

MANDALORIAN MERCS

# BATTLECRY



ISSUE 17

**WHY WE TROOP**  
An introspective of our hobby.

**ROGUE ONE**  
Members of the Mercs attend the Premiere.

**SOFT WEATHERING**  
A guide to matching your clothing to your armor.

**UPGRADING**  
Ideas for going that extra step.

The  
**MANDALORIAN**  
Show

**Andi Gutierrez finds out  
what happens when you  
diss the Fett**



**1956 - 2016**

# WELCOME!

2016 had to go and do it to all the Star Wars fans.

We had just gotten the magazine finished when the news of the untimely death of Carrie Fisher came filtering through the Internet.

For me Carrie represented a strength of character that people could look up to, a sense of humor that diffused her importance to the universe of Star Wars and a true love for her fans and those who would support her.

Conventions will not be the same, Star Wars will not be the same and many of us feel we have lost a friend.

While 2016 has been a disappointment, behind the scenes have seen a lot of successes, too many to name in fact, but in the end we need to move forward.

I look forward to making 2017 a success!

OYA!

**Tom Hutchens**  
**Mandalore the Uniter**



## Contents

### **2 - Welcome**

Mandalore the Uniter introduces the magazine.

### **3 - Why we Troop**

An introspective of our goals.

### **5 - The Mandalorian Show**

Making an example out of those who diss the Fett!

### **7 - Soft Weathering**

A guide for weathering your soft parts.

### **11 - Upgrades**

Advice on where to go next.

### **13 - Rogue One**

MMCC Members attend the premiere.

### **15 - Editorial**

Our Editor sums up the quarter.

**Battle Cry has a UK English Editor but all US English contributions have not been changed. The Mercs are an International club where all cultures and languages are respected.**

The Mandalorian Mercs is a worldwide Star Wars costuming organization comprised of and operated by Star Wars fans and volunteers. It is the elite Mandalorian costuming organization. Star Wars, its characters, costumes, and all associated items are the intellectual property of Lucasfilm. ©2017 Lucasfilm Ltd. & ™ All rights reserved. Used under authorization.

# WHY WE TROOP

As members of the Mandalorian Mercs it is important to realize that we as a club have our own diverse communities at the clan level and that even at that micro level there can be a wide range of reasons that motivate the membership.



We all share a love of “Star Wars,” and we all love to create costumes and characters through our performance art, and what we do is definitely performance art, but beyond that there can be a lot of differing reasons for what brings us to the table. We have chosen to come together and join as a part of the Mandalorian Mercs for a wide variety of reasons and they are all of equal importance. Some of the membership around you may love the process of building the items that go on their costumes. Some of your clan members may love the interaction with children. There are also members who love the charity aspects of the club and how that makes them feel that they get to do something that they love for a good cause. Some people get great enjoyment out of the process of getting ready, organizing, running events at and going to large conventions. And there will always be some of your members that just love “Star Wars.”

Leading a group of people with such diverse reasons for joining a club can be a demanding task. Many things that the leaders of this club do is to try and provide an even playground for all of these diverse groups to partake in. There is always an effort at least behind the scenes to make sure that there is a balance of these differing events on the schedule each year so that everyone can get some of what they want to do. This balancing act is where you, as the average member, can help out the most. If for example you are the type of person who loves doing events for sick children in your area, you can start to build relationships with the local children’s hospitals, children’s charities, and members of your local community who would know of individuals who have sick children who would be excited to see the Mercs attend their birthday party. If you are a member who loves building and upgrading your kit, start helping organize and help out at the armor parties. If you love conventions, help with the organization that takes place before a con. If you just love anything and everything “Star Wars,” start building relationships with the other clubs in the area, and start organizing group gatherings where people hang out and talk about “Star Wars.”

Something else that you can do to help your local community is knowing and understanding what motivates those around you to do the things that you all share a love of doing. Understanding the point of view that brings them to the table so to speak makes it easier for everyone to be able to relate and communicate with each other, and through this improved communication it becomes a nicer environment for newer members to join your community and to become more involved. And at the end of the day the goal of this club is to have fun through a joined and shared experiences.



