

THE OFFICIAL MANDO MAGAZINE

BATTLECRY

JULY 2024



THIS IS OUR WAY

MULTI-REGIONAL AP

WIP LIKE A PRO

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FROM THE EDITOR



Greetings Vode,

If you're a consistent reader of BattleCry, and if you ever read these little blurbs that I usually write at the last minute, (often at 2am on the day of my publishing deadline), you'll know that I'm pretty hip on the whole "Family is More than Blood" thing. To me, this phrase is more than just a fun little mantra from one of my favourite fictional universes. There is a life lesson contained within these words. I look at this club, and I see and interact with people from all over the world. This club is filled with people with skin of all different hues, different hair colors (I had to add that because I'm a redhead), different body types, different family situations, different views about the world... differences in every way, shape, and form, but one love that binds us together, that being the love of Star Wars and the service that we are able to render in this world through that love for a fictional galaxy far, far away.

We call eachother "Vod," which means brother/sister/sibling... Family.

Mike "Diz Ge'tal" Porter
Editor, BattleCry Magazine

THIS IS OUR WAY!

BUILDING FAMILY WITHIN CLANS

BY: WAYNE "GET'AL RUUS" MARPER

A thought occurs; blinking into existence from the depths of my gray matter, keeping me awake at 2am - much like the cursor as I type. "How do I grow the community in my clan?"

As Alor'ad this is a question I have asked myself and the wider clan command team seemingly constantly. I seem to strive for a community, engagement at all levels of the clan and for want of a better term, unit cohesion. So I'd like, if you'll indulge me of course, to unpack that question and those points a little more publicly.

To break this down, I think I must self analyze. Firstly, what does community mean? I'm not looking at this by cracking out "the old Oxford concise" definition, but more on a personal level.

Who do I like to surround myself with? Family? Well yes, I'm lucky enough to have a solid family unit. Then there's friends. There's friends that I call friends, then there's friends that I call family. "Oh, so what?!" You ask. Hear me out. Not any old friend or acquaintance automatically jumps straight into adopted family status. I'm sure most of us have people like this, but what's the threshold, is it one task? Several? Or is it something more like an unwavering commitment to just want to be a part of your life. A choice, perhaps.

So here's where my own deep dive gets interesting. Everyone in this wonderful club from the newest founding to Mandalore the Uniter made a choice. To build Mandalorian armour. But it isn't just that. There's an energy here, which I haven't felt in a long time. A camaraderie.

New approvals getting messages of support from OM's around the globe as they cross the finish line; with genuinely helpful advice to those not as experienced in many different disciplines are just two quick examples of the positivity that this club breeds.

This has become an Ethos to which many of us live by. We choose to be positive role models in a lot of cases and let's be honest about it, really bloody cool while doing it! Fostering this community spirit and the passage of knowledge from one to another. This is OUR way!

But it doesn't simply stop there. With so many wonderful endeavors undertaken around the globe by members both directly and indirectly. Individuals, clans, regions and indeed club wide charity efforts show the rest of the world that the Mando Mercs Costume Club is most definitely a force for good in this crazy world. I for one am proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with each and every one of you, representing the very best of what we can do with our armour.

My clan has become my family. Everyone of them. They're dysfunctional. We have a weird uncle (that's you Talyc Cabur), we have several grandparents moaning about "how it was better in our day," we've got children that, under no circumstances, should be allowed power tools. Characters one and all, but

it's a family that has chosen me and in return, I have become the designated driver, somehow. And not one thing would I change! If this clan grows, it grows through kindness, positivity, inclusivity, and most importantly organically.

So I now jump back to my first question. "How do I grow the community in my clan?" Quite simply I must lead by example, walk THE way and in every possible circumstance make a choice to the benefit of others.

Camaraderie, family, brotherhood, fellowship, murder (for crows), gaggle, it doesn't matter what label we use for one another, but without a shadow of a doubt.

We few, we merry few, are indeed Warriors for Hope!

