

THE OFFICIAL MANDO MAGAZINE

BATTLECRY

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MEET THE STAFF

AQUATIC MANDOS

HURDLES OF BUILDING

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CONTENTS

03. FROM THE EDITOR

04. MEET THE STAFF - INTERVIEW WITH THE PRIME MINISTER

06. AQUATIC MANDOS – WARRIORS OF THE DEEP

08. SO YOU WANT TO BUILD A MANDO - HURDLES OF BUILDING

10. THE BESKAR CHEF - OLAN'MUNKAR (POTATO PANCAKES)

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Page 4: Ca'tra Stormreaver

Pages 6 & 7: Naia & Noac Toa

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FROM THE EDITOR



Greetings Vode,

It is definitely becoming autumn out there, and I have to tell you, this is my favorite season, pumpkin spice everything notwithstanding. Soon, the mountains that surround my home will start turning all manner of reds and oranges, the morning air will gain a crispness. This is the time when holidays begin, when families will gather, and the smell of baking pastries will fill our kitchens.

As a mando, I look to family, both the one I was born into and the one that accepted me when I chose to walk the way of the Mandalore.

Speaking of which, MercsCon is next month! Although I will not be able to join you all in Denver, I do hope that you all have a fantastic time, get to know our vode from all over, and build those memories.

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

MEET THE STAFF

INTERVIEW WITH THE PRIME MINISTER

BY: WAYNE "GET'AL RUUS" MARPER

BattleCry recently reached out to the Prime Minister. No, not Sir Kier Starmer, we're not that interested in politics. The only Prime Minister that matters to us is Ca'tra Stormreaver or Candice. PM for the MMCC.

Hailing from Alabama and member of Haaranover clan, she discovered the MMCC back in 2014 after being over in Germany for a few years. With her sister and nieces already being part of the MMCC, she attended armour parties and events with Vhe'rang clan feeling the family ethos that clan brings.

Her build time was pretty short for her first kit too, around two weeks, and often jokes that "I was shanghaied into joining the club because immediately after approval (the same day) I became the clan's Ver'Alor".

Looking back over her impressive nearly ten years, Candice has no regrets.

We asked what other appointments Ca'tra had held prior to her appointment as PM.

"In my current clan, I have not held any positions. However, I am on my fourth clan due to moving frequently! In my first clan, Vhe'rang, I was the Ver'alor (and briefly the Alor'ad and Ruus'alor when I was the lone officer at one point).

I then moved to central Texas from El Paso, and was in Murraan where I didn't hold any clan level positions, but I was made a Regional Ruus'sol for South Central US.

Not long after moving, I decided to form my own Clan (Karta Beskar) and served as the founder and Alor'ad of that clan. The Regional Ruus'sol position was converted from a regional officer-ship to an app team position. Thus began my app team tenure! I have served in many various positions on the app team, including the APXO position. I have served on the Education Team in a few different roles as well. I was the Conclave Warden, and now I am the Prime Minister!"

Like most of us that don our armour, Candice found it difficult to pick out a favourite troop, but her most memorable was before her OM status was awarded. Clan members were able to take a large group of children to see Star Wars in the theatre, giving them snacks, drinks and even a new toy. The ability to help these children forget their depression, anxiety or other circumstances left a lasting impact on the good that we as a club can do as an



organization.

In Candice's "real world" career, she works in cyber security but previously worked in the Medical Field. While she tells us that there's no direct crossover with her work and the Mercs, she has found the management skills learned here beneficial to her day to day life.

"It is immensely hard to lead or manage a group of volunteers and motivate them all to perform their given roles to their utmost ability. The leadership skills I have accumulated doing so have enabled me to be a much more efficient, worthwhile, and empathetic leader in my real world job".

Before standing for MMCC Prime Minister, Candice was Conclave Warden. When the role came up to stand, having a good knowledge of it, along with the desire to serve the club even more than she already had in other various positions, she felt she was the most qualified role for the position.

We asked her what, in her words, is the PM's role and of course, she eloquently answered.

