

Okuiri

A Publication of the American Jujitsu Association



Man with a Gun

by: DANIEL ORKWIS

Editor's note: Our theme for this issue is how we respond to a real attack. On page 4 Scott Anderson takes an academic look at the development of Russian Jujitsu. For a more personal view we begin with Daniel Orkwis. In early 2004 Daniel left his hometown of Arlington, Virginia and moved to Portland, Oregon. A student of jujitsu since he was 13, all in his dojo were sorry to see him leave and looked forward to his occasional visits home. In April of 2005 Daniel survived an event that all of us train for but few have ever experienced. Two weeks later he sent us this letter:

This is the third time I've tried to write and each time I find I just do not know what to say.

Or rather, I know what I need to say but not how to say it. It is very difficult, more because of unpleasant memories it makes me recall in more detail than anything else.

I was in the process of moving from one house here in Portland to another when it happened. I was excited to get out of my former house, as I didn't really get along with the other folks living there. Despite this, one of them lent me his car for the move, and I decided to take advantage of the wheels and move everything. I had initially planned on only taking one trip in the car, and leaving the rest for later. The first trip went off without a hitch and I returned for the second. However, it was now 2 a.m. and I had not eaten dinner, so — after

loading the car — I drove to the local 24 hour Safeway to get some food in my system.

I got my food and returned to the car, waving at the only other person in the parking lot who appeared to be walking toward the store himself. I opened my orange juice, took a drink, and noticed the same person approaching me, only now with a ski mask on and his sweatshirt hood pulled down over his face. I tried to get in the car, but I couldn't get it started before he showed me that he had a gun and began issuing orders. I was quite willing to give him the keys, but when he demanded that I get in the trunk, I knew that would be a trip with no return.

I suppose I should consider it a success — I am free of additional holes.

Somewhere at this point the adrenaline shut down my brain, and I attempted to gain control of the gun. I suppose I should consider it a success, as I am free of

additional holes, but it was still a phenomenally stupid thing to do. The gun went off, pointing into the air and near my left ear. From here my recollection of what happens breaks down, except that we fought for some time (or so it seemed while it was happening), the keys to the car fell out of my pocket, and he grabbed them and ran. Sometime in there the gun fired a second time, although it left his hand for some time as well. Because the car wasn't mine, and the adrenaline was fogging my brain, I chased and tackled him. We continued to fight, and he turned the gun around and hit me with the butt three times. I received two bruises and one gash

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Spring 2006

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AJA 2005 Awards

AJA Outstanding Dojo

For efforts to perpetuate The Art of Jujitsu, awards are presented to dojo for providing jujitsu training to at least 20 students during the course of the year to the following:

Reston Budoshin Ju-Jitsu Dojo

Bruce H. Jones, Sensei
Reston, Virginia

ROC Ju-Jitsu Dojo

Jorge Corona, Sensei
Pasadena, California

Harvard Westlake Ju-Jitsu Dojo

Mark Jordan, Sensei
North Hollywood, California

White Marsh YMCA Dojo

Wade Susie, Sensei
Baltimore, Maryland

Belle Chasse Martial Arts

Vernon Schlieff, Jr., Sensei
Belle Chasse, Louisiana

American School of Self Defense, Inc.

Tony L. Maynard, Sensei
Kernersville, North Carolina

Arlington YMCA Ju-Jitsu Dojo

Thomas Salander, Sensei
Arlington, Virginia

Budoshin Ju-Jitsu Dojo

George Kirby, Sensei
Santa Clarita, California

Universal Ju-Jitsu Dojo

Linda Della Pelle, Sensei
Claremont, California

AJA Outstanding Yudanshia

For efforts preserving the Art of JuJitsu in accordance to criteria set up by the head sensei of each dojo:

Matthew Moss

American School of Self Defense
Kernersville, North Carolina

Marc Kolodziejczyk

Budoshin Ju-Jitsu Dojo
Santa Clarita, California

Lawrence Tomeck

Arlington YMCA Ju-Jitsu Dojo
Arlington, Virginia

AJA 2005 Awards

AJA Outstanding Mudanshia

For efforts learning the Art of Jujitsu in accordance to criteria set up by the head sensei of each dojo:

Bruce Lawrence

Red Dragon Dojo
Baltimore, Maryland

Glenda Perl

Budoshin Ju-Jitsu Dojo
Santa Clarita, California

Phillip Neel

Arlington YMCA Ju-Jitsu Dojo
Arlington, Virginia

Brian Dooley

American School of Self Defense
Kernersville, North Carolina

Jeremy Yamauchi

Budoshin Ju-Jitsu Dojo
Santa Clarita, California

AJA Service Recognition

Award for outstanding service to the AJA as Awards Chairman in 2003 in spite of Nature's obstacles:

Linda Della Pelle

Universal Jujitsu Dojo
Claremont, California

COMMENTARY ON A WALL HANGING

Diligence is continuous work at one's work. It is important in Ju-jitsu to have diligence because you can't get good at something without doing it over and over again. Diligence also means careful attention. When we are listening to the Sensei we are practicing diligence. When we do what we were told to do we are practicing diligence. In listening and doing, every day there is diligence in the dojo.



Alana Wiljanen, age 11

The Lessons of the Russians' Ju Jitsu, Part 2

by: SCOTT ANDERSON

Let's focus on one of the lessons from his book based on his field trips and questionnaires from the field: the two categories of violent confrontation. For simplicity, this lesson considers only the one-on-one encounter.

The curriculum must prepare the student by realizing "that the moment of offensive confrontation is too short for the defender to sift for a suitable ploy from his reserve of knowledge — especially since any violent confrontation occurs under the effects of passion, anger, excitation, fear, or a generalized numbing of feeling. The defender must, first of all, master the concept that any confrontation approaches from one of two conditions."

Let's first consider the scenario that Spiridonov actually listed as the second condition. Here, in the fortunate scenario where no matter what the attacker does, the defender can control his opponent completely to the degree that he is able to grip and/or throw his opponent safely from most any position. In this scenario, the defender is completely in charge of the situation and may strike his opponent, or if need be, safely go to the ground with him.

Unfortunately, very few confrontations begin under this condition. This leads to the second condition.

Here, the opponent cannot be approached, much less gripped without some danger to the defender. This may occur for many reasons such as:

- The opponent was prepared to rush in foolishly, but the defender warned him off by adopting an obvious martial arts stance. The opponent is not retreating; he is simply now attacking using a more cautious approach.
- The opponent is an extremely skillful fighter and is attacking from a prudent stance.
- The defender is surprised by the attack.
- The opponent is brandishing a weapon.

- The defender is not sure if his opponent is or is not armed.

Spiridonov's studies indicated that in this case, the defender must resort to strikes until such time as he can force his opponent into the first scenario where the defender is in control and may use his holds, strikes, and throws against a bewildered or helpless attacker. To reach this situation, Spiridonov recommended three types of strikes as having the best odds of changing the momentum of the encounter to favor the defender:

1. Toe kick to the lower part of his opponent's stomach or between his legs;
2. Strikes with the elongated fingers along the edge of the hand under the pit of his opponent's stomach;
3. Elbow strikes.

These are survival strikes that the defender must be able to use instinctively. They are the means to convert the second condition to the first condition. That said, Spiridonov's audience must be considered. The option to run away or retreat was impractical for the military and government personnel who might use this course, so it was not considered. Second, in his later works, knee strikes would be considered as important as elbow strikes. Lastly, the techniques of the second scenario can accomplish self-defense goals or win fights on their own merits without transitioning to the first scenario.

While there are still a few practitioners of Samoz today, their art, like ju jitsu, goes under different names based on how its later practitioners felt that the material had to be revamped to remain relevant to their society. In some cases, this included a major infusion of material that evolved later under the sambo label.

Spiridonov was the reigning Russian authority in 1927; however, a decade later, the sambo advocates with their closer ties to a judo vice the traditional ju jitsu gained the favor of the Soviet government and military, and they accused Spiridonov

Spiridonov and his ju jitsu system were accused of being exactly what he accused Japanese ju jitsu of being: an unwieldy, un-defined system of impractical techniques.

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Russian Ju Jitsu

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and his ju jitsu system of being exactly what he accused Japanese ju jitsu of being: an unwieldy, undefined system of impractical techniques.