- Zerxus

**MERCS CON**

**2018**

# The MANDALORIAN Show

After Lucasfilm's Andi Gutierrez "dissed Boba Fett," the Mandalorian Mercs did the only sensible thing: they built her a suit of armor.

In the fifth episode of Starwars.com's web series "The Star Wars Show," Pixar's Angus MacLane asked host Andi Gutierrez who her favorite bounty hunter was while discussing "The Empire Strikes Back."



"Not Boba Fett," she replied calmly, adding that she thought he was overrated.

"I was just being honest. I've never been a Boba Fett fan and I know that that is controversial and honestly I was so ready to be pilloried by the fans," Gutierrez said. "I think Jango is far cooler than Boba and more effective." Along with many other Star Wars fans, Mandalorian Mercs Costume Club founder Mandalore the Uniter was watching.

"Being a fan of the show, I just couldn't let that go without a fight," he said. "I got in contact with Andi and show producer John Harper to see if we could create a Mandalorian kit for Andi to help her understand what makes Boba such an awesome character for what little time he has on-screen."

Because the show, and Lucasfilm, are based in the San Francisco Bay Area, Mandalore reached out to the 30 official members of the MMCC's newest clan, the Wolves of Mandalore, formed in June of 2016, to complete the project.

"Members of the Wolves of Mandalore clan have produced some great kits, so I knew they had all the skills and knowledge needed to tackle this from the start," Mandalore said. "The finished product far exceeds my expectations, they really knocked it out of the park."



To complete the project, Wolves Alor'ad, Regional Ruus'sol, and Approval Team member Syper hosted a series of official-only armor parties at his Fremont, California home. Mandalore himself donated a pair of April Storm's Rav Bralor gauntlets and 3D-printed blasters, and clan members donated many of the remaining items, including the Rubies Jango Fett helmet that ended up being modified for the project, several sheets of 6mm PVC foam board, and all the soft parts. Northern California Regional Commander Hagen Nor'ak built custom leather holsters for the blasters.

To give Gutierrez options for her suit, several flight suit styles were provided, vest options were created, and three sets of armor, for different heights, were traced, cut and sanded, before final pieces were selected and shaped. On Oct. 15, Gutierrez and her crew arrived to select armor and work on fittings.

Finally, after the armor was completed, Gutierrez invited the clan to Lucasfilm's San Francisco headquarters for the formal unveiling of the armor and filming of the reveal episode of "The Star Wars Show." The official unveiling was shown on Episode 26, released on Nov. 2.

"I feel so spoiled. (The clan) did all the work. They did everything. To do that for someone you don't really know, just because they dissed Boba Fett, that's so kind, and so generous. I'm so honored to be involved in it. I want to get approved, I want to join, I want to go to events, and I want to troop with them. So hopefully that will be in the cards down the road."

It's that inspiration and pride that Mandalore was hoping to encourage when he got the ball rolling on this project. "For me, the overall meaning of this project was to show that something as small as six-and-a-half minutes of screen time can literally change the world," Mandalore said. "It's my job in MMCC, and I feel part of the mission of MMCC, to help inspire others to find their 'heroic moment.'"

Hooked by the entire build process, Gutierrez said she's planning to go evil with her next costume, hoping to fill the boots of an Imperial Officer, but she said the Mandalorians will always stand out for her.

"(There's) something special about the Mercs, and I think it has a lot to do with the fact that it is so customized, and people's personalities are front and center, and I really enjoy that. So get ready, because I'm going to be out there with you guys, you're not going to get rid of me."

- Coryn



# SOFT WEATHERING

One of the most common issues run into by the Application Team is inconsistent weathering between the soft parts and the armor plates. The goal of this piece is to provide some tips and tricks for people who might not know how to weather soft goods and new ideas for seasoned costume builders. These techniques mostly work through good, old-fashioned elbow grease.

## Dyeing

Dyeing works best with natural fabrics, but it can work on any sort of cloth item. When most people think of dyeing something, they think of using fabric dye, which is what is commonly used to color girth belts. But you may actually have what you need in your kitchen cabinets right now.

