

THE OFFICIAL MANDO MAGAZINE

BATTLECRY

DECEMBER 2024

WIELDING THE HAMMER

REBELS: TOP FIVE

FAMILY TIES

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CREDITS

EDITORIAL

Raymond “Scarif Mando” Gayleard (PRO)
Mike “Diz Ge’tal” Porter

STAFF WRITERS

Wayne “Get’al Ruus” Marper
Alex “Katra Dromaar” Maciel
Johnny “John Stolt’z” Stoltenborg

CONTRIBUTORS

Bud “Spec’troz Ma’ar” McDowell (from the social media team)
Simon “Tak’ur” Spencer (Beskar Chef)

COVER PHOTO

Ru’stor Rawr, Krayin Gooss, Verd Solis, & Bryn Cin’Prudii. Composition and artwork by Trey Hockman of the Art Team

ISSUE PHOTOS

Ru’Stor Rawr (pages 4 & 6)
Stolt’z (page 9)
Stolt’z, Keith, & Hope (page 10)
Bri’ek Oled from Gurrek Clan (page 12)
Dave & Brian, Provided by Bri’ek (page 13)
Coloring Page by Bes’uliik (page 14)

FROM THE EDITOR



Greetings Vode,

I am so jazzed that it's December, and no... it's not because of the holidays. Ok, it's not JUST the holidays. I'm excited because Skeleton Crew starts streaming this month on Disney+. I know, I know, there are those of you out there that just don't like the Star Wars television shows that have been on streaming lately. I get it, I'm just not one of you.

Call me a sap, but I've pretty much liked everything that has the title "Star Wars" tacked on to it, and I'll tell you why.

When A New Hope came out in 1977, I was 8-years-old. Being so young, I needed at least one of my parents to take me to see it. That took some time, but toward the end of the theatrical run, I finally got my Dad to take me to the Center Theater in Salt Lake City, and from the first note of the Star Wars Theme to the final credit I was hooked!

Now here's the thing. In 1977, we didn't have VHS, DVD, Laser Discs, Streaming, or anything of the kind and so, all of us 2nd graders had only seen it once, and had to wait until it aired on network television to see it again. In this case, Star Wars: A New Hope aired on CBS on February 26, 1984, well after ESB and RotJ were released.

I know... my kids don't even believe me on this one, but it's true.

So, the fact that new Star Wars content is being produced all the time just makes that 2nd grader inside me jump for joy!

And that's what it's all about, right? The Joy?

From all of us here at BattleCry, Happy Holidays Mandos!

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

WIELDING THE HAMMER

MEET THE JUDICIAL OFFICER

BY: WAYNE "GET'AL RUUS" MARPER

In this wonderful community we share, as most of our members are well aware; we're fully inclusive, accommodating and welcoming. We have a document called the MMCC Codes of conduct (amongst others) which, while it could be considered a dry read, is worth a scan so that you're aware of what you can and can't do while representing the club.

Given the fact that we are a worldwide organisation - and let's be honest, people are people; occasionally things go awry. So when things turn south, who has the final say in the outcome? The short answer is the Judicial Officer of the MMCC.

This Month, Battlecry sat down with Ru'Stor Rawr - Rene to discuss some of these matters in a little more detail and explore the role a little more publicly.

Rene is a member of Raqour'daan Clan in the North East region. Clearing his kit in April 2020 he admits that sometimes he feels like a new member of the club. That said, he has been very busy in his tenure as an OM.

He has held the position of both Ruus'alor and Ruus'alor Solyc in his clan, and has also served on both the App team and Education Team to name a few. He also rose further to become Command Ru'Cabur, CRL Director and Regional Vice Commander.

In March 2023, he put his name in the helmet to become the MMCC's Judicial Officer and the rest, as they say, is history.

Like most of us, he has a most memorable troop. Garden State Comic Fest, post covid, was held in an old sports store in a mall. He was standing outside, welcoming guests, when he was spotted by a small child with Downs Syndrome from around 40 yard away. After checking with her parents, she ran up to him and gave the biggest hug and smile, just in total of awe of a Mandalorian. It was at that moment he realised the power that our costumes have and that this is why he does what he does. "Raising money is



great, but seeing the smiles is something else!”

Interestingly, his day job as an Operations Manager has no real crossover or bearing on the JO role, though his time serving as a United States Marine has almost certainly given him the morals and discipline to be able to perform his role in the most dedicated way possible. Semper Fi!