"I believe wholeheartedly in a servant leadership mentality. As the PM, the most important part of the role is to serve the membership of the club. The nuances of that are where things get more complex. Properly serving the membership is not just being a mouthpiece, or a messenger. It means actively engaging membership, MMCC leadership at all levels, and administrative teams in making informed decisions about what's best for the club and where we want to go in the future. It requires a lot of communication, compromise, patience, and a dynamic way of thinking. But it's absolutely worth it if it means improving the culture of our club, growth, and our charitable mission."

Candice believes that the MMCC leads the way in being charity minded and fostering a family friendly environment whilst protecting the Star Wars Brand but there is always room for improvement. Policies and programs are constantly being reviewed to assist in growing the membership and along with this years efforts to push more charitable causes, she hopes that pushing "Our Way" will trickle down to the membership so that we see more trooping and fundraising combined.

I asked if she could spill the beans on any upcoming developments in the works. Being a "policy nerd" she told us that there are a lot of exciting things happening behind the scenes, but specifically two big pieces are firstly, a program whereby US based clans will finally be able to have PR materials developed at a local level, rather than having to use a club vendor. Internationally, this system has been in place for sometime. Secondly, we also have the launch of the Foundling Forge Program coming soon, which may help to reduce some financial barriers to those wanting to build an approvable kit.

And with foundlings in mind, she gives some stirring advice: "Get involved, and don't be afraid to step up into a role even if you don't feel qualified. You may just surprise yourself! This club and your experience in it is what you make it, so why not have a great time?"

Candice will be present for Mercs Con this year and looking forward to seeing old and new faces alike. With such a wide emphasis on the social side of the club at Mercs Con, it's easy to see why she's attending!

To round off, Ca'tra has a some final words for the membership, "I know that the last few years have been tough on all of us, worldwide. I know that we all have stressors in our daily lives, and sometimes in the club that drains us. But, I would encourage everyone to look at what made them fall in love with the MMCC. What is your "why" for picking this club? Try to find that, and embrace it. Fall in love with giving back to your community and making a difference again. Dive in and have some fun with your MMCC family!

The BattleCry team would like to thank the Prime Minister for giving us her time and we wish her every success in her upcoming endeavours!

This is the Way.

AQUATIC MANDOS

WARRIORS OF THE DEEP

BY: JOHNNY “JOHN STOLT”Z” STOLTENBORG

When people think of Mandalorians, they see the iconic armor equipped with gauntlets unleashing torrents of flame, jetpacks launching them through the air—bounty hunters in thrilling space combat, chasing bounties through the chaos of crowded cities of the Outer Rim. However, an intriguing and lesser-known part of Mandalorian culture emerges from the depths—the Aquatic Mandalorians. This unique unit of warriors has masterfully adapted their combat skills, armor, and lifestyle to thrive beneath the waves. We’ve plunged into the enigmatic world of our underwater titans of the MMCC, uncovering the secrets and legends that make them a formidable force in the galaxy’s aquatic realms and the inspiration behind some of the Mando Mercs most unique kits.

Naia and Noac Toa, are the MMCC’s only official aquatic ops brigade members. They both have some impressive titles - Naia Toa is a triple threat brigade member, Aquatic Ops, Beast Masters, and Light Melee weapon from the Protectors of Lothal in NorthEast Florida. She is also Ruus’alor Sol’yc, Brigade Marshal for Field Ops, and on the Approval and Education teams. Noac Toa, hails from Indiana’s Taakure Clan and is their Ruus’alor Sol’yc. He is part of both the Aquatic Ops and Beast Masters Brigade. After becoming fast friends, they formed Clan Toa.

“I am terrible at naming characters” said Naia, aka Vercopaanir on the forums. “So [Noac] pitched Naia and I asked if he minded if I stole the same last name. Naia Toa was born. Then we kinda started writing a backstory involving Noac adopting Naia into Clan Toa to explain it.”

