

Filipino Martial Arts

Digest

Dekiti - Tirsia - Siradas

Special Edition
2009

Grandmaster Jerson "Nene" Tortal Sr.



Grandmaster Jerson Tortal Jr.



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The ideas and opinions expressed in this digest are those of the authors or instructors being interviewed and are not necessarily the views of the publisher or editor.

We solicit comments and/or suggestions. Articles are also welcome.

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From the Publishers Desk

Kumusta

The FMA Digest would like to thank Guro Janfel “Genfil” Villahermosa for his valuable and constant assistance in bringing this Special Edition together.

Dekiti Tirsia Siradas is a style of Filipino martial arts that you really must experience to appreciate. In 2006 when I participated in the WFMAA (www.worldfma.com) Grandmaster Jerson “Nene” Tortal Sr. also was an instructor and it was the first time I met him. This is an untiring individual. When teaching you have to almost physically make him end his seminar. Professional in attitude and teaching skills and very energetic, he just continues and is non-stop.

His son Grandmaster Jerson Tortal Jr. which I met during a visit to the Philippines in 2007 and we have visited each other every year since when I visit the Philippines is as the expression goes (like father like son). A much respected practitioner and friendly it is always a pleasure and honor to see him.

Teaching law enforcement, military, special operation groups Dekiti Tirsia Siradas is a very practical, dynamic art. Also for the practitioner for self defense the art fits about any and all situations for all individuals.

This Special Edition is basically dealing with Dekiti Tirsia Siradas in the Philippines. Grandmaster Jerson “Nene” Tortal Sr. does visit and teach throughout the United States every year.

And if the chance comes, it is most highly recommended that if Grandmaster Jerson “Nene” Tortal Sr. or Grandmaster Jerson Tortal Jr. is doing a seminar near you attend. The experience will be unforgettable.

So without jabbering on, enjoy this Special Edition on Dekiti Tirsia Siradas.

Maraming Salamat Po



Official Philippines Website

dekiti.net78.net

Dekiti Tirsia Siradas Kali

By Genfil Villahermosa



Dekiti Tirsia Siradas Kali system is an ancient, authentic and unadulterated Filipino martial art indigenous from the island of Negros in the Visayan Region of the Philippines. This fighting art is very combative with emphasis on stick and bladed weapons as well as empty hand techniques and even forearms. It has been proven effective many times in actual combat, particularly during World War II.

At present it is used by many law enforcement and military agencies such as NYPD, Joint United States Military Assistance Group (JUSMAG), of the U.S. Embassy in Manila and the Philippine Army Counter Intelligence.

Meaning of the Name

The name of the system came from three words from the Ilongo dialect.

Dekiti: translated into the Tagalog dialect is “Malapit” of “Dekit”. In English it means very close or near. Its emphasis is on close quarters fighting in which you cornered the opponent in an area, to close and devastate him.

Tirsia: means “gua sa wala” or “sa tuo” or quartering in fighting, “pasulod”. It means to push the enemy to a corner or an area with three-corner side preventing him to escape or runaway from multiple deadly blows and thrusts.

Siradas: means to stop your opponent from getting in or out, for the opponent not to be able to penetrate in any angle of attack.

A Family Art and Its History

Dekiti Tirsia Siradas Kali is the family martial art system of the Tortal Clan. The Founder Supreme Master Balbino Tortal learned kali from his father Segundito Tortal and Grandfather Norberto Tortal. It was then created from the combined expertise of the Tortal brothers, Conrado, Balbino, Francisco, Teodorico.

During the heydays of youth the brothers, several incidents took place that tested Dekiti Tirsia Siradas Kali in actual combat. Their success made them a fearsome byword among Escrimadores and Bastoneros.

During the 1930s, a rich family tried to encroach on the 24 hectare land owned by the Tortal family in Tapi, Kabankalan, Negros Occidental, Philippines. That family with the help of their henchmen drove out the tenets. Two of the Tortal brothers positioned themselves in the mountains challenging the henchmen. When that family learned about this, they ordered their henchmen to leave the area.

Gambling along the roadside was very common during those days. The Tortal family against this would often whip the people who they found gambling. So when the

Tortal brothers, rode their horses along these roads, the people gambling fled in fear of being caught.

Conrado Tortal

Conrado Tortal was assigned as Chief of Police of Victorias, Negros Occidental, Philippine's during the Commonwealth Period. Victorias was a sugar plantation town and there were very frequent skirmishes among the Sacadas (sugarcane workers). Using their Espading (a straight, very sharp, medium length, flat and thin blade used to cut sugarcane), they would attack rival Sacadas and even the police. Being in charge of peace keeping, Conrado Tortal frequently relied on Kali to protect lives and property.

Don Gregorio Araneta from Bago City, Negros Occidental invited the famous and rated number one Bastoneros from Panay Island. Tansiong Padilla of Iloilo to a match against Conrado Tortal, elder brother of Balbino Tortal, the match was held publicly during the fiesta of Bago City. The rule was to have both fighters stand on coconut shells and their weapons (baston and daga), covered with charcoal dust, anyone marked with charcoal dust on their shirt would be the loser.

But Conrado was an expert in close quarter knife fighting. He threw an unconventional daga method of attack that shocked his opponent. Padilla froze for a couple of seconds giving Conrado an opportunity to penetrate. Conrado successfully penetrated the opponent's defense causing Padilla to lose the match.

Balbino Tortal



Balbino Tortal
with wife Barbara.

