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Chun Moo Hapkido USA News and Events

C H U N M O O H A P K I D O U S A

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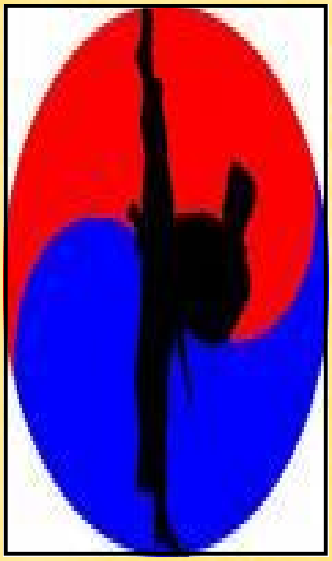

The Principals of Hapkido

By Master Alan Plechaty

Yu Won Hwa
All techniques learned in Hapkido contain at least one aspect of the principles of Hapkido. To better understand the physical aspects the practitioner should know the principles of Yu Won Hwa. Each practitioner should be able to explain and demonstrate each individual principle as it applies to the techniques learned.

Yu (The Water Principle)
Water can have many meanings, however perhaps the most applicable to Hapkido are its adaptability and softness. It easy to see the power of water in everyday life. Take for example the majestic Grand Canyon, carved out by the flowing of water over time or the power of a rainstorm to wash away manmade structures with ease. At the same time water provides us all with nourishment required to survive. Water does not struggle with any object in its path it flows around, over or beneath it. Each practitioner must be able to adapt like water in order to overcome the obstacles in their path, physically and spiritually.
Won (The Circle Principle)
The circle principle represents smooth flowing motion in place of straight movement. Direct force is not confronted with direct force instead it is redirected away from one's self. The space around each person forms a circle, which the practitioner learns to utilize redirecting attacks away from oneself and into one of the surrounding areas. The circle is obvious in many of the techniques practiced by practitioners of Hapkido in its strikes, blocks, throws, footwork and general body movement.
Hwa (The Harmony Principle)
This is perhaps the most difficult principle in Hapkido but at the same time the most important. Working with your opponents instead of against them is difficult at first. We learn to push when pulled and pull when pushed using our opponent's energy to our advantage. This method allows us to conserve our own energy and overcome much larger targets with minimal effort. Being in harmony with one's self allows for fluid and instinctive action in place of thinking and reacting. Through training we teach ourselves to respond without conscious thought.

The combination of these three simple but effective principles is what makes Hapkido the effective and versatile art that it has become. No one aspect is less important than the others and each and every practitioner should be aware of how each affects us in training and our daily lives.



Chun Moo Hapkido Master Alan Plechaty holds the rank of 5th degree black belt and is a regular contributor to the Chun Moo News.



Chun Moo Hapkido USA 2011 Black Belt Roster

Grandmaster Rick Jessee
President 9th Dan
Salisbury NC

Troy L. Smith
8th Dan
Corrigan TX

James Davila SR
7th Dan
Harker Heights TX

Milton B. Grissom
7th Dan
Creedmoor NC

Elliot Cooper
7th Dan
Chicago IL

Roger W. Smith
6th Dan
Connelly Springs NC

Edson Alves
6th Dan
Sao Paulo, Brazil

Tristan Fernandez
6th Dan
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Neil D. Lynch
6th Dan
Charleston RI

Michael W. Shaw
6th Dan
London Ontario, Canada

Roger Adair
6th Dan
Rosenberg TX

Thad Morton
5th Dan
Laguna Niguel CA

Alan R. Plechaty
5th Dan
Brook Park OH

Michael Abron
5th Dan
Westmont IL

Sean Willis
5th Dan
Burlington NC

Chew Ging Lee
5th Dan
Semenyth, Malaysia

James (Jimmy) Davila JR
4th Dan
Harker Heights TX

Harry Gutierrez
4th Dan
McAllen TX

Gregory Walker
3rd Dan
Huntington PA

Terry Garrett
3rd Dan
Lubbock TX

Peter Hoffman
3rd Dan
Saarbrücken, Germany

Robert Smeeton
3rd Dan
Columbia CT

James E. Eggleston
2nd Dan
Tacoma WA

Aaron Morris
2nd Dan
Brook Park OH

Rashed A Ali Rabeiah
2nd Dan
Dubai United Arab Emirates

Lowell Harris
1st Dan
Cottonwood Heights UT

Hannah Rabon
1st Dan
Harker Heights TX

Sarah Ladikos
1st Dan
Brook Park OH

Bradley J. Grodell
1st Dan
Brook Park OH

Shannon Kreidler
1st Dan
Brook Park OH

Jacob D. Miller
1st Dan
Brook Park OH

Eric T. Miller
1st Dan
Brook Park OH

DR. Prashant V.K.
1st Dan
Dubai United Arab Emirates



Grandmaster Rick Jessee 9th Dan demonstrating at the original Chun Moo Hapkido USA gym.

"I Remember"

By Master Thad Morton

I remember the good old day's back in the seventies when I first was exposed to my Martial arts experience My Master Joo Bang Lee was fresh from Korea and couldn't speak English
I was just a kid 12 years old and my brother and I had been students for just a few months studying under Master Joo Sang Lee (who could speak better English) as he was here for a few years already, we had no concept of the depth or difficulties of our martial art we thought it was karate or something like that! Now when I think of my Martial art I think of its history and how it came to being, I think of the impact that my former masters had on the Hapkido world and how their Master (Choi Yong Sul) developed his martial art after many years of study under Takeda Sokaku and all the martial arts that sprung into existence from his teachings, its truly amazing what has blossomed since then, how the martial arts have evolved up to now even Brazilian jujitsu has some of its roots in what Takeda taught.
As a Master and a teacher I sometimes get lost in the complicated details of the martial arts and the many thousands of techniques that are there to learn.
Now when I look at the faces of my students I can see that they are thinking the same kind of things I thought when I was a kid and they know little of the history behind the techniques they are learning, occasionally I will sit them down and we will talk about the history and the lineage of the masters that came before me, even some of the ancient history as well.
I have noticed that allot of other masters don't really do that, mine didn't really do that either! But they made the history available.
I think kids are interested in history but not that much, when I was a kid I was more impressed by the foot prints on the ceiling that the black belts would leave after running up the walls!





Master Thad Morton
holds the Chun Moo Hapkido rank of 5th Degree Black Belt and is located in Laguna Niguel California.



Korea's first Hapkido Master's Council



From bottom left to right:

Lee Tae-Jun, Myung Kwang-Sik, Han Bong Soo (The Founder of the International Hapkido), Choi Yong-Sul (The Founder of Hapkido),
Ji Han-Jae (Grand Master of Shin-Moo Hapkido),
Song Young-Kil (Korean Hapkido Federation Technical Director),
Kim Deok-In (The Founder of the Duk Moo and Director of the Competition for the Korean Hapkido Federation),
Kwon Tae-Man (The Founder of International Daemoo Hapkido Martial Art Association).

From behind left to right:

Myung Jae-Nam (Grand Master of the International Hapkido Federation), Unknown, Hal Bok, Yum Jong-Ho,
Kim Jong-Taek (Current Secretary General of the Korean Hapkido Federation),
Kim Jong-Jin (Previous Secretary General of the Korean Hapkido Federation),
Unknown, Unknown, Kim Hung-Su (The Grand Master of the Yun Moo Academy), Unknown.

Chun Moo Hapkido USA
Worlds Most Prestigious Open Style Hapkido Association

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