

Filipino Martial Arts

Digest

Special Edition
2007



Modern Arnis in Germany



Deutscher Arnis Verband e.V.

Publisher

Steven K. Dowd

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Sven Barchfeld	Bram Frank
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Gerald Meischein	Mike Inay
Manfred Rogalla	Axel Heimsoth

DAV Archives

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The FMA Digest is published quarterly. Each issue features practitioners of martial arts and other internal arts of the Philippines. Other features include historical, theoretical and technical articles; reflections, Filipino martial arts, healing arts and other related subjects.

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 Deutscher Arnis Verband e.V. (DAV) I believe is one of the, if not the largest Filipino martial arts Organizations in Europe. Dedicated to Modern Arnis and the Filipino martial arts; spear headed by Datu and Senior Master of Modern Arnis Dieter Knüttel.

Datu and Senior Master Dieter Knüttel and Alfred Plath coming up with the idea of the first two FMA Festivals in Germany, and with the DAV's support brought together many other organizations and styles of the Filipino martial arts. The DAV has truly shown a brotherhood which is of the highest level.

The DAV's Summer Camps, which have been held throughout the years, has offered some of the best Modern Arnis training, and has commenced to have instructors from the Philippines. So if you have the chance, time, desire, and capabilities, attend and do not miss out on the excellent training that is offered.

This Special Edition which will let you the reader, know more about the DAV and is an excellent preview of the DAV. Mostly written in German and then translated to English, with the help of Guro Edessa Ramos and Guro Axel Heimsoth. Nothing has been lost in translation.

Maraming Salamat Po



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Welcome to this special edition of FMA Digest!

I would like to thank Mr. Steven Dowd for the possibility to present the DAV to FMA enthusiasts all over the world.

Also I want to thank all supporting authors who wrote articles for this issue and special thanks to Edessa Ramos and Axel Heimsoth for their editorial work here before the articles were sent to Mr. Steven Dowd.

Through the joint efforts of all, this became a considerable collection of informative articles.

And now enjoy reading and explore the DAV, its members and history!



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History and Presence

Sven Barchfeld
President of DAV

The history of the DAV (Deutscher Arnis Verband e.V.) began several years before the actual formation. Dieter Knüttel, now Datu and Senior Master of Modern Arnis and at that time already a practitioner for many years in the martial arts, has been visiting seminars with Jackson Cui Brocka (student of Ernesto and Roberto Presas) since 1979. There he taught Combat Arnis which was in a way his interpretation of Modern Arnis. During this time, Hans Karrer also got into contact with Arnis and is today one of the Modern Arnis Masters within the DAV.

Up to 1982, Cui Brocka taught many seminars which were still organized through the DAKO (Deutsch-Asiatische Kampfkunst Organization, German-Asian Martial Art Organization). During that time, competition also formed a part of Combat Arnis. Dieter Knüttel and Hans Karrer participated and were very successful in winning several German championship titles. In 1984 Cui Brocka died in a car accident. Still Arnis continued through Dieter Knüttel, who used the contacts he made during his trip to the Philippines in 1983. This way, he was able to invite Grandmaster Ernesto Presas who supported Arnis in Germany. He came to Germany on a regular basis to support the German Arnis groups in their technical adaptation of Modern Arnis.



Cui Brocka and Dieter Knüttel
1980



1985 DAV Formed

instructor, and he holds this position to this day. (Every 3 years, the members elect the board of directors of the DAV. The position of the chief-instructor is also an elected position). Wolfgang Schnur was elected as the President and the DAV became a member of the IPMAF (International Philippine Martial Arts Federation), the federation of Ernesto Presas.

In 1985, due to different reasons, the Arnis group around Dieter Knüttel and Wolfgang Schnur split from the DAKO and formed an independent Arnis organization towards the end of 1985, the DAV (Deutscher Arnis Verband e.V.). During the foundation of the DAV, Dieter Knüttel was elected as the chief



Ernesto Presas and Dieter Knüttel
Philippine Camp. 1986

In 1986, several DAV instructors travelled to the Philippines to train Arnis in its place of origin. Among others, Dieter Knüttel, Hans Karrer and Jørgen Gydesen were part of the German delegation. During this stay, the contact with the masters like Ernesto Presas, Rene Tongson and Cristino Vasquez were intensified.

Up to 1993, the DAV worked together with Ernesto Presas and adapted the techniques of his Modern Arnis. He came to Germany on a regular basis and taught Modern Arnis in seminars. But already during this time, there was also a development of the techniques and teaching principles in Germany. This became the reason, among others, for the DAV to make contact with other Filipino martial art Masters. This, plus more so the fact that Wolfgang Schnur wanted to implement a hard Karate-like Arnis interpretation into the DAV which did not match the Modern Arnis of Ernesto Presas at all, led to a separation into two different groups within the DAV. On one side were the members behind Wolfgang Schnur, on the other side were the members behind Dieter Knüttel, who wanted to train a softer version the way they have learned and seen it in the Philippines. When Wolfgang Schnur lost the election for DAV president to Helmut Meisel, this led him and his group to leave the DAV and found their own association.

Due to other reasons, Ernesto Presas chose to continue to support Wolfgang Schnur and his group. Thus, the DAV left the IPMAF. This was seen with hindsight as a very fortunate development. Because already 2 months after the split, Grandmaster Remy Presas, founder and father of Modern Arnis, was invited to Germany by Gaby Roloff.

He taught a seminar in Hamburg which was not organized nor initiated by the DAV. Dieter Knüttel and Helmut Meisel took this opportunity to establish contact with Professor Presas and to introduce him to the DAV and its members. Remy Presas was excited because, on one hand, here was a rather large group who trained Modern Arnis in Germany (at that time around 600 people). On the other hand, he very soon saw that the DAV members possessed a high technical level. He immediately assured the DAV of his 100 % support in their task of further spreading Modern Arnis in Germany and Europe.



1998 - Hamburg, Germany

Professor Remy Presas and Dieter Knüttel

knew exactly what and how we trained Modern Arnis here within the DAV.

Since then in 1994, Grandmaster Remy, who have lived in the USA and Canada since 1975, visited the DAV on a regular basis and, in this way, supported its technical development. After the first phase of getting to know each other, Professor Remy's opinion about the high level of the DAV was consolidated. He not only saw how the members train at his seminars, but he witnessed many black belt gradings in which he

This became obvious in 1996 when Professor Presas awarded our Chief Instructor Dieter Knüttel the title of "Datu" and the 6th Dan Modern Arnis in recognition of his merits in the spreading of Modern Arnis in Germany and Europe. Dieter Knüttel was only the 4th person, and the first outside the USA and the Philippines, whom he granted this title at that time. Today, there are 6 Datus from Professor Presas, 5 in the USA and Canada and Datu Dieter Knüttel in Germany.



Professor Presas promotes Knüttel to 6th Dan

After several gradings but especially after a grading in 1999 in Frankfurt wherein almost 30 DAV black belts were ranked between 1st and 5th Dan Modern Arnis, Professor Presas once again publicly stated the high level of Modern Arnis that he found here in the DAV. Besides him, there were also some of his American students who witnessed this grading, such as David Hoffman and Jeff Delaney.



In August 2001, some sad news alighted on the Modern Arnis and FMA community. Professor Remy Presas died after 9 months of fighting against brain tumour in Canada. Although it came as no surprise due to the illness, it was still shocking and very sad news. Dieter Knüttel was lucky enough to visit him in Canada in time to say goodbye to his teacher. He left on Monday and Professor Presas died one day later on Tuesday, the 28th of August 2001. Professor Presas' personality and teaching greatly influenced the DAV even long after his death and it will continue to do so for a long time to come.

From 2002 on, the DAV was establishing contacts with masters and high ranked students of the Professor. Through his trips to the USA and the Philippines, Datu Dieter Knüttel had the chance to do this as well as revive his contacts. Contact with Grandmaster Roland Dantes was made in this way along with seminars that were organized. Also the contacts to the IMAFP led by Grandmaster Rene Tongson, Grandmaster Cristino Vasquez and Senior Master Samuel "Bambit" Dulay, as well as Grandmaster Rodel Dagooc and Grandmaster Jerry dela Cruz, were re-established. Many of these masters have been training in Modern Arnis already since the 60s and 70s under Grandmaster Remy when he was still living in the Philippines.

In 2002, Helmut Meisel resigned from the position of DAV president due to health problems, but assisted the new president for another term of 3 years as vice-president. I was elected as the new president, after being on the board for 9 years as the DAV secretary.

After the split with Grandmaster Ernesto, the DAV had stayed an independent organization. New impulses came not only from the outside but also from within the organization. The "technical commission" headed by Datu Dieter Knüttel was, and still is, responsible for the direction the Modern Arnis of the DAV is orientated. It monitors the program and checks if new impulses have to be incorporated into the program or if some parts have to be excluded.

The DAV offers open and special seminars. The open seminars are for all interested persons, no matter if they are a DAV member or not. The special seminars are only for DAV members. For example, some are only for brown and black belts, some only for 3rd Dan and higher or special trainer education seminars.

In 2005, the DAV celebrated its 20th anniversary with a seminar followed by the anniversary celebration. Grandmaster Rene Tongson came the long way from the Philippines, to teach at this seminar (with 125 participants) and attend the celebration. We were all very happy that also the International Modern Arnis Organization - Philippines (IMAFP) saw and acknowledged the efforts that the DAV has made for Modern Arnis during the past 20 years. Grandmaster Tongson presented a certificate of appreciation to the DAV President for the spreading and support of Modern Arnis throughout those years.



Roland Dantes and Dieter Knüttel



Christino Vasquez and Dieter Knüttel



other members, into what it is today.

In summer 2006, the WBMA (Worldwide Brotherhood of Modern Arnis) was founded in the Philippines. It is a union of different Modern Arnis groups and organizations that find their roots in the teachings of the late Professor Remy Presas. The DAV is a founding member of the WBMA.

Today, the DAV is the largest non-profit organization for Filipino martial arts in Germany and perhaps even in Europe. It has over 60 training groups all over Germany and has close relations to groups in other countries that have chosen to connect and work closely with the DAV, like France, Austria, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Hungary and Russia. As of today, the DAV has 1,200 active members. Since its founding in 1985, over 5,000 have been members of the DAV. More than 180 have passed their exam to black belt (Lakan Isa; no probationary black belts). Today, the DAV has certified 50 members as "licensed DAV instructor", which involves a 60 - 100 hours special course. A new instructor course is being taught this year, with 30 participants heading for this certification.

In the 22 years that the DAV has been in existence, there have been different phases of development that left their mark within the DAV and its program. The result is an accumulation and combination of techniques, principles and experiences of many different phases of Grandmaster Remy Presas' teaching and some other influences. For us, this intersection from Grandmaster Remy's different phases of Modern Arnis is an ideal combination of his art, but we do appreciate and acknowledge all other Modern Arnis groups worldwide who have different programs based on Grandmaster Remy's teaching.

All in all, we are very happy with the situation of the DAV and our Modern Arnis today but still hope to further strengthen and enhance our organisation, not only with the

The technical achievements were also acknowledged. Grandmaster Tongson presented Lakan Anim, 6th Dan Modern Arnis and the title "Master" to Hans Karrer, who has been practicing Arnis since 1978, and to Jørgen Gydesen (Arnis since 1983). Datu Dieter Knüttel was acclaimed as Senior Master and received the title "Master of Classical Arnis", the same for Hans Karrer who is the specialist for classical Arnis within the DAV. Thus, the DAV has 3 high ranked masters, all of whom have made the DAV, together will all the



Grandmaster Rene Tongson, Master Jørgen Gydesen, Master Hans Karrer, Senior Master Dieter Knüttel

support of our members but also through cooperation and friendship with other Modern Arnis organisations worldwide.

The Board of Directors

President	Sven Barchfeld, Dresden, 3rd Dan Licensed Trainer and Examiner
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Senior Master Dieter Knüttel, 7th Dan
Master Hans Karrer, 6th Dan
Master Jørgen Gydesen, 6th Dan
Peter Rutkowski, 4th Dan
Michael Jux, 3rd Dan
Helmut Meisel, 3rd Dan
Philipp Wolf, 3rd Dan
Heiko Dervedde, 3rd Dan

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Master Hans Karrer, 6th Dan
Helmut Meisel, 3rd Dan
Michael Jux, 3rd Dan

Blackbelts

7th Dan - Senior Master Datu Dieter Knüttel
6th Dan - Master Hans Karrer
 Master Jørgen Gydesen
4th Dan - Sunny Graff
 Carsten Hemmersbach
 Alfred Plath
 Peter Rutkowski
 Bernd Vieth
3rd Dan - 28 overall
2nd Dan - 41 overall
1st Dan - 90 overall



Sven Barchfeld
President



Philipp Wolf
Vice President



Datu Dieter Knüttel
Chief Instructor



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The Board Members



Sven Barchfeld

Lakan Tatlo Modern Arnis

DAV President (Deutscher Arnis Verband e.V.)

Sven Barchfeld was born in 1972 in Kassel. He began with Modern Arnis in 1988 as his first martial art besides sport fencing. Between 1992 and 1998, he was a trainer in his home club, the Police Sports Club "Grün-Weiß Kassel e.V.". Sven passed his 1st Dan exam in 1993, after which he undertook the education to become a licensed DAV Trainer. In the same year, he was elected as the secretary of the DAV, a position that he held until 2002. In 1994, he passed the 2nd Dan exam.



Barchfeld with Datu Knüttel
and Grandmaster Tongson

Due to his university studies, he moved to Paderborn in 1995, where he opened another Modern Arnis group together with Andre Dawson. Parallel to that, he also taught in Bielefeld until the year 2000. During his IT university course, he took time to further his own training and passed his 3rd Dan in 1999 before Grandmaster Remy Presas and Datu Dieter Knüttel, a short while later he got the examiners' license from the DAV.

Due to his job, he had to relocate to Dresden in 2000, where he

works as a software developer in an international IT consulting company. Together with Tino Heidner, he started the Modern Arnis group in Dresden in 2003.

The way Sven teaches is very analytical, which helps one to understand deeply the how and why of the techniques as well as the structure of the training. I got to know Sven closely during my time in Dresden. We trained together and I learned from him as his co-instructor. Sven has not only participated in more than 100 seminars, he also teaches seminars himself on a regular basis. Since 2005 he has also been teaching in Prague (Czech Republic) to introduce Modern Arnis to the Czech martial arts enthusiasts.

In 2002, Sven took over a big task for the DAV. The members elected him as president of the DAV, a position that he holds to this day. Aside from that, Sven is one of the organizers of the biannual international Modern Arnis Summer Camp of the DAV. He also represents the DAV in relation to other organisations and groups.

His successful work pays off: the DAV is growing, the seminar participation is high and the DAV has a high reputation in Germany, Europe and other parts of the world. I am sure that Sven will continue his way in Modern Arnis, as instructor as well as in his function as president.



Teaching Prague, Czech Republic



Author: **Axel Heimsoth**, Essen
2nd Dan Modern Arnis



Datu Dieter Knüttel

Lakan Pito and Senior Master of Modern Arnis
Chief Instructor of DAV

It was 28 years ago when I first met Datu Dieter Knüttel. At the time, he was not yet a Datu, but already one could clearly see that here was someone ready for higher tasks.

Already at that time I was very impressed with the enthusiasm which Datu Dieter Knüttel showed for Arnis. Soon it became clear to him that he would stop in the other arts he was practicing then, and that he would concentrate on Arnis, continuing to train only in Arnis. I thought this to be very brave many people stood against it and there were many arguments against spreading Arnis wider in Germany. Some had the opinion that Arnis was only a supplement to the empty

hand arts. Others were of the thinking that, because one does not usually carry a stick with him on the street, it does not make sense to train in Arnis.

But they did not take into account the abilities of a Datu! Perhaps he realized intuitively that Arnis is a complete art. This may have been the reason, in the fact, why Datu Dieter Knüttel had earlier trained intensively in Kung Fu, Tai Chi Chuan, Karate, Tae Kwon Do and Judo, so that he already knew many aspects of the Asian martial arts.

The knowledge in these arts became a good basis for this realization. Today, one can say that he was right in his estimation. The Filipino martial arts were custom-made for Datu Knüttel.

The Asians say that one should be unhurried in dealing with them and the matters that concern them. In the beginning stages of Arnis in Germany, we were able to experience what that meant. Whenever you executed a technique, there was always an "as well as" and nothing was really set. This way of learning is very unusual for us Europeans, and not very sensible, when if you want to teach an art to many students.