Balbino Tortal, younger brother of Conrado Tortal and father of Grandmaster Jerson Tortal Sr, was a member of the National Volunteer Citizens Army. Before the dark clouds of World War II loomed over the Far East, Philippine Commonwealth President Manuel L. Quezon, proclaimed the National Volunteer Citizens Army as a response to the growing threat of invasion by the Japanese Imperial Army.

War broke out and on Feb. 22, 1942 the National Volunteer Citizens Army was absorbed by Crusader Army. When the Filipino-American forces surrender to the Japanese, the Crusader Army continued to fight as a guerrilla force. The Crusader Army was disguised as the religious Organization, Moncado Divine Mission to protect the Japanese Imperial Forces. Balbino was a member and an asset to this underground resistance movement under Col. Quirino M. Tolentino, Commanding Officer of Crusader Army in Negros Occidental Area.

One very important and significant event took place at the closing of World War II. When Balbino Tortal and his family move to the town of Talisay, Negros Occidental, they encountered a group of Japanese soldiers. The family stopped then the soldiers took Balbino away. But his son Jerson still accompanied him.

The Japanese officer ordered Balbino to be killed. A soldier thrust his bayonet but Balbino side stepped and evaded it. The officer drew his katana (Samuria Sword) and

attacked but Balbino disarmed him and used the katana to attack him and rest the soldiers. Unfortunately during the fight he was trapped among coconut trunks and was shot. Jerson was also attacked but fortunately fell down a deep ravine where the soldiers could not find him. The rest of the family escaped to safety because of the heroism of Balbino Tortal.

From the family generation, the Dekiti Siradas is a combative perfect system. Supreme Grandmaster Balbino B. Tortal transfused (passed down) his knowledge and wisdom to his five inheritors (heirs); the five brothers, Samuel P. Tortal, Segundito P. Tortal, Jerson "Nene" Tortal, Ernesto P. Tortal and Melecio P. Tortal.

Grandmaster Jerson “Nene” Tortal Sr.



Grandmaster Jerson Tortal Sr. was born on June 13, 1937. Fondly called “Nene” (Nene was the common nickname for a little girl in the Philippines) because of his small stature but that did not stop him from becoming one of the legendary grandmasters of Kali. He started his training early at the tender age of seven by his father Balbino Tortal and later by his uncles Conrado and Francisco.

Even as a child, Jerson Tortal Sr. fought courageously for his country. During World War II, he accompanied his father, Balbino Tortal, a guerrilla fighter to the many meetings of the Crusader Army, an underground resistance movement against the Japanese Imperial Army in Negros Island. Being a small child, the Japanese did not suspect Jerson performed intelligence for the Crusader Army. He played near the Japanese garrison and befriended them by exchanging wild tomatoes for sugar, all the while gathering information for the underground resistance. He stood by his father to the last minute as they fought the Japanese.

Spreading the art of Dekiti Tirsia Siradas in the Philippines

Grandmaster Tortal was instrumental in teaching and organizing Kali particularly in Negros Island and in the Philippines in general. He first organized the Bastoneros in 1958, together with Professor Juan Lawan, Seferino Vasques, Leonardo Dionson, Amador Chavez, and other Arnis Clubs in Bacolod City. He mentored many military personnel, private officials and students. The following year his only son Jerson Tortal Jr. was born.

Founding the Lapu-lapu (Kali) Club on 1972, he organized clubs throughout the different towns around Negros. The next year he organized the Supreme Kali Martial Arts. Also he organized the first Provincial full contact stick fighting held in

The Bastoneros



One of the earliest
Filipino Martial Arts Clubs.



Grandmaster Tortal Sr.
with the Bastoneros.

West Negros College Gym, Bacolod City in the same year. In 1979, Grandmaster Tortal organized the first Kali tournament at West Negros. He also competed in the first national Kali tournament at Cebu and won the Grandmaster championship. In the same year, he was invited to the first Naraphil National Invitation Tournament.



Grandmaster Tortal Sr. in action at Cebu Tournament in 1979.

He served as Vice President of the Negros Arnis Association from 1980 – 1982 and then as President from 1983 to the



present. During his term, Arnis tournaments were continuously conducted at Bacolod city. He also authored the City Resolution Series 8 of 1986 making the 16th of May Arnis Day in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental. On May 1997, he together with his son was featured by Ms. Cory Quirino in a Citiline TV Program of ABS-CBN channel 2. Senator Joey Lina and General Bello awarded him the title of Grandmaster during the International Arnis Tournament at the University of Sto. Tomas, Manila. He and his son Jerson Tortal Jr. also trained literally thousands of Philippine Army (ROTC) Cadets from the various universities and colleges around Metro Manila including University of Sto. Tomas, Technological University of the Philippines, Philippine Normal College, Centro Escolar University and New Era University. He was also an instructor for Philippine Army Counter Intelligence and conducted mass training for the Public Safety College at Fort Bonifacio Army Camp (NCR) National Capital Region Makati City, Philippines and the U.S. Marines on duty for the Joint United States Military Assistance Group (JUSMAG) of the U.S. Embassy in Manila.

Grandmaster Jerson Tortal Jr.



Currently the Vice-President of the Philippine Arnis, Kali, Escrima Martial Arts Federation International, from the Island Negros, Occidental, Philippines you may think this was handed to him by his father Grandmaster Jerson “Nene” Tortal Sr., however this could not be further from the truth.