Taking on the Role of Judicial Officer is of course serious business and a side to the club that hopefully most don't ever need to be involved with. We asked Rene if there are any upsides.

Cleverly, he remarked “there are no downsides”. He fully acknowledges that he was not forced into the role, having applied for it himself but felt that he could build on the previous JO's work while giving a fresh perspective.

He is well aware that it would be very easy for complacency to creep in and knew that he would be able to do things “the right way. Consistency and fairness has to be at the base of all decisions made.

Rene was also aware of a perception within the club of “the good old boys.” To be clear this was never necessarily the case, but he also knew that in being JO, it couldn't be perceived that he was told what to do and by who. Previously the role sat underneath and reported to the Adjutant General. Given this, it was then voted by the international Command Council that the JO would sit on the Cabinet, meaning it sits at the top of its own tree.

“All decisions made are mine, right or wrong, I own them without bias”.

Knowing that most don't see behind the curtain, he takes the subtle reward in knowing that the role is being done correctly and that he and his team are a good fit. “We try to do right by the club at all times”

We asked if he could explain the Role of the JO for the layman.

“Firstly, it's not a fun role and I am NOT the MMCC's police officer, as most seem to think. I like to keep things simple, we have a process and at end of the day I have to make some hard decisions. In a way my role is more like a judge. After a judicial report is received, cases and evidence are presented and I decide if things are either an immediate sanction, whether a tribunal is needed or there no grounds for action. I won't waste time on something that is clear cut”

His team of Seekers help keep him honest and oftentimes assist with investigations. When they were appointed he told them that he didn't want “yes men” and if they thought he was calling something wrong, they should tell him.

He also has nine Magisters globally, and they effectively serve as the Jury for a tribunal. Once a case is put together, three from the nine are selected to analyse and give feedback on what the outcome should be. It is safe to say that while Rene has the overall power to overturn their decision, that there would have to be an exceptional set of circumstance to go against the recommendations of his team. The system works, and there is often precedence already set.

The judicial team, under his guidance, also do not like to operate in the shadows. “If someone is under investigation, the very first thing I'll do is reach out to that person and explain what's going on and why, along with what, if any information we need from them.”

Finally, we asked Ru'Stor if he had any messages from the perspective of his role to the General Membership.

“It's never been personal. I've had to sanction friends before and it's not fun. I want people to know that having to hold sanctions against people or perhaps making them Dar'manda (no longer Mandalorian) is never easy, but necessary.

We're here to have fun, get along and do for others. Let just do what we do to put smiles on faces; Get along and move forward. Just be nice to each other.”

Unusually, for an article such as this I'm going to offer some personal thoughts on my talk with Rene.

It's a hard thing to fill a role such as Judicial Officer, knowing that at some point you'll have to bring sanctions against members of your own club, but it is, in an organisation of this size, a necessary evil.

Rene, through our brief interaction expressed absolute humility, and fills the role not for personal gratification or reward but for the greater good of the MMCC. I don't believe there is a more selfless role in the club.

In an ideal world we wouldn't need to have disciplinary processes, and Rene could just put his feet up and enjoy trooping as so many of us do. Instead, he has taken on this mantle; to be the guy that wields the hammer where needed because it's a role that needs to be fulfilled.



The MMCC is in safe hands under the watch of Ru'Stor Rawr's visor and the diligence of his team.

BattleCry would like to thank Rene for giving up his time to explain his role in detail.

Next time you happen across him, on the forums or in person, just tip your bucket and know that this is a man of absolute honour and integrity.

This is our way.

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MANDO FOUNDLINGS

THE WAY OF THE MANDO MERC

BY: JOHNNY “JOHN STOLT”Z” STOLTENBORG

The path to joining the Mandalorian Mercs Costume Club (MMCC) can feel daunting, especially if you're just beginning. Perhaps you've hit some snags, like a pre-application critique or a lengthy fix list from the application team. It's easy to get frustrated or feel overwhelmed by the Costume Requirement Lists (CRLs), wondering if the dream of being a Merc is even possible. I get it; I've been there. But before you walk away, hear me out: don't give up.

It took me three years to join the ranks of the Mando Mercs. I know firsthand what it feels like to look at the CRLs and wonder if you'll ever measure up. Always remember, these requirements are more than just guidelines; they set

our organization apart, establishing us as the gold standard for Mandalorian costumes. Each list exists to ensure that every kit is unique while maintaining the MMCC's hallmark of high quality. It's why our community stands out in the costuming world. The Mercs' emphasis on quality isn't a barrier; it's a challenge to continuously grow and evolve.