With every great kit, the journey and the inspiration are some great stories in themselves. Noac Toa’s inspiration stemmed from Riff Tamson, in season 4 of the Clone Wars series, and an inside joke from a friend who is a professional performing mermaid at Newport Aquarium in Ohio. After that talk with his friend and lots of concept art, the idea of “Mermando” came to be.

“It’s so hard to choose my favorite part of the kit,” says Noac. “From the dorsal fin on my helmet, the colo claw fish sigil on my chest piece, I love it all.”

Naia Toa’s inspiration was Noac himself.





"I had seen [Noac's] kit in the brigades boards as an aquatic mando and was like that is so awesome!"

Naia, a marine science teacher when she isn't out hunting bounties, created her kit when asked by someone in her clan how to make a Post Imperial kit. "I said I had no idea how to make a Post imperial kit," she said. "This is brand new, so lets build one" She built her kit to learn and teach others how to do a post imperial build. Once she had her chest plate, she noticed she had a bunch of other pieces lying around and the idea hit her like a rogue wave- building an aquatic mando.

"My colors are a little different," said Naia, "it's inspired by the selcalf species in the star wars universe and the blue ring stingray in ours." Naia, who wields a trident as her melee weapon, also used UV paint on her kit as a cool unique detail of the colo claw fish used in their sigil. Under a black light, she is a mando merc you surely don't want to miss. Clan Toa's advice for anyone wanting to create an aquatic

ic kit is to keep your idea streamlined. "Imagine someone picking you up and dropping you into the ocean," says Naia. "What gear would you have?" They also say to create concept art. "Get your ideas on paper," says Noac. "Whether it be a little doodle of a helmet, or the chest piece - it will all begin to build to that idea that you want to accomplish. As always, reach out to your local clan and your Ruus'alor Sol'yc for ideas and ways to make an Aquatic Mando.



SO YOU WANT TO BUILD A MANDO

THE HURDLES OF BUILDING

BY: WAYNE "GET'AL RUUS" MARPER

Dank Ferrik! More print lines I hadn't seen before! A situation most of us builders in the Mercs are over familiar with. After all, sanding is a part of our religion. I want to take a few moments of reflection across the kits I've built during my tenure with the club. At time of writing, the third kit I've built is awaiting approval somewhere in the system and all of my fingers and toes are crossed.

Somehow the nerves and trepidation never seem to get any easier. For me at least, I have no problem sharing my WIP on the clan forum, it's nice to get feedback, both positive and negative along with ideas and things I haven't thought of from my peers. But submitting to the App Team? To me, even as Alor'ad of the mighty Vok'Chi Clan, still fills me with dread.

To have my work scrutinized, and let's be clear, it is definitely scrutiny at an almost microscopic level is a big deal and can be a huge stumbling block for MMCC foundling members to overcome. It is my belief that we likely lose prospective members at this hurdle due to what could be construed as "harsh feedback."

I want every reader from Mandalore the Uniter to the newest foundling to know that the stress and anxiety is real. To me in my world view, I'm kind of ok with it. An obstacle is something to be beaten but not everyone has that outlook on life.

But why is it SUCH a big deal?

I'd like to break this down. Those of you that frequent the build group, sharing your amazing work that you're proud of will have seen the comments, "The standards are too high" or that's just "elitism". It isn't, but we do have standards for a reason.

We'll get to that, but to start I'd like to cite a real study here, and I use this study at work when I have new barbers working for me. It's called "The Dunning Kruger Effect."

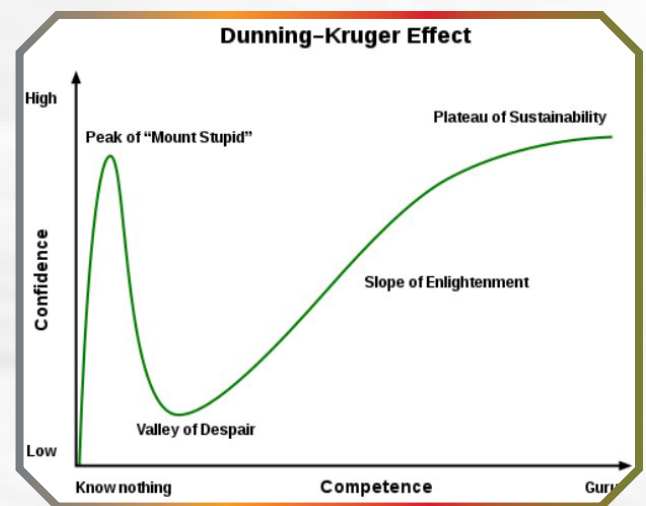
Effectively it shows confidence over time. And at some point in our lives, nearly everyone has experienced this.