Ge'tal Ruus
Vok'Chi Clan Alor'ad



MULTI-REGIONAL ARMOR PARTY

AN INTERVIEW WITH DRUJ JES

BY: RAYMOND "SCARIF MANDO" GAYLEARD



All across the world, our members work tirelessly to further our club and our mission. Be it through trooping, raising awareness, or armor parties, our members are dedicated to the cause.

Recently I had the opportunity to travel out to Ohio to not only observe but to take part in a movement brewing in this club. The event was a Multi-Regional armor party. I was invited out by Druj Jes (Adam) of Rancor Clan, Ohio. Before I set out on the 8 hour drive from Maryland I asked Druj what the goal was. He told me it was to bring together members of our club regardless of distance or clan or even region for that matter.

The event was absolutely amazing. Members from 9 clans spanning 3 regions trekked out to take part in this. 65+ people. I got to not only see good friends I have known for years, but I also had the chance to finally meet many mercs I had only ever known online. All day long armor was built, revels were celebrated, and there was even a fun little photo shoot for anyone who brought their kit. And don't get me started on the food!

It was encouraging. Outside of major conventions / troops it can be difficult to pull this many clans together in one location at the same time. I sat down with the architect of this event to find out exactly what it takes to orchestrate something so monumental.

BattleCry: Tell me about yourself. What positions have you held in the club?

Druj Jes: I was a Ruus'aolr for Rancor Clan for about 2 years, then I stepped into my current role as a Judicial Seeker.

BC: How long have you been a member?

Druj: I earned my stripes in 2019, but began my kit build in 2016.

BC: What inspired you to create this event?

Druj: I was invited to a Kyrimorut Armor Party. I was absolutely amazed by how productive the whole thing was and I wanted to share that with Rancor Clan and others back in my area. I took the long format, and the wide invitation and put my spin on it.

BC: What did it take to make this event successful?

Druj: It took the efforts of many of my best friends to help make this what it was. I couldn't do this without the aid of some of the best people I have ever met (thanks to the MMCC for that).

BC: What went into it?

Druj: I carried a notebook at my side for almost 3 months leading up to the event so I could write down anything that I thought of at any point during the day. That was critical for me to stay organized. I put together a shirt run for the AP to help offset the cost of renting a restroom. We had a professional photographer for the event, Dyre Vox, he did an amazing job documenting it for us. I took the day prior to the event off to setup with the help of others as well as cook for everyone.

BC: What were the total member numbers both in-person and online?

Druj: In person was 65+ people, 9 clans represented from 3 different regions. Online is harder to track as many people were video chatting with others, but we know for sure that Raquor'dann called in with at least 3 people.

BC: How important is it to you to bring clans and regions together?

Druj: It is absolutely mission critical in my opinion. We don't need an "us and them" kind of mentality. I'm looking to actively tear down divisions like that and bring everyone together. We are all fans of Star Wars and particularly the Mandalorians, but we should learn from the groups in the shows, books and comics; we need unity and togetherness. Mandalorians are stronger together!

BC: What is the importance of it?

Druj: Bringing people, clans, and regions together helps us grow stronger. We can absolutely be a role model for the other SW clubs out there.



BC: How does it affect the club?

Druj: I have seen two effects from hosting this event for the last two years. First is people growing closer together. We had people from Cerar, Wampa, and Kyrimorut clans all in person this year. Getting people together covering this much geographical area is wild, but seeing them connect and form real bonds with one another is incredible. The second thing I have seen is in the wake of these events there is more and more interest in attending the next one. I believe that this is how we saw a nearly 50% growth over the 1st one (Inter-Regional Armor Party)

BC: What did you do to raise support for this event?

Druj: I championed and cheerlead for the event for months. I did not want to steal the thunder from the NE regional AP so I kept it to myself and my clan promoting before that event, but after that happened I went all the way up, asking this to be shared to the Conclave so everyone in the club was invited.

BC: What are your plans for the future? Anything you can tease?

Druj: There will absolutely be a 3rd Annual Inter-Regional Armor Party. We are shooting for 150 people in person attendance, but we will gladly host more.