In turn, the sambo/judo schools of self-defense were radically revamped when Oshchepkov was accused of being a Japanese spy because of his contacts with the Kodokan. One of his senior students, Anatoli Kharlampiev revamped the system with techniques from the wrestling and fighting styles prevalent in the Soviet Union at that time, and sold off a sport version of the system as a practical means for preparing the military for hand to hand combat. During this time, many throws from the native Georgian wrestling system, Chidaoba, entered sambo as these throws were deemed more effective than many Japanese throws toward meeting sambo's goals to end fights/matches quickly.

There are two types of technique categories: evolutionary and cyclical. Kano's distillation of ju jitsu into judo is evolutionary; it is a step forward for the art, and perhaps, all martial arts. Other techniques are cyclical—their use comes in and out of fashion, and consequently, their effectiveness varies accordingly. These techniques are not particularly new, but often when they were new and fresh, they had a tremendous impact on the system until enough fighters learned how to duplicate or simply counter these techniques. Oddly enough, these techniques smolder in the back pages of the repertoires. Eventually enough time goes by that fighters no longer maintain their counter skills for these techniques. Then, when some canny fighter uses one of these techniques successfully, his imitators bring out a revival of the techniques until the counters are once again sufficient to relegate them back into the archives. Russian flying arm bars or flying juji gatame might be considered to be in that category. They work primarily through the element of surprise which becomes less effective as the techniques become more common place which results in the counters being more effective than the techniques themselves.

While neither samoz nor sambo enjoy the popularity of ju jitsu in the United States today, perhaps we can at least consider and learn from the Russian research and remember Spiridonov's advice on what is required to survive the second scenario. Too often we use our kata to practice our entire scope of ju jitsu, and that would have us betting our lives that all violent collisions are in the first condition discussed above.

Samoz and sambo are not exactly ju jitsu and they are not exactly judo, but they are only partially unique. Their techniques can substitute for the Japanese techniques in sport matches and on the street, but they are ju jitsus that followed different evolutionary paths that adapted to the needs and existing techniques of their Russian homeland. We learn more about ju jitsu by studying where the Russian systems deviated from the Japanese systems and why. For example, where the Japanese art may kneel within its techniques to facilitate the samurai with his sword, the Russian need only to squat which may net him an extra couple of inches with which to lower his body to generate additional torque, leverage, and momentum.

These differences can appear minor to newcomers to the martial arts, or they may appear cataclysmic to purists, but there are lessons here for any of us who care to understand ju jitsu and its practical applications in all situations. 🐉

Scott Anderson learned the hard way that similar seeming martial arts can be very different in their practice and theory. He started off learning the four styles of wrestling recognized in the United States which includes sombo wrestling. In the nooks and crannies of thirty years on the mat, he managed to study judo, judo, and several styles of Ju Jitsu under Gerry Sewell, George Nobles, and Dennis McCurdy. In another thirty years, he may figure out everything that his instructors were trying to tell him. His articles have appeared in Karate International and Black Belt magazine. He collaborated on a sombo article for the Journal of Asian Martial Arts with Dr. Brett Jacques that was later translated into Italian and published in Arti d'Oriente.

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Events

Rising Sun Hosts Seminar

The Rising Sun School of Ju-Jitsu held a day-long seminar on May 20 at the Southern York County YMCA. Professor George Kirby taught for the first four hours and covered techniques including *Tai Otoshi*, *Te Nage*, elbow locks, and pain submits. He also answered questions from participants about defenses against low kicks, front scissors chokes, hair grabs, and full-nelsons.

After a lunch break, Sensei Tom Smith of Total Martial Arts and Fitness shared techniques from kenpo karate to generate power. He stressed relaxing, dropping, turning, and advancing to add power to strikes. That seminar was followed by a session of capoeira, a Brazilian-based martial art performed to music. After the aerobics of capoeira, participants settled down with a tai chi session by Sifu Dustin Quance, who demonstrated basic moves such as proper stepping. Tai chi has martial applications, Sifu Quance explained, but typically students train for several years before focusing on them.

Finally, Sensei Scott Anderson taught a class on sambo, a Russian martial art influenced by jujitsu. Sensei Anderson demonstrated leg locks, throws, and a counter to *Ō Soto Gari* that involves darting sideways to throw an attacker who is sweeping on one leg.

