

NEWS FROM THE FRONT



405TH INFANTRY DIVISION

WWW.405TH.COM

ISSUE 3 - AUGUST 2018



Pre-DragonCon Spectacular

A Brief Word

BY ROBERT LETTS

Hello to all of our Fellow Spartans and Helljumpers!

Welcome to this, our Pre-Dragon Con Spectacular! We know this is a busy time for many of you con-crunchers out there but thank you for taking what I am sure is a much needed break from sewing, gluing, sculpting, 3d printing, painting, pulling your hair out, cutting, sanding and all of the other accoutrements related to costume building, to read this, our latest Installment.

In this issue you can expect to learn a little about what you can expect on 405th Saturday at DragonCon as well as a few articles to lighten the load and maybe give you a few tips for surviving the Labor Day weekend in busy Atlanta.

Since our last issue of News From the Front (NFTF) we have been looking ahead at how we can better engage you as members and how we as Staff, can grow. Your Regiment Staff meets monthly to discuss many things related to the 405th as a whole, upcoming events and opportunities, and any issues brought to us by members.

We are still receiving great feedback on the Newsletter from many of you both on social media and the forum. If you have an idea for an article as it pertains to us as a Regiment and our drive to build Halo related things drop us a quick note. If you would like to contribute please send your content idea to RCO Robert Letts (Forum User: Asgardianhammer).

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Photo Courtesy Walter Marlin

Community Spotlight

BY ROBERT LETTTS

Listen up soldiers! In an effort to promote our community and help us connect with each other, we bring you the Community Spotlight where we hope to feature a member of the Southern Regiment with each, News from the Front.

Walter Marlin - Calladar

Locust Grove, Georgia

Tell us a little bit about yourself!

Well, for the last 21 years I have served my community as a law enforcement officer here in the state of Georgia. I retired as a Lieutenant as of June 14, 2018. Currently, I am planning to go back to school, as I am still young enough to start another career. I make props because I like to tinker and build things. Sitting still is just not in my nature and I constantly have to be doing something. I am not satisfied just sitting on the couch watching T.V. As to interests, I am a Private Pilot and working my way towards getting my Commercial rating as well as my instructor certification. Like I said I just can't sit still. My wife and children are very supportive and I couldn't be where I am now without them. The nice thing is my wife and children are also into the same things I am so, prop making is a family affair.

What drew you to Halo and the 405th Community?

I had made a couple costumes for my children for Halloween when they were young using card board and poster board. Just something to do that came out fairly well. One night, I was up late (due to working nights) and was watching something on T.V. so I didn't make much noise that would wake the family. A show came on and I don't remember what it was but, a young lady was demonstrating how to make a Halo costume using Pepakura and 110 lb. paper. I was intrigued. As I was watching taking mental notes she mentioned the 405th "if you wanted to know more."



Photos Courtesy of Walter Marlin

Community Spotlight Continued...

Well, hell to the yea I want to know more. So with that I began doing some research. Found the 405th, found the 501st as well. Started doing some digging and found I liked the way things were run and done on the 405th. Just felt more inviting and was a place where people came together to share and learn from one another. Really liked the concept it was based on, community.

What prompted you to create a Halo costume?

Hell, who doesn't want to be armored up and walk around as a total bad ass? I am a huge fan of the Halo franchise.

What are the things about making Halo based cosplays you enjoy?

I enjoy making armor, helmets and weapons. I enjoy building something with my hands and trying to figure out how to make things work. Oh did I mention it is bad ass?

Do you have a cosplay/artist page, Youtube channel, or other social media outlets? If so, what are they?

I am CCO of Stony Props LLC and we have a Stony Props Face Book page as well as a website, (<http://stonypropsstudios.com>) for our artists to be able to feature their work. I have a personal artist page on facebook of Midnight Oil Props (finally after being pressured by others to create one).

What are some of the challenges you face as a prop builder and costumer and hope to one day over come?