Throughout his life Grandmaster Jerson Tortal Jr. has made a life of the martial arts. At the age of 6 he, use to visit his fathers school the Bicol Martial Arts Club. Even at that age he would be playing with the nunchakus, knives, bolos and the other students. Even while he was growing up he experienced Okinawan Karate (1975-1976) and became a 1st Dan Black Belt, and Trovador Ramos Combat Martial Arts (TRACMA), (1978 – 1979).

However his heart never left home and he continuously trained in the family art of Dekiti Tirsia Siradas. Going to his fathers’ school during classes and observing the class being put through their aces and then returning home to practice what he had observed.

Even at times he would train with the other students, but to return home to train with his father, getting refined in his skills in the family art.

Upon coming of age Grandmaster Tortal Jr. left home and traveled to Manila to find work. There he worked for a shipping company and was steady for 15 years, at the same time teaching his family art.

It was in the 1980's that his father was traveling outside the Philippines promoting and promulgating the family art. Grandmaster Tortal Jr. wanting to assist his father quit his job and took on a full time job teaching the family art.

It was in the year 2002, that Grandmaster Tortal Jr. first went to the United States with his father to assist in spreading the family art of Dekiti Tirsia Siradas. He went to Los Angeles, CA. Las Vegas, NV. Wyoming just to mention a few of the seminar stops. Grandmaster Jerson Tortal Jr. is following in his fathers footsteps, dedicated to the promotion of the family art of Dekiti Tirsia Siradas.

With thirty-five years of experience and being instructed by his father, Grandmaster Jerson "Nene" Tortal Sr., Grandmaster Jerson Tortal Jr. is relentless and untiring in his quest.



Grandmaster Nene Tortal and son Jerson Tortal Jr. conducting kali training to 5,000 Philippine Army (ROTC) cadets, Normal University, Manila, Philippines.



Spreading Dekiti Tirsia Siradas Internationally

Starting 1989, Grandmaster Tortal started to be recognized not only in the Philippines but also internationally. A businessman from Sha-Alam Malaysia invited him to teach Filipino Martial Arts. The late Edgar Sulite featured him in his book "Masters of Arnis, Escrima and Kali" as one of the legendary masters. He was also featured in various martial arts magazine including Inside Kung Fu, Black Belt and Filipino Martial

Arts magazine. Grandmaster Tortal started traveling to the United States yearly to teach Kali at many martial art clubs, law enforcement and military academies including the Essex County Police Academy in New Jersey, Sheriff and Police Groups in Taekwondo School, Marietta, Georgia, Gold's gym in Belleville, New Jersey and the NYPD. At present the fame of Grandmaster Tortal and his son continues to rise.

Mastering the Dekiti Siradas System Contra Siradas

The Dekiti Siradas is a combination of multiple combative techniques:

- Offense
- Counter offense
- Re-counter the Counter
- Counter the Re-counter

Required by using the following weapons:

- Rattan Stick/Wooden Stick/Short/Long Bladed
- Long/Medium/Close Range
- Arms and Unarms/Weaponry
- Guts/Speed/Timing/Power
- Strategy/Tactics

The Spirit of the Talibong and Ginunting as Kali llonggo blade prominent in Negros and Panay Island are essential elements of the Kali Warrior skills and expertise. After long tedious years of constant feel and partnership with the Talibong and the Ginunting, the chemical components of the metals and the body handle, there is a unique feeling of lightness with starting vibration of heart that invigorates the hand and travels with electrical energy to the whole system which propels the warrior to take an action ready for combative encounter. This unusual experience can truly be attained if there is a high level of concentration during the training executing the artistic art of the blade and the execution of the power impact blows to simulated targets.

Supervision by a generic grand master of the system who has the source of knowledge from generation to generation is essentially potential in disseminating the knowledge and wisdom which evolves under the Dekiti Siradas System, that make it a systematic method which evolves in the realm of ancient levels of knowledge updated into the present warfare of strategy and tactics.

- Contra-Tirsia-Siradas is the top echelon of all the methods within the Dekiti Siradas after progressively reached the level of the Contradas, Recontras, Recontradas, the Pasunod, Pasugat, Palipas and counter motions, deflections, and counter deflections, engaging and disengaging of both blades during contact, slashes and counter slashes, thrust and counter thrust, punyo and counter punyo, whizzing blows countered by the smoky florets.

- Contra Siradas is compact multiple aggressive attacks combined to anticipate any strikes with vertical diagonal or lateral attack. Contra means to counter within the perimeters of quartering distance. If the attack enters into the quartering zone, a volley of the multiple attacks will be delivered with unmerciful blows in full speed with timing and

power directed into the sectionalized zone of triangle in small divided area expanded to greater triangle.

- Contra Siradas is a prepared set of strategies and tactics using the footwork as the basis of ranging, feigning moves using moves of ranging tactical infiltration by multiplying the volley of strikes into rapid slashes or thrust or combination of both.
- Contra Siradas defines the loading zone for each move preparing the different strategies for execution with devastating sequence. While there are movements from the enemies weapons, Contra-Tirsia-Siradas remains a counter-offensive technique to be released at the instance where the opening is found.
- Contra Siradas is a continuing technical progression escalated movement which divides the strategically structure to tactical killing zones.
- Contra Siradas can act independently, technique per technique, without sacrificing the vulnerable parts of the body.

It maintains the distance anticipation totally eliminating the rigidity of using the blocking principle by regulating the move into a finer realm of command control action.