If there's one piece of advice I could share with all aspiring Mercs, it would be this: embrace the feedback, especially from your Ruus'alor and the application team. Think of them not as critics but as allies. They want to see you succeed, more than anyone else in the club. Every comment, critique, and suggestion they provide is a guide for making your kit the best it can be. No MMCC member's journey is entirely smooth, and ALL our members are still learning, still improving, and still pushing themselves to grow.

When I started, I didn't know what “sintra” or “greeblies” were, let alone how to use them. I had no prop-making skills, no crafting tools, and no experience. I was fortunate enough to have a clan that stood by me, offering support, knowledge, and encouragement. They didn't just teach me how to create a kit; they showed me what it meant to be a part of the Mando Merc family. The MMCC is more than a costume club. It's a community that thrives on shared passion, collaboration, and a spirit of learning together. We lean on each other, not just in building kits, but in sharing experiences, knowledge, and mutual encouragement.



It's easy to feel disheartened by a lengthy fix list, especially when you've poured your time and energy into creating your kit. But imagine this: stepping out in your completed armor and seeing the reaction of people, especially kids, who are captivated by the realism and artistry of your character. Seeing that joy on their faces? That's the reward worth every fix, every late night in the garage, and every moment of frustration. The effort you put into your kit translates directly into the magic that others experience when they see you in it.

If you're struggling, know that you're not alone. We've all been there at one point or another. Reach out to your clan; they are your greatest resource. Your Ruus'alor and the MMCC community are there to help guide you, offering the benefit of years of experience. Take each critique not as an end but as a step on the path forward, as fuel for your journey toward approval. Our community has thrived on this shared

journey of improvement and dedication to our craft. Every single Merc you see with that coveted approval letter got there by taking these steps, one fix, one improvement at a time.



Remember: This is the Way. Your song has yet to be written, and your journey is just beginning. The MMCC is here to help you every step of the way, from the moment you pick up your first piece of sintra to the day you receive your approval letter. Keep pushing forward; you're closer than you think.

TOP FIVE STAR WARS: REBELS

BY: BUD "SPEC'TROZ MA'AR" MC DOWELL

When I volunteered to write a piece on my favorite Rebels episodes, I initially figured that I would include a lot of the great Sabine content. Watching Rebels and seeing Sabine and the other Mandalorians in this series was truly the impetus of my decision to build my own kit and become Spec'troz Ma'ar. However, while trying to cut it down my list of favorites to just five episodes, there were other stories that just made more sense to write about. So as to not miss out on showing Sabine enough love, make sure to check out the season 3 episodes "The Antilles Extraction", "Trials of the Darksaber" and "Legacy of Mandalore", along with the season 4 episodes "Heroes of Mandalore: Parts 1 & 2". And let's not forget, we get the plenty of Mandalorian action with the returns of Bo-Katan and Gar Saxon and the introduction of Fenn Rau and the Protectors of Concord Dawn. Additionally, as a series, Rebels made me appreciate Ahsoka as a character far more than The Clone Wars ever did. If you haven't watched Rebels, I highly encourage you to do so. Across its four seasons, it balances action, light-hearted humor, romance, and tragedy, and it features a ton of fun cameos, as it leads viewers toward the events of Rogue One and A New Hope.

BROTHERS OF THE BROKEN HORN (season 2, episode 6): Let's kick this list off with an unusual choice. This season 2 episode brings us the series debut of my personal favorite space pirate, Hondo Ohnaka. Ezra and Chopper get stuck doing chores while the rest of the Ghost crew goes off on a mission. When a distress signal comes through the comms from Vizago, a smuggler introduced in earlier episodes, Ezra decides to take the Phantom to go and investigate. When he arrives on Vizago's ship with Chopper, Vizago is nowhere to be found. Hondo explains that he won the ship from Vizago in a game of sabacc. Hondo enlists Ezra, who is posing as "the semi-famous Lando Calrissian", and Chopper on a scheme. Ezra and Hondo evade an Imperial checkpoint and steal some power generators. All the while, Vizago is locked up in the brig of his own ship, where Ezra finally finds him. Ezra double crosses Hondo. Vizago double crosses Ezra. Hondo double crosses everyone! This episode is FULL of terrific one-liners from Hondo, which is why it's one of my favorites.

