

The T.K.D. Flash

A Publication of the Association of Academies of Martial Arts
The National Newsletter of the United States Taekwon-Do Federation

The Flash is published by the Academy of Martial Arts, Inc. The Editor is F.M. Van Hecke. The mailing address is P.O. Box 853, Grafton WI 53024. E-Mail fmvh1@mac.com. Archived at USTF Region V site www.ustf-region5.org Persons submitting photographs, letters to the editor, reactions to published articles or articles will be deemed to have consented to their publication unless specifically specifying otherwise. The editor reserves the right to edit any submission prior to publication. Persons submitting materials represent that they have the right to publish the submitted materials and images and submit the same without seeking compensation.

The United States Taekwon-Do Federation's National Championships for 2009 will be held on June 26 through 28th in Kelso, WA. The Tournament Promoter is Master Dan Huntington. Check out NWUSTF.com. Always best to plan ahead.

The TKD Flash ends its twentieth year of publication with this issue and will commence its twenty-first in January. Your Humble Editor could not have accomplished this milestone without the interest, support, and contributions of you, our readers. For that and for many things, we are most grateful.

Grand Master Mike Winegar taught the USTF Class A Instructors Course on November 8th at Sereff Taekwon-Do in Broomfield CO. In attendance were numerous Fourth through Eighth Dans hailing from Louisiana to Alaska (although Fourth and Fifth Dans were dismissed upon completion of their respective subject matters). Upon completion of the course written exams were administered. A number of certified Class A Instructors had taken the course before and thought it so valuable that they re-took it. Congratulations on successful completion of the exam: Master Robert M Neidig Jr., Master Dan Huntington, Master Kent Hups, Master Dustin L. Stephenson, Mr. Lenard B. Graham, Mrs. Vicki S. Winegar, Mr. Brian McNamara, Mr. Robin Johnson, Mr. Charles Avila, Mr. Matthew Crackel, and Mr. Guy Williams.



Demo Group at the Rollergirls Game on Nov. 1.

The Maestas Team Challenge for 2009 will be held on March 21, 2009. Robert Martin is the Tournament Promoter. He may be contacted at bmartin@maeasttkd.com or 303-895-9741. Applications and information are available at www.maeasttkd.com. The event will be held at the Apex Rec Center in Arvada CO. This is a unique "all-team" event. Put the date aside.

Master Ricky Todd and Axe Taekwon-Do are sponsoring the Second Annual Axe Taekwon-Do Tournament at Bellevue, Nebraska on May 9. Master Tom Cope is the Tournament Director And Master Todd the Promoter.

Master Todd will also host a U.S.T.F. Referee Certification Course on March 14 at Axe TKD.

Sir:

On November 1, 2009 Master Kent Hups coordinated a great demonstration using the students of Sereff Taekwon Do and Hups Taekwon do of Westminster. Practice makes perfect as was evident at the half time demonstration! Master Renee' Sereff, Master Paul De Baca and lots of students were there to cheer on the troops and make some noise for the demonstrators!

Rocky Mountain Rollergirls presented the Roller Derby with Rocky Mountain Rollergirls vs Tucson Roller Derby. The emcee, Shannon, is the daughter of Black Belt Peter Boyles, now a famous radio performer in Denver. She gave us lots of great p.r. during the evening! The Rocky Mountain Rollergirls won and the crowd went wild!

In the old times, demonstrations at every event in town helped fill our classes to capacity. We hope the trend will come back to let the people know just what Taekwon Do is all about! Take a few devoted students, a great instructor and add a few boards and an audience and you have the recipe for a great demonstration!

Master Renee Sereff

On November 15th, a Black Belt Test was held in Massachusetts.

A color belt test will be held at Sereff TKD on December 6.

An official USTF Referee Course will be held in Broomfield on February 21st.

On January 31 the Sereff Invitational Chili Cook-off will be held.

[Editor's Note: The following article was originally published in the Flash for November of 2003.]

The U.S. Marines Close-Quarters Combat Manual: A Review

By F.M. Van Hecke



From left, Fifth Dan Mr. Kevin McDaniel, Fifth Dan Dr. Rick Bauman, and Fourth Dan Dr. John Buttita judge patterns Competition.

The U.S. Marines Close-Quarters Combat Manual (Paladin Press, 1996) is a reprint of substantially those materials furnished Corps trainees for years but in a more conventional "book" format. (I'd like to thank former Marines among my friends for their aid in this review.) Such materials are important for martial artists to absorb

because of the professionalism of the Corps in the ultimate martial art of serious military combat.

The book has both positives and negatives coexisting in reciprocity. This is due to the purpose of the work and not because of any flaw in its presentation or even in the systems illustrated. In fact, the presentation is excellent given its likely audience, and therein lies its beauty and its ugliness.

Martial artists training in a formal system such as TaeKwon-Do are presented with, and dedicate themselves to, a great deal of complexity; they are willing to devote years to achieving competence in their Art. Marines, on



Grand Master C.E. Sereff is pictured here along with Grand Master Mike Winegar and attendees at the Class A Instructor Seminar taught on November 8 in Broomfield CO. Note all those Masters' flashes!

the other hand, must fight, and fight well, and learn quickly.

The system the soldier must learn cannot be overly complex, or tailor made to a specific student's proclivities or talents, or spoon-fed to those who are better learning at different paces. The system must be simple, easy to understand and capable by absorption of a group of variegated intelligences.

In the real world of close combat training, many, many repetitions are practiced in a very short time frame. In a formal martial art devoting an entire day, or three consecutive days, to a limited number of drills would be very unusual.