Datu Dieter Knüttel formed a system out of the unstructured material he had learned, and which is now respected throughout the world. He managed to find a synthesis of traditional techniques and modern methods. In doing so, he achieved the full recognition of the most well-known Filipino



Datu Knüttel with Guro Graff and Master Karrer.



Modern Arnis masters, who later awarded him with Lakan Pito, 7th Dan, in 2003 after testing him for a week in Manila. This does not come out of the nowhere. On the one hand, you need the abilities for it, and on the other hand, Datu Knüttel is a person for whom respect and loyalty are not mere words. To live this is not always easy, especially if you are dealing at times with a difficult Grandmaster. This is what history had taught us.

What makes Datu Dieter stand out is his never ending enjoyment and curiosity for the Filipino martial arts. He is constantly engaged, analyzing techniques, methods and different Filipino martial arts styles. Thus he is aware of the old traditional techniques as well as of modern developments.

One of his greatest achievements is the structuring of an examining and training

program: Originally, in the Filipino way of teaching, there was no systematic approach.

Things were taught from one day to another. Even the execution of a technique could be adapted individually. This is the traditional way of Filipino teaching, which is



Datu Knüttel with
Laurent from Paris

great when you are teaching a person one-to-one, but does not work when teaching larger groups. Our way of learning follows a logical structure. Datu Dieter Knüttel realized this very soon and he structured the Modern Arnis program in Germany accordingly. He was smart enough to keep it open in the advanced part. This guarantees that the program is kept alive.

But of what use is the best program if there is no one teaching and spreading it? The spread of Modern Arnis in Europe is undoubtedly to his merit. It started already in 1983 in Denmark but then he taught Modern Arnis also in Sweden, Norway, France,

England, Austria, Switzerland, Spain, Czech Republic, Australia and in the USA. Today, he even teaches Modern Arnis in Russia. Not to forget the many seminars in Germany. Since the beginning of the 80s, he has been teaching at least 20 weekend seminars a year!

In the midst of all those seminars were the German summer camps held every other year. Since the first summer camp in 1989, as the chief instructor of the DAV, he has been heading all summer camps with great success.



As a teacher, Dieter has the ability to instruct and enhance everyone's own abilities, no matter if the person is a beginner or an advanced black belt. He teaches the beginner to enjoy Arnis as well as the technical fundamentals and impresses the advanced students with intricacies, refinement and sophistication. His base has always been a very amicable and respectful company of students.

As a friend, Datu Dieter is one who gives you his opinion very openly and honestly. When it comes to decision-making, he assists you with his sharp-witted, analytical thinking, or comes up with many ideas that show you there are many ways to solve a problem. One of his mottos seems to be that laughter is the best medicine, and always welcome a joke.

All in all, Datu Dieter is a strong personality, irreplaceable for us in the DAV. And to the world he is a positive example with regard to technique and ability, but who also represents the inner values of the martial arts.



Author: **Master Hans Karrer**

6th Dan Modern Arnis
Martial Arts since 1976, Arnis since 1979

Teacher, Friend and Person

The first time I met Datu Dieter Knüttel was in 1984 in Essen. At that time, I had been training Latosa Eskrima for 4 years and thought that I was pretty "cool", as one would say today. I saw him during an exhibition with Grandmaster Ernesto Presas and in the seminar that followed.

He managed to convince me to "convert" to Modern Arnis. In the 28 years now that I have been practicing martial arts, I have always trained in many systems parallel with each other. I was never a typical "single-style martial artist" who would say "my style is the best". I have travelled all around the globe, always in search of the absolute system. Through this I have met many Filipino martial arts legends, trained with many and learned about their strategies.



Datu Knüttel and Alfred Plath 2005

But I always came back to Modern Arnis as my main system and learned under Datu Dieter Knüttel. He has the gift of photographic memory which at times I admire and at times I hate. He does not have to work to "get" a technique. He also has the ability to explain complex structures, analyze them and incorporate them into the structure of their own system.

In this regard, I have learned a lot from him, even more so than in technical terms. Without stepping on anybody's feet, I must say that this is what I missed from 95 % of the Grandmasters I have met. There are some who were and continue to be on the same level, or higher.

Datu has dedicated his life over the last 30 years to the Filipino martial arts. Determined and tireless, he built up the German Arnis Association (DAV) throughout that time, always in search of more effective techniques and strategies. A well known American Filipino martial arts teacher once called him a "vacuum cleaner" because he absorbs the techniques he learns.

As one of the oldest students of Datu Dieter (23 years now), I have carefully watched and witnessed his development, being very open minded, he stays in good contact with many arnis instructors and organisations worldwide. He is very lucky that his wife Bea understands and supports all of his activities.

In the 23 years that we have known each other now, we have travelled together, visited and organized seminars and given exhibitions together. We have experienced a lot, went "through thick and thin" as we say in Germany, underwent organizational problems and many more.

Without doubt, Dieter is at the cutting edge of the Filipino martial arts in Europe and has rendered an outstanding service in spreading the Filipino martial arts in Germany and Europe. Especially within the last few years, he has achieved a lot of reputation within the international Arnis community. His achievements were acknowledged in the Philippines as well as in the USA accordingly. He is the only European who was ever given the title "Datu" by Grandmaster Remy Presas.

Dieter Knüttel will continue on his way and will most probably continue teaching beginners and advanced students in Modern Arnis, even when he is already retired. I think we will be hearing a lot from him, leading the DAV to greater heights.



Author: **Alfred Plath**

Student of Datu Dieter Knüttel

4th Dan Modern Arnis

different Filipino martial arts styles since 1980



Hans Karrer

Lakan Anim and Master of Modern Arnis

Born 1959 he started Martial Arts in 1976. He began with his Arnis training in 1979 under Cui Brocka and later trained under me. In 1983 he passed the examination for Lakan Isa (1st Dan). 1985 he was a founding member of the German Arnis Association DAV and was for more than 10 years member of the board of directors in different functions. In 1986 he participated in the first European-Philippine Arnis Camp in Hundred Islands, Pangasinan.

Besides Modern Arnis, he is a Kung Fu Master and a Tai Chi and Qi Gong teacher.

Since mid of the 80s Hans is continuously teaching Modern Arnis in his martial arts school in Ulm. This is a city in south Germany and he is the responsible Modern Arnis instructor for South Germany. Since the beginning of the German Modern Arnis Summer Camps in 1989, he has been teaching there continuously with great success.

Since more than 15 years he is teaching weekend seminars all over Germany and also in Austria and Hungary, where he helped to establish Modern Arnis groups. On a monthly basis, he is teaching special courses for black belts of his region. Since the founding of the DAV, he is a full examiner and always part of the board of examiners, when black belts are examined in the DAV. He is an excellent instructor who has many black belt students, several as high as Lakan / Dayang Tatlo (1st and 2nd Dan).

In 1999 he passed his exam for Lakan Lima Modern Arnis under the founder and Grandmaster: Professor Remy A. Presas. In autumn 2005 he received his promotion by the board of directors of the IMAFP to Lakan Anim, 6th Dan Modern Arnis. It was handed out to him by Grandmaster Rene Tongson.



Master Hans Karrer is one of two Lakan Anim in Germany, second only after me. He plays a leading role in the German Modern Arnis Association, DAV. He is specialized in classical Arnis.



In 2000 Hans and his demonstration team were part of the Modern Arnis Demo team of the DAV, who gave a Modern Arnis exhibition at the Budo Gala 2000 in front of 10.000 spectators in Dortmund (G). He has participated in seminars with Cui Brocka, Ernesto Presas, Pepe Yap, Rene Tongson, Mike Inay, Remy Presas, Roland Dantes, Bambit Dulay, Christino Vasquez, Rodel Dagooc and of course in a countless number of my seminars.

On a personal note: Hans is a very pleasant man with an everlasting enthusiasm for the art. His love is the classical Arnis and it is pure joy to watch him move, gracefully and effectively. He is my student since more than 28 years and a very good friend. I appreciate very much his loyalty to me, not only through good, but also through difficult times. But more important is our friendship, that has lasted for almost 30 years now and I am sure, that it will last for some more decades.



Author: **Datu Dieter Knüttel**
7th Dan and Senior Master of Modern Arnis



Jørgen Gydesen
Lakan Anim and Master of Modern Arnis

Born 1959 in Denmark, he started Martial Arts in 1976. He began with his Arnis training in 1983, being already a brown belt in Karate, when he visited a seminar in south Germany, where I taught Arnis.

Back in Denmark Jørgen started in his Karate club the first Modern Arnis group in Denmark. Little later he founded the Danish Arnis Association, where he was Founder and President for the next 7 years. During this time he has given numerous seminars all over Denmark and helped to set up groups in Sweden and Norway, where he taught Modern Arnis seminars as well. Besides Modern Arnis, he holds the 2nd Dan in Shotokan Karate.

Jørgen hosted numerous seminars with Grandmaster Ernesto Presas and he invited me twice a year up to Denmark, to help spreading the art there. In 1986 he participated in the first European-Philippine Arnis Camp in Hundred Islands, Pangasinan. Since the beginning of the German Modern Arnis Summer Camps in 1989, he has been teaching there continuously with great success.

In 1990 he relocated to Ulm (Germany), where he joined the Modern Arnis group of Hans Karrer. He became a member of the DAV and since that time he is a full examiner and always part of the board of examiners, when black belts are examined in the DAV. In Germany, he continued to teach Modern Arnis in the school of Hans Karrer.



He also is teaching Modern Arnis seminars all over Germany and occasionally still in Denmark. He also taught in Austria and helped to set up Modern Arnis groups there.

On a monthly basis, he is teaching together with Hans Karrer special courses for black belts of his region. He himself has many black belt students, several as high as Lakan /Dayang Tatlo (1st and 2nd Dan). Other students of him in Scandinavia, namely Thorbjorn Hartelius from Denmark and Johan Skalberg from Sweden, have already been



ranked Lakan Anim in another organization.

In 1999 he passed his exam for Lakan Lima Modern Arnis under the founder and Grandmaster: Professor Remy A. Presas. In autumn 2005 he received his promotion by the board of directors of the IMAFP to Lakan Anim, 6th Dan Modern Arnis. It was handed out to him by Grandmaster Rene Tongson.

In 2000 Jørgen and his demonstration team were part of the Modern Arnis Demo team of the DAV, who gave a Modern Arnis exhibition at the Budo Gala 2000 in front of 10,000 spectators in Dortmund.



Master Jørgen Gydesen is one of two Lakan Anim in Germany, second only after myself. He plays a leading role in the German Modern Arnis Association, DAV. He is specialized in lockings with and without sticks as well as sinawali variations and counter techniques. He has participated in seminars with Ernesto Presas, Pepe Yap, Rene Tongson, Mike Inay, Remy Presas, Roland Dantes, Bambit Dulay, Christino Vasquez, Rodel Dagooc and of course in many of my seminars.

On a personal note: Jørgen has a sincere dedication for the art. He is a pleasure to train with and due to his rather high pain tolerance, through training with him you really learn to apply locks. He was THE responsible man for starting the Filipino martial arts in Scandinavia and without him I am sure, neither Thorbjorn Hartelius (Knifeman) from Denmark nor Johan Skalberg from Sweden would be what they are today. Jørgen is a very loyal student, an excellent instructor and a very good friend that you can rely on if needed.



Author: **Datu Dieter Knüttel**
7th Dan and Senior Master of Modern Arnis



Alfred Plath
Lakan Apat Modern Arnis
Member of the Board of Directors

Alfred Plath started to train martial Arts in 1979. Already 1980 he came in contact with the Filipino martial arts. He first trained the PMAS Escrima under Rene Latosa but after participating in a Modern Arnis seminar in 1984, which was organized by myself and taught by Ernesto Presas, he became my student in Modern Arnis and a very good friend.

Alfred is a Filipino martial arts maniac. Even though, he chose Modern Arnis as his main style, he continued to visit seminars and travelled all over the world, to train with 59 of the best and most well known Filipino martial arts masters in the world. The list of countries, where he travelled to train and later also to teach is impressive: USA, Mexico, Canada, England, France, Denmark, Holland, Luxemburg, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, Poland, Austria, Switzerland, Thailand, India, China, Hongkong, Philippines, Indonesia, Hawaii, South Africa, Saudi Arabia and Dubai.

Besides being active in different positions within the DAV (he is in the board of directors since 1991 consecutively) he was also a WEKAF director in Germany and Austria, where he organized tournaments. He was the coach to the German team at the European Championship 1993 in London/England, the World Championships 1994 in Manila, Philippines and 1996 in Los Angeles CA. USA.

Alfred was also member of the DAV demo team. In this team we gave Modern Arnis exhibitions in Germany, Holland, Sweden and Norway in front of up to 15000 spectators.



Besides training, teaching and coaching, he always was a writer. He has written over 20 articles about Filipino martial arts, which were published in the mayor martial arts magazines. He appeared twice with me on the cover of the largest German martial arts magazine as well as in the German TV. His writing activities led him to publish his own magazine, the "El Juramentado", the only Filipino martial arts magazine in German language, which is a very

sought after publication, because he continuously wrote articles about the history and less known aspects of the Filipino martial arts.

Alfred is the founder and owner of Quick Stick (www.quick-stick.de) a company that provides training gear and equipment for FMA enthusiasts as well as police and security forces.

Through his work as the editor, he came in contact with many masters and practitioners of the Filipino martial arts, so that he also organized a lot of seminars with Masters from the Philippines and from the US, sometimes to introduce these styles the first time in Germany and Europe, like Marc Denny with his Dog Brothers Martial Art and Amante Marinas with his Pananandata and many others.

When I had the idea of organizing a Filipino Martial Arts festival, it was only an idea, that it would be great to do something like this. But only Alfred, through the many contacts he had in the Filipino martial arts world and his untiring work for these events made the 1st and 2nd FMA Festival possible.

So we both organized these festivals, the second being the largest Filipino martial arts seminar ever being taught worldwide with more than 20 masters and instructors and over 600 participants coming from 4 continents. During this 2nd FMA Festival, he received his Lakan Apat, 4th Dan Modern Arnis out of the hands of Grandmaster Roland Dantes.

Today, Alfred is still working in the DAV for the spreading of Modern Arnis. He is also Punong Guro and the head of the Real Arnis organisation. He teaches seminars to martial artists, police and security agencies and is a regular instructor at the DAV Summer Camps. In the USA he is listened as one of the top 200 FMA guros worldwide.

One can definitively say that Alfred Plath is one of the most influential persons within the Filipino martial arts scene in Germany and without him Filipino martial arts in Germany would not be as popular, as it is today. We are very happy, to have Alfred as an important member within the lines of the DAV.





Professor Remy Presas
and Punong Guro Plath -1997

On a personal note: I know Alfred now for more than 20 years. He trained with me, he travelled to my seminars we have trained together at Grandmaster Remy's seminars in Germany and travelled together to the USA to a summer camp of Grandmaster Remy Presas. Together, we gave exhibitions, we organized the FMA Festivals we trained and sweated together. To sum it up: a more loyal student and a better friend is hard to find.



Author: **Datu Dieter Knüttel**
7th Dan and Senior Master of Modern Arnis



Peter Rutkowski
Lakan Apat Modern Arnis

Peter Rutkowski has a long martial arts career behind him. It started in 1964 when he began training in Judo at the age of 14. Years later, he started to train in Hapkido as well. In this Korean martial art, he achieved his 1st Dan and became German champion in 1970 and 1971.

Finally found his first passion in Karate. In the beginning it was Shotokan, then later Modern Karate. He achieved his 2nd Dan and became a successful competition fighter. He was part of the German National Karate Team, which joined tournaments in Tokyo and Kyoto (Japan) as well as tournaments in Amsterdam (Netherlands) and Sonderburg (Denmark). Two Years later, he won 3rd place in the German Karate championship and fought in the European Karate championship in Gothenburg (Sweden). In addition to his Karate training, he started to train in Jiu Jitsu where he made his 1st Dan in 1975 and then began training in Kung Fu in 1970. In Kung Fu he reached 3rd Toan and travelled to Taipeh (Taiwan) to deepen his knowledge in Tai Chi (Yang style). In 1993 he travelled to China to train in Shaolin Kung Fu and Wenxian. In the same year, he also became interested in training in Muay Thai. Peter was not only

a successful Karate fighter he was also a referee for 27 years and an examiner for 10 years. He taught the trainers and taught self defense, as well as worked together with the German wheelchair association.

Peter found his second passion in 1986 when he participated in a Modern Arnis seminar which I had organized and was taught by Ernesto Presas. He immediately started regular training under me and has been my student ever since. In 1993, he passed his exam to 3rd Dan and, in 1999 before Grandmaster Remy Presas he passed his 4th Dan in Modern Arnis. Since 1997, he has been teaching regularly in the German Summer Camps as well as giving weekend Seminars in Germany. He founded several Modern Arnis groups near Essen. Apart from me, he is the main teacher of the Modern Arnis club in Essen, which is one of the largest within the DAV.



states Northrhine Westphalia and Rheinland Pfalz.