Authorized Instructors in the Philippines

Master Joseph “Jhun” Tolleno

Mines Gym
H. Lopez Blvd.
Northbay Tondo Manila
(near Mercury Drug)
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Joseph “Jhun” Tolleno is a Master of Dekiti Tirsia Siradas and heads the DTS chapter in Manila, Philippines. He is quite an expert with the double stick. Surprisingly Master Jhun graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Theology from the Asia Institute and Seminary in Davao City.

His previous job includes work as a bodyguard for retired General Ramon Cannu Sr. of the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) and Manager of Private Security Agency. He is now a lecturer and trainer for the PNP (Philippine National Police) Values Formation Program at Camp Crame in Quezon City, Philippines.

With a heart for public service particularly for the youth, Master Jhun conducted the "Libreng turo ng DEPENSA it was Droga Summer Lessons 2006, a free self-defense seminar for the youth of the 2nd district of Las Piñas City in Metro Manila. He also conducted a weekly free martial arts class for the youth of Tondo. The class aims were to



keep the poor youth of Tondo away from drugs by an alternative or fun activity and through the discipline of the martial arts.

During the 1st World Arnis Championship 2005, Master Jhun's students won several events including a gold medal by his son Aljohn Tolleno. The event was held at PNP Camp Crame in Quezon City.



Master Rose Domdom

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Pasay City, Metro Manila
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Rose was native from the Bicol Region, southern part of Luzon Island. Being small and a female, she was bullied by boys much bigger than her when she was young. So she turned to martial arts to protect herself. To the surprise of many, this small girl can beat the heck out of much larger opponents.

She moved to Manila while at the same time Grandmaster Nene Tortal was teaching in Makati. Being both Iglesia ni Cristo, they meet at the church. Rose joined Grandmaster's class and soon was promoted to as an Instructor. She continued to train

with Grandmaster Tortal while assisting him at his class. Apart from the martial arts, she is also very good in “Hilot”, the native massage therapy which comes in very handy during very intense training.

Master Rose feels that it is very important that women learn the martial arts because it empowers them and enables them not to become a victim being the “weaker” sex.



Master Jerry Evangelisan

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A reserve Military Officer in Las Piñas City, Philippines, Master Jerry Evangelisan is in a profession that demands the capabilities of emotional control, immediate decisions, and expertise in self defense.

At an early age living in Cotabato, Mindanao, Jerry Evangelisan had to basically live in a battle zone with the tribes of the region, having conflicts, dodging the occasional gun shoot out, gang physical violence etc.

At the age of 10 years old his family moved to Davao, where there was an atmosphere of at least somewhat more on the norm. At the age of 12 Jerry Evangelisan started to learn different kinds of martial arts including karate, judo, and jujitsu. During his school days enrolling in ROTC, he was trained in a military fashion. Upon coming of age Jerry Evangelisan was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant as a reservist in Davao.

In 1999, He went to Manila and while there meet Grandmaster Jerson “Nene” Tortal Sr. of Dekiti Tirsia Siradas and commenced his training daily in a specialized instructorship course. Learning a combination of multiple strategy/tactics toward the long, medium, and close range for combative techniques, with the use of rattan stick, short long bladed arms and unarms weaponry, which consisted of offense, counter offense, re-counter the counter, and counter the re-counter.

Jerry Evangelisan found while learning and training with Grandmaster Tortal that he had to instill within himself self-confidence which as he trained he found the techniques led to speed, timing and power.

Today Master Jerry Evangelisan is an instructor of Dekiti Tirsia Siradas teaching what he was taught, patient, but firm in his teaching he is a wonder to observe when executing techniques of the art, whether empty handed, with knives, bolos, long sword etc.



Asking Master Evangelisan about when he was a student of Grandmaster Jerson “Nene” Tortal Sr., with a chuckle he recalls, “when Grandmaster would say attack and I did the next thing I would remember is looking up from the ground while he was calmly standing with a grin on his face, even when he would have multiple attackers with weapons come at him, once it was over there he would be standing, while all the attackers would be on the ground wondering what had happened.”



Standing L-R: Joemarie Panganiban, Master Evangelisan, Lex Garces.
Kneeling L-R: Bong and Master Evangelisan son Jerry Evangelisan Jr. April 28, 2007



Awards/Promotion and Recognition Day with Grandmasters Jerson “Nene” Tortal Sr. and Jr. With some of the Dekiti Tirsia Siradas members at Searca Auditorium, University of the Philippines, Los Banos Laguna. December 22, 2006.



Exclusive Advance seminar held at the Searca International House, UPLB, Los Banos, Laguna, Philippines. June 12, 2006.

Guro Nowe "Luloy" Cecillano

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Lakan Guro Nowe "Luloy" Cecillano hails from the province of Oriental Mindoro. Luloy as he is fondly called, descended from the tribe of the Mangyan, an ethnic group indigenous to the island of Mindoro. He started his martial path with wushu but after meeting Grandmaster Jerson Tortal Jr, he quickly fell in love with the art of Dekiti Tirsia Siradas. He started teaching DTS at Calapan

but later move Metro Manila to work as a bodyguard for a prominent businessman. Surprisingly, his boss also became his student in DTS.

Guro Luloy is now Quezon City and leads a DTS training group every Saturday and Sunday morning at Quezon Memorial Circle and UP Diliman Oval near the College of Human Kinetics.



Video - [Click Here](#)



Guro Cyrus Santiago

Cyflex Gym
3rd flr Bumanlag Bldg.
Alvarez Ave.
Talon Las Piñas City

Actor, Singer, Martial Artist: that is a concise description of Guro Cyru Santiago. An entertainer by heart, he appeared in several movies and TV shows in the Philippines like Waray and Lobo as a supporting actor.