Shoot, the same challenges everyone has, time and money. But seriously the challenges are all the same, figuring out how to do something and each day you learn a little more whether by trial and error or someone lending some advice which proves fruitful or hell, sometimes you get lucky. The key is to try to learn something new every day.

As an Old School 405th Member what was the 405th like when it first began?

Good times and fully supportive of anyone in the community. Anyone and everyone is welcomed with open arms. Did not matter if you were building at a master level or just piecing together what you could, all are welcome. I remember early on I was at a convention and we were preparing for the parade and there were several 405th members milling around waiting to move to the starting point. There was this young man who came up to us and was wearing a Master Chief suit that, you could tell, he had made. We all took the time to talk to the young man and he was just excited to see us. Needless to say we found him a parade band and drug him with us to the parade. It wasn't about posts, it wasn't about how good your kit looked, and it wasn't about "vetting." It was about fans of a franchise coming together as one to express their fandom and creating friendships and bonds with like-minded fans.



Community Spotlight Continued...

Tell us how the 405th has helped build relationships with fellow prop builders and how it has affected your business.

Well, the 405th allowed me to network with other like-minded prop makers leading to me becoming a member of Stony Props and later CCO of Stony Props. As for business, I really don't look at this as a business. I enjoy making things. It's a stress relief for me.

As a member of Stony Props what has been your most memorable moment or accomplishment?

I have had several over the years. I think the first was being able to be part of the Utah Halo Project. With that, I was able to be in a Lindsey Stirling music video, a Devin Graham video and be a primary cast member for the Respawn series. But, there was that time at San Diego Comic Con that we, Stony Props, had made several prop suits for the Halo 5 Breakout Arena featuring the Boomco Halo weapons and were flown to work for Microsoft for the convention. While there they had a VIP match featuring several cast members from Workaholics as well some other celebrities. I will not say who, but while dressing them out in their kits one of our guys asked one the actors from workaholics if they were famous. It was just funny to watch his (the actors) face as if he was almost insulted that the unnamed person didn't know who they were.

What were some of the original hurdles the 405th faced and faces today?

I cannot think of any of the original hurdles at the 405th first joined as the community welcomed all members who wanted to learn more.

The 405th has expanded over the years. With that it has new ideas and ways of doing things that like with all great things there are growing pains. These pains will subside as the 405th continues to grow and I look forward to the bigger and better things that people are doing with the 405th.



Convention Panels and How to Prepare Them

by Barry Kiker

Panels are as much a part of any con as costuming is. It's in panels that attendees get to exchange ideas, learn something about their favorite subject, and interact with guests and celebrities. It's through panels that we can help bring awareness of who we are as the 405th and what we do.

However, if you decide to do a panel, what should you do? How do you prepare for it? What should you cover? Well, continue reading and we'll help you out with that.



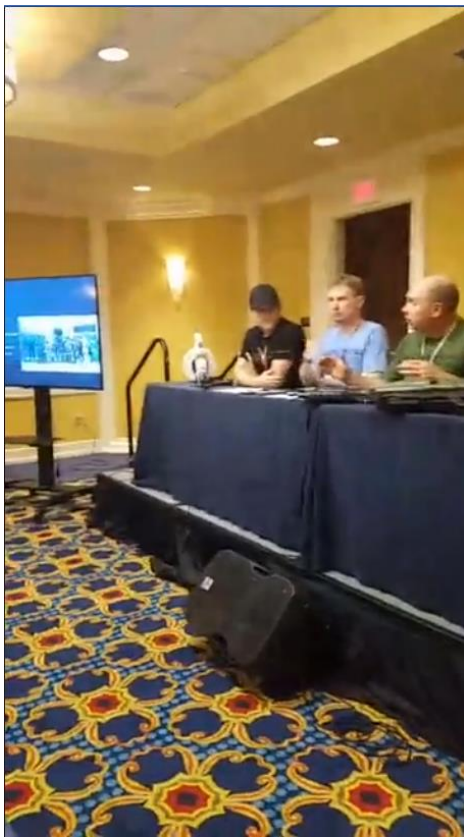
You should start with talking to the con organizers first and establish a professional and open line of communication. You can find out what the con is expecting or would like to see added to their line-up. If there are three other armor panels going on, then present them with alternatives such as a simple recruitment and information panel about the 405th. It'll be through the con organizers that you'll learn how long of a panel you'll have and what, if any, media you can expect.

