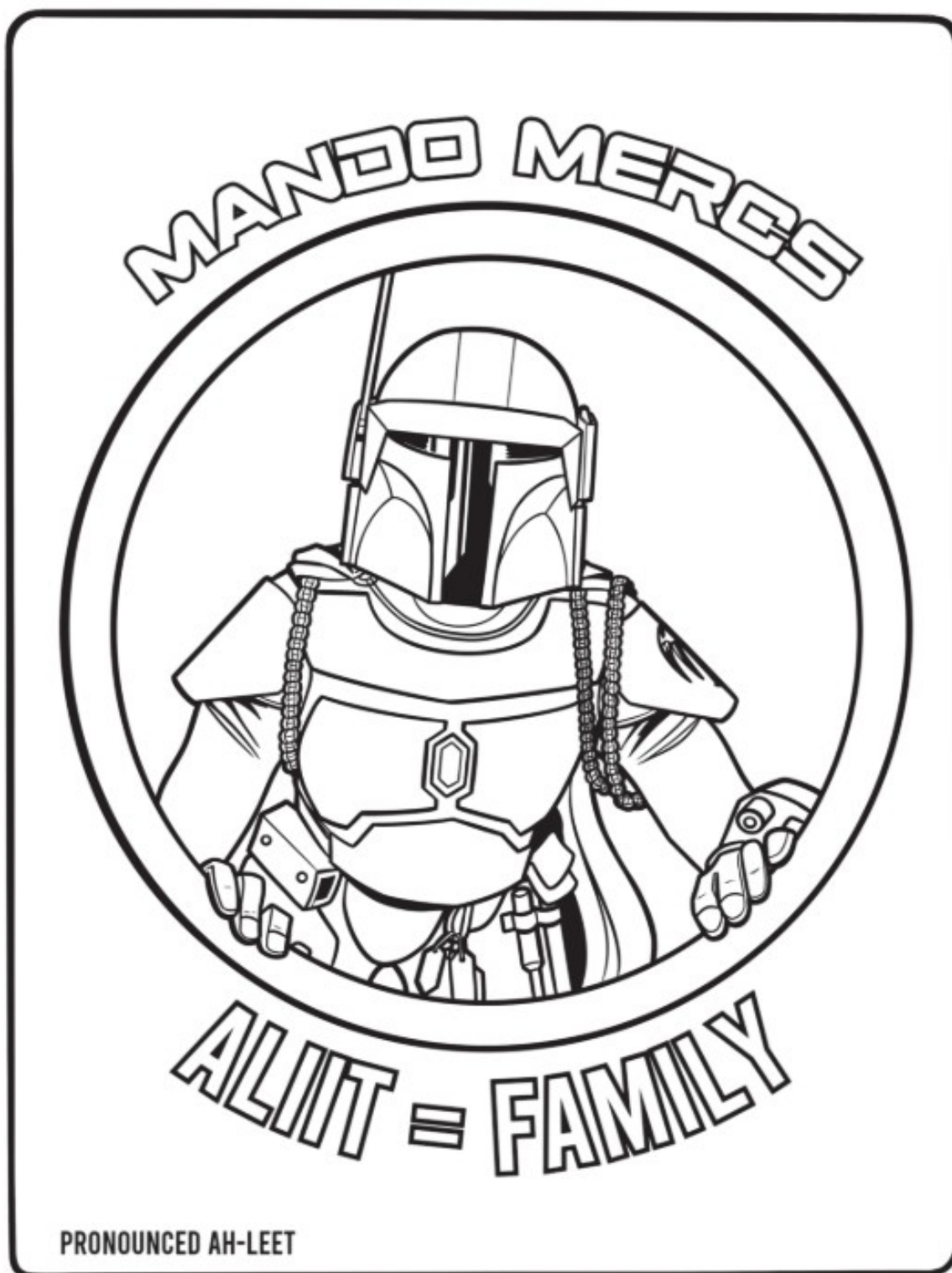
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**TO JOIN**

**THE MERCS**

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# THE VERD'IKA PAGES



# Imperial Officers

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C E U K S A A G E N T K A L L U S G S T  
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T L S H P V V M L A M H U K U U D E A E

Vice Admiral Rampart

Grand Admiral Thrawn

General Jaron Kyte Admiral Rae Sloane

Governor Pryce Admiral Piett Admiral Motti

General Veers Agent Kallus Gherant

Lieutenant Casido Director Krennic Grand Moff Tarkin

Admiral Gorin Moff Gideon General Hux

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 M A E V S D M L J G H E R A N T N D M O  
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 A N J A H C L M L D N P A D E C J A G A  
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 P Y P H Y B D G S Z Q N R E S F M K D G  
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 T L S H P V V M L A M H U K U U D E A E

**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](mailto:pr@mandalorianmercs.com) or to our editor on the forums at [mporter](http://mporter.com)