KINDRED (season 4, episode 7): For an animated show that originally aired on Disney Kids, Rebels had a ton of romantic tension between Kanan and Hera throughout the series. In this season 4 episode, we finally get our payoff. When we got that on-screen kiss, I remember jumping up off my couch, fist pumping in the air and yelling "YES! YES!!" It was worth the wait. Leading up to that moment, there were a few other scenes this season where it almost happened yet didn't. For fans who had been hoping the two were a serious couple since season 1, the juice was worth the squeeze. This episode also brings us the first connection between the white Loth-wolf and Kanan, which will come to play a part again later in the season, in the episode "Dume".

JEDI NIGHT (season 4, episode 10): After riding that Kindred kiss high for three weeks, we're brought back down to Earth with this gut shot of an episode. Hera has been captured by Thrawn and the Empire. Kanan tasks Ezra with devising and leading the planning to get her back because Kanan can't think clearly. Once the plan is developed, Kanan emerges from his meditation ready to go. He cut his hair and

has tossed aside the visor protecting his blind eyes. We also get a mention of Director Krennic and Operation Stardust in this episode, which is a nice tie-in to *Rogue One*. Hera is drugged and relentlessly tortured, and she's a bit loopy by the time Kanan rescues her. She wraps her arms around him, touching his hair and says "I... I hate your hair." In my headcannon, Hera is about to tell him that she's pregnant, but his new hair cut and the Empire's drugs throw her off. Hera finally professes her love to him, moments before the Empire destroys the fuel pod they're standing atop. Kanan, with one hand force blocking the explosion, sacrifices himself to save her, force pushing her into the waiting patrol ship that Ezra and Sabine had stolen and then force pushing the patrol ship away from the explosion. His blind eyes turn from pale back to blue. Hera screams, inaudibly. Sabine cries. I cried. I still get choked up now, even though I've watched this episode countless times. It's a powerful moment, especially for an animated show. This episode is capped off with silent credits, instead of the usual Rebels theme by Kevin Kiner.

TWILIGHT OF THE APPRENTICE, PARTS 1 + 2 (Season 2, episodes 21 & 22): Ok, I'm cheating here and giving you a two-for-one. This two episode season 2 finale gives us the return of Maul, Vader flying atop his TIE using the Force to pilot it, and a ton of incredible lightsaber action. Ezra, Kanan, Ahsoka, and Maul team up to battle the Inquisitors and Vader on Malachor, in an ancient Sith temple. Maul double crosses them, Kanan ends up being blinded, and Ahsoka has a phenomenally emotional stand-off against Vader, damaging his mask before the Sith temple closes on the both of them. This is when Ahsoka finally and truly knows that Vader is her former master, Anakin Skywalker. An absolutely stellar storyline from start to finish.

TWIN SUNS (season 3, episode 20): Maybe this one is a cop out. Isn't it everyone's favorite Rebels episode? If it isn't, it probably should be. Maul attempts to track down Obi-wan on Tatooine. Ezra has a vision and steals the Phantom to try to find Obi-wan first to warn him. From the opening scene of a deranged Maul wandering the desert and screaming "KENOBI!!" to their final duel, this episode is a masterpiece, weaving our beloved Phoenix Squad into a story with all the familiarity of the original and prequel trilogies. We even get an appearance by some Tuscans! It was sheer brilliance in storytelling and animation when we see Obi-wan switching stances from his Soresu form that he showcased during the Clone Wars, then settling into the stance he used in *A New Hope* against Vader, to finally baiting Maul with Qui-Gon's Ataru stance, as the two legends prepare for one final showdown. Sadly, Maul never stands a chance. The whole thing is over faster than all the pre-duel posturing, but it ends with Maul dying in Obi-wan's arms and him understanding that Obi-wan is protecting whom he now believes is the "Chosen One," in young Luke. Closure for both men. Closure for fans. Extremely satisfying.

Do you agree with these episodes making the list? Have a different list? Have a different opinion? We want to hear about it! Send your list to pr@mandalorianmercs.com or PM our editor on the forums at [mporter](https://www.mportertv.com).

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

FAMILY TIES

This month we are featuring a letter sent to us from Bri'ek Oled, an OM from Gurreck Clan.