Dyeing with coffee or tea is very straight forward. Start with a vessel large enough to hold the item you want to dye; acquire a large quantity of cheap tea or coffee, or just raid your cabinets (don't use the good stuff!); then make enough to fill said vessel. Feel free to use both at the same time!

With tea, it's best to boil enough water to fill the vessel and then just drop the tea bags straight in, so using a large, stove-safe pot can be the easiest option. Black teas will obviously have a greater effect on your fabrics than green, white, or herbal. DO NOT leave the pot on the stove; put it somewhere out of the way to soak.

You can make coffee in your coffee pot, but that is going to take a very long time. So to save time, take coffee filters and turn them into little coffee bags—just like tea bags. Make sure you close them tight with chip clips, gator clips, or clothes pins; any sort of mechanical sealing device you have on hand will do.

Then it's just a matter of waiting. The longer you let the item soak the darker it will become. Items dyed this way will never get very dark, but it is a great way to add age to a cloth item. Between 3 to 8 hours tends to work best.

After dyeing your item, let it fully air dry before washing it or weathering it more.

## Mechanical Weathering

This is one of the most enjoyable and tricky types of weathering, and also one of the most important. Mechanical weathering replicates the physical wear to cloth items your Mando would acquire from actually wearing the kit all the time, the small rips, tears, holes, thread-bare spots, and ragged edges of daily use.

To start, it is a good idea to rough up the whole item, and an easy way to do this is to take it into your driveway or any safe, traffic-free area of gravel, concrete, or asphalt. Lay the item out and grind it into the surface with your hands and feet. This will stress the bond between the threads and make more extreme weathering easier.

Targeted mechanical weathering is useful for the hems, thighs, collars, shins, or any area that gets a lot of contact. A cheese grater or heavy grit sandpaper works great; just pick a spot, bunch up the fabric, and rub vigorously. Careful, though; it's very easy to totally destroy your soft good with this technique, so practice on a scrap of fabric before using it on your actual kit.



**COFFEE STAINING**



## Rips, Tears, and Holes

This technique is best used on hanging items like capes and kamas. Use scissors or a utility knife to make small holes, and then use your hands to rip them into the desired shapes. Use mechanical weathering to fray the edges a bit so your rips and tears don't look too perfect.

## Staining & Fading

There are a number of ways to go about this type of weathering depending on the desired look. For grass stains, take the item and grind it into freshly cut grass. For sweat stains, liquid fats, cooking oils, and cooking spray are ideal; spray your item or carefully drip the cooking oil on the item. When using cooking oil, pour some into a small cup and then use a paintbrush to flick the oil at the item. You will end up with little spots of different sizes.

You can also use brake dust off your hubcaps. Use the soft good like a rag to clean off the dust. You can grind the item into wet mud, clay or soil. Spray paint can also be used to weather. Use browns, grays, or tans, hang the item, and lightly mist it with the spray paint. If you want to use acrylic paints, take tiny amounts of colors as above and rub them into the fabric. This works best with thicker acrylic paints.

If you have easy access to whole walnut seeds directly from the tree, you can wrap one in your soft good and proceed to grind it to a pulp on a hard surface for a lovely green and brown stain that will never come out.

Lastly is fading. The quickest way to go about this is with a bleach-and-water solution. As when working with any chemical, take precautions: wear gloves, work in a well-ventilated area where spills will not ruin anything, and be careful not to breathe in chemical fumes. A ten-parts water to one-part-bleach ratio works well, but play with a mixture to find what works best for the level of fading desired, and once again, practice before working on the final item with this technique. Put your solution into a spray bottle and then, like with spray paint, mist your item. It is best to focus on the top of the item, shoulders, and arms; think about the places most exposed to light.

After you have weathered your item, make sure you give it some time to rest before washing it, at least two to three days. Then give it a wash so it is "clean" when it comes time to wear the item. Even the most backwater Mando stops by a river and washes out their flight suit from time to time. Trooping in a mud covered item isn't ideal. You will lose some amount of staining in the wash, but washing by hand will minimize this, and you can repeat staining or dyeing to deepen the effect. Building up layers of color weathering effects only adds to the authenticity of the weathering.