Promoting Budoshin in the Community

The Stuart family has been part of the White Marsh YMCA Dojo for nearly a decade. David and Becky took classes in Chin-na karate, and their sons, DJ and Jake took classes in Budoshin Ju-Jitsu under Sensei Wade Susie. D.J. began in the youth class and worked his way up to the adult class and through the ranks, earning his black belt and two trophies at last summer's Northeast Regional Shiai at Towson, Maryland. D.J. supports his dojo in a number of ways. He acts as a role model for the younger martial artists. He has participated in clean-up days at the White Marsh Y, raking and mulching and removing fences. For at least three years he helped put on the Y's Halloween Haunted Hike raising money for the Strong Kid's Campaign that allows needy children to attend summer camp, learn how to swim, and participate in Y classes. D.J. has helped put on ju-jitsu demonstrations in the community at local scout meetings and schools. This year he was chosen as the White Marsh YMCA's Youth Volunteer of the Year. D.J. is a model martial artist who proudly promotes the Budoshin art and gives back to his community.

"Soft Throwing" Jujitsu Seminar by Professor Dennis McCurdy

The AJA Red Dragon Dojo hosted a "Soft Throwing" Jujitsu seminar by Professor Dennis McCurdy on Saturday April 29th, 2006. The seminar was held at the Sword of Heaven Martial Arts School in Arbutus, Maryland. The seminar was organized by Tony Posinski and Jeff Weisfeld of the Red Dragon Dojo. Turnout was good and participants came from a variety of dojos and experience levels.

The seminar was fast paced and extremely interesting and informative. After a brief warm-up, Professor McCurdy quickly moved into the techniques and theories of the seminar. Professor McCurdy explained that the "soft throwing" techniques taught that afternoon come from his study of Aikijutsu. He began with some drills which quickly worked into *Sote Otoshi*, which is a softer alternative to *Ō Soto Gari*. The rest of the afternoon focused on various techniques from both *irimi* and *ura* (rear).

Highlights of the seminar included *Shiho-nage*, the nuances of *Kote Gaeshi*, *Heaven and Earth*, and a counter to *Harai Goshi*. The mats were full and everyone had a great time. Many thanks to Professor McCurdy for an enjoyable and informative seminar and to Tony Posinski and Jeff Weisfeld for organizing everything and making everyone feel welcome.

Upcoming Events

AJA Convention

Saturday July 8, 2006

Towson, Maryland

e-mail: JujutsuJohn@Netscape.Net

see page 11 for more details

BJJY Summer Camp

August 25-27, 2006

Santa Clarita, California

Registration fee: \$175 by August 10
see website for other rates

e-mail: SenseiGK@Budoshin.Com

website: www.Budoshin.Com

4th Anual YMCA Ju-Jitsu Camp

June 26 - July 7, 2006

Arlington, Virginia

YMCA Summer Day Camp

Registration fee: \$320

e-mail: Thomas@Budoshin.Com

20th Anual Camp Bushido West

July 25-30, 2006

Yuma City, California

Residential Summer Camp

Registration fee: \$200

e-mail: judo@syix.com

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The AJA Newsletter welcomes submissions of articles and proposals. We prefer plain text (.TXT) in electronic format. You may also send articles for consideration through the US Postal Service or via fax.

Back issues are available.

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Submission deadline for the next issue is August 28, 2006.

Camp Budoshin

September 16, 2006, 8:30-4:30

Verdugo Recreation Center
Burbank, California

Registration fee: \$55

e-mail: SenseiGK@Budoshin.Com

website: www.Budoshin.Com

YMCA Judo Camp

August 13-19, 2006

Huguenot, New York

YMCA Summer Residential Camp

Pre-Registration by August 1: \$510

Registration after August 1: \$560

e-mail: Camps@YmcaNYC.Org

Seminar & AJA Tournament

Saturday November 4, 2006

seminar: 9am-1pm

tournament: starts 2pm

Arlington, Virginia

Registration fee: \$35 seminar
\$15 tournament

e-mail: Thomas@Budoshin.Com

Gun

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from this. It also dazed me enough that he was able to stagger to his feet and escape the scene.