My name is Brian, Bri'ek "Arsenal" Oled on the forums. I found the Mercs by accident while looking for a way to cope with my father's passing. Shortly after my dad passed away in October 2020 I got a letter from the Wounded Warriors Foundation. It was thanking my father for his "donations" that helped over 40 soldiers. I was blown away, he was not a vet- as he was in a motorcycle accident that left him in a coma when his Vietnam draft papers came. Fast forward to 1977, my dad left my 5mo pregnant mom to go see Star Wars, she was a Trekkie. He took me to see Empire (and ROTJ) and it is still my most favorite movie of all time.

We had no idea he had filled out the papers to ensure he could help who he could when he was gone. This hit me and helped get me moving on my path, wanting to do more. First thing I saw on Facebook was a group "22 a day" (raising money through push up videos to raise awareness about Veteran suicide) and I was getting fit, raising money and feeling good. Then I broke my back snowboarding. The active lifestyle I enjoyed was changed, and there was a time of darkness. Made it through 2021 and the pandemic coping with my grief by making my family of four Mandalorian helmets pepecura style for a Christmas card. There was a small con around Halloween in 2021 (KingCon) and I decided to take one of my buckets and go, saw something about the MMCC and what they do and I wanted to talk to them about my craft. So I went to the forum to find out more before going and set up an auxiliary account.

When I walked into the room there there were 3 awesome looking Mandos and a forward operating base. They all saw me and my bucket, I said I'm a new foundling and they all, including the two at the table, shouted OYA!

They were all so inviting and wanted to see my bucket and ask about its construction. Hook line and sinker, I made a few pepecura and fiberglass kits, sold them and bought a 3D printer. 2 years build and sew, few fails, 2 flight suits and I made OM. My kit was my process for grieving, I learned to build things from my dad. I researched as much as I could about Mandalorians, from Karen Traviss books to online forums. My colors follow their meanings, and my vest is made from my dad's 1940's Boy Scout backpack. It has accents from



an old work uniform on my back and shoulders, because I always strived to help carry my coworkers along with me-and I've always got their back.

A few weeks after my acceptance into the club it was my dad's birthday, my sister found a pic I had never seen before and made a facebook post acknowledging what I had accomplished with a photo that still gets me in the feels.

Seeing it made me realize just how much he would have loved all the work I put into this club and I bet I could have gotten him to make a kit. My next kit will be a canon Deathwatch, Dav'ek Oled to go with my backstory - in his honor. Love this group/family, and everything we do. Oya.

Those we've lost aren't gone, they are only marching ahead

Oya Bri'ek! for telling us your story.

If you would like to tell us about yourself, have a story to tell, or would just like to share your picture with the rest of the MMCC, we want to hear from you! Please send your stuff to pr@mandalorianmercs.com or by PM directly to our editor at mporter on the forums.