With all of these techniques, test them out to see which you like best before applying to your kit. As with anything, the more you practice, the more skillful you will get. Happy weathering!

- Naran

## COMPARING ORIGINAL TO STAINED



# MMCC CLANS LOCATOR MAP



- WESTERN USA**
- CD Concordia (Oregon)
  - HG Haran'galaar (San Diego)
  - MG Manda'galaar (Los Angeles)
  - OH Oceanhawk (Washington)
  - TE Teren (Northern California)
  - VD Vornskr (Nevada)
  - WM Wolves of Mandalore (Cent. Calif.)
  - FO Five-O (Hawaii)

- NORTH CENTRAL USA**
- CE Cerar (Colorado/Wyoming)
  - CV Cin'ciri Verda (Wisconsin)
  - KR Krayc (Utah)
  - NV Ne'tra Vhipir (Nebraska)
  - NE Nexu (Illinois)
  - OB Dyu'bat (N.Dak./S.Dak./West Minn.)
  - VM Vhett Manda (Iowa)
  - YU Yustagir (Missouri/Kansas)

- SOUTH CENTRAL USA**
- AR Arqet (Southern Texas)
  - GV Ge'tai Vheh (Oklahoma)
  - MU Murraan (Northern Texas)
  - SV Shonare Vhe'kadia (Arizona)
  - VH Vhe'mag (El Paso, Tex., N. Mex.)

- NORTH EASTERN USA**
- BG Black Mountain Guard (W.Va.)
  - BM Blue Moon (Kentucky)
  - FA Falec (New York)
  - FX Finaxin (New England)
  - FS Firestorm (Virginia)
  - KY Kymmarut (Maryland)
  - MD Maw oya'lo (Pennsylvania)
  - RA Rancor (Ohio)
  - RD Raquor'daan (New Jersey)
  - TA Tenkure (Indiana)
  - TC Tra'cor (Michigan)
  - WA Wampa (mine)

- SOUTH EASTERN USA**
- BU Bee'ulilik (Tenn./Akr.)
  - BV Baurenaar Verda (Florida)
  - HA Haaranover (Alabama)
  - NA Nasat (Georgia)
  - TA Talon (North/South C.)
  - VE Veshok (Miss./La.)

- OCEANIA**
- KA Kamino (New Zealand)
  - SH Sandhawk (Australia)

- CANADA**
- GK Gahk Kyr'ber (Quebec)
  - HC Hett'ciri (Alberta)
  - OC Oyn'la Ca'tra (Saskatchewan)
  - VA Vhettin'Ada (Manitoba)

- LATIN AMERICA**
- BF BigFang (Mexico)
  - DW Death Watch (Ecuador)
  - JA Jur'Akaan (Puerto Rico)
  - VA Vode'An (Sao Paulo/Brazil)

- EUROPE**
- VC Vok'Chi (UK)
  - JG Jai'galaar (Ger./Austr.)
  - OG Orar'galaar (France/Switz.)
  - DV Diryv Vhettin (Netherlands)
  - TS Twin Suns (Belgium)
  - RR Re-Ruul (Portugal)
  - DW Dzun Wraithguard (Spain)
  - RF Red Fist (Russia)

*Come visit and be inspired  
by the Force of Imagination!*

Rancho  
**OBI-WAN**



**Rancho Obi-Wan** is a 9,000-square-foot non-profit museum located in Petaluma, California. Officially recognized by Guinness World Records in 2014, it houses the world's largest collection of *Star Wars* memorabilia.



You can arrange a tour with master collector and author Steve Sansweet, plan a birthday party, or organize a corporate event at **Rancho Obi-Wan** by emailing [info@ranchoobiwan.org](mailto:info@ranchoobiwan.org)

**Rancho Obi-Wan** depends on generous public support and your contribution may be tax deductible. Become a member, tour the museum or simply donate. For more information, visit us at [www.ranchoobiwan.org](http://www.ranchoobiwan.org)

"Obi-Wan" is ™ Lucasfilm Ltd. and used under authorization. Star Wars © LFL.

# SIMPLY UPGRADES

When you ask a member of the Mandalorian Mercs Costume Club how long it took them to finish their armor, a common answer is the amount of time it took for their kit to be approved. Another common answer is “It isn’t finished.”