BC: What is one thing you would like to tell our readers?

Druj: Family is more than blood. The MMCC is my chosen family. As i am sure it is for many people. This is the way.

During a conversation I had with Adam at the event, he outlined for me his love for this club. It didn't matter if it was a big multi-region event or simply driving to a UM's house to help them build their armor, Adam is down for it. He also told me that almost two years ago when him and his wife purchased their home, the biggest consideration was a place that they could host armor parties. We all have goals and dreams, and Adam is testament



to how when you work towards those dreams, you can build something truly monumental.

All around the club, people like Adam are rising up to take on those responsibilities regardless of their title or station. It is through this strength that we forge the future. But they can't do it alone. They need Mandos like you. It is when we come together that we truly see victory.

DO YOU WANT TO BE ON THE COVER OF BATTLECRY?

WE NEED YOU!

Have you ever wanted to be featured on the cover of BattleCry Magazine? Well, we need your photos! If you are an Official Member and your Kit is up to date with the CRL's, Kit up and get some pictures taken because we want to see your lovely buy'ce on future issues.

Follow the QR code to the photo submission form on the MMCC Forums and submit your pictures today!



WIP LIKE A PRO

THE WHY AND WHAT FOR

BY: CASSIDY "ALDWYN KASS" BUCKLAND

The first step to getting involved with the MMCC is to get on the forums, find your local clan or stronghold, and introduce yourself.

The second step is to start a WIP ("Work In Progress") thread and begin posting your ideas.

The first step is pretty easy, but that second step... what exactly is a WIP thread and how do you make an effective one? Let's talk about that this month. We'll break down why a good WIP is important, how to go about making and maintaining one, and we'll add a quick how-to at the end about how to add pictures!

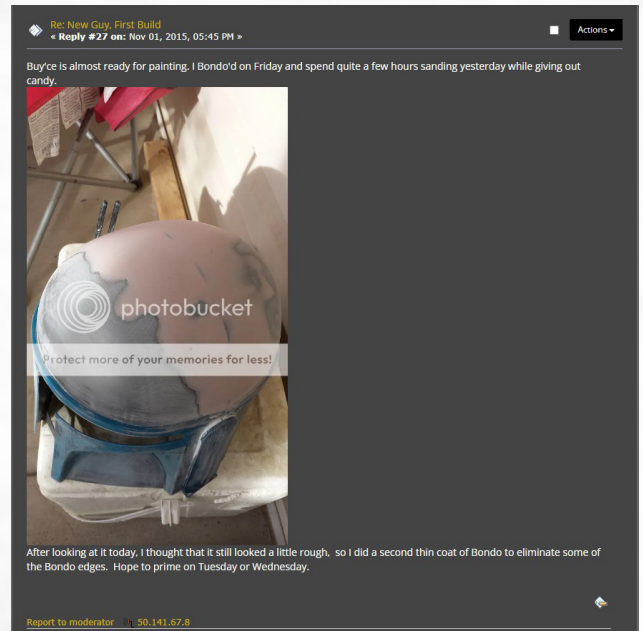
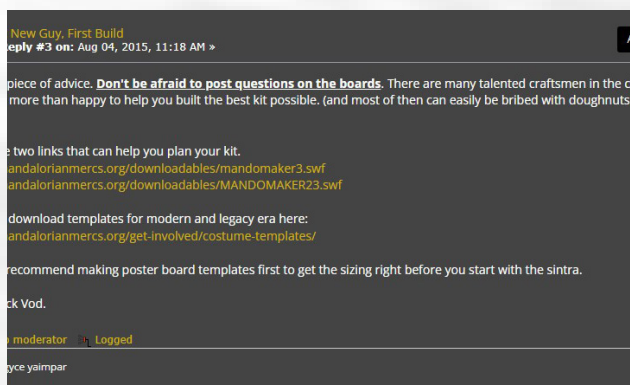
What is it?