The objectives of close quarters combat are death or serious personal injury to the opponent. Thus there is no Ho Sin Sool or self-defense component wherein one merely seeks to subdue the opponent without permanent injury.

Also, close quarters assumes exactly that: an infighting range, whereas most of the formal striking arts assume commencement of combat in the outfighting range.

The book addresses fundamentals, the so-called LINE program, bayonet use, and "weapons of opportunity."

The fundamentals are target areas (far fewer than those learned by the traditional martial artist), tools (heads for head-butts, fists, feet, elbows, etc.), a simple boxer-type stance, and how to move in it. Movement is front foot first going forward, back foot first going backwards. Also addressed are how to break a fall, do a rolling fall, strike with the various tools, how to choke, block, and assume a defensive position if destabilized.

Those of us who are acronym-haters will love to hate LINE because of its utterly pretentious origin, "linear infighting neural-override engagement." What they're trying to say is don't think, do.

Basically, LINE boils down to six "chapters," starting with wrist locks and choke hold counters, moving on to counters of kicks and punches, then dealing with unarmed knife defense, then knife fighting, enemy

“removal” (catching the enemy unawares), and unarmed defense against the bayonet.

The bayonet program is exactly what one would expect: position, slashes, butt strokes, and thrusts. These then are put together in combinations (like patterns). It also deals with the strategies of bayonet fighting in a group or against a group.

Finally, the book deals with weapons of opportunity, such as a shovel, garrote or tree likely to be found or at hand in exigent circumstances.

The book is simply and clearly illustrated with line drawings. The various sequences are broken down into simple sequential elements without assuming great familiarity of the student with the techniques to be employed.

Sometimes there is an assumption that too much information would be too much for the student to absorb. For example, defense against a rear headlock is greatly simplified in hopes that simplicity will result in a quick instinctive response. However, a critic may say that too much risk is entailed in not being more broadly aware of the potential hazards and the “little things” one can do (and reduce to the instinctive level) to prevent more serious injury while launching the counter attack.

This writer is uncomfortable with the assumption that a particular maneuver will almost always work. For example, it is no mystery that an attacker with a knife will often adapt quickly to the defender’s first defensive contact by changing body position, attempting to withdraw the knife to take a clean shot, and so on. The sequential techniques shown appear to have more faith in an attacker’s static mindset than the writer would prefer given the relatively high stakes and cost of failure. Control of the knife does not appear to be a significant objective, and that could be fatal.

The section on offensive use of a knife is very good and gets the reader to thinking. There are more complex methods and systems, however.

“Removal” is best summarized as the method of making a quick and quiet kill of a sentry. These materials are also useful.

It is in the bayonet materials that this book truly excels. One is confident that after drilling

repeatedly with these skills they are well internalized and deadly dangerous.

The U.S. Marines Close-Quarters Combat Manual is well written and meets its objectives. It may be of value to martial artists to realize how the military can address the needs of so many so quickly and effectively.

(Editor’s Note: This article was originally published in the Flash in April of 2006 and is reprinted here for the benefit of our newly-national readership.)

Another Word on Etiquette at the Request of Mr. McX

By F.M. Van Hecke

The bar of everyday etiquette has fallen in business and in schools. Why? And to what good?

If my high school physics instructor is “Ralph” rather than “Mr. Jefferson,” if the lady at the counter greets you with, “Yeah?” instead of “May I help you, Sir?” what’s the big deal?

The answer is that this trend does no good.

Etiquette does not exist for the benefit of its object, “Mr. Jefferson” in the first example, the putative customer in the second. It really

Somehow, the Rollergirls mascot has never looked better than when pictured with Cameo Zugschwert.



exists for the benefit of the physics student, the counterperson, and society.

The student needs an attitude to succeed that he is, after all, a student, and did not spring from his mother's womb with an understanding of differential calculus. His mind must appreciate that it must accept knowledge and the means of its acquisition from others. Otherwise he impedes his own learning process. He benefits, then, from adopting the "mind-set" that there is material to be learned, and, in the context of the classroom, from

clashing plaids). And that recognition is more likely to elicit a similar response from the teacher or the customer, to recognize and appreciate that being a student is a burden and being a counterperson an honorable undertaking.

Thus all four in this exchange benefit but, more importantly, they have taken a step toward developing a habit of doing so.

The entire society benefits when these persons develop the appropriate habit and, by example, elevate all of society to a similar



Pictured are students of the Academy of Martial Arts in Green Bay WI, who on October 27 tested for gup ranks. From left, Dustin Skidmore, G. Mihailescu, Doug Meek, Carson Sikula, Darin Lemerond, Cecilia Lyman, Michelle Buehite, Amber Gauthier, Zack Moen, William Gropp, M. Mihailescu, David Bitters, Master F.M. Van Hecke, Instructor Mr. Ken Moen, Holly Chubb, and their Chief Instructor Mr. Henry Goddard.

that teacher.

The counterperson benefits because she places herself in an ideal position. She is more likely to achieve a sale by treating the customer with respect and making inquiry as to the interests of the customer. She places herself in a better relation to her goals.

In the more polite exchanges there is a recognition of the humanity, importance and dignity of the person addressed (even if Mr. Jefferson is a geek and the customer is dressed in

understanding of the worth of every individual.

So what's the reason for this little essay?

Look at the last email you sent to a fellow martial artist. Did it begin with appropriate salutation ("Dear Mr. Jones"), end appropriately ("Thanks so much for your help."), and use polite language ("Please let me know if ...")? Or does it contain vulgar language ("They just p*** me off") or just a bunch of demands ("Do...," not, "Please do...")?

Something to think about.