He is not only very active in the club but also within the DAV. He is one of the 3 instructors at the trainer education of the DAV and one of 6 full examiners and part of the technical commission that steers the technical development of the DAV.

Aside from his effort in the Club and the DAV, Peter is trainer for self defense for the security and billets controller of the "Deutsche Bahn" (the German railway company) for the



Author: **Datu Dieter Knüttel**
7th Dan and Senior Master of Modern Arnis



Helmut Meisel

Lakan Tatlo Modern Arnis
Previous DAV President

Helmut Meisel, 60 years of age, started his Modern Arnis training in 1985. He became my student and participated at many seminars that I taught in Denmark, Sweden and Norway. He organized the first very successful Modern Arnis Summer Camp in Plön 1989, where he also passed his 1st Dan examination.

In 1996 he received his 3rd Dan Modern Arnis from Gm Remy Presas. He started several Modern Arnis groups in Hamburg, 1987 in Plön and in other cities in northern Germany and produced a lot of black belts. Since 15 years, he is teaching many weekend courses in Hamburg, Plön and other cities in northern Germany as well as holding and organizing the regional Modern Arnis Easter Camps. He is always very supportive when new groups start and due to his work, the DAV has a good standing in northern Germany with a lot of groups and members.

In 1991 Helmut travelled to the Philippines to train Modern Arnis with the masters there, like Ernesto Presas, Rene Tongson, Cristino Vasquez and Samuel "Bambit" Dulay.



Already in 1987 he became the Secretary of the DAV, to be elected to the DAV President in 1993. He continued in this position until 2002 and was Vice-President until 2005. For his 18 years on the board of directors of the DAV, he became honorary member of the DAV in 2005, at the 20 year DAV anniversary. At the moment, he is only honorary member of the DAV. He is one of 6 full examiners of the DAV and he is the 3rd instructor of the trainer education team of the DAV besides myself and Peter Rutkowski, as well as a regular instructor on the DAV Summer Camps. He is also member of the honour commission of the DAV that decides which people are being honoured with different medallions for their volunteer work within the DAV.

He lives north of Hamburg in Plön, where he still teaches Modern Arnis in his club.



Author: **Datu Dieter Knüttel**
7th Dan and Senior Master of Modern Arnis

Why Do I Train in the DAV

Why do I train Modern Arnis in the DAV by Siegfried Derwisch

I was born on the 28th of March 1936. Already during my youth, I was interested in martial arts like boxing and wrestling. In 1956, I participated in my first Judo seminar. From there on, I have developed myself in the self-defence arts such as Karate and Ju-Jitsu. I have trained in these arts very intensively and seriously for years, but have always asked myself "what if ..."

What if my technique does not work on my opponent? What if my opponent is on drugs or alcohol, so that he hardly feels pain and therefore hard to stop? What if I am attacked in a narrow environment or in dark parking lots? What if I am being attacked with a knife or another weapon? What if I evaluate a situation wrongly, and injure my opponent severely?

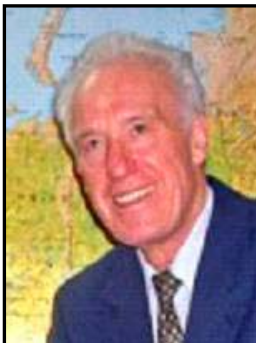
These and similar questions I had asked myself when I was still training in Judo, Karate and Ju-Jitsu, before I got to know the Modern Arnis system. When I first saw a video of Grandmaster Remy Presas and his Arnis techniques, I was immediately fascinated by the fluid movements and the flow, and how the defensive movements changed to counter techniques with no effort.

That was the reason for me to start with Modern Arnis training. Since then, also my other self-defence techniques became much more flexible and I got to understand them much better. In the meantime, I can look back on 51 years of self-defence experience.

Finally I can say the following: I compare self-defence to an orange. You have to imagine the following: Every single slice of the orange has a symbolic meaning. Like block- and counter techniques, locks, throws, knife and stick techniques etc. The same way that the slices of the orange are one in the orange, so must the different aspects of self-defence be applied.

Self-defence has to be like driving a car, wherein the steering, breaking, hitting the clutch, gear shifting and everything else smoothly works together without one having to think about each single movement.

This is why I practise Modern Arnis within the DAV, because this is the essence of the Modern Arnis training.



Author: Siegfried Derwisch

3rd Dan Modern Arnis

7th Dan Ju-Jitsu

3rd Dan Judo

1st Kyu (brown belt) Karate

Why do I train Modern Arnis in the DAV by Sunny Graff

My introduction to Arnis was back in the 70's at a small gathering of women martial arts instructors in Michigan, a precursor of the USA National Women's Martial Arts Federation where Sifu Barbara Bones taught single and double Sinawali. I was hooked immediately. The movements reminded me of the yummy sick drills I'd done as a child at Girl Scout camp. I was intrigued by Arnis, but had no opportunity to pursue further training. I was a member of the US National Taekwondo Team at the time and all my energy went into preparing for competition.

In 1983 I retired from competition, graduated from Columbia University Law School with an LIM in Comparative Law and got a scholarship to study in Germany for a year. I was surprised to find there were very little women's martial arts or self-defense in Germany. In Frankfurt I started a Taekwondo school for women and girls and a nationwide self-defense teacher's training program. For my own training I began Shin Son Hapkido with Sonsanim Ko Myong and made contact with the German Arnis Association, which directed me to a local teacher. At my first promotion test in Essen to yellow belt, I saw the German national trainer Datu Dieter Knüttel in action and immediately decided he had to be my teacher. It was worth the 2 ½ hours of travel each way to Essen to learn from the best.

Professor Remy Presas advertised Arnis as "the art within your art". For me, Arnis was the art that was missing in my arts. I love the physicalness of Taekwondo and Hapkido: the kicking, the fighting, the falling but stick fighting opened up entire new dimensions in the martial arts and self-defense. The diversity, creativity and effectiveness of stick fighting have captured my heart. I feel alive with a stick in my hands. From the flowing and weaving of Sinawali to the intricacies of locking, disarming and the counter to counter to counter of Tapi Tapi, the range of technique in Modern Arnis is vast. We work with double sticks, single stick, knife, stick and knife, long staff, machete, sword and empty handed at long, middle and close ranges. The variety of weapons and combination of weapons, as well as empty hand techniques are endless. Weapons are great for self-defense and can equalize whatever physical advantage an attacker may have in a physical confrontation. Stick training is efficient and practical and not only increases timing, reaction, accuracy, speed and correct body mechanics, but it is great fun to train.

The nicest aspect of stick fighting is playing and training with others Arnisadores. At the beginning of my arnis career I had a number of partners for short periods of time. In 1995 at the DAV Summer camp in Kassel I met my long-time invaluable training partner, Bernd Vieth, head of "TG Bornheim Modern Arnis Gruppe" in Frankfurt and my training took an immediate leap forward. We train regularly and have taken our second, third and fourth dan tests together. Most notable was the third dan test in 1999 which was held at my school "Frauen in Bewegung e.V." and presided over by Professor Remy Presas. I was fortunate to spend a lot of time in the USA and attended a number of the Professor's camps and trainings. I was delighted with the German Arnis Association (DAV) officially affiliated with the Professor.

In addition to Modern Arnis, I have trained extensively in Lapunti Arnis de Abanico and travelled 5 times to the Philippines to train with Grandmaster Ondo Caburnay. I love to cross train in other styles and attend as many workshops as I can, especially in Warrior's Escrima and the IKA EF System. I continue to be fascinated at the endless variety of ways to use a stick.

As a member of DAV for more than 20 years, I have witnessed the rapid growth of Modern Arnis in Germany from a handful of devotees to a large thriving organization. There are now Modern Arnis Schools in most large cities. This is due in large part to the excellent leadership provided by Datu Dieter Knüttel. His knowledge of the arts is vast and he has a great eye for movement. Datu is an excellent teacher. He can break down the most complex of techniques so it is easily understandable to beginners while offering a thousand variations for the advanced students. Most importantly Datu continues to seek out the best martial artists in the world to form alliances and share skills, which insures that our training program continues to grow. Unfortunately the number of female participants in Arnis has not increased as rapidly as the overall growth of the organization. There are regrettably few female members and even fewer high ranking female black belts.

Datu Knüttel and the Masters Hans Karrer and Jorgen Gydesen as well as Peter Rutkowski offer high quality training weekends throughout the year in Germany and Europe. The semi-annual summer camps offer high calibre trainers at affordable rates. The summer training is a real highlight and attracts more participants every year. This year a number of Masters from the Philippines and the United States will be teaching.

The largest benefit to being in DAV is the openness and friendship of the members. There is a great sense of comradeship in the organization. Many of the black belts have been members since the early years. Attending a training camp means being surrounded by old friends and meeting new friends.



Author: **Sunny Graff**

4th Dan Modern Arnis

7th Dan Taekwon Do

4th Dan Lapunti Arnis de Abanico

3rd Dan Shin Son Hapkido

Why do I train Modern Arnis in the DAV by Gerald Meischein

As a martial artist who is constantly searching for new "input", I got into contact with Modern Arnis and the DAV a few years ago.

What fascinated me straight away was the challenge, to handle the sticks. The necessity with which to hold them in the hand, to move them with a concept in mind, and at the same time move around the room with a partner. This was and is a very interesting combination for me.

Modern Arnis is very versatile and diversified. As a martial art, it is realistic, practical and goal-oriented. Being someone who comes from TaeKwonDo, and who "grew up" in the martial arts with kicking, Modern Arnis added another type of fighting distance for me. It is an art that is highly challenging from the aspect of coordination. It adds new connections in the brain, is a lot of fun when you train it and widens your horizon.

All higher ranked Modern Arnis instructors of the DAV, whom I have had the chance to meet up to now, were very confident in what they did and had great interest in the versatility of the art.

The Modern Arnis program of the DAV is formalized and has regulations, which means, that everywhere the examinations are held in accordance with the DAV program, all the examiners and examinees know exactly what they have to test for under the different gradings.

This way, a homogeneity and comparability of the educational level of the Modern Arnis students all over the DAV is guaranteed.

When I started with TaeKwonDo, I was with the German TaeKwonDo Union e.V., which was an association for teenagers and young adults. It is today just what I have always appreciated as a TaeKwonDo instructor - a kids' sport - which is also what made TaeKwonDo really big in Germany. As a martial artist who still feels very young although not really young any more, I feel very comfortable in the DAV. Here, at least in the club where I train, in the "Eintracht" in Dortmund under its instructor Datu Dieter Knüttel, the members are not kids any more but mainly adults between 25 and 50 years of age.



Author: **Gerald Meischein**

4th Dan Taekwon Do (ITF)

2nd Dan Budo Jitsu

2nd Dan Shoot Fighting

2nd Klasse Modern Arnis

Hapkido, Grappling

Instructor for the trainers of the of the

Northrein Westphalia TaeKwonDo Union

Trainer of the San to San Ennepetal, Member of the MAA-i

Why do I train Modern Arnis in the DAV by Manfred Rogalla

Only by chance did I come into contact with Moden Arnis. Up until 4 years ago, I was strictly practicing Goju Ryu Karate. I was active in the German Karate Association as referee, and in my club as member of the board of directors as well as an instructor.

When my club was liquidated in 2003, I grabbed the chance to train in something on the side just for myself. (As an instructor, one hardly has the time to train for oneself). That was when I decided to start with the Modern Arnis training. This plan changed rapidly in such a way that I reduced the karate training and, instead, intensified the Modern Arnis training.

What impressed me and continues to do so are the following:

1. Training a martial art, one that is still seen as such and not as a sport which trains only a few movement patterns that work well in competition. One that encompasses comprehensively all aspects af a martial art, especially versatility and coordination abilities. I recognized and continue to recognize elements similar what we used to train before but which have gotten lost in Karate as a

- consequence of changing towards an almost purely sportive orientation of the style. Especially interesting for me are the new areas of stick, knife and other weapons, as well as the empty hands that we practice in Modern Arnis, all of which entail new elements and types of movements for me.
2. The intelligent examination program. The progression of the requirements and the degrees of difficulty in the various areas, in the sense of perpetuating the student depending on his abilities and capacities. After each grading, one gets the feeling of starting again from the beginning.
 3. The way in which the training is conducted. The importance of achievements is not neglected in the training, but this is done without the pressure of a competitive way. (I come from the competition arena wherein team competition is also found in the normal training.) The spirit is always good even in large seminars and not geared towards winning, but rather towards helping each other in learning the techniques. Every one can choose for himself how intensively he wants to train.
 4. Having the possibility to train under and learn from, in my opinion, one of the world's best Modern Arnis instructors: Datu Dieter Knüttel. He always has a fitting answer, a technic, a movement or tactic for solving a given problem accordingly and appropriately.

I hope that from the side of the DAV, our club and my health, I will continue to have the chance for many more years of training in Modern Arnis.



Author: **Manfred Rogalla**
5th Dan Goju Ryu Yoishinkan
1st Klase Modern Arnis

International Contributions: About the DAV and Datu Dieter Knüttel

About the DAV and Datu Dieter Knüttel from Senior Master Bram Frank

DAV it's a mainstay in German martial arts. The Modern Arnis group of Datu Dieter Knüttel from Germany conjures up images that come to mind of flashes of red, the uniforms of course, whirling sticks and the smell of heated rattan. Yes, the smell; bang rattan hard and fast enough it actually heats up to a burning point from the friction and kinetic frenzy of impact. The breath taking displays by Datu Knüttel and the DAV members leave one wondering how this is accomplished with ordinary human beings and simple implements. The answer is simple: Datu Dieter Knüttel in the fashion of his late teacher Professor Remy Presas has continued the cycle of teaching and excellence in Filipino martial arts. His students are part of the resulting mix of careful teaching, expertise, fun, and controlled chaos!



Datu Knüttel has had the advantage of training with both Presas brothers and his group was fashioned as if in the Philippines, where there was and is a standard course of learning not seen in the USA. In the USA we had only seminar and Instructor camp learning, the precursor to current martial arts long distance learning programs, and personal interaction with Professor Presas and we lamented that there seemed to be no set curriculum. Grandmaster Ernesto Presas was the standard bearer of Modern Arnis while his brother Professor Remy Presas the Founder of Modern Arnis was living and teaching in the USA. He taught Modern Arnis, forged with his brother Remy in the periods in which it became a mainstay in the Philippines. From Grandmaster Ernesto Presas' teaching, Datu Dieter formed a set progression and path for the DAV. This way, the curriculum was developed by Datu Dieter. Thus, the DAV has always had a curriculum we talked and thought about. Later on Datu Dieter became a personal student directly under its founder Professor Remy Presas. Because of this DAV reflects the "traditional" Modern Arnis of the Philippines as well as the later "eclectic" Modern Arnis that Professor Remy Presas brought into being in the USA.

Now let me be a bit more personal for I know Dieter personally. He is a good man and a good parent; both important issues that reflect the man inside. No matter what Dieter tries to say, no matter how humble he is ... make no mistake: DAV is Dieter and its soul. He breathes life and energy into what is DAV. His passion for Modern Arnis and Filipino arts is reflected in his teachings and his students. As Professor Remy Presas used to say: "You must innovate, translate, you see it is all the same, it is all here." Dieter does innovate and he translates it so that it can be taught to others. For example I have watched his Tapi Tapi and its innovations and growth over the years. From an overwhelming physical power (Dieter is a big strong man) there now comes sensitivity and grace, and a constant "Ahhhh, I could do that" and an open minded searching for new situations not covered in the basics of understanding or use. He is always showing me some new innovation that came because something unexpected happened and he's found a way to deal with it. Again in complete accordance with Professor Remy's admonition of "No

problem, you are already there!" and the ever coming comments of "Yes, you could do that!"

Dieter brings honour and respect to Modern Arnis: He has sponsored many IMAFP masters to come to Germany, he has brought to the life the FMA Festivals including the festival in the Philippines culminating with a trip to Remy's grave site, all while keeping direct personal connections to all involved. He tries to maintain relationships and contact with others all over the world that are involved with Modern Arnis. He preserves all these teachings and contributions to Modern Arnis with his company Abanico Productions: a virtual library of Modern Arnis. But the bottom line is this, all one has to do is look upon Dieter's face as he teaches and the truth is there to see: he is totally in love with what he does. This has all contributed and formed the foundation of a strong, personal, ever adapting organization that exists today and will continue to exist in the future.

