

## **SENIOR MASTER CHARLES D. BATTLE - 6<sup>TH</sup> DAN AMERICAN OKINAWAN KARATE**

Senior Master Charles D. Battle was born in Enfield, North Carolina on July 16, 1966. At the age of seventeen, he enlisted in the United States Navy. Through his travels while in the Navy, he was introduced to several styles of martial arts. They included, Kali, Kung-Fu, Tae Kwon Do, Tang Soo Do, Boxing, Kickboxing, and Shorin-Ryu Karate. In 1984, while stationed in Yokosuka, Japan, he started his martial arts training in American Karate and Stick Fighting under Sensei Richard Robinson. In 1988 he was stationed in Naples, Italy, and began his training in Tang Soo Do under the tutelage of Sah Bum Nim Kevin Case. After three years of dedication to his training, he had met all of the requirements to become a Black Belt. In July 1991, Master Battle traveled to Munich, Germany to test for his Black Belt. He had the privilege to be tested by Grandmaster Jae C. Shin, the founder and president of the World Tang Soo Do Association.

After his tour of duty ended in Naples, Italy, Master Battle was stationed in Norfolk, Virginia. While onboard the U.S.S. Hunley (AS-31) he continued his training in Tang Soo Do and he also began to learn the Sweet Science of Boxing. As if boxing training wasn't demanding enough, Master Battle started kickboxing under the tutelage of Curtis Bush "The Explosive Thin Man." While onboard the U.S.S. Hunley (AS-31), Master Battle organized, coached and fought on the "31 Dragons" karate team. Master Battle was also selected on the Navy's Tae Kwon Do Team.

In 1995 after twelve years of active duty service, Master Battle joined the Naval Reserves and pursued a career in law enforcement. In 2008, he retired from the Navy with a total of twenty-four years of service. He's currently a eighteen year veteran of the Richmond Police Department.

For the past eighteen years, Master Battle has been dedicated to the Martial Arts. He has organized and taught several inner city martial arts programs and women's self defense workshops. He also began to study under Grandmaster Germon Smith and Master Dashan Muhammad in an African Combative System. To date he continues his studies in the Vita Saana, Tang Soo Do, Tae Kwon Do and American Okinawan Karate.

## Accomplishments

- 1984-1986** Started martial arts training under Sensei Richard Robinson
- 1991** Second place fighting in Black Belt Division and Grand Champion in fighting at Martin's Shorin-Ryuu Karate open tournament as a Blue Belt
- 1991** Received Black Belt in Tang Soo Do by Grandmaster Shin and Sah Bum Nim Kevin Case
- 1992-1993** Member of the U.S. Navy's Tae Kwon Do Team
- 1993-1995** Organized the "31 Dragons" a Karate Competition Team
- 1997-1999** Instructor and Co-Founder of the American Okinawa-Te Karate Do System along with Master T.J. Starke and Master Kevin Schultz
- 1997-2000** Assistant Instructor for an inner city karate program held in Gilpin Court along with Master Kevin Schultz
- 2001** Organized the first annual Meet the Masters in Richmond, Virginia
- 2003-2005** Co-Founder/Assistant Instructor of the 21<sup>st</sup> Street Karate Club along with Sensei Robert Jefferson
- 2006** Promoted to 5<sup>th</sup> Dan in Vita Saana African Fighting System by Grandmaster Germon Smith
- 2006** Promoted to 5<sup>th</sup> Dan in American Okinawan Karate by Grandmaster Kevin Schultz
- 2010** Certified USA Boxing Coach and Referee
- 2011** 1<sup>st</sup> Dan in Olympic Style Tae Kwon Do under Master Jeong Ho Yi
- 2013** Promoted to 6<sup>th</sup> Dan in American Okinawan Karate

Senior Master Charles D. Battle

American Okinawan Karate – 6<sup>th</sup> Dan

Vita Saana African Fighting System – 5<sup>th</sup> Dan

Tae Kwon Do – 1<sup>st</sup> Dan