As a singer, he is a recording artist under Capricorn Records and usually sings at the gatherings of Dekiti Tirsia Siradas.

Nevertheless being a entertainer never eclipse his being a martial artist. As a student of DTS, Master Jhun Tolleno, he won a silver medal in October 15, 2005 in a tournament sponsor by Bakbakan International in Makati City, Philippines. He also is a gold medalist in double sticks and a bronze medalist in single stick during the 1st Philippine Martial Arts International Invitation on July 22, 2006.



Bakbakan International



1st Philippine Martial Arts International Invitation

Guro Anne Po
Pasig, Metro Manila

Let me introduce myself, I am Anne Sheryll Deanna C. Po but you can just call me Anne. I want to share with you some things about me. First let me tell you about my experience with the Philippine Coast Guard and Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary (PCGA). I'm a volunteer in PCGA and an on call for PCG/PCGA search and rescue team. I had a lot of training from PCGA. That includes, land and jungle survival training, search and rescue training (in the water), guns, medical and last but not the least flying some small engines. We assist PCG when there are disasters.



Next is being a scuba diver. I started scuba diving way back 1996 or 1997, and I reached the advance scuba diver specializing in search and rescue, now I am doing ongoing training to become a Master Diver.

As a mountaineer, I started doing this around 1990. I was a mountaineer first before I became a scuba diver. I climbed and conquered a lot of mountains here in the Philippines. And when I saw a big body of water on one of the mountains that I climbed, I said "I want to explore and see the life underwater". That's why I became a scuba diver. But all of these are the things I love doing. Especially when helping people from disaster situations.

I am also medically trained by one the best instructor of AFP. She's from U.S. and she trained me when she was here in Manila, but she's based out of Cebu. And I also applied to train with the 505th of AFP.

I am also married and a mother of 3 wonderful kids namely, Skye Dietrich 14, Briget Danielle 11 and Matthew 9. They're my number one in my list. And of course I consider another family in my life which is the Dekiti Tirsia Siradas family. I'm a senior instructor now of DTS, but still a student of Grandmaster Jerson Tortal Jr. and Supreme



Briget Danielle, Matthew and Skye Dietrich



Grandmaster Nene Tortal. Because I still continue my training with them until now together with my best friend , my cousin Paul R. Coronado, a senior instructor and Director in New Jersey and California. He is the one who got me into this martial art. And I thank him greatly for it, because I am more confident and a stronger woman now, especially when I am out in today's society. I know that I can protect and defend not only myself but my family too. Having a Dekiti Tirsia Siradas training school is one of my dreams and goals in the future.

Last but not least my passion is baking and cooking. I started cooking when I was small and I added the baking

because I love desserts. And I made this as a part of my living also. My specialties when it comes to food are Italian, Thai and Chinese. In desserts I make Leche Flan, Crepes and Lava Cake and my latest best seller is Mamon.

Guro Po training with Grandmaster Jerson Tortal Jr.

Knife vs Empty Hand Drills: [Click Here](#)

Advance Stick and Knife Drills: [Click Here](#)



Guro Po and Grandmaster Nene Tortal Sr. demonstrating
before the Philippine National Police (PNP)

Guro Janfel “Genfil” Villahermosa

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When Janfel Villahermosa was young, he was thin and weak. In fact in high school, frequently he got picked on by bullies. Janfel Villahermosa had to learn to defend himself. So he learned Karate. But from his teacher he also learned the basics of Arnis. In college he did weight lifting and Aikido.

Back then Janfel Villahermosa remembered reading the book, Filipino Martial Arts by Dan Inosanto. He fell in love with the art for its simplicity and effectiveness, from the general to the specific principle. Not to mention that he is a Filipino and this was the natural art for him.

Sometime in 2003, Janfel saved enough to continue his training to learn martial arts particularly Filipino martial arts, so he started looking for a true Master and found it in a town about a one and half hour ride from his place.

Then in a gym that Janfel was working out in, he found a poster, it was announcing that Grandmaster Jerson Tortal Jr. was teaching in his town. Even in the Philippines it was difficult to find a Filipino martial arts Master, let alone a Grandmaster. It was an honor and opportunity to learn from a true traditional Master. The owner of the gym introduced him and that started his path to Dekiti Tirsia Siradas.

Training was grueling but fulfilling. Janfel found it hard to walk for a few days. But his skill improved beyond his expectations.

Just as in Karate Kid part II, he wanted to go to the roots of Dekiti Tirsia Siradas. So Janfel Villahermosa accompanied Grandmaster Jerson Tortal Jr. to his hometown in Talisay, Negros to train with his father Grandmaster Nene Tortal.

If training with Grandmaster Jerson Tortal Jr. was tough, training with his father was even tougher. While Tortal Jr., trained Janfel with sticks and knives, his father trained him in the use of live swords and there were a lot of them.

Being trained by these great Masters not only passed on their martial skills to Janfel, but also adopted him into their great family. All this gave Janfel the confidence not only in self-defense but also in all the challenges in life.



Guro Paul Coronado

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Paul was born in the Philippine but moved to the United States at an early age. He now lives in California and New Jersey.

A former Special Forces Non-Commission Officer, in fact a Green Beret and Military police, Paul was in action in Operation Desert Shield. He also worked an assistant instructor US Special Forces.