Once you've gotten all the information from the con, the next thing you'll want to do is to reach out to 405th staff. Not only will you get a wealth of information and support, but they will help guide you in giving a coherent and uniform message. Remember, you will not be only talking about yourself, but representing the 405th as a whole. They may already have panel material made, and all you have to do is go over it and present it. Just like with the con organizers, it will be important to have a clear and professional line of communication going with 405th staff members too. Our goal is that no matter what con an attendee goes to, if they see one of our panels, they will hear the same basic information.

After everyone is on board with doing the panel, it's now time to prepare for it. The best way to prepare for a panel is to remember the public speaking presentations we had to give in high school. In general, it is good to provide a broad coverage on the 405th, how people can join, and basics of armor making. It's good to leave a few minutes at the end of the panel to open the floor for questions. This will give you and attendees an opportunity to talk about more specific topics.

While something like PowerPoint is not a requirement, it does help communicate key pieces of information, and helps keep the panel organized and on track. Just remember that it is frowned on by anyone and everyone to simply sit there and read what's on the slide to the audience. PowerPoint is also a great way to show pictures and even video of topics to keep people's attention. Again, it is not a requirement to have and use PowerPoint, as some cons might not provide projectors or any other audio visual equipment, but it is a great tool to help communicate to the people in the room. It still ultimately comes down to you talking to a room of people.

“It's through panels that we can help bring awareness of who we are as the 405th and what we do.”



Providing handouts and having example pieces of armor and props is another great way to get audience attention. Handouts are good way for people to hold on to the information you covered for later use. You're likely not the first, nor the last panel, some of these people have seen, so handouts will help them think back to your panel. Armor and prop examples will also help with this. They provide a tactile talking point. Think of it as the words you are speaking have been brought to life. Armor and props can also remind you of some piece of information or interesting story you can tell the audience as well as pulling some people out of their shell to ask questions.

For the ultimate example, you or one of your friends could be suited up to present the panel. As we know, nothing draws attention like a person in armor.

Conventions tend to have photographers going around and taking pictures of attendees and events. Having a table full of examples or a person in armor will be to strike an attitude of approval from the organizers.

As you go over the panel, try and keep things light. Remember this is a hobby and something we do in our free time. Tell jokes, share stories, and generally be personable. While I did mention that you should think

back to high school days when preparing for the panel, you're not going to "fail" if you go off topic or get a little stage shy. You are sharing something that you enjoy doing. Letting that enjoyment come out during the panel will only help to engage the audience and maybe even get some of them to want to take the leap and start their own armor.

In the end, that's the biggest thing to remember about giving a panel. While some parts are very important such as the communication with con organizers and 405th staff, a panel is ultimately about you sharing something you enjoy and maybe something you have learned with other people, and if you keep the 405th Mission and Values in mind, you won't go wrong.



Find Fellow 405th Friends

Have you ever wondered if there is someone in your area you just don't know or have never met at a local con? Never fear the 405th Forum has a MAPS tool that allows you to see members all over the globe or you can filter down to just your neck of the woods. If you haven't checked this feature out, please head on over to www.405th.com and give it a spin!

581 – Erudite Watch

A 405th Halo Story



Hopefully by now you have seen the 405th's newest creation...581.

In an attempt to assist new members, a discussion began about what might be the best way to accomplish this.