Your WIP thread is like a journal of your build process. It's where you chronicle your progress step-by-step from concept to completion. It's also the place where your fellow builders and MMCC members can chime in to answer questions, or offer suggestions and helpful advice along the way.

WIP threads often include a lot of pictures, and ideally are updated often with a detailed description of your process as you work on your armor build.

Why WIP?

But why do you need to make and maintain a detailed WIP thread? Well, there's a couple reasons, not the least of which being, so we can help you! Building armor can be a long, sometimes complicated process. All of us find ourselves at some point needing a helping hand, and the WIP thread can be the fastest and easiest way to get advice and answers from those who have gone before. Your clan mates are a wealth of knowledge and inspiration, and getting several sets of eyes on a project is always good.



The second reason a good WIP is important is because seeing a builder's process start-to-finish can be a huge help to others. The MMCC is like a big family, and we all learn from each other's mistakes, and ideas, and discoveries. Sharing each step of your build process in detail can help others on their journey from UM to OM. Sometimes the best way to learn about the different

parts and processes is by reading through WIP threads from other builders. A well done WIP can almost be a sort of informal tutorial, showing how to build a kit, step-by-step.

Another great reason to maintain a good WIP thread is so that the App team can consult it when you submit for approval.

When viewing an application, sometimes the app team has questions about a specific part of a kit - whether that be the method of construction, or the material used, or something else. Having a detailed WIP thread that shows each part of the kit and how it was built can provide answers to those potential questions and can sometimes prevent your application approval from being delayed.

The more clearly the app team is able to see that your kit meets the CRLs, the faster you're likely to get those killstripes! Why waste time going back and forth with questions and clarifications when you could just chronicle the process as you go and have all the answers available in advance?

So how?

So the last question we have to ask then, is what exactly does a good WIP look like?

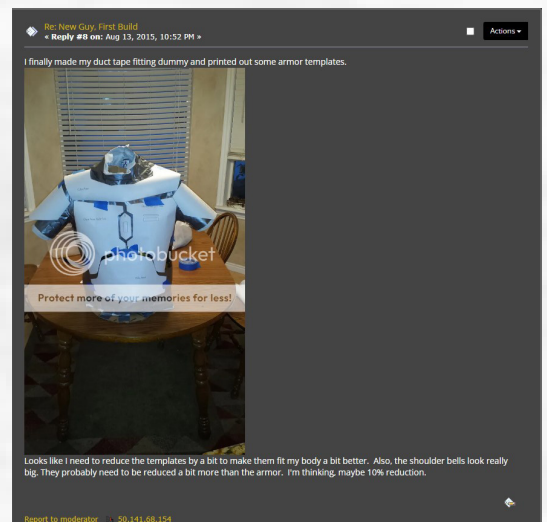
First, your WIP thread is a great place to gather concepts and brainstorm ideas. Having a goal in mind when you begin, and some details about color and design for your clan mates to look over and provide feedback on can be a good anchor for you as you build. Reference images color schemes, and idea lists can help remind you of where you're going, and give you ideas for next steps when you get bogged down. It can also be fun to look back at the end of the process and see how far you've come, or compare your initial ideas to the final product and see how much (or how little) your concept evolved along the way.

Another important element of a good WIP thread is, of course, pictures! The old saying holds true that a picture is worth a thousand words. Visually chronicling each checkpoint along the way as you build, along with an informative description of the process and steps of the in-between stages can be hugely helpful - to others looking to do something similar, to the App team wanting more details about a particular piece of your kit, and to you as you get the nearly inevitable, "How did you do that?" questions. If you update your WIP often, and keep a good visual record of your process, at the end of it all, you'll find that you've made a kind of scrapbook, detailing your armor building journey from start to finish.

(We'll talk about how you attach pictures in just a minute.)

As you're posting your concepts and progress updates, don't forget to provide detailed descriptions of your process. Don't just show us your finished paint job - tell us about the different layers, the masking process, and what kind of weathering techniques you applied.