Being in the armed forces, Paul can tell what works and what does not in the battlefield. For him, Dekiti Tirsia comes really close in real life combat.

So he also travels frequently to the Philippines to learn the Dekiti Tirsia Siradas from the Grandmasters and Master. In fact he has become an expert in knife fighting and now a USA Representative of the art. He proudly tells his friends that all his Dekiti Tirsia Siradas from Philippines.

Like his cousin Guro Anne Po, He also loves sports bikes, mountain biking, climbing and scuba driving.



Dekiti Tirsia Siradas Trains Philippine National Police-Special Action Force (PNP-SAF)

By Janfel Villahermosa

Grandmaster Jerson Tortal Jr, Master Jerry Evangelisan of Dekiti Tirsia Siradas and Master Celso Sandigan of Mink Mongoose conducted a training seminar for the Philippine National Police-Special Action Force (PNP-SAF). This was held last April 18, 2009 at Fort Sto. Domingo, Silang, Cavite. A total of three battalions participated in the training.

The participants were amazed at techniques demonstrated so plans are underway for a follow-up seminar.



Philippine National Police-Special Action Force (PNP-SAF)

By Anthony Vargas, Reporter

Special Action Force, Commando, Philippines National Police and SureShock Advance Schooling for SAF Commandos and other Units of the Philippine National Police (PNP) 155 police officers get it into elite antiterrorist force after commando training

About 155 police officers including 62 women were integrated on Wednesday into the Philippine National Police-Special Action Force (PNP-SAF) after completing months of commando training.

The PNP chief, Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., a former Commander of the PNP-SAF, urged the new graduates at a ceremony on the Camp Crame parade grounds to harness their newly acquired knowledge and skills to neutralize threats to public safety and security.

“Our government cannot concentrate on the task of economic development and political stability without peace and order. Use your skills in fighting those threats,” Ebdane said.



Master Jerry Evangelisan teaching.

Ebdane said the SAF, which uses the Star Wars motto of “May the force be with you,” represents the cutting edge in the PNP’s campaign against terrorism, insurgency and organized criminal syndicates.

The PNP-SAF is the elite mobile strike unit of the National Police that specializes in urban and jungle warfare. It is also highly trained for counterinsurgency and counterterrorism missions.

The 155 men and women who graduated Wednesday belong to the SAF Commando Course Classes 25-2003 and 29-2004. The 62 policewomen belong to Commando Class of 25, who finished their course in 11 months of intense and grueling training.

Commando-29 class completed its course after accomplishing its test mission in Zambales last month, where it encountered a large group of communist rebels. Chief Supt. Silverio Alarcio, SAF commander, said the Commando-29 class killed three communist rebels and captured four others during the encounter, which was its baptism of fire.

Under SAF tradition, a trainee must accomplish a test mission before being called a Special Action Force graduate. The test mission calls for an encounter with enemies of the state.



DTS trains PNP-SAF - [Click Here](#)

Brief History



The Philippine National Police Special Action Force Seal, with the motto, “Tagaligtas” or translated in the English language as “Savior” symbolizes the command’s commitment to serve and protect its clientele - the public. The very imposing wings and the pristine blue sea superimposed with a sniper scope’s cross hair symbolizes the commands ability to operate in any traditional dimensions or war by land, sea and air. The vertical bolo is a vivid reminder of our forebears’ pre-Spanish weapons that effectively thwart foreign invaders. With silent swiftness of a striking bolo, SAF will defend the country from foreign domination at all costs and swear to inflict casualties to the enemy. The dominant red color reminds us of SAF’s glorious traditions of sacrifice for God, Country and People. On the other hand, the less dominant color of yellow symbolizes bravery and courage despite all odds in the face of danger.



My Journey

By Karl Starke

This is a short briefing on how I meet Grandmaster Jerson Tortal Jr. and Dekiti Tirsia Siradas.

I always have interest in learning Filipino Martial Arts and in search of a Master I found his email address on the internet. I then wrote him about my next trip to the Philippines and my interest in meeting him there if possible and thanks God he accepted it. After writing emails for sometime, we finally met on September 2002 at the Heritage Hotel in Manila and that was my first encounter with Dekiti Tirsia Siradas. I was more than happy to see him. At first we talked about his family's martial arts and he lectured me about Filipino martial arts in general.

After so many trips to the Philippines since the year 1989, he is the first Pinoy teacher from whom I learned. Grandmaster Jerson is a warm and very generous man he always agrees to meet with me whenever we visit Philippines. I started my first training with him in Baguio City. (Since I was with my wife and daughters visiting our family there I asked him he could come for a week and he agreed).

I still remember very well how I sweat the first day, lucky for me we were training in a hall near a shopping mall so I was able to buy shirts to change for I was soaking wet and needed to change every half hour. If I'm not wrong I bought more than 10 white shirts and used them all that day... I was sweating a lot and it was not because of the weather but the training and the footwork.

Talking about footwork, this was and is one of the parts of the training that is always emphasized in Dekiti... footwork. This footwork will not only bring you out of the line of attack but will place you also in a position where your centerline will be facing the blind side of your opponent without losing time so that you can counter at once.

Since then, training with Grandmaster Jerson, is one of my main reason for visiting the Philippines, we do the training in Los Baños or in Manila. There I met some of his students and also from his father Grandmaster Jerson "Nene" Tortal.... very warm and nice people like Master Rose Domdom, Master Jerry Evangelisan, Guro Anne Po , Master Jhun Tolleno, Paul Coronado , Genfil Villahermosa, AA, Nowe "luloy" Cecillano and many many more.