I wish DAV and Dieter many more successful years and I am proud - honoured to be one of Dieter's friends and to be exposed to him and his Modern Arnis Family.



Author: **Bram Frank**

Senior Master Modern Arnis

Founder, Director and Grandmaster of the **CSSD/SC**

About the DAV and Datu Dieter Knüttel from Senior Master Dan Anderson

I first became acquainted with Dieter Knüttel and the DAV back in 1995 when I gave a seminar for Gaby Roloff in Hamburg. I have since gotten to know Datu Dieter as we have taught at various venues including the Modern Arnis International Symposium, the Modern Arnis International Summer Camp and most recently, the 1st Remy Presas Memorial Training Camp and 3rd World Filipino Martial Arts Festival.

From working with Dieter and having had several late night talks, I've learned a bit about the DAV curriculum as well. I see Modern Arnis "split" into several different terms of development. There was the first development of it when Prof. Remy Presas taught at his gym back in Hinigaran around 1957. He was assisted by his brothers Ernesto and Roberto. Several of the Senior Masters such as Rene Tongson and Christino Vasquez were students then. This was prior to Ernesto Presas splitting off and forming his own Kombatan.

In the later 1960's, Professor Presas relocated to Manila and had trained with the Balintawak group of Anciong Bacon. Several of his students during this era were Roland Dantes and Vic Sanchez. In 1975 he again relocated to the United States and this began the most recent development of Modern Arnis. As he travelled about, his friendships with Professor Wally Jay and George Dillman added more to his repertoire and took Modern

Arnis into a different direction culminating with the emphasis of the Tapi Tapi in the late 1990's.

As I had trained with Professor Presas from 1980 on, I received instruction in some of the classical styles of Arnis as well as Professor Presas' innovations. When I went to the Philippines in the summer of 2006 I found out that there are classical applications that are included in "homeland Modern Arnis" (to coin a phrase) that weren't stressed in "Stateside Modern Arnis".

Why I bring this up is because of the training Datu Dieter received from Ernesto Presas, Remy Presas and several of the Senior Masters in the IMAFP. He has experienced most of the "flavours" of Modern Arnis - the old style and new style, so to speak. He is probably the only westerner who has done so and this gives the DAV a broad range of instruction.

Dieter Knüttel has also arranged the bulk of this material to form one of the most complete Modern Arnis curriculum's I have ever seen, ranging from White Belt to the upper Black Belts. In my estimation, Remy Presas would be proud of this accomplishment.



Author: **Dan Anderson**
Senior Master Modern Arnis
8th Dan **Modern Arnis 80**

About the DAV and Datu Dieter Knüttel from Edessa Ramos

Datu Dieter Knüttel leads an organization of hundreds of Modern Arnis practitioners, students who are both-loyal, respectful, and energetic in a way that would put a stick-swinging Speedy Gonzales to shame. A lot of his students have been with him for over 20 years now. There must be a secret to the success of such a lasting relationship. This secret to a long organizational life, according to Datu Dieter, comprises of:

- a very good program and a good progression
- a good structure that gives rise to an easy learning process
- clubs and instructors that are geographically spread out in Germany
- definitely serious testing for all levels
- and ranks that are recognized in the Philippines.

Under the leadership of Datu Dieter, assisted by an impressive pyramid of black belts from 6th Dan down to 1st Dan, not to mention over 150 black belts, DAV is indeed the Modern Arnis force to contend with in Germany, perhaps in all of Europe.

Last year, during the visit and seminar by Filipino Grandmaster Rene Tongson, DAV received a special citation from the International Modern Arnis Federation Philippines (IMAFP). Grandmaster Tongson presented Datu Dieter with his formal membership in advisory capacity to the Modern Arnis Council in the Philippines, the first honour ever accorded to a non-Filipino master. During the same occasion, Datu Dieter's staunchest colleagues of 20 plus years, Hans Karrer and Jørgen Gydesen, were promoted by IMAFP to the rank of 6th Dan, Master of Modern Arnis.

The years of the DAV under Ernesto Presas dealt heavily in reaction and reflex training, stick trapping (grabbing of the stick), making the disarms functional in reaction training, learning as many Sinawalis as possible, and the use of everyday objects as self-defense tools. The changeover to Professor Remy Presas in 1994 opened the door to finger locks, lock flow, and various stick-takedowns. Datu Dieter and his students learned a different way of connecting the techniques. This also started the road to DAV's mastery of the Tapi-Tapi system.

DAV's relationship with the late Grandmaster Remy Presas was a special one. The first time that Professor Presas witnessed DAV's black belt gradings, he remarked on how very serious they were about their Modern Arnis training. Perhaps, according to Datu Dieter, the professor also respected the fact that DAV did not approach Modern Arnis from the concept of "the art within your art" but as a stand alone martial art. It was a concept he never demanded or pushed, but it must have surprised him to see this in Germany, and it could be that he truly liked it.

I have been training with DAV for the past 4 years now. Because I live in Switzerland, I never had the opportunity to train regularly with any of their clubs. But having attended as many seminars as I could, particularly when being taught by Datu Dieter, I came to know more intimately the art of real self-defense. DAV trainings taught me to use the stick and impact weapons with intent, not just with beauty through artful movements. My teachers back home in the Philippines emphasized a lot on form and grace in the execution of techniques. This perspective was, of course, very precious to me. But trainings with DAV showed me the pure practicality of fighting. Datu Dieter showed me the real applications that develop awareness and ability on the streets. Not only that, because I trained with DAV members, and usually being the smallest among the black belts, I learned to be strong. It revealed to me that I can truly be as powerful as the big guys, if not in brute strength, then at least in technique and effective use of martial knowledge.

Training with DAV taught me also that strength and endurance training is important, and that this is my own responsibility. Therefore it pushed me to seek condition training through boxing and other sports. On the DAV floor, I learned to take blows. I learned to get up every time the wind was knocked from me, and sometimes I've had some nasty falls! I learned to deal with a swinging stick meeting my face, and to manage the consequences whenever I wasn't quick enough. I learned to go on even when the bruises start numbing my arms.

I remember after a particularly rough training, as I sat on the train from Frankfurt going back to Zurich, nursing my injuries, feeling like a lone survivor of war making her way home, I had to make a decision whether to stop or to continue. The weight of the decision made me shed a tear. Perhaps it happens at least once to every woman in the martial arts. It was a moment of self-confrontation, or true honesty in facing inner fears

and doubts. And the decision I came up with was: go on, learn more, learn to take it, and learn to fight back. That particularly training had pushed me up to a higher plane in my martial arts training ... that of being truly tough inside. In my opinion, this is something important for all women self-defense artists to go through. Because bad encounters on the streets are truly nasty, we must learn to deal with pain and injury and hard training in a controlled environment, with tough but respectful partners, and under the watchful eye of a well-trained instructor. In my opinion as a woman, this is the most valuable contribution that DAV has given to me.

DAV has contributed immensely to the history as well as the future of Modern Arnis. This it has done, always remaining true to the dreams and visions of Professor Remy Presas. DAV's mission and accomplishments can be summed up in what Datu Dieter once said in an interview: "Modern Arnis today is an accepted Martial Art in the world. There are many versions of it. No one is right, no one is wrong. Nobody has the "truer" Modern Arnis compared to another. There is no better or worse, there is only 'different'." And it is because of this perspective that Modern Arnis continues to grow worldwide and to propagate the dream of Professor Remy to make the Filipino Martial Arts a world heritage.



Author: **Edessa Ramos**
3rd Dan Modern Arnis
IMAFP Switzerland

About the DAV and Datu Dieter Knüttel from Grandmaster Rodel Dagooc



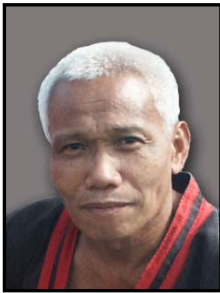
I have known Datu Dieter Knüttel, Chief Instructor of the DAV (Deutscher Arnis Verband) since 1983, when he started coming to the Philippines to train under the senior masters of Arnis in the Philippines. This best explains why he's so knowledgeable and versatile with the art. He showed great enthusiasm and commitment to promote and excel in this Filipino martial art, that I personally, have a high regard for his abilities and capabilities. His efforts to promote Arnis in his country, Germany, and even in the rest of Europe, are astounding. It really shows his great love for this art. He takes the time and effort to even come back to the Philippines to update his knowledge and skills with the Senior Philippine masters.

Dieter is been an active member of IMAF since he started training with the late Grandmaster Remy Amador

Presas, who promoted him to the rank of Datu (there are only 6 datos of Arnis in the world). In the year 2003, Datu Dieter, with the unanimous decision of the different Arnis senior masters in the Philippines, was promoted to the rank of Lakan Pito – 7th Degree Blackbelt in Modern Arnis.

Since then, Datu Dieter, as chief instructor of DAV, invites yearly Arnis masters from the Philippines to conduct seminars in Germany and other parts of Europe. And two years ago, I was invited as one of their trainer to the 9. International Modern Arnis Summer Camp of the DAV that was conducted in Osterburg/Germany. The great number of 147 participants shows clearly how this man strives hard to promote Arnis. The recently held February 2007 Arnis seminar in Russia was a great success also.

I have great respect for this man. He's truly a Filipino warrior by heart. And I'm proud to know him and to be his friend and brother in the art. God bless him.



Author: **Grandmaster Rodel Dagooc**
Lakan Walo, 8th Dan Modern Arnis

About the DAV and Datu Dieter Knüttel from Ginalyn Relos



My thought is about Senior Master Dieter's contribution on how the DAV became what is the DAV now. I personally met Senior Master Dieter for the first time and other members of DAV last July 2006 from the FMA Festival World. I don't have the chance of meeting him the last time he visited Philippines, because I was in Bicol region promoting the Art. A giant as I can see and admired that this man is the one who has done his mastery of the art spreading it out throughout Europe and other parts of the world. The story about how he started to get involved in the Filipino Martial Arts, has always been on my mind because we started with the same group and now we have met with one leader we both recognize. There will come a day that I will be equal in knowledge Senior Master Dieter in training.

DAV members are nice people and friendly as I have had the chance to mingle with them during the 3rd Filipino Martial Arts Festival World especially those who stayed behind to continue to train with our Masters. IMAF Philippines recognizes DAV's widely promotion of the Filipino Martial Arts. We also extend our sincerest thanks when they shared a big contribution in the Medical Assistance of our Master/president Noel A. Peñaredondo.

I believe that through the common understanding of the Martial Art we love, DAV and IMAFP will be partners throughout its existence, planning more projects, good relationship with each other for the success and the completion of Grandmaster Remy Presas dream for the Filipino Martial Art...especially when the Worldwide Brotherhood of Modern Arnis was introduced. Mabuhay! Deutscher Arnis Verband Officers and Members ...



Recognition of rank Lakan 4
Gala Night - July 21, 2006



Gala Night 3rd FMA Festival - Heritage Hotel



3rd FMA Festival - Training Day



Author: **Ginalyn Relos**
Secretary General
International Modern Arnis Federation, Inc.
Philippines

About the DAV and Datu Dieter Knüttel from Grandmaster Rene Tongson

Looking Back

Much has been said, many stories, great experiences, when we start recalling the years that has gone by. In 1966, my young age then, age 9 in Hinigaran Negros Occidental, Philippines when I had my 1st basics in the sticks. We call it Baston (the Ilonggo terminology for ARNIS). I would remember my 1st lesson with Roberto (youngest of the Presas') at the sugarcane transloading depot. We would use sugarcane for training since rattan sticks were not readily available then. We use terminologies that are distinct to Hinigaran like GIKAN SA ADLAW (from the sun), GIKAN SA BUKID (from the mountains), GIKAN SA BAYBAY (from the sea) - striking executions and basics which I can no longer remember how I was introduced formally to the lessons.

Among my seniors, now Grandmaster Cristino Vasquez (lives adjacent to the Presas ancestral home), introduced me to calisthenics and corrected my stances and

postures. Now Grandmaster Pepito Robas was my classmate then (only about 10 of us in the small club). As a young boy, my fascination for the sticks intensified every day. I dreamed of someday I will be a great stick fighter, so I took my sessions seriously that I would skip my academic school very often. My mother would be mad of Roberto and Cristino for accommodating me in their Arnis sessions. Manong Remy would appear and teach a few techniques, and gone for months, and would come back for new numbers and gone... 3 or 4 new numbers in repetition for 2-3 months, its perfection quality and not quantity. After graduating from high school I was sent to Manila to study in the University (Manila is about 18 hours by boat, 1 hour by plane). I took more lessons at Ernesto Presas's ARJUKEN DOJO (Arnis-Jujitsu-KENDO) along busy Quiapo district close to NAKO of Manong Remy. At the University I took my Bachelor of Science in Engineering and Master in Business Administration

There we had close association with Modern Arnis instructors. More experiences, more training turning the country boy to a grown man!

And the Germans Came

Exactly 24 years ago, I met a young but aggressive and energetic German, now Senior Master Dieter Knüttel came in 1983 to the Philippines and had training in Modern Arnis and with me in Classical Arnis, including Abaniko Tres Puntas at Grandmaster Ernesto Presas Dojo. We both did a lot of workouts. He in fact trained with Grandmaster Mateo D. Estoloso-my Grand old man in Classical Abaniko Tres Puntas and Sangga Patama-Sungkiti. In 1986 he returned to the Philippines, bringing along a team from Europe for the 1st Philippine-European Arnis Camp in Hundred Islands, north of Manila. The 1986 camp was my 1st encounter with a foreign group. At the camp the training was in Modern Arnis and Abaniko Tres Puntas and a lot more. It was so memorable; while the Arnis camp is ongoing a bloodless people power revolution is taking place in Manila. Everyone in the camp didn't realize that a revolutionary government is being installed in the capital. Besides team leader Dieter Knüttel, two others are still active today. Hans Karrer is now a Master of Classical and Modern Arnis and Jorgen Gydesen is Master of Modern Arnis both certified as Lakan Anims, 6th Dans by IMAF-Philippines. Bea Knüttel who was with the 1986 team is now the mother of 2 wonderful kids by Dieter. A very nice family.

Dieter Knüttel

In 1983 there was only the Modern Arnis Association-Philippines (MAAF) that was partnering with the group that Dieter Knüttel represented, the one predating the DAV. I never realized that 1st day, the young skinny 6-footer Dieter would be 1 of the most respected and recognized ranking instructors, not only in Europe but all over the world. Dieter gained recognition for his dedication to the Filipino Martial Art. He has traveled all over the Philippines to seek knowledge for his research and training. He is admired for his high regard and respect for Filipino FMA instructors. His friendship with Filipinos has gone a long way. He deserved the respect of Filipinos too. In fact, he is probably 1 of my best classical arnis students, besides Hans Karrer. He has mastered the intricacies of Modern Arnis and assimilated the techniques of Classical Abaniko Tres Puntas, and practical weapons associated with Filipino martial arts. Senior Master Dieter Knüttel will have his hands full for challenges ahead of him. Surely, he will stay on top.

Deutscher Arnis Verband - the spearhead

Foremost, recognition is deserving for DAV for its professional management of Filipino martial arts not only in Germany but as an example for other European groups to replicate. DAV could be among the most organized, pro-active and professionalized Filipino martial arts organizations not only in Germany but Europe or say, in the world. DAV has gained the respect of Philippine Filipino martial arts Organizations like IMAF-Philippine PIGSSAI, Bakbakan, Doce Pares, Balintawak, Dikiti Tersia, Lighting Scientific, Kali-Ilustrisimo, and many more. It was very instrumental in the success of the 3rd FMA World Festival and 1st Remy Presas Memorial Modern Arnis Camp in July 2006 in Tagaytay City and Manila Philippines. Without whose cooperation, the camp may not have taken-off well. The example of the DAV has encouraged the organization of the Regional Arnis Federation (RAF), a Modern Arnis group gaining momentum in Russia. Senior Master Dieter Knüttel and Guro Peter Rutkowski represented DAV in the 1st Russian Modern Arnis Winter Camp last February 2007. Grandmaster Tongson and Senior Master Bambit Dulay came in for IMAFP-Philippines. The annual invitation-importation of Filipino Grandmasters and Senior Masters by DAV to teach in German Modern Arnis Camps has gained international attention. It is promoting Filipino martial arts with flying colors. A tough job!