Likewise, but on the other side of that, don't forget to ask questions! WIP threads are a great place to get feedback, constructive criticism, encouragement, and instructions. Use the knowledge and experience of those who have gone before and let them carry you through when you don't know what to do next.



A Quick Note About Pictures

Figuring out how to add pictures to your WIP can be a bit tricky if you've never used a forum before, but the process itself is simple.

First, you'll need to have an account on an image hosting site like Imgur. Your photos will be uploaded to this site ("hosted") and then you can add them to your forum posts via a hyperlink.

So, step one is to create an account on your image hosting site of choice. Step two, is to upload the images that you would like to add to your WIP to this image hosting site. Once they've been uploaded, you should find an option to copy a link for each individual image. The link you're looking for is called a BBCode, and if you're using Imgur, will be labeled as such.

Head over to the MMCC forums and add that BBCode image link to your thread using the "Insert Image" option at the top of your reply. When you click this option, a code will be added to your thread, and your cursor will automatically be placed in the middle of it.

It should look something like this,

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[img]/img]
```

Paste the BBCode that you took from your image hosting site into the middle of this code, and you've added your first photo!

The image will not immediately appear, but should show up in your reply preview, and will be visible once the reply is posted.

You may add multiple images to your forum post by repeating this process - clicking the "Insert Image" button on the forums and pasting the unique BBCode for each image into it. Wherever you place that block of code text is where the image will show up in the post, and you can add your own text on either or both sides of the image link.

Just as a side note, please be aware that adding too many images to a post or thread can cause the forums to run slowly, or even break the thread, especially when viewing on a mobile device. For best results, pick your best handful of images and resist the urge to give us the whole gallery!

WIP threads often get overlooked, but if it weren't for the chronicled knowledge of all those who have gone before, very few of us would be where we are today.

So do yourself (and the rest of the MMCC community) a favor, and ask good questions, take good pictures, and share what you're learning in your WIP thread. You never know who might benefit from getting a look at your armor building journal.

THE BESKAR CHEF

Got a recipe you'd like to share? Send it to PR@mandalorianmercs.com

CAFF CAKE

INGREDIENTS

3 cups all-purpose flour	3 TBS light cream
1 package active dry yeast	1 cup sugar
3/4 cup milk	1 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
1/3 cup margarine or butter	2 cups thinly sliced apples* (peaches, plums or cottage cheese)
1/3 cup sugar	
1/2 tsp salt	
2 eggs	
1 beaten egg	

METHOD

1. Mix in bowl combine 1 1/2 cups of flour and yeast. In a saucepan heat and stir milk, margarine or butter, the 1/3 cup sugar and salt till warm and margarine or butter almost melts. Add to flour mixture along with the 2 eggs. Beat with an electric mixer on low for 30 seconds. Beat on high for 3 minutes. using a spoon stir the remaining flour.
 2. Divide dough mixture in half. Grease fingers, pat into 2 greased 9x9x2-inch or 11x7x1 1/2-inch baking pan slightly to form a rim. Cover and let rise in a warm place till double (45-50 minutes).
 3. Combine the beaten egg and light cream. Stir in 1 cup sugar and the cinnamon. If using fruit arrange atop raised dough. (If using cottage cheese, stir into cream-sugar mixture. Spoon atop raised dough.) Bake in a 375 oven for 18 to 20 minutes. Cut into squares: serve warm. Makes 2 caff cakes (18 servings).
- *Note If using apples, simmer covered, in water about 2 minutes or till tender. Drain well: Place atop dough. **Or use 2 cups of apple sauce (Add a light sprinkle of cinnamon to taste to apple sauce.)

Thanks to Tak'ur of Vok'Chi Clan for this excellent recipe!

Got a recipe you'd like to share with us? Get in touch!

"If the easy path fulfills you, you'll only be satisfied for a moment."

- Mandalore the Uniter



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GET IN TOUCH

Got something you want to tell the club about? Got an interesting new build in progress or been to an amazing troop or event?

We want to hear about it!

Send your feature to pr@mandalorianmercs.com or by PM to mporter



You Can Do It!



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