

Sifu Jordan is Back from Vietnam (March 2000) **By Sifu Tony Jordan**

From February 16 to March 6 , 2000, Sifu Tony and Mr. Seth Peralta traveled to Vietnam for training seminars and meetings with Grand Master Hong Nhan and other Masters of Tay Son Nhan.

Seth trained with Grand Master Hong Nhan's sister, Sifu Hue and his brother, Sifu Muoi on a regular basis while there. From these two, he learned Dai Dao Quyên & Long Pole Form, as well as many techniques. He also had the opportunity to train with "Black Eagle", a master that learned from Grand Master Nguyen Van Mach.

Seth quickly learned how important it is to learn the basics first. Although we have a tendency to want to learn fancy techniques, we must first build a solid foundation. He saw first hand what students look like when they simply learn techniques and forms without the instructor caring if they understood or even could perform the basics. Seth also learned that the solid foundation that his instructors instilled in him would more than compensate for any fancy skills that others might throw at him.

One example was when we were visiting with 'Black Eagle', we were watching his students kicking and punching heavy bags that were hung in his back yard where they trained. These men ranged in ages from 24 to 35 years old and weighed from 95 to 120 lbs. They were kicking as hard as they could and the bags were barely moving. Seth was really wanting to kick as it had been a long day and we hadn't had much exercise. I told Seth to feel of the bags first to see what they were packed with just in case they were filled with rocks. He touched the bag; and seeming satisfied that there was no problem, threw a light round kick to the bag. The bag nearly flew all the way over the bar that was holding it up. The students stopped what they were doing and watched Seth with wide eyes. Seth threw a few light punches and kicks to the bag and each time it nearly rounÇed the bar. The basic skills that we teach are what he used and what impressed even Black Eagle with his power.

We also had a meeting with Grand Master Hong Nhan, 4 Masters, several Instructors and students about Tay Son Nhan in Vietnam. The purpose of the meeting was to try to help build the system up in Vietnam. Due to years of oppression by the Vietnamese government, the system is not as strong as it should be. There are a few teachers in Saigon that are teaching Tay Son Nhan, but most are simply teaching 'seminars'.

I told everyone at the meeting that Tay Son Nhan in the U.S.A. was strong and that the ancestors would be proud of them. I stated that regardless of whether they decided to 'grow' the system, that in America, the system would continue develop and would be respected. I also said that more and more of my students would be visiting Vietnam and that my student would want to work out with them when they visit.

All students should be proud of your system and your instructors. They set the example for you to follow. If you have not put the patches and name on your uniform, then you should do so as soon as possible. The strength and pride in your system starts with you. Always hold you head high and know that you are learning one of the most powerful styles in the world.



WE ARE CHANGING BACK TO SASHES

We are beginning some fantastic & exciting changes in our uniforms over the next 60 days. Before I tell you about them, I want you to know when, where, why, and how our current uniforms were started.

How: Original Tay Son Nhan uniforms were the same as we now wear except that patches were not worn and Kung Fu Sashes were used in place of our belts.

When Grand Master Hong Nhân came to the United States, he did not speak English and had limited understanding about the American culture. Before he opened his school, he had visited many of the Martial Arts Schools in the area. **Where:** He opened his first school on Gaston Avenue in Dallas, TX.

Why: After visiting the other schools, he felt that Kung Fu in the U.S.A. was simply 'show'. He worried that if he wore the Kung Fu Sash, that others would look at his school with the same stigma that the others had... that they were all show and couldn't fight. As a result he adopted the hard Karate Belts that we are currently wearing.

I am proud of our patches... they represent the true essence of our system. The Tiger represents the "meanness that we must possess when confronted with a dangerous situation. We must be fearless and do whatever is necessary to save our lives. The Dragons represent the power that we must possess and use in order to effectively save our lives. The Eagle represents not only myself "Gray Eagle", but also the grace and poise that we must also have to deliver the necessary techniques. These patches were designed by myself and Grand Master Hong Nhan. They are not worn by students in Vietnam; primarily because most of the students and even instructors there could not afford to purchase them. (Most of the students can't even afford uniforms.) The students & instructors that do have their uniforms usually have the name Tay Son Nhan on the back of their uniforms with the name of their instructor below that. We are blessed to have these patches and they should be worn by all students with pride and honor. When the students and instructors in Vietnam saw my uniform, they were excited and happy with the style.

As explained earlier, Sashes, not belts are our heritage. When I first opened this school, I vowed to keep Tay Son Nhan pure and to teach as it was taught by our ancestors. After many years of discussion with Grand Master Hong Nhan, he has given permission for us to return to sashes. He believes that our school stands out above the rest and that we have proven that Kung Fu is not just 'show'. We will continue to use the 'color' system that we now use, we will simply be wearing sashes instead of belts.

Beginning Monday, March 27, 2000, we will begin a slow transition to sashes instead of belts. All students above the rank of White Belt are encouraged to purchase a Sash as soon as possible. If you are getting ready to test within 60 days, you should continue to wear your belt (Unless you simply want to order a sash now). Sifu Jordan will give you an estimate as to when you will be tested. All White Belts will continue to wear a Belt until they test for Yellow. I have ordered sashes for myself and my Black Belts from Vietnam. Until they arrive, we will be wearing our current belts. I expect to continue wearing my current belt for approximately 4 more weeks

KICK BOXERS

Kick Boxing classes are Tuesday and Thursday from 8:00PM to 9:30PM. These classes are designed to push you to your limits and are guaranteed to make you sore. We welcome the new students and wish them luck. While the classes are tough and the techniques taught are real, many of the students are not training for the ring. They are simply making their bodies hard and having fun. We are changing the classes to end formal teaching at 9:00PM. The class will be open from 9:00PM to 9:30PM for the instructors to work with the FIGHTERS on sparring. The rest of the students will use this free time to work on, bags, shadow boxing, stretching, or just relaxing. If you are interested or know someone who is, COME ON IN! whatever you want to