

Grandmaster Datu Dieter Knüttel, the martial artist



Born in 1960 in Berlin, he began Judo training in 1967. He started with Karate and Kung Fu in 1975 and in 1978 he began to study the Filipino Martial Arts under Jackson Cui Brocka, founder of Combat Arnis and student of the Presas brothers. In 1983 he travelled for 3 months to the Philippines just to train in Arnis.

He trained with many well known Grandmasters like Ernesto and Roberto Presas, Rodel Dagooc, Rene Tongson, Christino Vasquez, Willie Annang, Pepito Robas, Roland Dantes, Momoy and Dionisio Canete and many others.

He came back to the Philippines in 1986 to continue with his training with the Grndmasters.

He was founding member of the German Arnis Association, DAV in 1985 and has remained the chief instructor of the DAV to the present. (Elections to this post every 43 years. Reelected 11 times by 2017)

Up to 1993 the DAV worked together with Ernesto Presas and in 1994 the DAV joined up with Grandmaster Remy Presas, the founder of Modern Arnis who was in Germany on a regular basis. As the 4th person in the world Dieter Knüttel received the title “Datu” and the 6th Dan Modern Arnis directly from Professor Remy Presas. In 1996 GM Remy Presas appointed Dieter Knüttel “European Representative for Modern Arnis”.

In 2003, Knüttel received his 7th Dan Modern Arnis in Manila from the “council of Senior Modern Arnis Masters of the Philippines” as well as his Senior Master status in Modern Arnis.

In 2008, he receiver Grandmaster status and 8th Dan Modern Arnis from a council of Grandmasters of different Styles in Ilollo, Panay/Philippines during the 4th FMA Festival.

In 2009 he was honored as Grandmaster of the year by the WHSFC in San Antonio, Texas.

Also he was one of only very few, who GM Remy Presas appointed to be in the Modern Arnis Hallo of Fame.

In September 2016, he received 10th Dan Modern Arnis from GM Roberto Presas, the last of the 3 Presas brothers, who is still alive.

For the over 30 years he has organized many seminars together with the DAV in Germany with Cui Brocka, Ernesto and Remy Presas, Dionisio Canete, Mike Inay, Roland Dantes, Bram Frank, Bambit Dulay, Cristino Vasquez, Rene Tongson, Rodel

Dagoog, Jerry Dela Cruz, Ray Dionaldo, Kelly Worden, Chuck Gauss, Brian Zawilinski and Tim Hartman.

He also organized together with his friend and student Alfred Plath, 2 highly successful FMA Festivals, the second was, with more than 600 participants, the biggest FMA seminar worldwide ever, with 18 instructors coming from 4 continents and the participants coming from 22 countries.

The DAV holds bi-annual summer-camps that Datu Dieter Knüttel heads, and in the last 10 years, there were always around 160 to 200 participants for one week of training, peaking in 2017 with 202 participants coming from 13 nations. Also the special seminars (Best of the West, 25 years of DAV, East meets West) had more than 200 participants.

The DAV has grown big under his guidance. Almost 2000 members and more than 300 black belts between 1st and 8^h Dan are his students. According to GM Rene Tongson, who has taught Arnis himself in 27 countries, the DAV is one of the most successful and best organized Filipino Martial Arts organization worldwide.

He was the head of the board of examiners for more than 500 black belt examination in the, DAV. Since 1985 almost 7000 people were DAV-members.

Since 1980 he is teaching Modern Arnis and self-defense seminars on 25-30 weekends per year in Germany and worldwide. This is why he has taught around 900 weekend seminars during the last 35 years, 100 of them internationally in the following 17 countries: Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Netherlands, France, England, Spain, Austria, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Israel, Ukraine, Russia, USA, Australia and the Philippines

He is one of the most experienced Modern Arnis Masters worldwide.

Today, one of his main aims in Modern Arnis is, to keep good contacts and relations with all different Modern Arnis groups worldwide, which is why he is the co-founder of the FMA Festival together with Alfred Path 2002 in Germany and was founding member of the Worldwide Family of Modern Arnis, WFMA, 2006 in the Philippines.

But this is not all:

Dieter Knüttel, the DVD producer

in 1989 he founded his video company ABANICO. Up to now, he has produced almost 100 instructional videos, DVDs and download to own videos and is for sure one of the leading production company for martial arts instructional DVDs in Germany, perhaps even in Europe. Most of the productions are available in English as well and are distributed worldwide. A lot of enthusiastic letters from customers all over the world prove that his productions belong to the best of the world with regards to production quality, effects, and especially presentation of the techniques and quality of the content.

When he is filming he always uses 2 or 3 cameras at the same time to get the techniques from all angles: front, side and even with a crane from the top. The most important thing for him is always to find the best angle to film the techniques, so the customer gets all the necessary details that he needs to know, to reproduce the techniques at home.

For the quality of his productions, there is one thing especially relevant: everything is in one hand. Dieter Knüttel has been involved in the martial arts for 50 years and he has achieved his master degree in sport science, where he learned how to teach. Through this, he has a feeling for which is the best angle to film the technique. So the customer who watches the DVD will see even the smallest detail of the presented technique.

Also relevant for the quality of his productions is his 20 years of experience with editing martial arts instructional videos and DVDs. The quality of ABANICO productions has been acknowledged in other countries as well, so that Masters and experts from all over the world come to Dieter Knüttel to film their productions. Among others, there were Suro Mike Inay, Inayan Eskrima, USA; Bob Breen, JKD and Kali, England; Chinawood Sirisompan aka Master Woody, Muay Thai, Thailand, Danny Guba and Percival Pableo, Doce Pares Escrima, Philippines; Jeff Espinous, Kali Sikaran, France; Pat O'Malley and John Harvey, Rapid Arnis, England, Emanuel Hart, Steve Klement and Cory Hanosh, Inayan Eskrima, USA and, last but not least, Grandmasters from the Philippines like Rene Tongson, Abaniko Tres Puntas, Cristino Vasquez, Rodel Dagooc and Samuel "Bambit" Dulay, Modern Arnis as well as Jerry Dela Cruz, Arnis Cruzada, Philippines.

But he did not only film Filipino Martial Arts, but also many other styles, like Karate, Taekwon Do, Judo, Kick Boxing, Tonfa, Selfdefense, Ju-Jutsu, Jiu-Jitsu, Groundfighting, Kung Fu, Wing Chung, and many others. Not all of them are available as DVDs in the USA yet, but more and more productions will soon be available in the USA.

If you are interested in holding a seminar with him or want to contact him, you can do this under the following email address: datu@modern-arnis.de

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