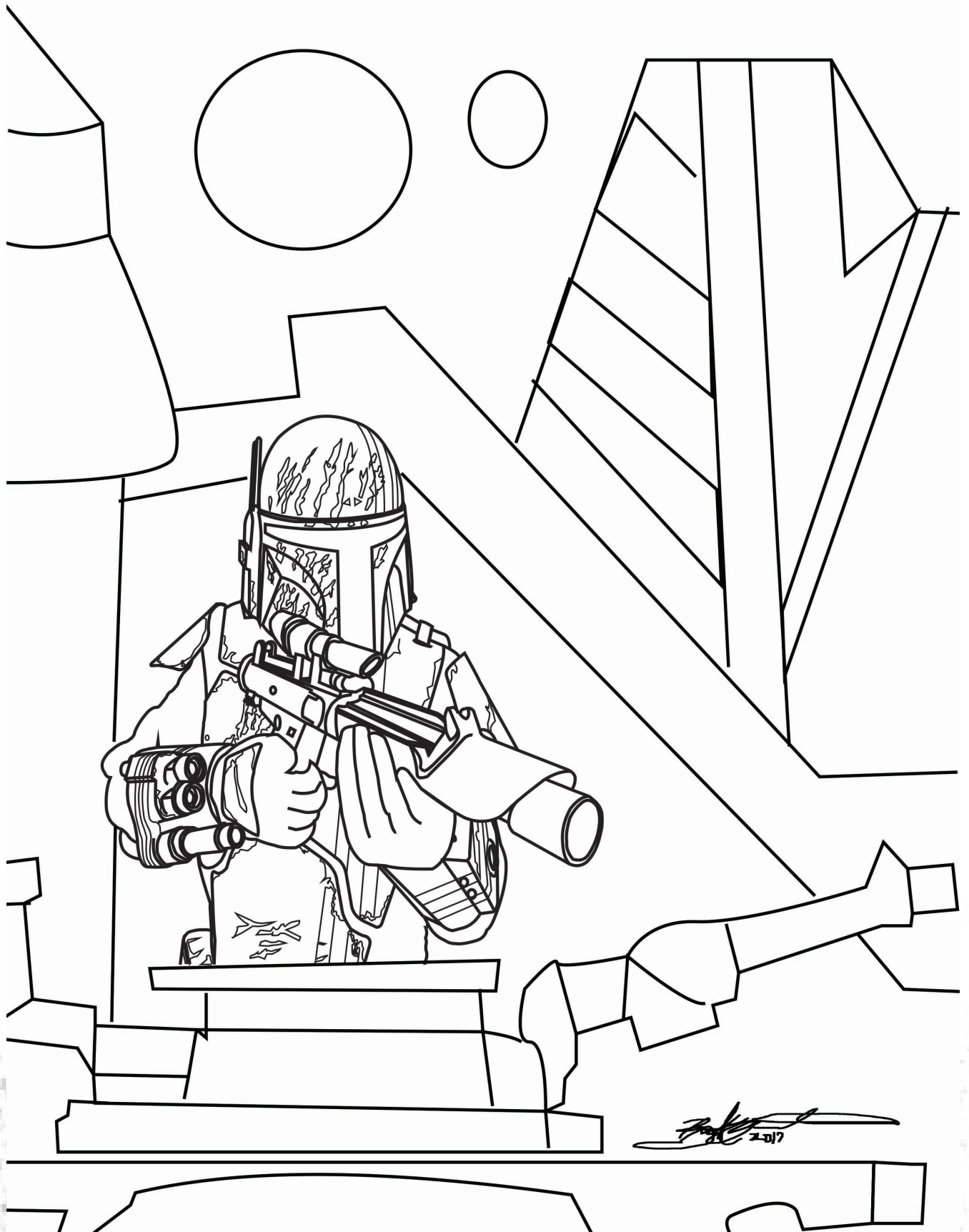
Is this....family tradition??



Dave Meek 1950s

Brian Meek 2023

VERD'IKA PAGES



Holiday Special 1978

TOBIWANGPQTUXSCQWYFI
AFIZAIFTJRVTWWBRLZQV
BOBAFETTHQIVBVVCUEMW
OADIBMRLRRDNLZPKMSKI
MYVPBDCDKXEACRJDPSTT
PLHIVKCCJAFEREVWYWRC
TWQBKLI FEDAYPTSJAFZH
PPZFCHEWBACCAOHSHBXY
WKASHYYKJLHMMNVLYCE
OPERKMLPDEIWEAEHAEKP
WWMMDNXLHOMCQLMAQDII
PVNESXDHGEZXNLVNTBEA
NYPWZVERUBYTAABSCLSR
LUKESKYWALKERKAOIIAK
PUIJHXAWXOOHPTKLD AUR
QXOCEGOPRKCUIIVOFYNE
EGCKTACKMENIAQSKVRDL
ONTHEGREATZORBAKWNAM
QJEFFERSONSTARSHIPNA
ONWHFCSFCBRLSHNZNGNN

Jefferson Starship	The Great Zorbak	Luke Skywalker	Wow
Princess Leia	Darth Vader	Chewbacca	Itchy
Ackmenia	Boba Fett	Kashyyyk	
Saun Dann	Life Day	Obiwan	
ThreePO	Malla	Han Solo	
Krelman	Lumpy		

THE BESKAR CHEF

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

MANDO "YAI'YAI" BARS

INGREDIENTS

2-1/2 cups natural peanut butter
2 cups honey
2-1/4 cups protein powder
3 cups uncooked oatmeal
1/2 cup chopped walnuts
1/2 cup raisins
1/4 cup wheat bran

METHOD

In a double boiler, warm the peanut butter and honey to a smooth consistency. (This step can be done in the microwave as well--just heat both ingredients for 70 to 90 seconds.)

In a mixing bowl, stir together all remaining dry ingredients.

Pour in the peanut-butter mixture and stir until completely combined.

Spread uniformly into a brownie pan.

Slice into 12 to 16 pieces, then wrap each piece in plastic wrap for easy hip-pouch carrying.

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!

WORD SEARCH ANSWERS

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

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