I had been screaming from the second I went for the gun for somebody to call the cops and that he had a gun. Despite this, and the noise of two gunshots, and the fact that there are apartments directly overhanging the parking lot where this happened, only one person actually called 911. When the police did arrive (along with the paramedics) they took statements and collected evidence. In the process of the fight I had removed both jackets he was wearing and his ski mask. There were also a pair of casings from his gun, a flashlight that had fallen out of my pocket, and the car itself. The paramedics administered first aid. Although I looked a mess and was suffering from adrenaline drop, I was able to give a lucid statement, a relatively complete description of my assailant, and further assist their operations.

Now, a week and some days later, I am cleaning up the final physical details from this. I have gotten the stitches out, I am picking up the car tomorrow, and I have finally heard from the detective assigned the case (although we haven't connected yet, the process is begun). My ear still rings occasionally although I have been assured it will recover completely.

The psychological and emotional repercussions have not healed as fast, though. I have a good, close group of friends I can rely on

for support and I am doing so. It is not easy for me to ask for help, but this is beyond what I can deal with entirely on my own.

It still feels right to be in Portland, and everybody I've spoken to assures me this is a fluke, an exception. It doesn't feel very good to be the exception, and it wouldn't much matter, anyway. I am fixed here, and the beautiful sunset that I've watched as I wrote this reaffirms my sense of wonder. Although this has changed me, as every moment your life passes through changes you, I refuse to let it define me. Yes, it happened, and it sucked, and I am still recovering. But I will recover, and I am still that happy, goofy guy I always was.

Epilogue, April 2006

Now, almost a year after the fact, it feels strange to think of "recovery" as something I've been through. This is something that happened to me, and it has affected me, perhaps more than some other things. In the long run, however, it is what I make of it.

Because of the clothing I pulled off of him, my attacker was identified and is now imprisoned for the next ten years for attacking me. I know I am alive today because of my training — not because of any specific technique, or because I was better than anybody else — but by training me to react, rather than freeze. 🗡️

Daniel Orkwis begins a new chapter in Marlboro, Vermont starting this August.

My ear still rings occasionally. The psychological and emotional repercussions have not healed as fast.

In Akira Kurosawa's Seven Samurai, four of the seven die.

All were shot.

KYŌHAN

Man with a Gun — A Response

by: GEORGE KIRBY

Daniel is well-trained, lucky, or both. This scenario needs to be broken into two sections: escape and pursuit. Although it's easy for me to put a third-party objectiveness to what happened to Daniel, not being Daniel and not having that adrenalin surge does take much of the reality and emotion out of the scenario. So, if my response seems "dry", I do not do it to demean or lessen what Daniel went through — it was and will be a life-altering experience.

Escape

Daniel, you did the right thing by giving him the keys. You were offering no resistance and cooperating with the assailant. It was the smart thing to do. The car could be replaced — you couldn't. Some people say you should drop the keys and kick them under the car, but in my book the situation determines what you do and you did the right thing.

You also did the right thing by refusing and resisting the order to get into the trunk of the car. Your "reaction" was the appropriate action at the time. The Safeway parking lot was the primary scene of the crime. Had you gotten into the trunk, wherever you had been "left off", alive or dead, would be the secondary scene of the crime. Your chances of survival at the primary scene were much greater than they would have been at the secondary scene. Even if you had fled from your attacker and he shot at you and a bullet hit you, your odds for survival would still be greater as you were in a "populated" area. There would have been a greater chance of someone providing assistance to you at the primary scene. This does not sound like much of a choice or comfort, but it is — and you made the right choice. Once the initial assault was over your assailant attempted to flee the scene.

Pursuit

For whatever reason, probably the adrenalin, you decided to pursue and wrestle with the attacker one more time. Was that the "smart" thing to do? Probably not, as you risked greater injury to yourself, your attacker had the gun, and he was scared of you now that his plan had gone awry. You put your life more at risk here, when it was "unnecessary" for you to do so. This is easy for me to say as I wasn't there — and it is a value judgment.

E-mail: SenseiGK@Budoshin.Com

Whether it was the "right" thing to do was another matter. That's a value judgment that encompasses your sense of morality, self-protection, your sense of indignation, and the situation at the time. Pursuing him was probably not the "smart" thing to do as he still could have shot you. However, in retrospect, what you did probably helped lead to his arrest and conviction, which does grant some sense of accomplishment, success, self-responsibility and closure. You became a "responsible and involved citizen", of which there are too few in today's world. All of these are value judgments that you probably didn't make at the time, but have thought about afterwards.