It has also standardized a Modern Arnis curriculum for its programs including the required grading system, within the parameters of Grandmaster Remy Presas teachings. Words are not enough on how we appreciate the help of DAV for the medical expenses of Grandmaster Roland Dantes and IMAFP President Noel Peñaredondo. In August 6 to 12, 2007 DAV is hosting the 50th Founding Day of Modern Arnis. It has invited Grandmaster Tongson, Guro Ginalyn Relos, Senior Master Dan Anderson, Master of Tapi-Tapi Brian Zawilinski (unfortunately unable to attend), Senior Master Bram Frank, Guro Alexander Pisarkin of Russian Modern Arnis, Guro Edessa Ramos and many more another momentous event to be anticipated. It has the high endorsement of the **Worldwide Brotherhood of Modern Arnis (WBMA)** where DAV is a founding member.

For DAV's Board of Directors Sven Barchfeld, Philip Wolff, Alfred Plath, Dieter Knüttel, Benedikt Eska, the Black Belts and members, it's MABUHAY from the PHILIPPINES!



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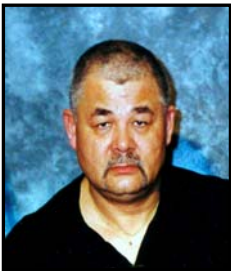
About Datu Dieter Knüttel from Suro Mike Inay

Hello All,

I must say that Dieter is a craftsman when it comes to setting up, filming, organizing, and editing video productions.

If anyone would like to have a good video done, and if he is willing, I strongly recommend Dieter. He is a professional producer with over 65 martial arts videos to his credit. Granted that most of the people he has filmed are European, his quality is still excellent.

I do not usually speak of people publicly, as I feel there can be too many misinterpretations. But I would like to say that Dieter is also a craftsman in his art of Modern Arnis. I have watched him instruct on many occasions and he does so with the enthusiasm and intensity of one who believes in his art. His exuberance is sometimes contagious. He is a Master in his own right, and it is a pleasure seeing him working. It's nice to be able to teach and share with someone that is comfortable in his own style and is still willing to learn from other styles, without worrying about political repercussions or making it a political issue.



Regards,

Suro Mike Inay

Mangisursuro Inayan System of Eskrima

Written in the year 2000

Datu Dieter Knüttel in an interview 2007

Interview: Axel Heimsoth

Datu Dieter Knüttel appeared several times on the German TV and radio and he has been 4 times on the cover of some of the largest German martial arts magazines.

For 27 years Datu Knüttel has taught about 20 Modern Arnis weekend-seminars and 3 to 4 Black Belt seminars a year. He teaches in 2 Modern Arnis clubs twice a week and in one club since 1981. Since 1985 Datu Knüttel has been the Chief-Instructor of the German Arnis Organization, (Deutscher Arnis Verband e.V., DAV), a position that has elections every 3 years. Up to now, he has been elected 9 times consecutively in the DAV.

About 5000 students have gone through different levels of the DAV Modern Arnis program, over the years, with about 1200 being current members. Datu Knüttel has examined more than 150 of his students with the Board of Examiners and they have become Black Belts in Modern Arnis. His students rank up to 6th Dan and many students have been with him for 20 years: The student that has been with him the longest is Hans Karrer, 6th Dan Modern Arnis, who has been with him for 28 years.

Axel Heimsoth (AH): *What was your personal way to the martial arts? Did you started as a child?*

Datu Dieter Knüttel (DK): Yes, I started when I was 6 years old. As usually in Germany at that age and during that time, I started with Judo. Later, as a teenager, I also trained Kung Fu, Karate, Taekwondo, Bo-Jutsu, Tai Chi Chuan and more.

AH: *When you are leaving the age of a teenager it's for every one the important decision to find a "normal profession" and train on a lower level or to look for a job, e.g. as a trainer, in the martial arts. You studied sport science in Cologne (G). Was this choice a compromise for you?*

DK: No, not at all. I started teaching martial arts at the age of 17 already. When I finished school, I went to Australia for a year as a youth exchange student. This was 1979/80. There, I started in a Kung Fu group that existed for 20 years after I left, but I already taught an Arnis seminar. We did not have Rattan sticks at that time, so we used cricket sticks (the ones you aim at, not the ones you hit with).



Then, after coming back, I did a 2 year bank apprenticeship, but was not happy with it. I taught already in week seminars in south Germany at that time. I wanted to open a martial arts school. But then my father suggested to me, to get a solid foundation and to study sports. I thought this was a great idea, so I enrolled and in 1988, I finished the studies with the Masters degree in sports science.

AH: Now, after you have finished your studies, you have a little film production company: Abanico. You were making first videos now DVDs about different styles in the martial arts. Did you have this idea as a student?

DK: Not really. My thesis at University included a production of an Arnis video, and I had already produced a few videos for the DAV, but not professionally.

During the studies, my aim changed. I did not want to open a studio any more. So I got a job in a sports marketing company for 6 months. But I did not like it, and I think they did not like me (laughs). Then, I had to think about, what to do with my life. So I sat down with my wife and we discussed the things I am good in. We came to the conclusion, that I can teach well, and that I had already experience with video making, so I would try to open a business there. At that time, 1988, there were not 5 German instructional videos on the market. But a lot of American ones were available for exorbitant prices. So I thought, why not be the engine of a train and be ahead of a trend, instead running after it, when it had already started. And I was right.



AH: What is the special product that you place on the market?

DK: I produce differently than most available instructional videos. I don't let the martial artist on the video talk in front of the camera, but I use dubbing and a lot of different camera angles and so on. At that time, it was different to what the others did. Good content, good quality, rather long productions and all that for a fair price. And the customers seemed to like my concept.

AH: You started to train with sticks as a student. When did you see stick fighting at first time? Did you immediately get a kick to train this art?

DK: Well, I was interested in anything new. So I participated at the first Arnis seminar taught in Germany. It was taught by Jackson Cui Brocka, who also was the first Filipino martial arts instructor of Datu Kelly Worden. Funny parallel, anyway, the longer I trained, the more I became aware of the fact, that this is something I really like. Also, for it was new to Germany, I knew that if I will be good at this and be at the top there, I will have the chance to train closely with very good masters and grandmasters as one of only a few instructors at that time. Also I imagined, after 20 years one could look back and say: Well, I had my share of responsibility in spreading this art in Germany. It was already around 1982- 83, when I had these thoughts.



Datu Knüttel Cui Brocka

AH: Where were your first training partners here in Germany? Are some of them today active in our association?

DK: Except of Hans Karrer, who started Kung Fu with me in 1978 and later Arnis, they are not active any more. Some still are, but not in the DAV.

AH: *You are one of the founders of this association: Deutscher Arnis Verband e.V. What was the reason for the launching?*

DK: We were part of an organization that had many martial arts under its roof. The name was DAKO. For it was good in big seminars, for we got a lot of students from different arts and different cities in our training during, we later felt as "the 5th wheel of a car", as we say in Germany. So we wanted to found our own organisation, where we could exclusively train and work for the spreading of Arnis.

AH: *In the DAV you have a specific function. What is this and which impulses you have given the German association?*

DK: I'm the chief instructor of the DAV since it was founded in 1985. This is a position that is elected every 3 years. So in this interval, I have to face the DAV-members, like all members of the board of directors, and they will have to tell us through their voting, if they are happy with our work and if they re-elect us for another 3 years. Lucky for me, I have always been re-elected; I and I hope it stays this way. (Smiles).



Well in the beginning I was alone responsible for the technical orientation of the DAV. I wrote all the examination programs and started to introduce special black belt seminars, later also seminars, only for 3rd Dan and higher. Then we founded a technical commission, consisting out of the 6 full examiners, and 2 elected members. I am heading this commission and we do this all together now.

But I am constantly looking for new ways and new things to incorporate into our system. You know, we have the very old Modern Arnis of Professor Remy Presas through me learning in 1983 from Rodel Dagooc, Ernesto and Roberto Presas, Cristino Vasquez and Rene Tongson - to name a few of my instructors at that time. Their Modern Arnis was still very close to the Modern Arnis of Grandmaster Remy in the 70s.

Then, the 80s in the US are rather well documented through his videos. Also I have taught several seminars together with Dan Anderson and Bram Frank, who were very active with the Professor in the 80s. Also the books of Dan Anderson gave me a good insight of Professors teaching at that time. Fortunately, we were able to experience the techniques of the 90s directly from the Professor, who taught a lot of seminars in Germany and who trained privately with me a lot. Now, I am looking backwards, to get more of the old teaching from Grandmaster Rodel Dagooc and from Grandmaster Jerry Dela Cruz, both of whom started to train with Professor Remy Presas in 1968:

Grandmaster Dagooc taught at the summer camp in Germany in 2005 and Grandmaster Dela Cruz who taught at the end of March 2007. But I look also in the future, see and observe, where other students of the Professor take the art, and of course my Modern Arnis is still constantly improving and changing through the different inputs I get and through the research I do. And of course, through the training, new things develop and the

art evolves. This is Modern Arnis. Not sticking to the tradition but moving forward. This is what Professor Remy did and this is how we continue to practice his art. Rooted in the various stages of Modern Arnis in the past and also looking forward into the future, looking for new ways, methods, techniques and applications.

AH: *What is the difference between traditional and Modern Arnis?*

DK: Traditional Arnis uses different weapons, it uses more swords, and it is more combat orientated and from the teaching more the one to one situation: one teacher to one student. It was used against the Spanish, the Americans and the Japanese, in guerrilla warfare, it was used in fighting each other, and it was used for killing and surviving. It was also rather easily instructed, because not only the warriors were able to fight but also the farmers (the workers). They don't have every day time to train and could learn complicated techniques. They needed very simple techniques, functional and effective techniques to be able to use it even without a lot of training, effectively in a fight. For example, they would cut the arm stab in the heart and finish. That is where the world "dis-arming" comes from: take the arm off.



AH: *Which role had Professor Remy Presas for the Modern Arnis?*

DK: Remy Presas changed the form of teaching. So you don't hit the arm of your partner every time because it is very painful, if you get hit on the arm all the time in training. Because before the stick was a sacred tool that you were not allowed to hit in training so you attacked the arms and the body of the partner straight away. This training method led that Remy Presas could teach not only in a one to one teacher and student situation but he could teach battalions in the army, he could teach many people, at schools and universities. The teacher will be in the front and all students do the exercises because he simplified the blocking of the sticks and make the techniques a little less lethal, less deadly and so Modern Arnis could become a popular martial art and it is not only for warriors to killing. Remy Presas introduced the values of Modern Arnis: discipline,



1999 Grandmaster Remy Presas and Datu Knüttel

respect to the partner, helping your partner, having a good training atmosphere, contrary to fighting your partner and trying to kill your partner every time. Remy Presas introduced the modern sports values of martial arts into the Modern Arnis that many other Filipino martial arts do not present in the way that Modern Arnis does.

This leads in the present to the point that Modern Arnis is more a sport and an art and not so much warfare anymore. People do it for their leisure time, for having fun and enjoyment. They do Modern Arnis, because they like what they doing and not because they have to train to survive in a very

violent situation. For some this may still be true, but most of the students will never come in this kind of situation. This way, some of the techniques have changed, from the deadly violent situation in the war or in the jungle fight, to street self-defence, to techniques you could play and practise with your partner - less lethal, less deadly, not ineffective but not as deadly as it was before. We still practise this and it is more the classical, the older part of Modern Arnis. In the modern part are the modern techniques: disarming, take downs, throws and so on. This is more for modern life.

AH: *What are the focal points of Modern Arnis?*

DK: Today Modern Arnis as we practise it has two legs to stand on. One is the martial art where you train abilities like speed, power, precision, timing and things like that. And then you have the self-defence. Here you can practise how you can defend against an attacker who grabs me, chokes me or also attacks me with a weapon or a stick. The art is not so important. Art as a little complicated, a little intricate movements. In self-defence we try to move very directly, very functional and the art is more for developing attributes with your partner.

Through this we have the ethical values to train with each other we help each other we don't want to hurt each other. This applies in the training but of course if I have the possibilities to hurt somebody else I have the responsibility in my life to be careful with my abilities to people around. So I can't go and say: "You look bad! I punch you in your face!" I have to become a calm person and not use my art I could apply. So the values I apply in training to my partner I try to apply to all people I meet in every day of my life: to be friendly, to be helpful, to support and not to be aggressive and destroying.

AH: *What are the technical principles in Modern Arnis?*

DK: In our Modern Arnis we differentiate between technical principles and overall principles. Technical principles are used in a certain technique and are applied also in another technique. For example, we take the principle how we use techniques in the double stick-situation (with two sticks) and we apply this in an empty hand-situation. Or we use a single stick-technique and apply this with dulo, or palm stick or empty hands. We take the technique from this one weapon situation and use it in another weapon situation.

The overall principles are not in relation to a certain technique. For example, we say the shortening the angel, of moving in to the attacker to avoid the power of the weapon. Another principle would be called programming. In programming we give the opponent an attack and either he reacts to the attack according what we want or he gets hit. If he doesn't react he gets hit - fine; if he reacts the way we use his reaction because we know in advance what he has to do because if he doesn't react he gets hit.

AH: *What do you use to teach skills to your students?*

DK: What do I use? I use teaching skills (smiles). I use a technique for example, or a movement and then I explain my students how to apply this technique into different



situations and different weapons and how it relates to each other. Our program; that we use in Germany, is a system that is very well structured. You learn different parts, different bits of the system and the higher you get the bits and pieces start to interlink to each other. It's like in a gear box where you have different gearwheels. You can see you have learned a technique in one situation and then see, that you can apply it also in another. So you see: "Ah yes, I know this already." The higher you get you have more of these sensations: I know this already and I can apply it here or there or in another way. You get an understanding of movement which is very important.

AH: *Would it be true to say, that the person that studies Modern Arnis also develops his mind?*

DK: Yes of course. We sometimes called it "brain-jogging", because it is the way you practise Modern Arnis: the right hand, the left hand; the left hand from the right side and the right hand from the left side. All these different movements make connections between both parts of the brain. It has a lot to do with coordination, how to use the hand and the timing to do the right thing in the right moment. It's also the challenge to master a movement when you have problems of doing it in the beginning and you practice it and then you start to notice that you get it. That is the fun part of Modern Arnis, there is a lot of happening in your head. In Modern Arnis there are a lot of studied people who like to



use the brain to practise Modern Arnis. So it is often, that we teach Modern Arnis at a university. Here people like, that you are not doing 1000 punches and then are worn out, but that you have to use your brain while practising Modern Arnis. It is sometimes not so easy but it's rewarding.

AH: *Is your way of teaching based on sciences?*

DK: Well, I studied sport science at the German Sports University in Cologne and got the Masters degree in sports science. There are a certain acknowledged ways of teaching, how to teach your students new things: from the easy to the difficult, from the well known techniques to the unknown techniques. I try to incorporate these things into the teaching. You start with something the people know and than you move into a new stuff. So they can relate what they done before. Every person has another channel of learning. Some people learn by hearing, some people learn through watching, some people learn through repetition, some people learn through tactile references that you have to guide them, and some people have to feel it. I try to use as many of those learning channels because the more channels you use for learning the better the information you have learned is processed in your brain. But a student should not feel any of that, they shall not be aware of how the teaching happens. Then it is a good teaching.

AH: *Is your way of teaching from yourself or have you take it from someone?*

DK: This, principles I just said are very normal teaching techniques of any sports instructor. Of course, I take some of the ways my teacher have moved and taught things. This I give also to my students. But some things I think the Asian way of teaching is different to the European teaching. Our mentality is different and some regards I adapted

the techniques and the way of teaching the techniques to the European mentality. Because it is easier for them to learn and to remember the techniques and the combinations as if you would teach the Asian way. I have adapted this, yes. But for example, Master Dulay or Grandmaster Tongson - they are also very educated people - they also know principles of teaching, of modern ways. They not only use traditional old ways of teaching what they have learned from their teacher. They, of course, are able to adapt modern necessities and also teach the modern way.



AH: *Are there secret Modern Arnis techniques? Have you secrets of your way of teaching?*

DK: I would not call them secrets, there are advanced techniques, techniques that you could not do as a beginner because you have not the foundation. For example, if you start high diving. As a beginner you can't do a triple somersault with two rotations. At first you have to learn the easy thing, then one somersault, then two, so it builds up. In



Modern Arnis we have advanced techniques. I don't teach these to beginners because they could not do it anyway. But it's like in any sport, you start with the basics and then you work your way to the advanced techniques. Look to the gymnastics or ice skating. You first learn to skate, before you learn the jumps. There are no secrets but skills.

AH: *Which techniques do you use in fighting? How do you choose a technique?*

DK: I don't choose. You don't do this consciously. This is another principle. We call this the principle of simulative acting. That means that when an attack comes towards you, you have to react and adapt to whatever in this situation needs. Not with a certain set combination, you may have trained. We believe in Modern Arnis that we have brought education. So our students learn a lot of different things. They have a variety of techniques to choose from. Different movements could happen. Things happen and you have to react, the way the situation needs. The more experience and the more technical tools you have the better you can react according to the situation. Every situation is different so we have to react different to these situations.