This response, while common, surprises many people. They find it hard to believe how much tweaking and modifying members do to their costumes, even after approval. These upgrades can take many forms. Some members add new weapons and props, while others will change their kit colors, adding new ones or taking some away to give a new look. Others still add trophies, trinkets taken from the enemies their character has hunted.

There are many reasons that members of the Mercs feel the urge to change their kits. Mercs members largely are custom characters. This means that many members have a vision or ideal of what our costume should look like. For some however, this vision is unattainable before submitting to the Approval team. Many recruits build their first kit on a budget. Some others start out with limited skills, and don’t know how to make more than a basic costume. For many members like these, their costumes get upgrades as money or skill makes it possible.

For some members, it has to do with a change in the overall vision of what their kit should look like. Maybe inspiration struck in the form of a new movie, or perhaps the member is now seeking to join one of our brigades. These upgrades often take the form of new weapons and props, such as the grenades needed for Urban Assault, or the macrobinoculars of the Snipers. Others will add armor plates, or remove some, seeking the right armor coverage for their chosen profession. These upgrades are needed to meet the higher level requirements within the BRLs.

For others, a major change in their lives causes a desire to add to their kit or change it. Adding a trophy in remembrance of a loved one, or adding a color to a paint scheme in support of a friend are some examples that can be seen.

In short, to many members of the Mandalorian Mercs, a costume is a great work of art. These works of art are expressions of themselves and are, like the people who wear them, always works in progress. There is always something to be changed, modified or upgraded. There is always more to be done.

- Orryin



# KELDABE TALK RADIO

OFFICIAL PODCAST OF THE MANDALORIAN MERCS

Launched on December 1st 2007, Keldabe Talk Radio discusses all things Mandalorian and Mandalorian Mercs related. With a dedicated team made up of Mercs members, the show airs once a month and is ready to tackle the hot topics regarding Star Wars.

## FIND US ON THE MERCS



**REBELSCUM.COM**  
STAR WARS COLLECTING NEWS

# ROGUE ONE

As Shoretroopers, Deathtroopers and Rebel pilots descended on Hollywood for the Dec. 10 world premiere of "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story," they were joined by the t-visors, cheers, and proud clan logos of five of the Mandalorian Mercs Costume Club clans.

Invited by Disney and Lucasfilm, representatives from the California and Nevada clans met up at the Pantages Theater in Hollywood, to walk the red carpet, meet the creative minds behind the first "Star Wars" spinoff movie, and see the movie for the first time, five days before its release. After the screening, members were invited to the after party, where they mingled with celebrities and even had a chance to show off their buckets.



When I attend Lucasfilm events with the MMCC and my vode, the excitement is incredible. The fact that I am surrounded by my Mandalorian brothers and sisters, people who love "Star Wars" as much as I do, always makes me feel like I am that 12-year-old kid seeing "A New Hope" in the theater for the very first time," said Manda'galaar member and Clan Administration Officer Kaden'Dha Runi.

Manda'galaar Alor'ad Erio Juni, who coordinated the event for the Mercs, worked for hours with Lucasfilm and Disney representatives to update attendance lists and event details to ensure a smooth event for the members in attendance. He said he was proud of his fellow members, who acted professionally throughout the night.

"Being able to share it with not only my clan mates in Manda'galaar, who are a second family, but with all of the California clans, Haran'galaar, Teren, the Wolves of Mandalore and (Nevada's) Vornskr members makes it a truly emotional experience that will never fade." Juni said. "...Our members behaving admirably at the event was never a concern. We have some fantastic members that will never cease to make myself and the MMCC proud."

The members in attendance ended up broadcast around the world, because their section put them directly behind the hosts of the event, Anthony Carboni and “The Star Wars Show” host, and MMCC recruit, Andi Gutierrez, a fact commented on by “Star Wars: The Clone Wars” and “Star Wars: Rebels” producer Dave Filoni.

“You let the Mandalorians get right behind you, that’s strategically a very bad idea,” he joked to Gutierrez, who commented that they were “her very own security detail.”