So let's look at this logically. You start building a kit, you've joined the forums and you're thinking "I've got this, it's easy!"

This is the first upward trajectory pictured. You may even hit the top of "mount stupid". You'll get feedback from you Ruus'alors and this is where one can fall low into the valley of despair. This valley, in my opinion, is where a foundling has a choice.

Take the advice from those around you with experience, and begin the slow ascent on the slope of enlightenment, or bin it off and cast out the cliché "elitist" remarks. Teddy out of the pram... you get the picture. Only an individual can make the choice.

I shall now interject with a real world example of this.



My first kit, the red one for those that have seen it, was a challenge for me. I'd never built a costume. I got to the stage where I thought my bucket was "finished". It was scratch built and I was very proud of it. It wasn't right. Wrong materials, uneven visor you name it, and looking back it was bantha fodder! See below my first attempt vs second attempt. It's one hell of a journey.

It's all over the place, let's be honest. But I made it, and it's mine. Now it serves as a shelf piece in my shop as a reminder of just how far I've come as a maker. I took my helmet in a different direction and was all the better for it. Later on I upgraded my visor to gold as it is now. It's an ever evolving process.

I want to share this with you, dear readers because I think attitude towards building is important.

Every single OM in the club has had a knock back, be it from other members, Ruus'alors or App Team, but understand that they aren't suggesting that you change things because they want to. They've been there too! They want to see your kit be the absolute BEST that it can be. It's that simple.

Our costumes are quite frankly as close to meeting a real life Mandalorian as the public will ever see. Now imagine being a punter at a con, and meeting a Mando on stand, perhaps within a set and you notice there's plastic showing somewhere or print lines. Okay okay, maybe the layman wouldn't notice, but we all know that we're tied to the House of Mouse. Think of yourself as a representative of the Star Wars Franchise directly. It needs to look the part! That is why we have high standards, for the same reason you'll never see a Disneyland princess break character. We can't destroy the magic!

Your build is an opportunity. An opportunity to learn new skills, build confidence and meet new likeminded lifelong friends as you create something wonderful. To quote one of our Honorary Mercs, Mr Adam Savage,



“When you do something for the first time, be prepared to make everything three times”. It's a mantra I've lived by for quite a while now.”

Grasp these opportunities, nuggets of wisdom and tips with both hands. This club is a great thing to be a part of, and the first time you don your armor for the public, you will be instantly gratified. Keep building, beautiful people, take a break if you need to but remember that a positive attitude is key. You are supported and you are a part of something bigger than yourself.

Building should never be a chore! Take your time, think things through and more importantly, ask questions.

This is our way.

THE BESKAR CHEF

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

OLAN'MUNKAR

INGREDIENTS

3/4 cup of Flour
2 cups of Milk
1.5 teaspoons of salt
1 egg
8 regular sized potatoes

METHOD

First add the flour and the salt into a container and add half of the milk. Whisk it into a smooth batter.

When smooth add the rest of the milk and the egg and whisk it again.

Then you peel the potatoes and grate them. Mix them down into the batter.

Fry in a frying pan with some butter.

You'll need about half a cup per serving. Make them flat by distributing the potato grate evenly in the pan.

Cook until the batter looks dry in the pan before you flip it over. When it has a nice even color, it's done.

Serve with fried bacon and Lingonberry jam.

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!



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"One doesn't quit because they were made to; one quits because they choose to."
- Mandalore the Uniter

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



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