AH: *Is the training with weapons a help for you to understand martial arts?*

DK: The training with weapons let you understand speed, angles, power and body mechanics because the weapon is long, sharp and harder. If you do this correctly it is clearer as if you do it only empty handed. But it is not all the same, because with long weapons it is a little bit more different as with bladed weapons and empty hands. They all related to each other but it's not all the same. The weapon teaches you the speed, teaches the body mechanics and the attributes you need for self-defence or martial arts.

AH: *Professor Remy Presas bestows you with the title "Datu". What's the meaning of this and what means this title for you?*

DK: The meaning is chieftain, leader of a group. For me it was the acknowledgement of my work. When I got it, I already worked for 15 years to spread Modern Arnis in Germany and Europe.

Now knowing a bit more, I think he meant with "the group of 10" 10 Datus, that he wanted to nominate. At least, this is what you hear and read, once you talk with different people and when you read carefully through the internet.

But nobody knows what function or task Remy Presas had in mind with these 10 Datus. As far as I know, he never told anybody. And to make this clear, he also had very advanced and very good students, that he did not give the title of Datu. So I don't feel better or more advanced than other Modern Arnis practitioners. I am just happy, that he granted me the honour of this title, because at least in the Modern Arnis world, people tend to listen a little more carefully if a Datu says something or somebody else. It does give you a little authority. If you deserve this authority, other people have to decide due to the work you do and the things you achieve. The title may serve as a springboard, but you have to jump for yourself and other people will judge your achievements and accomplishments.



1996 Receiving the Datu title from Grandmaster Presas

AH: *2003 you got the 7th Dan Modern Arnis in the Philippines. What do this award means to you?*



2003 Receiving 7th Dan in Manila

DK: It makes me proud. And again it is the acknowledgement of the work I have done for Modern Arnis in the past almost 30 years. It is very important for me, that my work is accepted. And when the Masters in the Philippine see and appreciate the work I do for Modern Arnis, I am very proud and happy about it.

After the death of Professor Presas there is a gap in the Arnis scene in the world.

What efforts have been started to

avoid that all Arnis associations in the world will be separated forever?

Well, we have founded the Worldwide Brotherhood of Modern Arnis (WBMA) last year in the Philippines. Up to now, there are 8 associations member of the WBMA and through the WBMA, Modern Arnis is represented in almost 20 countries. We hope,

more Modern Arnis organisations will join in, because the ideas behind the WBMA are very good. But you can read more about the WBMA in another article within this FMA-Digest.

AH: *I think, it is very difficult to start with Arnis training and find a trainer in Germany?*

DK: Well, not really. Go to the DAV website and look for a group near where you live and start training. We are far from being present everywhere in Germany, but we do have a lot of groups, that are spread out. From north to south and from west to east, all over Germany.

AH: *You are fighting not only worldwide for the interests of Modern Arnis. Also in Germany you are trainer in two clubs, Essen and Dortmund. What will a normal guy learn if he or she will come to you first time?*

DK: Well, they learn how to handle the stick, they learn single and double Sinawalis, 12 strikes, blocks, counterattacks and then, how to apply these techniques for example empty handed. So they learned that you do not need a stick for Modern Arnis. And once we have hooked them on Modern Arnis: They learn all the beauty of our system.

AH: *Why doesn't the DAV train for competition?*

DK: Because we believe, that Modern Arnis is a martial art and self defence and not a competition sport. Sport reduces the techniques to a minimum that will work within the framework of the rules of the competition. Self-defence does not work this way. We know that Grandmaster Remy had exactly the same ideas about this as we have, because we talked with him about it.

AH: *We learned a lot of techniques, but do we really need them?*

DK: Need? Need for what? We need food, water and oxygen. But there are more things in life that make life more enjoyable, richer. And I feel enriched by the beauty and variety of the Modern Arnis techniques when I train. I could stick with 5 techniques, but I would find it boring. Do you eat only 5 different meals? Or drink only 5 different sorts of drinks? Aren't the new things that you experience in live the ones that make life beautiful? This way I see it with the Arnis techniques as well.



AH: *What's going on in the future? In which direction should move the DAV?*

DK: The way we are heading now: martial art and self defence. Find new things and preserve the old. Don't discard traditions but be open for new developments and techniques. Like Professor Remy Presas always was. He constantly improved Modern Arnis and incorporated new techniques. This is the tradition of Modern Arnis.

AH: *From which persons you get new impressions?*

DK: From almost every instructor I see. Everybody has something to offer. One just has to be open enough to see and accept. Nobody knows everything. So I look and watch. I

look at the old Filipino masters, at my peers in the US, but also at the new people, that come up.

AH: *The modern sciences, like sport science or psychology, produce new results. Are this technical data possible points for the re-structuring the association?*

DK: No, not really. The core is the techniques and their application and no scientist will spend too much time with Arnis techniques. The methods may change and the way they are practised, trained and automatized.

AH: *At the end one question from the reality. If some one is in a dangerous situation, what's the right behaviour? Would Modern Arnis help us when we were attacked?*

DK: Of course it would help! But I have waited for such a question from a journalist. Let me give the question it back to you in your profession: "If someone would ask you a question, what would you answer?"

You see how irrelevant this question is? But it still is comparable: Depending what question is asked, you will adapt your answer. And this is self-defence with Modern Arnis in the purest form: Adapting the technique to the needs of the moment. Not answer with a preset or prearranged technique, but use, what ever is necessary to solve the problem accordingly at that moment in that situation.



Datu Dieter Knüttel - Modern Arnis Basic Tapi-Tapi and more - [Click Here](#)



Interview: **Axel Heimsoth**
2nd Dan Modern Arnis

Modern Arnis Techniques

Master Hans Karrer, 6th Dan Modern Arnis - Classical Arnis.
with Master Jørgen Gydesen, 6th Dan Modern Arnis



Sunny Graff, 4th Dan Modern Arnis. Highest ranked woman in the DAV - Armbar with the stick.
with Carsten Hemmersbach, 4th Dan Modern Arnis



Master Jørgen Gydesen, 6th Dan Modern Arnis - Locking with the Stick.
with Master Hans Karrer



Datu Dieter Knüttel - Empty hand technique with takedown.
with Hauke Lengwenus, 1st Klasse





DAV and IMAFP

By Dieter Knüttel

The relationship between Modern Arnis Philippines and Germany predates the IMAFP and the DAV by years. In 1983, I made my first trip to the Philippines to train Modern Arnis in the country of the origin. I stayed there for more than 3 months and according to many of the Masters I trained with, I was the first European, who deliberately came to the Philippines to train Arnis there.

My main teachers on this trip were Ernesto and Roberto Presas, Rene Tongson, Christino Vasquez, Rodel Dagooc as well as Momoy Canete. I also met and trained with Roland Dantes during this time.



FMA Festival Colage



Grandmaster Dagooc, Senior Master Dulay, Datu Knüttel, Grandmaster Tongson, Grandmaster Vasquez

organized by Ernesto Presas and me in Hundred Islands, Pampanga, Philippines. There were 11 enthusiasts from Germany, Denmark, Norway and Switzerland participating at this camp. Ernesto Presas, Rene Tongson and Cristino Vasquez were the main teacher during this Camp.

The DAV tried to invite Rene Tongson and Cristino Vasquez besides Ernesto Presas during the 80s, but for different reasons this was not possible. End of the 1993, there was a split between Ernesto Presas and the

In 1985, the DAV was formed out of another organization, with the main aim to train and promote the Filipino Art of Arnis. The invitations to Ernesto Presas continued, and in 1986 the first, "European Filipino Modern Arnis Camp" was

1986



Grandmaster Tongson



Grandmaster Vasquez

DAV.

Beginning of 1994, the DAV started to work together with Grandmaster Remy Presas, so the connections to the Philippines dried out. When Professor Presas got sick in 2001, I visited him a last time. I was told that my teacher was dying and I decided to make a Friday to Monday trip from Germany to Canada, to say goodbye to Grandmaster Remy Presas. This trip was just in time, because the trip lasted from the 24th to the 27th of August and the Professor died one day after I left, on the 28th of August 2001.



Grandmaster Roland Dantes
and Datu Dieter Knüttel 2001 in Victoria, Canada

During this trip to Canada, I met my old friend from my first trip to the Philippines again: Roland Dantes. Despite the very sad occasion of our meeting, the dying Grandmaster, still there was a great joy that we met again some 18 years after our first meeting. I invited Roland Dantes to seminars in Germany, which took place in May 2002. The first seminar was a Modern Arnis brown and black belts only seminar and 75 DAV members with brown or black belt attended.

Through this re-established contact to the Philippines, I went back to the Philippines in March 2003 where I had a reunion with all my old teachers from the 80s: the Grandmasters Rodel Dagooc, Rene Tongson, Cristino Vasquez as well as with Jerry dela Cruz, Victor Sanchez and Senior Master Bambit Dulay. I received his Lakan Pito, 7th Dan Modern Arnis from these Grandmasters in Manila.

During this trip I proposed the idea to the IMAFP Grandmasters, to have another Camp in the Philippines, just like in 1986. The IMAFP took up this idea and incorporated the 3rd FMA festival into this Camp. Thus the "Modern Arnis Remy Presas Memorial Camp" started to form.

Now the German-Philippine contacts got very strong again. Through Bambit Dulay, I got in contact with Edessa Ramos, who lives in Switzerland. She came to a lot of my seminars we had a lot of long talks and plans were made. Edessa helped a lot in the communication and during the invitation of the IMAFP Grandmasters to Germany in the following years.

Alfred Plath and I invited Roland Dantes, Bambit Dulay and Edessa Ramos (with many others) to the 2nd FMA Festival in March 2004 to Dortmund/Germany, where they represented the Philippines and the IMAFP for the more than 600 participants of the Festival. They taught there and Bambit Dulay gave an excellent exhibition together with Edessa Ramos. Also after the Festival the DAV organized an additional seminar with Roland Dantes and Bambit Dulay and again more than 75 DAV members participated in the training.

After this, the DAV invited Cristino Vasquez for 2 seminars where more than 100 people attended his exciting seminars.

The next invitation was made to Rodel Dagooc, who taught at the 9th Modern Arnis summer camp of the DAV in July 2005, where 147 enthusiasts came together for one week of pure Modern Arnis.

In October 2005, Grandmaster Rene Tongson was invited for the 20-year anniversary of the DAV. More than 125 Modern Arnis practitioners of the DAV visited this seminar. During this visit Grandmaster Tongson promoted 2 of my oldest students, Hans Karrer and Jorgen Gydesen to Lakan Anim, 6th Dan, which was approved before by the IMAFP grading commission in the Philippines.



Datu Knüttel with IMAFP Masters and Grandmaster

In 2006 the DAV participated with about 35 members at the "Modern Arnis Remy Presas Memorial Camp", the 3rd FMA Festival and the Gala night in the Philippines. During the festival, the Worldwide Brotherhood of Modern Arnis, WBMA, was founded with DAV and the IMAFP as founding members among others.

In March 2007, there was a seminar with Grandmaster Jerry Dela Cruz in Frankfurt with more than 50 DAV Members attending.

During all of these visits of IMAFP Grandmasters, black belt tests and grading of the DAV were organized. The Grandmasters were always very impressed by the high standard of Modern Arnis in Germany and everybody who passed the examination, not only got a DAV certificate, but also a black belt certificate of the IMAFP and is acknowledged as Modern Arnis black belt in the Philippines.

In August 2007, there will be the 10th DAV Modern Arnis summer camp for one week for training, incorporating the 50 years of Modern Arnis anniversary to the camp. Besides myself and other DAV instructors, Dan Anderson and Bram Frank from the USA, both also members of the WBMA will teach there as guest instructors, as well as Grandmaster Rene Tongson from the IMAFP, to make it a true international DAV - IMAFP - WBMA Modern Arnis event.

Up to now, about 190 Modern Arnis enthusiasts from 12 different nations have registered, to be part of this biggest Modern Arnis event ever held in Europe.

Practitioners, interested to participate, can contact Dieter Knüttel under **datu@modern-arnis.de**

The DAV plans a long-term relationship with the IMAFP but still is open to friendly contacts to other Modern Arnis and Filipino martial arts groups, organizations and styles.



Author: **Datu Dieter Knüttel**

7th Dan and Senior Master of Modern Arnis

Activities and Events of the DAV

Sven Barchfeld
President of DAV

Since the formation of the DAV in 1985, Modern Arnis seminars are being held on a regular basis all over Germany. In the beginning, there were about 30 seminars a year. Today, the DAV instructors and masters teach about 60 Modern Arnis seminars every year.

Up to the beginning of the 90s, only the Arnisadors with a full examiner's license (at that time they were Datu Dieter Knüttel, Hans Karrer, Helmut Meisel and Michael Jux) have been teaching those seminars. Today there are quite a few other DAV-black belts and instructors who teach in regional seminars. The variety of Modern Arnis, in terms of regional as well as technical, has risen continuously.

We have seminars that are open to all interested persons from other styles and also for beginners. But there are also special seminars usually taught by Datu Dieter Knüttel only for black belts or even only for higher black belts from 3rd Dan up. Because the black belts are often teaching themselves a lot, these black belt seminars are ideal for training intensively with other partners on the same level.

Complementing the normal, technical-orientated seminars, the DAV offers special trainer courses toward reaching the certification "licensed DAV instructor". In these courses, the teaching covers conceptions and methodical ways to teach, as well as the structure of the training and many other aspects which a trainer and instructor should know. This course lasts for 60 hours at present.



FMA Festival Philippines-2006 Instructors

A special highlight within the seminar plan is the summer camp of the DAV which is being held every 2nd year since 1989. The first summer camp had 80 participants and, at the last camp in 2005, we hit a new record with 145 people coming to this event. It was the first time that we had a Filipino Grandmaster teaching at the summer camp: Grandmaster Rodel Dagooc was our special guest instructor and everybody loved the way he taught and his friendly and happy character.

This year (2007) during our 10th summer camp, we will celebrate 50 years of Modern Arnis, the 10th Summer Camp and 40 years of Datu Dieter Knüttel being in the martial arts. In order to celebrate this event accordingly, we have invited some WBMA friends to teach at our camp in addition to our regular summer camp instructors: Grandmaster Rene Tongson from the Philippines, Senior Master Dan Anderson from Oregon/USA and CSSD/SC Grandmaster Bram Frank from Florida/USA. We would be very happy if also many other Modern Arnis and Filipino martial arts practitioners would join us in our 10th DAV Summer Camp. Interested persons can find a flyer for the

summer camp in the FMA digest events section, or write to **datu@modernarnis.de**, Dieter Knüttel and will be sent the information.

Even though the participation of Grandmaster Dagooc was a premier for a summer camp, the DAV had a lot of foreign instructors coming to teach at DAV seminars. Beginning with Grandmaster Ernesto Presas and later Grandmaster Remy Presas, other Filipino martial arts Masters like Suro Mike Inay, Grandmaster Dioniso Canete, Bob Breen, and Jeff Espinosa have taught at the Summer Camp. The DAV has hosted seminars with masters from the Philippines like Grandmaster Roland Dantes, Grandmaster Rene Tongson, Grandmaster Cristino Vasquez, Grandmaster Rodel Dagooc, Senior Master Samuel "Bambit" Dulay and Grandmaster Jerry dela Cruz.



Professor Remy Presas - Frankfurt 1999



20 years DAV seminar with Grandmaster Tongson

Some of the DAV instructors regularly travel to other countries to teach Modern Arnis. Since its founding in 1985, the DAV instructors have taught in the following countries (perhaps even more that we have forgotten in this list): Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, Spain, Netherlands, France, Poland, Italy, Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic, Sri Lanka, USA, Australia, Russia, Hong Kong and China. Of course, foreign practitioners are always welcome to participate in DAV seminars and camps. In many of those countries, Modern Arnis groups have been established through the assistance of the DAV.

Datu Dieter Knüttel has been travelling abroad to teach since his early days in the DAKO. In the beginning it was mainly to Scandinavia, later too many other European countries, and eventually to the USA, Australia and, lately, even Russia. Aside from him, other instructors have been active abroad as well. Hans Karrer is travelling to Hungary, Jørgen Gydesen to Austria, Sven Barchfeld to the Czech Republic and Andre Dawson to Poland to teach and establish Modern Arnis and new groups there.