Their placement on the red carpet allowed MMCC members to meet some of their favorite actors from the film, as well as as the creators behind the camera. Director Gareth Edwards and actor Mads Mikkelsen, who plays Galen Erso in the film, admired the helmets he saw, and C-3PO himself Anthony Daniels took time to joke around with the Mandalorians between takes.

At the after party, Jeronimo Luna, son of Diego Luna, who plays Cassian Andor, tried on a few of the Mandalorian buckets on display, and left with a few clan patches in hand. Mandalorians also helped lead the crowd in singing “Living on a Prayer,” and rubbed elbows with a few non-“Star Wars” icons, including “Firefly” and “Serenity” star Nathan Fillion and director Kevin Smith.

“It really gets me to see so many people, from so many different walks of life, come together to share in a common experience as equals. It amazes me that members of the MMCC, 501st, Rebel Legion, Saber Guild, Lucasfilm, Disney, and all the celebrities and actors can all come together and talk with each other, laugh with each other, take photos with each other, and generally all share this crazy Star Wars ride, without any fear of being criticized, or of not belonging,” Runi said. “That night, it didn’t matter who you were, or where you came from, you were part of one huge “Star Wars” family.”

- Coryn



# FROM THE EDITOR



Well isn't that a kick in the belly?

Losing Carrie Fisher seems so wrong, a woman full of life, vigour and humour should not have been taken away from us so soon. But 2016 has been the year of celebrity deaths and the surprising loss of people beloved by millions. Carrie was no different.

From her portrayal of Princess Leia to her screenplay writing, including her frank introspective "Postcards from the Edge". Carrie was full of talent.

I remember respecting her as an actress when she performed as Phoebe Cates' friend in "Drop Dead Fred" and her deadpan humour celebrating the life of George Lucas.

Of course there are other concerns, mainly being her role in the new Star Wars films and I suspect there is a mass panic on how she will be written out of the upcoming films.

Our losses aside, however, the Mercs have had a pretty successful year, from our awesome display and popularity at Celebration London to our consistent involvement in LFL and Disney events and culminating with being featured on the Star Wars show, giving Andi her armour.

We will be starting our ten year celebrations this year, working towards Celebration Orlando and, of course MercsCon.

The best news yet is that we're homing in on a venue to have MercsCon and also sorting out the overnight stay bookings at the event. For a lot of us, the chance to be able to speak face to face with people whom we know mostly by forum and to build the bridges between us and go away stronger as a club.

I think that is the message for 2017, working together to build a stronger club.

With that said, I'd like to thank all the members of the PR Team who have put in a lot of hard work over the year and are ready for the challenges of 2017. I am sure that I speak for all of the Council members when I also thank all the members who have volunteered their time to help the club over this year.

The Mercs has grown on your hard work.

Remember, there is always opportunity for you to help the Mercs from simply donating towards our costs to giving us your professional abilities and help us grow our club. Whatever your input, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your time and effort.

May we all bear the fruits of our labour of love.

Oya!



# THE END CREDITS

## EDITORIAL

Richard "Saz" Whittaker

Misha "MishaKitty" Nell

## CONTRIBUTORS

Tyler "Zerxus Dral" Reynolds

Jason "Coryn Jusik" Hall

Steve "Orryin Varek" Ventimiglia

Evan "Naran Baatar" Woolbright

## WITH THANKS TO

Grey "Wakrust" Courlis

## PROOF READERS

Jason Goldman-Hall

Steve Ventimiglia

## PHOTOGRAPHS BY

Matt Zeher

Donated to the Mercs by members.



Mandalorian Mercs Battle Cry is the Magazine of the Mandalorian Mercs Costume Club, no copyright infringement intended and all known credits given.

Contact Richard Whittaker via [pr@mandalorianmercs.com](mailto:pr@mandalorianmercs.com) regarding this magazine.

The Mandalorian Mercs is a worldwide Star Wars costuming organization comprised of and operated by Star Wars fans and volunteers. It is the elite Mandalorian costuming organization. Star Wars, its characters, costumes, and all associated items are the intellectual property of Lucasfilm. ©2017 Lucasfilm Ltd. & ™ All rights reserved. Used under authorization.