

Garrison News

Stockholm Convention Report

by Andrew Walker

On the weekend of 4th – 5th November the Nordic Garrison was well represented at the Scandinavian Sci-Fi, Game & Film Convention in Stockholm, Sweden. This convention takes place three times a year visiting Sweden's three main cities: Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmö and they are by far the biggest events on our calendar. This was my first time at the convention as a trooper, in previous years I have been there in civilian mode so it was very interesting to see how different it would be from a trooper's point of view.

It would be all the more exciting for me as I was to be the Event Coordinator and it would be the first test of our new Code of Conduct. We were also hoping to be able to induct Jake Lloyd (Little Ani) as an Honorary Member of the 501st Legion but had been unable to get a definite answer before the show started so it was a case of crossing our fingers.

We were inspired to create a more structured code after trooping at London Film and Comic Con with the UK Garrison back in July. We saw how professional they were and how a few small changes could make a world of difference both for us and for the paying public. The new rules were as follows:

No removal of helmets while in public – this helps maintain the Star Wars illusion

Anyone wishing to take a photograph with us against our new backdrop would have to pay twenty Kronor (approx \$3)



A schedule would be created so that each trooper knew what he should be doing when, and who his partner would be

The Nordic Garrison is a fairly small unit with just 39 members spread across four countries. Due to this we normally struggle to have more than five or six troopers at each event. For this weekend we had fourteen troopers and all four countries were represented to various degrees.

Friday night was spent at the convention hall setting up as much of our stand as possible. Unfortunately our display wall and electrics had not been set up so there was not much we could do except plan how things would be done once we got all the missing pieces gathered together. Five other troopers and I were staying at the Hotel, TB5573 headed home for some food, beer and sleep.

Saturday started bright and early at 6AM. While all the troopers raced off to the convention hall for final preparations my wife, our Imperial Shuttle pilot for the weekend, zoomed back and forth to the airport collecting and dropping off more troopers. Upon arrival at the hall we were glad to see that our walls had been erected and the electrics had also been sorted out so we started to set up the stand.

Before the doors opened at 10:30 our CO (Dennis Resell aka TB876) and I managed to grab a few minutes with Jake

and asked him if he would be interested in joining us. He was only too pleased. So we arranged for troopers to collect him later in the evening and escort him to our stand for a presentation and some photographs. David Prowse (Darth Vader) was also there so, as our Honorary Leader, we invited him as well.

This was to be the first time that we had made a