Sydney, Australia 1985



Denmark 1987



1st Summer Camp: Plon 1989



2nd Summer Camp: Rotenhusen 1991



3rd Summer Camp: Potsdam 1993



4th Summer Camp: Kassel 1995



5th Summer Camp: Bad Berlebeck 1997



6th Summer Camp: Harz 1999



7th Summer Camp: Furtwangen 2001



8th Summer Camp: Spiekeroog 2003



Osterburg and instructors - 2005



Russia 2006

If there are interested people, groups or organizations anywhere in Europe or other parts of the world, the DAV and its instructors will be happy to support the

founding of Modern Arnis groups and the establishment of Modern Arnis in those places. Through decades of long experience with a proven program, which works fine through its special structure and methodical approach - which is in fact available on DVD through **www.abanico.de** in German and English - the DAV can be an excellent partner for establishing Modern Arnis through high level seminars and supporting the formation of new groups through experienced DAV masters and instructors.

Should there be any requests for the organization of Modern Arnis seminars and camps, or the participation of DAV masters and instructors in seminars or camps of other existing groups, we would be more than happy to assist and teach in any way we can to the best of our abilities.

Remy Presas Memorial Camp and 3rd FMA Festival

By Dieter Knüttel

The Beginning

This event had a long history and two beginnings. One was in 1986, when the DAV had the first Modern Arnis Camp in the Philippines. The other one were 2 very successful FMA festivals that my friend Alfred Plath and I had organized in Germany in 2002 and 2004 with 350 and more than 600 participants.

During my stay in the Philippines in 2003 I started to talk to the Masters and Grandmasters in order to convince them to organize another camp like the one in 1986. Something like a 20year anniversary. After having seen the DVD's of the 2004 FMA Festival, the Masters decided, that the 3rd FMA Festival had to be in the Philippines.

Then the idea started to develop, to combine these two events and not to make it only a seminar for DAV members, but open to everybody. Then we all started to make contacts with many people all over the world to spread the word about the new coming Modern Arnis Camp and 3rd FMA Festival in the Philippines.

Fortunately, we were able to find many people with open ears, who listened to the idea and were enthusiastic about it and decided to work for the success of the event, too. Eventually, almost 70 participants from all over the world came to the Philippines in July 2006 to take part in the event. Namely, they came from the USA, Canada, Great Britain, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Bosnia, Slovenia, Russia, Israel, Hong Kong, and of course from the Philippines. Unfortunately, several other nations and participants, who were scheduled to come like Australia and Mexico could not make it for different reasons.

The organisation team, spear headed by Grandmaster Rene Tongson, the Chairman of the organizing committee, supported especially by Senior Master Bambit Dulay and Ginalyn Relos had a very difficult task in organizing such an event for the first time. People from very different cultures with different expectations were coming together to form one group. They worked very hard to satisfy every wish of the participants.

But not only the wishes of the participants had to be kept in mind. When close to 30 Masters and Grandmasters from very different styles of the Filipino martial arts and from all over the Philippines come together to teach at the same time, things are not easy. If you know about the pride the Filipinos take in their system you can understand the skill you need to bring them all under one roof, and that they all teach without any problem.

The Modern Arnis Remy Presas Memorial Camp

At this camp, everything had to do with the teaching of Grandmaster Remy Presas. There were lessons about what Grandmaster Presas taught during his first classes in Manila, or the program that he designed for the schools in 1974. But many instructors



also taught their speciality and the Modern Arnis that they developed out of the teaching of Grandmaster Remy Presas.



Masters of the Modern Arnis Camp,

Top row from left: Rico Acosta, SM Bambit Dulay

2nd row: Senior Master Dieter Knüttel, Senior Master Dan Anderson, Master of TT Brian Zawilinski

3rd row: Master Godofredo Fajardo, Grandmaster Rene Tongson, Guro Roy de Leon, Guro Paolo Motita

Front row: Grandmaster Cristino Vasquez, Grandmaster Bram Frank, Grandmaster Rodel Dagooc, Grandmaster Jerry dela Cruz

So the list of instructors was impressive. At the Modern Arnis Camp, the following Masters and Grandmaster (in no specific order) taught:

Rene Tongson

Cristino Vasquez

Rodel Dagooc

Jerry dela Cruz

Godofredo Fajardo

Samuel 'Bambit' Dulay

Dan Anderson

Brian Zawilinski

Bram Frank

Dieter Knüttel

Ginalyn Relos

Edessa Ramos

Alex Erica

Rico Acosta

Bobby dela Rosa

Paolo Motita



Grandmaster Tongson with Senior Master Knüttel



Dieter Knüttel with Filipino Masters and Grandmasters.

From left to right: Guro Roy de Leon, Grandmaster Rodel Dagooc, Grandmaster Cristino Vasquez, Grandmaster Jerry dela Cruz, Grandmaster Rene Tongson, Senior Master Dieter Knüttel, Guro Ginalyn Relos, Master Godofredo Fajardo, Senior Master Bambit Dulay, Guro Paolo Motita.

During the training the participants were split in 3 or 4 groups and they got mixed, so that not all the time the same people would train together. Then there was the same number of instructors, and after an hour, the groups rotated so that all the groups got to study under all the instructors. So the instructors were teaching 3 or 4 times the same lesson.

This is not an easy way to organize the teaching. Most of the time it worked, and sometimes it did not work out the way it was planned. But the participants took it with patience and usually when something did not work out, the next day made up for it, for example that one or two additional instructors were teaching.

The training days of the Modern Arnis Camp were structured in the following way:

Day One: This was the day of the basics. Professor Armando Sorteco taught the physical training program, Jun Martinada/Rey Postrado the basics of Modern Arnis of 1970 of the Maharlika system, Brian Zawilinski taught basic Tapi Tapi and Godofredo Fajardo taught the basics from the Filipino Fighting Arts International (FFAI).

After the first day of training, a beautiful opening night was organized, with some official speeches, a lot of traditional Filipino dances with live music, the introduction of the different groups and a nice dinner. Grandmaster Rene Tongson, Senior Master Dan Anderson and Datu Dieter Knüttel pointed out in short speeches, that this was an event to propagate friendship, understanding and unity within the Modern Arnis and Filipino martial arts practitioners and that it was possible to make it happen, if all practitioners were determined to do so.

At the end there was an improvised drum session, where a lot of the participants played many different kinds of drums and had a good time.



Participants of day 1 of the 3rd FMA festival

Day Two: Was the day of the classical Arnis. Classical techniques from the following styles and areas of the Modern Arnis/FMA were taught: Rico Acosta: Doublete Rapilon, Rene Tongson: Tres Puntas, Cristino Vasquez: Ipit Pilipit, Bambit Dulay: Tapi Tapi, Rodel Dagooc: Classical from Arnis Associates International, Jerry Dela Cruz: Double stick from Arnis Cruzada, Alex Erica: Double stick from Kombatan and Dan Anderson taught Modern Arnis from MA80.



Some participants of day 2 of the 3rd FMA festival

Day Three: Was reserved for advanced combinations and weapons. Here the following topics were covered: Bram Frank: combat bolo, Rene Tongson: Abaniko Tres Puntas drill, Dieter Knüttel: Dulo-Dulo or Palmstick, Godofredo Fajardo: Freestyle, Brian Zawilinski: Modern Arnis concepts, Cristino Vasquez: Bangkaw or long staff, Bo.

Day Four: Was already the last day of the Modern Arnis Camp. Here different weapons and blades were the main topic. Here are the lessons: Bram Frank. Knife, Dieter Knüttel: Double Stick Tapi-Tapi, Ginalyn Relos: Kayog, Edessa Ramos: Sangot, Paolo Motita: Sport Arnis, Dan Anderson: Espada y Daga.



Grandmaster Rene Tongson
with Hauke Lengwenus (DAV)



Grandmaster Cristino Vasquez
with Senior Master Dieter Knüttel



Graciella Casillas with Alfred Plath (DAV)
and Guy Rafaeli (CSSD/SC Israel)



Training outside with Senior Master Knüttel

The training always lasted from about 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and in the evening, people relaxed, went to karaoke clubs or played at the local casino, winning or losing some pesos there. Also the different groups from the different countries started to mix and new friends were made.



The knives and balisongs of Batangas



A coin after the balisong test

Saturday was a day to relax and on Sunday a daytrip was organized for the participants, where they went to a balisong/knife maker, who demonstrated his products and showed for example the coin test, where a new balisong is tested in a way, that a one peso coin is laid on a piece of wood, and a balisong stabs a hole into the coin. When the tip of the knife is still in perfect shape after that, the knife is good.

After buying a lot of knives there, we made a boat trip to Taal, the smallest active volcano of the world. So we took an outrigger boat and after a 45-minute ride we were on the island. A 1 1/2 hour walk through the rough brought us to a beautiful lake in the crater of the volcano, with a little island in the middle. With a temperature of

about 30 ° Celsius (about 85 Fahrenheit) the water was very warm and we had the unique experience, to swim in the crater of an active volcano. Wow.

The walk back was quite hard, because a lot of uphill walking had to be done, so everybody was happy to reach the boat and after the boat trip to get back on the bus to have a rest.

During the Modern Arnis Camp, a few leading Masters and group leaders came together to discuss the possibility of founding an association that would tie together different organisations under the roof of Modern Arnis. After an intensive and very positive discussion, all agreed on the founding of this new group under the name of “Worldwide Brotherhood of Modern Arnis, WBMA”. Read more about this in a separate article.



Lake Taal with the island

The 3rd FMA World Festival

Then the 2nd camp started, the 3rd FMA World Festival. Here, the whole spectrum of the FMA was presented and a lot of different Master form many styles taught. Here you can see, which style was taught by whom on each day:

Day One: Ray Galang: Bakbakan, Jerson Tortal: Dekiti Tersia, Dieter Knüttel: Modern Arnis, Bert Labaniego/Jon Escudero Lightning Scientific Arnis, Godofredo Fajardo: Filipino Fighting Arts. Bram Frank Modular Knife, Pepe Yap: Cultural Arnis

Day Two: Tony Diego Kalis Ilustrisimo, Rommel Tortal: Dekiti Tersia, Mike Vasquez: Modified Tapado, Constantino Napase: Kuntaw, Dan Anderson: MA80, Pepe Yap: Cultural Arnis

Day Three: Graciella Casillas. Cabales Serrada, Brian Zawilinski: Modern Arnis, Dieter Knüttel: Modern Arnis, Bobby Tabimina: Balintawak, Rene Tongson: Tres Puntas

Day Four: Henry Espera: Rapido Realismo, Jun Martinada/Rey Postrado: Maharlika System, Edgar Telebangco: AKTES, Cris Vasquez: Ipit Pilipit, Bobby dela Rosa: Balisong.

During the Camp and Festival, the Philippine TV reported several times about the Camp. Once, Grandmaster Rene Tongson went with Dan Anderson, Bram Frank, Brian Zawilinski, Dieter Knüttel and their training partners to Manila, to be guest in a morning show, where they demonstrated Modern Arnis in this show broadcasted nationwide. Engineer Diaz from the Ministry of Tourism and the PIGSSAY was interviewed together with Grandmaster Tongson about the FMA Festival.

Another day the most popular TV morning show of the Philippines came to the camp and reported throughout the morning about this FMA Festival. We all had to be there already at 5.15 a.m. so this was a very early morning rise.

The Gala Night with the Lapu-Lapu awards

After these exhausting days of training, the last night was the night of the FMA Gala and Lapu-Lapu awards in Manila.

The exclusive Dinner was held in the beautiful ballroom of the Heritage Hotel. The Gala Night was attended by Philippine Government officials (Philippine Tourism Authority, Philippine Sports Commission, Provincial Government of Cavite, Municipality of Amadeo), delegates from USA, Canada, Germany, Switzerland, Russia, Slovenia, United Kingdom, Austria, Israel, Hong Kong and of course by the host Philippines, and federation representatives from Modern Arnis Balintawak, Dikiti Tersia, Kalis Ilustrisimo, Bakbakan, Doce Pares, Lema-LSAI, Tipunan, Pigssai, Doblete Rapillon, Kuntaw, Wedo, Modified Tapado, Naraphil-Maharlika, FFAI, MATCOP and Philippine media networks.



The DAV demo team at the gala night

A lot of speeches were held and an excellent choir sang for the participants, traditional dances were shown. Filipino martial arts exhibitions demonstrated the wide variety of the FAM: Maharlika Arnis (Jun Martinada/Rey Postrado), Lightning Scientific (Bert Labaniego/Jon Escudero), Modified Tapado (Mike Vasquez) and Modern Arnis (IMAFP, Grandmaster Rodel Dagooc and Grandmaster Jerry

dela Cruz, Dieter Knüttel/DAV and Edessa Ramos).

Pictures and video sequences of Mike Gubat showed scenes from the last 10 days of training as well as a very moving “Tribute to the Masters” who had passed away in the recent years.

Very important was the fact that the founding of the “Worldwide Brotherhood of Modern Arnis” was announced by Grandmaster Rene Tongson and was made public to all the attending masters and participants. The Grandmasters Rodel Dagooc and Jerry dela Cruz immediately gave their support to this Organisation and joined.

Finally, the Lapu Lapu awards. The post humus award was given to Professor Remy Presas, who was honoured for being “The father of Modern Arnis” and introducing the Filipino Culture and Arts worldwide through Arnis.

A Lapu-Lapu achievement award was presented to Senior Master Dieter Knüttel, Rosemary Presas, Professor Armando Sorteco, Edessa Ramos and Guro Alfred Plath for their loyalty and dedication, as well as for the length of service rendered and his meaningful contribution in the upliftment of Modern Arnis

The following organizations got the Lapu-Lapu award 2006 for unwavering support in the success of the 3rd FMA Festival:

Common Sense Self-Defense/Street Combat, (CSSD/SC), USA

Deutscher Arnis Verband E.v., (DAV), Germany

International Modern Arnis Federation Philippines, (IMAFP), Philippines

International Modern Arnis Federation, (IMAF, Inc.), U.S.A.

Philippine Indigenous Games and Sports Savers Association, (PIGSSAI), Philippines

This ended the highly successful events of the Modern Arnis Remy Presas Memorial Camp, the 3rd FMA World Festival and the Gala Night with Lapu-Lapu awards.



Dancers and some of the DAV delegation at the first evening of the Modern Arnis Camp

Epilogue

About 10 of the participants of the events (Rene Tongson, Bram Frank, Dieter Knüttel and Graciella Casillas to name a few) continued to travel to Negros, specifically to Hinigaran, the birthplace of Professor Presas. We visited his grave and had a few very touching moment of silence.

Then we continued to a VERY special event: Professor Remy Presas is given the honour of a life size statue on the main Plaza in his hometown Hinigaran.



Rene Tongson, Bram Frank and Dieter Knüttel at Grandmaster Presas grave in a moment of silence

He will be the first Grandmaster of and in the Philippines and perhaps even worldwide, for whom such a monument will be raised.

So we were there for the groundbreaking of this Monument. Again, speeches from the Mayor, Engr. Diaz from the Department of Tourism, Attorney Salvator Demaisip as the President of IMAFP, Rene Tongson as the Chairman of the FMA Festival and Bram Frank and Dieter Knüttel as his students were held, to memorize this remarkable moment. We continued to the house where Professor Presas was born and where he lived during his youth and where, finally, Modern Arnis was founded.

Resume

As a conclusion I have to say, that these were very successful days. So many people came together from all over the world to participate in this celebration of Modern Arnis and FMA. Everybody found new friends and it was very clear, that we all belong to one big family. The organizers did a great job to put it all together and we have to thank also the many, many helpers, who worked behind the scenes to make it happen. The participants as well as the instructors from overseas did their best to make this event a very successful and memorable one. We all succeeded in that task.

With the new WBMA we have an organization, that binds us Modern Arnis groups together and we will have events in this Modern Arnis Brotherhood that will bring together different people from different countries, cultures and styles, to make new friends and train together.

Two events are already planned: 2nd to 8th of February in Ekaterinburg, Russia with Grandmaster Rene Tongson, Senior Master Bambit Dulay, Datu and Senior Master Dieter Knüttel and Dayang Edessa Ramos.

The next event will be the 10 DAV Modern Arnis Summer Camp from the 6th to 12th of August 2007 in Osterburg, Germany. With Grandmaster Rene Tongson, Senior Master Dan Anderson, Datu and Senior Master Dieter Knüttel, and hopefully another Modern Arnis Master from the states, whose participation is not yet confirmed at this time.

So the storm may be over but the thunder rolls on....



Author: **Datu Dieter Knüttel**
7th Dan and Senior Master of Modern Arnis



Dieter Knüttel has been granted the rights by the Philippine organizing committee, to produce with his company **ABANICO** the official DVD's that will cover the different events. The Modern Arnis Remy Presas Memorial Camp, the 3rd FMA World Festival the Gala and a DVD: Masters and Grandmaster of the Philippines, which will cover several exhibitions of different Masters and Grandmasters.