Closure

Will you ever forget about this event and all the possibilities of what could have happened? Probably not. You will probably mull it over time and time again — which was why it was so difficult for you to write your thoughts down — although writing your thoughts down on paper and being comfortable with what you have written down is a good way to put the event into a perspective you can live with.

Fortunately the assailant was caught and now is in jail. The system worked and you have that going for you. It also probably worked because of what you did. That's another plus for you.

The event probably still scares you and that's a healthy response. Your life was at risk and you initially did the right thing: you survived. Your ability to express your thoughts about this event and your response to your thoughts are essential to your "recovery", if such a word is the proper word to use.

Although I've had a few "events" in my life, none have involved a gun. I still mull them over and think, could I or should I have done something different. Sometimes my answer is "yes". Sometimes it's "no". However, with each review I am more comfortable with what I did and that it was the "right" thing to do given the situation at the time.

All in all, I think you did the right thing. As you said, you "reacted" rather than "froze". I commend you for "reacting" as that probably saved your life. I also commend your sensei for training you to that point, because that is the most important (martial arts) skill you can have. 🍻

Western Region Tournament

April 22, 2006

GEDAN

1st Vicente Corderro, Santa Clarita
 2nd Bobby Kazimroff, Harvard-Westlake
 3rd Matt Jameson, Harvard-Westlake

JODAN: 1ST-3RD KYU

1st Kent Ballew, Claremont
 2nd William Suloski, Santa Clarita
 3rd Glenda Pearl, Santa Clarita

CHUDAN: 5TH & 6TH KYU

1st Byron Davis, Santa Clarita
 2nd Leland Farmer, Harvard-Westlake
 3rd Max Liu & Jeremy Noah, Harvard-Westlake*

YUDANSHIA

1st Steve Castorena, Santa Clarita
 2nd Brian Sincomb, Santa Clarita
 3rd Ron Sekulich, Burbank

PURPLE BELT DIVISION

1st David Contreas, Santa Clarita
 2nd Bobby Hill, Harvard-Westlake
 3rd Edward Ji, Harvard-Westlake

OVERALL TOURNAMENT CHAMPION

🏆 Kent Ballew

JUDGES

George Kirby	Marc Tucker
Mark Jordan	Linda DellaPelle
Robert Rainey	Ron Sekulich

TIMER

🕒 Paul Blaney 🕒

MAT REFEREES

Glenda Pearl	William Sulowski
Mark Jordan	Linda DellaPelle
Ron Sekulich	

TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR & SCOREKEEPER

🕒 Frank Blaney 🕒

* Two third-place winners were declared after both tied twice; both participants were from Harvard-Westlake.



AJA BIANNUAL CONVENTION

JULY 8, 2006

8:00AM TO 6:00PM

TOWSON YMCA
600 WEST CHESAPEAKE AVENUE
TOWSON, MARYLAND

Every two years AJA members from around the country gather together for training and fellowship. This year's convention will be hosted by the Daitoubokan Dojo at the Towson YMCA and organized by Dennis McCurdy. Instructors include Tony Maynard, George Parulski, Glenn Davis, and Dave Patton.

Cost is \$45 for 17 years and above, \$40 for under 17. Cost for families are \$40 for 1st, \$35 for 2nd, and \$30 for each additional family member.

Competition will include:

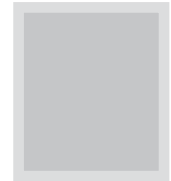
- **Self-Defense Kata**
- **Sparring (Kumite)**



For more information
contact Dennis McCurdy:

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American Jujitsu Association

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www.AmericanJujitsuAssociation.org

The American Jujitsu Association (AJA) was founded in 1976 and is an internationally recognized governing body for the martial art of Jujitsu in the United States. The AJA is registered with the U.S. government as a 501(c)(3) amateur athletic association and is governed by a national board of directors (BOD) according to its Constitution and Bylaws. The AJA is comprised of many different styles of the "Gentle Art" (at least four represented on the BOD), each with its own uniqueness, and each providing a positive influence on the martial arts community as a whole.

For more information about membership in the AJA, contact the membership chairman, Mark Jordan at P.O. Box 4261, Burbank, California 91503-4261 (e-mail majik8@usa.net) or go to our website.