"581 started as us looking for a way to serve up notices and information to members in a more interesting and personalized way. Our forum software has a lot of opportunity to communicate with members in an automated way, but it can feel very impersonal. We originally intended to simply use a one color silhouette of an ancilla." said Art Andrews in his forum post about the creation of this project. As the original idea began to morph other people began getting involved and before we knew it a whole back story had been flushed out. It was at this time that we started thinking it just didn't seem right to drop a basic story. We needed the visual to accompany it. So we enlisted the help of C.J. Franks, whose artwork can be found in Dimkee Hotays Ledge in each issue of NTF and in our 405th Activity Guide. We had always intended to have our new A.I. 3D modeled and we looked to resident Pacific Member, Renraku Props' David Dawson. 581 was released in June over a 5 week period and hopefully you got to read the entire 581 story. David is hard at work trying to get our new guy all bundled up and ready for lots of uses including builds for Pepakura and 3d printing. There is a whole thread dedicated to this and many excited members chomping at the bit to get their very own Ancilla under way as soon as possible.

If you haven't read our Ancilla's Origin Story please head over to the forum and take a look in the **Community>News and Updates** section to read the full graphic novel!

<https://www.405th.com/forums/threads/581-a-halo-story-from-the-405th.47926/>

Upcoming Events

July

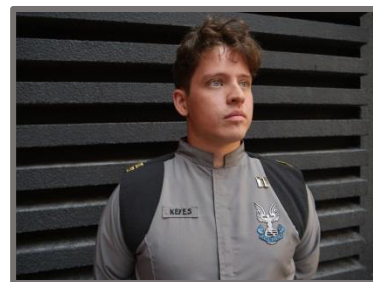
Florida Supercon (12-15)- Fort Lauderdale, FL
 FrankFortCon (14 only)- Frankfort, KY
 Knoxville Anime Day (14 only)- Knoxville, TN
 Metrocon (19-22)- Tampa, FL
 SBC Anime Festival (21-22)- Bossier City, LA
 True Gamerz Expo (27-28)- Jacksonville, FL
 Blerdcon (27-29)- Arlington, VA
 Mechacon (27-29)- New Orleans, LA
 Raleigh Supercon (27-29)- Raleigh, NC
 SciFi/ Fantasy Fest (27-29)- Hoover, AL
 AkaiCon (27-29)- Lebanon, TN
 Asheville Anime Regional Con (28-29)- Asheville, NC
 Texarkanime (28-29)- Texarkana, AR

August

Tampa Bay Comic Con (3-5)- Tampa Bay, FL
 Anime Festival Orlando (3-5)- Orlando, FL
 Get Your Geek Con (4 only)- Norfolk, VA
 Play On Con (9-12)- Clayton, Georgia
 GlitchCon (10-12)- Springdale, AR
 Kentokyocon (17-19)- Lexington, KY
 CONsortium (17-19)- Kissimmee, FL
 Geek'd Con (17-19)- Shreveport, LA
 Queens City Anime Convention (23-26)- Charlotte, NC
 Dragon Con (30- Sept 3)- Atlanta, GA
 GEXCon (31- Sept 2)- Chantilly, VA

September

Arkansas Comic Con (8-9)- Little Rock, AR
 Hero Hype Orlando Comic Con (15 only)- Orlando, FL
 JABEcon! (15 only)- Mt Juliet, TN
 Shoals Geek Expo (15-16)- Florence, AL
 Anime Weekend Atlanta (20-23)- Atlanta, Georgia
 MegaCon Tampa Bay (21-23)- Tampa Bay, FL
 CharlestonCon (22 only)- North Charleston, SC
 Panama City Creative Con (22-23)- Panama City, FL
 The River Valley Fandom Con (28-30)- Fort Smith, AR



Dimkee Hotay's Ledge

Saturday –

(check forum for official times)

**8:00am - Parade Lineup in
the Marriot Marquis Lobby**

**1:00pm - Photo Shoot above
the food Court at Peachtree
Center**

**4:00pm - Dinner, Upstairs at
Mellow Mushroom**

SEE YOU AT DRAGONCON!