One of my best experiences was when I went for the first time to visit and train with Grandmaster Nene and Master Jerson in Negros... there I was able to meet also their whole family. They invited me to stay in there house so I spent 2 days at Grandmaster Nene's home and got to know his family... a lovely, warm and generous family... Thanks for welcoming me there... Maraming Salamat Po.

I found Dekiti very simple and direct to the point ... simple but not easy... and I think that this is one of the reason that some people don't get attracted the first time they are shown Dekiti Tirsia Siradas, because they like more the complicated and flashy moves that may look good but sometimes may not work.

One think that I like also about Grandmaster Nene and Grandmaster Jerson is that they always encourage me to try other technique or other arts and never discourage me if I would learn from other people... just always remember, what and from whom you learn and give credit to whom it belongs.

As I mentioned above, I keep on going to the Philippines because my wife is a Filipina, her family which is also mine now live there and also to visit my Dekiti family. There are lots of beautiful things to see in the Philippines and a lot of people to meet and to learn from, I just encourage everybody if he/she has the opportunity, to go there and feel a bit what the Filipino martial arts is all about.

Lastly, I want to say thanks to Grandmaster Nene and Grandmaster Jerson for teaching and encouraging me always... and to my wife and family for their support in my Filipino martial arts path.

Mabuhay at Maraming Salamat Po!!!

Karl Starke

DTS Germany

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Dynamic Fighting Arts Training with DTS Grandmaster Tortal

By Janfel Villahermosa



April 21, 2009 Guro David Seiwert of Dynamic Fighting Arts along with his students Gene Knuf and John Fischer arrived in the Philippines for a week of specialized training on Dekiti Tirsia Siradas with Grandmaster Jerson Tortal Jr.

Grandmaster Tortal took them to official training ground which was the picturesque environment of the University of the Philippines Los Baños campus. Although David and his wife has traveled before to the Philippines, it was the first time for

Gene and John to stepped on Filipino soil. It was a grueling but exciting week of training with sticks, knives, empty hand and even with the guns and the kerambit. Training also included defense against multiple armed opponents and real jungle fighting in the rain forest of Mt. Makiling. Assisting Grandmaster Tortal all throughout the week was Master Rose Domdom and “AA”. They also got to do some fun stuff as well like taste Filipino cooking, learn a some Tagalog words, visit museums and got to ride in a Jeepney and “Trollie” After six days training, they flew back home with such fun memories and a year's worth of martial arts lesson from the Philippines.



Guro David Seiwert of Dynamic Fighting Arts



I returned from my training in the Philippines a few days ago. My students (who went to the Philippines for the first time) and I had a great time and learned a tremendous amount of new material from Grandmaster Jerson Tortal Jr. of Dekiti Tirsia Siradas.

We started our training with stick work then proceeded to knives. As the training progressed we worked on gun disarms, gun retention and knife against gun. Our training also took us to different environments and terrains.

Grandmaster Tortal is a wealth of information and an extremely talented martial artist as well as a gracious host.

Grandmaster made sure we got plenty of training in and showed us some of the nearby places of interest. I highly recommend anyone who wishes to learn true Filipino martial arts to train with Grandmaster Tortal Jr.



www.dynamicfightingarts.com



Sheilah Mae Tortal de la Cruz Recalls

By Sheilah Mae Tortal de la Cruz

Sheilah Mae Tortal de la Cruz was the youngest daughter, Supreme Grandmaster Nene Tortal Sr. and Dominga Tortal. She is also married to Darell T. de la Cruz and mother of Travis Justin T. de la Cruz. As a former beauty queen you may not recognized her as a martial artist. In this narrative, she recalls a frightening experience that in her life that required her to use her Dekiti Tirsia Siradas skill in real life.

It was broad
daylight of August

18, 2003 around 6:15pm at Ninoy Aquino Centennial Airport II. I was at the parking lot, waiting for the arrival of Bacolod-Manila Philippine Airlines Flight. On that day I'll be fetching my male doctor - friend from my home town Talisay City. I went out from the car to check the plane arrival, but unfortunately the board announcement it was delayed. So, I decided to go back to my Car just to stay there until its arrival. I was driving a new 2003 silver lynx model of Ford, its kind hot to the eyes who has interests for the mobile toys... When I was onboard, I am busy of browsing of some magazines and listening to the stereo, and from time to time checking my wrist watch and the atmosphere of the parking lot through the rear and side mirrors. With my boredom, I decided again to get out from the car but before doing' that I checked again the parking lot atmosphere (as I figure out that nobody was there except for the parked cars in my sides, across front and back and 50 meters away 2 Security Guards to the exit of parking lot going to the entrance of arrival area.



I switched off the engine and when I'm about to open my side door, there's somebody knocked on that passenger door. I'm still on board but I was able to open my side door. As I saw across about 10meters away from me a male stranger pointing to my back wheels, as he caught my attention to looked back into his pointed direction. In a flash he's beside me (trying to sit beside me in driver seat area) and he pointed his double blade long balisong on my left rib... then he declared "a Hold-Up". With all his strength he is trying to push me hard, to leave the driver seat and move to the passenger area. He grabs my shoulder bag and pushing hard the knife in my left rib. I closed my eyes for a second to two and ask for God's help that I will survive this moment... With all the courage and confidence, in just a split of seconds I struggled inside the Car... I am trying to disarm him with my left hand versus his right hand and he tries to grab my right shoulder and right arm with his left hand. I am really having that hard time since there's something he put in his arms to make it oily, so how can I managed to be on guard with all his offense...and the reality of man's power versus the woman's power. Still stuck inside the car, I've tried to beep long my horn just to catch attention if there's anyone there...