The plan is to finish the DVD's before December.



Anybody who is interested in these DVD's can contact Dieter Knüttel at dk@abanico.de or datu@modern-arnis.de

The Worldwide Brotherhood of Modern Arnis

During the Modern Arnis Remy Presas Memorial Camp there was a meeting of Masters and group leaders to discuss the possibility of an organization that should act like an umbrella organization for Modern Arnis Associations all over the world.

Attending were:

- Grandmaster Rene Tongson, Senior Master Bambit Dulay and Ginalyn Relos, all IMAFP, Philippines
- Dayang Edessa Ramos, IMAFP – Switzerland
- Senior Master Dan Anderson, MA80, USA, who also spoke for Senior Master Bram Frank (he was sick that night) and the CSSD/SC, USA
- Datu and Senior Master Dieter Knüttel and Philipp Wolf, DAV, Germany
- Alexander Pisarkin, RAF, Russia
- Master of Tapi-Tapi Brian Zawilinski, IMAF Inc., USA



Meeting of the formation of the WBMA

The discussion was open and very productive.

The base of the discussion was on the one side that we all come from the same source, Professor Remy Presas. But if one thing was typical for his Modern Arnis through all the years that he taught Modern Arnis it was constant changing and evolving. That means, that depending when you learned with the Professor, your Modern Arnis could be much different from the Modern Arnis of other groups, who learned from the Professor some years earlier or later. This has to be taken into consideration if different groups

decide to work together. There is no better or worse Modern Arnis. The “new” Modern Arnis of the late 90s is not better than the “old” Modern Arnis from the late 60s and the “old” is not better and not “more original” or more valuable than the “new”. The knife aspect of Bram Frank is not better than the stick aspects of Dan Anderson. This is one thing one has to accept, if cooperation in the new organization shall work.

The other thing is, that after the death of Professor Remy Presas different Modern Arnis groups and organisations were founded by different people and all tend to continue to drift apart. This is not unusual and it happened for example with Yip Man/Wing Chung, Morihei Ueshiba/Aikido, Ed Parker/Kenpo just to name a few.

But the Professor was a man who brought different people from different groups together. He stood for embracing, not for separating people.

This was the point where we said that we want to stop the drifting apart. We want to show the Modern Arnis world, the Filipino martial arts world and the martial arts world that this does not have to be that way.

Very soon we came to the conclusion, that under the right circumstances, this new organization would be a step in the right direction. The biggest and most important task that we immediately agreed on was the fact, that all organizations shall stay autonomous. No group is better or higher than the other and no group has the right to interfere into the internal affairs of another group. As we agreed on that, and this was no problem, the rest came fast.

We decided to use the name “Worldwide Brotherhood of Modern Arnis, WBMA” because we wanted to show, that all over the world there are people, who belong to an organisation, which is connected to the WBMA. We choose the word “Brotherhood” to show, that we are equal groups and no one wants to dominate the other.

Grandmaster Rene Tongson formulated the mission/vision statement and an office shall be established in the Philippines and everybody agreed that a website has to be made. We decided that the launching of this organization and the mission statement shall be announced at the 21st of July to all of the participants at the Gala Night of the 3rd FMA World Festival at the Heritage Hotel in Manila.

When this was done, Grandmaster Rodel Dagooc and Grandmaster Jerry dela Cruz joined the WBMA with their organisations immediately.

This is the mission statement of the Worldwide Brotherhood of Modern Arnis, WBMA:

Bound by the principles of honour, autonomy, equality, respect and recognition regardless of political inclination, cultural differences and religious beliefs, we bind ourselves together for the purpose of preserving and promoting the legacy of Modern Arnis.

We hereby establish a brotherhood of Modern Arnis practitioners to give meaning and reality to the art.

We are committed to accomplish this purpose through cooperation, exchange of ideas and knowledge, promotion of solidarity and brotherly love.

Through these, we shall continue and strengthen the legacy of Modern Arnis.

Founding Members:

- Common Sense Self Defense/Street Combat (CSSD/SC) - Bram Frank, USA

- Deutscher Arnis Verband (DAV) - Dieter Knüttel, Germany
- International Modern Arnis Federation, Philippines (IMAFP) - Rene Tongson, Cristino Vasquez, Samuel Dulay, etc.
- Modern Arnis 80 (MA-80) - Dan Anderson, USA
- Regional Arnis Federation (RAF) - Alexander Pisarkin, Russia
- Arnis International - Rodel Dagooc, Philippines
- Cruzada Arnis - Jerry Dela Cruz, Philippines

The scope of the WBMA activities:

As a brotherhood bounded by unity, understanding and cooperation, the WBMA is also a venue for technical exchange; research, propagation and network for information, material and equipment sourcing that may provide assistance for economic growth for its members.

An interim Secretariat is established in the homeland to provide the necessary coordination, information dissimulation, marketing support for seminars, camps and other activities of members, hosting of guests and visitors who pursue lessons and tour the Philippines, and may act as representative of members in sourcing, procurement and quality inspection of goods and services procured.

World Wide Brotherhood of Modern Arnis

Secretariat: Room 301 David Building 1, No. 567 Shaw Blvd.,
Mandaluyong City, 1550 Philippines.

Email: **worldbro_modernarnis@yahoo.com.ph**

Website: **www.worldbromodernarnis.com**

Primary however, is the continuity of the teachings of Professor Remy A. Presas by establishing a universal standard of understanding and recognition of every organization as member of the “Modern Arnis Family”.

So we want to set positive points for Modern Arnis, work positive for a great future of Modern Arnis. We all have the same roots, even though we are all different. The roots and the trunk is Professor Presas and we are the branches.

We accept this and we will work together. We all came together in the Philippines to found this brotherhood and to set a sign against separation but towards cooperation and friendship. This is, what the brotherhood shall stand for.

Already now, through the present organizations, the Brotherhood has groups in the following countries: Philippines, USA, Canada, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, France, England, Italy, Slovenia, Bosnia, Hungary, Czech Republic, Russia, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong and maybe more, that I am not aware of right now.

We hope, other groups will see the positive impact, that we will try to achieve with this Worldwide Brotherhood of Modern Arnis and that they might join us in the future.

One of the first contributions of the brotherhood to the Modern Arnis world will be the publishing of an interview with Master Romy "Bibing" Lisondra, who started to train with the Professor in 1958 until early 1970s, and who was an assistant instructor to

Grandmaster Remy during his time in Bacolod and in the beginning in Manila. He also was the man, who did all the drawings for the pink Modern Arnis book.

I was fortunate to meet him in Bacolod/Negros Occidental, and to make a long interview with him, which I could record, so that his answers will be preserved.

The next WBMA event will take place in Russia!

From the 2nd to the 8th of February 2007, the 1st Modern Arnis Camp in Russia will take place near Ekatarinburg. The instructors will be Grandmaster Rene Tongson, Senior Master Bambit Dulay, Datu and Senior Master Dieter Knüttel and Dayang Edessa Ramos. For more information send an email to **datu@modern-arnis.de** with “Russian Modern Arnis Camp” in the subject line.

The next event after this will be the 10th Modern Arnis Summer Camp of the German Arnis Association DAV from the 6th to 12th of August 2007 in Osterburg/Germany. With Grandmaster Rene Tongson, Senior Master Dan Anderson, Datu and Senior Master Dieter Knüttel, and hopefully another Modern Arnis Master from the states, whose participation is not yet confirmed. In addition to that, there will be a line of Modern Arnis instructors from the DAV, who will also be teaching like Master Hans Karrer, 6th Dan Modern Arnis, Master Jørgen Gydesen, 6th Dan Modern Arnis as well as Peter Rutkowski, 4th Dan, Helmut Meisel, 3rd Dan and Sven Barchfeld, 3rd Dan and more.

In addition to the 10th Summer Camp and being a brotherhood event, we want to celebrate 50 years of Modern Arnis too: 1957 to 2007. We invite all interested Modern Arnis and FMA enthusiasts from all over the world to participate in this event. We will soon have more information under **www.modern-arnis.de**, also in English.

Anyone who is interested can contact me under **datu@modern-arnis.de** with “Modern Arnis Summer Camp Germany” in the subject line.

We know that we are heading with the WBMA in the right direction for a bright future of Modern Arnis and we hope, that other Modern Arnis organisations will join us in the WBMA.

If the Professor could see the brotherhood and it's activities, he would be smiling....



Author: **Datu Dieter Knüttel**
7th Dan and Senior Master of Modern Arnis

Russian Modern Arnis Camp

February 2 - 8, 2007

Ekatarinburg, Russia

By Dieter Knüttel

For my 3rd trip to Russia I was invited to teach at the 1st Modern Arnis Camp to be held in Ekatarinburg. My first 2 trips to Russia were weekend seminars (2005 and 2006) but this time there should be more training.

After Alexander Pisarkin had attended the 2005 Modern Arnis summer camp of the DAV and attended last year with 2 of his students in the Philippines at the 1st Remy A. Presas Memorial Modern Arnis Camp and the 3rd FMA Festival, he decided, to work with his association the "Regional Arnis Federation", RAF, and put together a 7 day Modern Arnis training camp.. This was the first "Worldwide Brotherhood of Modern Arnis" (WBMA) event after the Founding (according to my knowledge).

He invited Grandmaster Rene Tongson and Senior Master Samuel "Bambit" Dulay from the Philippines as well as myself, Senior Master and Datu Dieter Knüttel from DAV, Germany as instructors for the camp. I was accompanied by my student, Peter Rutkowski, 4th Dan Modern Arnis. Out of personal reasons, I could only participate the first 3 days of the camp, but Grandmaster Rene, Senior Master Bambit and Peter stayed and taught the full 7 days.

Especially for the Filipino masters, it must have been a special experience, to arrive in Russia where a lot of snow had fallen days before. They were supplied with a lot of warm clothes, so they would not freeze outside. Still they said: *"We love the snow, but we rather stay inside."* But with -20° Celsius (- 8° Fahrenheit) and sometimes a strong wind one could understand this. It was really cold, also for us.



Senior Master Dulay - Grandmaster Tongson - Datu Knüttel - Guro Rutkowski - Guro Pisarkin

During the weekend (Friday to Sunday), there was more than 40 participants. During the rest of the camp, (Monday through to Thursday), 15 people took part in the training. Some of the participants travelled from a long distance to the camp. From Moscow for example, it took a 29 hour train ride one way, to get there. But there were also participants from other cities and other Filipino martial arts styles like Serrada, Doce Pares, Pekiti Tirsia, and Kombatán.



The camp took place in the Ural University of Ekatarinburg, where Alexander is also teaching. It was opened by the vice-rector of the University and there was a lot of interest for the camp. 2 TV stations were there at the opening, filmed the demonstrations and made interviews, which were broadcasted the same day. A 3rd TV station was there during several days to make a longer report about the camp, as they did before when I was there the first 2 times. Additionally, a radio station and some print media were there too, to report about the camp. So the PR was excellent.

The training itself was very versatile. Sinawali, disarms, empty hand concepts, self-defense, classical Arnis, Knife, double stick, Abanico Tres Puntas, Tapi-Tapi and a lot more was taught during the week. So a wide range of Modern Arnis and Filipino martial arts was covered. The participants were excited about this.

Friday night was the evening of the gradings. 40 Modern Arnis practitioners were going for a new degree, ranging from white through to blue belt. (With white, yellow, green, blue and brown being the student levels there). Everybody passed and the testing was very good. One could see the time and effort, they had put in the training the months before. So on the next morning,



Television interviews

everybody was happy to receive their new certificates of rank.

The training was held from 10 am to 2 pm and from 4 pm to 7 pm. In the evening we went out having dinner with Alexander and some of the students, and different to some expectations, vodka was NOT consumed a lot. Not more or less than here in Germany either.



Instruction by Grandmaster Tongson and Datu Knüttel

Sunday night, Alexander had a surprise for us. After the dinner he told us, we would go to the forest. I have learned not to ask what is happening there, because whatever Alexander suggested or organized, it is always very good and a lot of fun.



With the rector of the
Ural University, Ekatarinbutg



Alexander, Dieter, Peter, and Victor



Grandmaster Tongson and Senior Master Dulay
went to Murmansk only with a dog sled. This was 6500 miles and it took him 8 months.

So we drove to a Datscha “a weekend - house” at the outskirts of Ekatarinburg where we were supplied with warm shoes. Especially Grandmaster Rene and Senior Master Bambit got VERY warm jackets. We really looked funny, wrapped up in these VERY thick and large clothes. But it was necessary, because we walked about 20 minutes at -20° Celsius (-2° Fahrenheit) through the forest, to arrive at a campfire. There we met a musher. This guy had crossed Alaska and then

He got 2 entries into the “Guinness book of records” for that. So now the dogs (Huskies) were put in front of a sled, and we could ride a round track, lit with torches, on this dog sled. At around 11 pm we returned to the campfire, where we got bred chicken, tea, warm wine and Russian, magic water. What a spectacular experience all together!

During the meeting with the rector of the Ural University, he was excited with the Modern Arnis activities of Alexander Pisarkin and the perspective that Modern Arnis would spread through Russia from his University. He said to Alexander, that he would officially support all of his Modern Arnis activities now.

He also told us that he had a large room at the University. That he did not know how to use up to now, but now he knows. This room will be turned into a Modern Arnis training center and he confirmed that this will be finished by my next visit to Ekatarinburg! We were really excited by this official support from the University.



The next trip to Russia is planned on the 7th and 8th of December, where the Ural University of Ekatarinburg will celebrate its 40th anniversary. We were told that Grandmaster Rene Tongson and I would be invited as official guests of the University to participate at the anniversary ceremonies. After that, we will hold another Modern Arnis seminar.

These are all very positive developments for the propagation and spreading of Modern Arnis in Russia. There is already talks for a seminar in Moscow, but there is no date set as of yet.

With Alexander Pisarkin, there is not only a very talented martial artist leading Modern Arnis in Russia. But he is also a very good teacher (one can see that when you look at his students) and an excellent organizer. We are lucky, that he is there to work for Modern Arnis in Russia.

I am already looking forward to meeting him and his students once again, when he will participate at the 10th Modern Arnis summer camp of the DAV in Germany on the 6th to the 12th of August 2007. And of course, I am glad to be back in Ekatarinburg in December 2007.

All together, this visit was again very impressive especially through the cordial friendship and hospitality we were able to experience there. This also showed through many little things that cannot all be mentioned here.

For me, these trips are so important, not only to spread Modern Arnis, but to reach an International understanding between different cultures, to make new friends and deepen existing friendships and to work against prejudices that some people and cultures may have of each other. Also in this regards, the camp was a big success.

I can only say: Russia? I would love to come back.



www.worldbromodernarnis.com



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Author: **Datu Dieter Knüttel**

7th Dan and Senior Master of Modern Arnis

DAV - Groups:

Click the link to visit the Website

Dresden: www.arnis-dresden.de

Neubrandenburg: www.arnisnb.de

Plön: www.arnis-ploen.de

Kiel: www.modern-arnis-kiel.de

Hamburg Wandsbek/Eilbek: www.arnis-hamburg.de

Hamburg Eidelstedt: www.modernarnishamburg.de

Todtglüsing: www.todtgluesinger-sv.de

Göttingen: www.arnis-goettingen.de

Kassel: www.psv-gwkassel.de

Dortmund: www.tsc-eintracht-dortmund.de

Essen: www.ksc-manila.de

Waltrop: www.modern-arnis-waltrop.de

Oberhausen: www.psv-oberhausen.de

Wuppertal: www.panantukan.de

Bochum: www.modern-arnis-bochum.de

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Köln: www.bdc-koeln.de

Wipperfürth: www.modern-arnis.net

Bonn: www.dae-mahng.de

Wahlscheid: www.sportzentrum-wahlscheid.de

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Darmstadt: www.arnis-darmstadt.de

Bad König: www.arnis-odenwald.de

Heddesheim: www.modern-arnis-rnk.de

Stuttgart: www.arnis-stuttgart.de

Karlsruhe: www.innae.de

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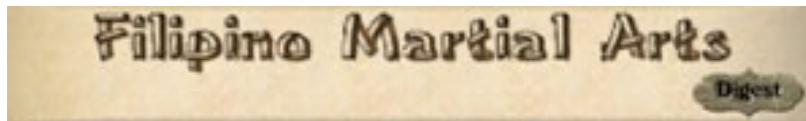


Dieter Knüttel in his studio, where all **ABANICO** videos are edited and dubbed.





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