DragonCon Survival Tips for Saturday!

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It takes a lot to organize a group of our size and over the last few years we have had some great successes with few hiccups. What will make for a great experience for everyone is giving a little grace when things go awry and be courteous to those organizing the sections for the day. In the grind that is DragonCon your help with how a situation is handled can make the difference in someone's con experience. Also, there are already people in place organizing things so please defer all questions to those individuals. The forum is a quick way to check.

Parade-Things to Know & Courtesy Needed (8:00am EST)

Folks this is a big deal and lots of people come. We also organize and handle other Halo groups as well (UNSC Capitol for instance) for the parade. As such there is limited space so, please show up if you sign up.

Be on Time – Meet promptly at 8:00am (NO LATER THAN 8:45am) in front of the Escalators at the Registration Desk in the Lobby of the Marriot in the middle of the two main entry points. This is where you will receive your parade wristband. They will not let you into the parade lineup area once shuttles arrive without a wristband and your badge. Parade shuttles depart at 9:30 or earlier and are packed. Special assistance is available if needed and requested ahead of time. Most importantly NO Teabagging or pointing weapons. FANGS will be our parade organizer again this year.

Photoshoot – Peachtree Center Plaza outside (1:00pm EST)

After the parade don't strip outta that gear just yet. We will take the skybridge over to Peachtree Center where it will be jammed already. Grab some lunch then we will head upstairs using the escalators to the Plaza outside for the Photoshoot. Jeff Meissner is our Principal photographer this year with our organizer Blaine Self! We will get some large group shots, some goofy ones, and then begin individual and group photos. We get lots of crowds. Only allow people to handle items you are comfortable with handling. It is okay to politely say no if you do not wish for someone to handle something. Same goes for your buckets. Just let everyone know you have been sweating in them all day and they wouldn't want to share your funk.

Dinner _ Mellow Mushroom (4:00pm EST)

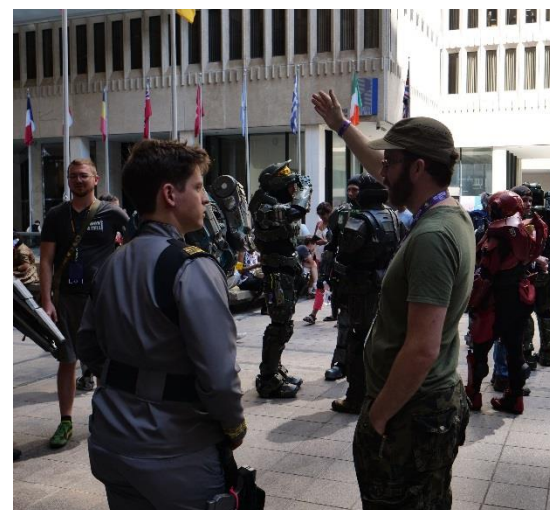
400 W Peachtree St NW Unit 1 Atlanta, GA 30308

Kassie Marlin will be your organizer with the assistance of our very own Barry Kiker for Raffle items. We will have an RSVP thread on the forum so please sign up. A menu will go out early, so we can give the restaurant an advance notice on orders.

PLEASE OFFER YOUR THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO IS HELPING MAKE THIS EXPERIENCE SMOOTH AND MEMORABLE! HAVE FUN! And above all else...

STAY HYDRATED!!

Check Forum for All Official Times



Photos Courtesy of Jackie Appel



Regiment Command Contact

Regiment Commander (RCO)

Robert Letts

Forum: @Asgardianhammer

Regiment Executive Officer (RXO)

Barry Kiker

Forum: @brkiker

Regiment Membership Officer (RMO)

Kevin Robbins

Forum: @AugmentedHuman013

We're on
the Web!

Visit us at:

www.405th.com

@405thsouthern

We exist because you continue to
HONOR each other by helping and
inspiring others to create **ARMOR**, and
coalescing in **UNITY** of our fandom in
the amazing Halo Universe.