We we're stuck behind the steering wheel; I managed to over-power his right arm versus my left arm. I tried hard and I have the opportunity to elbow him in his right rib. I

was very thankful then that time because earlier when I turned my back seat to rest in 45 degrees reclined position. So, that's the reason I have opportunity to move free my left arm though we're in "Dekit" (closed) Position. He fall outside car, I was able to destruct his composure and I realized he felt the pain when I elbowed him as he's holding his right rib. I really don't have the idea, why that time I went out from the car instead of locking guard and remain inside the car. We have our fights in the ground, he makes his "pakal and saksak" attempt to my vital parts... and also I am very confident and quick with my defense. Until such time, with my 3 inch heels broke I fall directly to the driver seat and my feet still outside and in the ground... I was able to grab my cell phone and called my sister Arlene and my boyfriend before (now my husband- Darell), I am telling them what's really happening to me but our conversation was cut when the male stranger rushes to me and uses the "saksak" (thrusts) attempt directly to my sternum (mid part of the chest), with the adrenalin rush in my system I raised my two legs and strongly kick him off to the ground... I stood up again, and punch him down... this time he lost the knife his holding. I went back to the car and locked myself; I pulled the metal steering wheel lock just in case he would break the window. As expected he was still outside, he hits the window with his fists and shouting loud at me... though could not hear enough what he is really trying to say. That soon I realized I was bleeding, and in a while he disappears in my eyesight.

I checked the area again, I went down and look to where he disappear but in a flash 3 more men rushes to my direction. I conclude, maybe it was his companion... because they disappear again when I beep long again trying to ask for help.

In a while Airport Personnel came too asked for what happened and just one Security Guard came to run after them but he could not find them, so he escorted me to their clinic. It was just a minor cut in my left thumb with 3 stitches on it. I was been interviewed by the Airport Police and they Conduct an area surveillance for a week but unfortunately the fugitive was not captured. My father- Supreme Grandmaster Nene called-up, and asked me with his first question "Nagbato Ka, Paano? (Did you fight, How?)" I answered him yes... of course I am your daughter... then I replied to him "is that all are you going to ask, won't you ask if I'm Okay?" Then we just laugh together. My sister- Arlene, Husband - Darell, Brother- Grandmaster Junior and his wife, came after the event... to check on me.

Looking' back to the most unforgettable story of my life, maybe if I know nothing how to defend myself, having the background of the Martial Arts, the foundation of the Dekiti Tirsia Siradas System and The blood of the martial artists... I wouldn't have that nerve to fight that stranger, I might have been robbed and killed in that moment, or worst I might have been taken by him and was gang raped.





Sheilah Mae Tortal, being a former beauty queen, she wows the crowd with here martial arts skill in the talent portion of the pageant.



Historical Moment



Senator Joey Lina awards Jerson "Nene" Tortal the Grandmaster Certification.

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Guro Janfel "Genfil" Villahermosa

Grove, Batong Malake
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Email

Internet Resources

- **Official Philippines Website:** dekiti.net78.net
- **Discussion Group:** sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/dekiti-tirsia-siradas
- **Videos:** youtube.com/user/dekiti

**Grandmaster Jerson Tortal Jr.'s
Dekiti Tirsia Siradas DVD -- Is Now Out!**



This DVD is a compilation of several videos featuring Dekiti Tirsia Siradas seminars/trainings of Grandmaster Jerson Tortal Jr. in the Philippines and in Malaysia.

Inside the DVD Grandmaster Jerson teaches single stick, double sticks forms, knife defense, disarming, take-downs, long staff and much more.

Approximately 3 hours in length.
Plus, Grandmaster Jerson will personally sign your DVD

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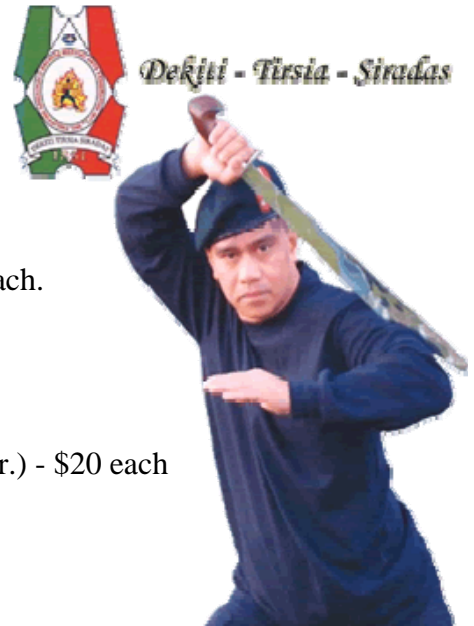
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1. **1" inch dia. Kamagong Stick 28"** - \$10 each.
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(By Grandmaster Jerson Tortal Jr.) - \$20 each

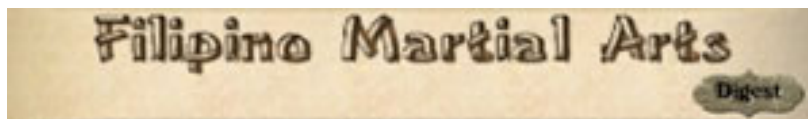
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