



TKD *TaeKwonDo* TIMES

GOCHUJANG AND
BIBIMBAB-

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Organization tells you
all about it!

CLOSE FRIEND OF GENERAL CHOI

GRANDMASTER HWANG

SHARES ABOUT GENERAL CHOI'S
LIFE AND SHARES HIS WILL

- DAN BONG SUL:
SHORT STICK WEAPON
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TUKKONG MILITARY ARTS

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Joshua Paszkiewicz is the Secretary-General of the Int'l JTMS Group, and holds a 5th dan in Taekwondo. An ordained Zen Buddhist monastic, he teaches Korean Martial Arts from a Zen Buddhist perspective from his temple (the Bup Mu Won) in Kansas City, Missouri.



In the 1970's tensions between North and South Korea were very high; military scuffles along the demilitarized zone dividing the North from the South demanded a spirit of constant attention and military vigilance from governmental authorities. Thus in 1978, under official mandate of the South Korean President Park Chung-Hee, the contemporary Korean military art of Tukkong Mu Sool (literally Special Forces Martial Arts) came into existence.

Born out of a pressing fear of imminent large scale conflict, the Tukkong Military Arts program had no singular founder. Rather, with the aforementioned mandate in place, a search was initiated to assemble a cadre of some of the very best martial arts Masters serving in the South Korean armed forces. This assemblage of Masters was charged with the unique task of creating a military-specific combat training program to fulfill the strategic necessity of being able to effectively mount a large scale combat offensive should the need arise. Therefore, the developmental efforts of the Tukkong founders were acutely focused on the concept of simultaneously training the largest number of soldiers to the highest level of combat ability in the shortest amount of time possible.

A legitimate battlefield system, Tukkong Military Arts was developed as a “no frills”, yet diversified approach to combat. Constructed around the premise of “absorbing what’s best and discarding the rest”, Tukkong Mu Sool does not discriminate on the basis of where or when a concept, technique or method originated, but rather on the relevancy of any given method to modern military application and training. This method of development birthed a very dynamic and varied curriculum which emphasizes both contemporary combat efficiency and ease of learning.

At first glance, it’s obvious that Tukkong Mu Sool bears a striking resemblance to the art of Kuk Sool Hapkido as developed by Grandmaster Seo In Sun; no doubt due to the fact that the founding Masters of Tukkong Military Arts were all one-time students of Grand Master Seo. Logically then, the Tukkong Military Arts syllabus draws heavily upon the martial principles, techniques, and methodologies codified in Kuk Sool Hapkido. However, whereas Kuk Sool Hapkido is a systemized and comprehensive study of all martial skills common to the Korean peninsula throughout history, Tukkong employs only simplified, direct, and effective combative training methods that fit the filter of being immediately relevant to the needs of the twenty-first century soldier. Within this framework, the true innovative genius of Tukkong Military Arts is revealed. This is accomplished through a curriculum encompassing everything from mental and physical conditioning to kicking and striking, trapping and locking, throwing, pinning and grappling, as well as stick, knife, gun and bayonet skills.

Interestingly, there are actually two methods of Tukkong Military Arts training currently being practiced; the ROK Marine military version and a civilian version. These two strands of Tukkong Mu Sool actually share the same foundational principles, base curriculum and training methods. However, the civilian version takes into account the obvious advantage of the greater amount of training time available to civilians who are not bound by the training timelines necessary in the armed forces. While the civilian method encompasses the entire curriculum of the active military method (which only advances through the first degree black belt), it actually expands upon it into further levels of technical intricacy, as a matter of both scholastic and physical excellence.

As previously mentioned, Tukkong Mu Sool has been developed to accomplish in a matter of mere months what most arts take years to do; namely immersing a student in martial arts culture and creating a level of technical skill within them that allows them to engage in authentic combat situations with relative competence. However, unlike training an individual student privately day in and day out for several months to build properly refined combative skills, Tukkong Military Arts were faced with the challenge of training hundreds of soldiers to combat readiness in only a few months. This was accomplished through proper mindset, a high physical fitness level, and technical martial prowess, both armed and unarmed.

To meet the obvious disadvantages facing training large numbers of students in a short period of time, Tukkong has two essential components in place; a rigidly disciplined training atmosphere and a firmly structured graduated curriculum. Foremost, Tukkong Military Arts demands the maintenance of a traditionally structured training environment that mirrors both the Confucian and military hierarchical models that Tukkong Mu Sool is rooted in. Secondly, effective Tukkong Military Arts training requires adherence to a clearly structured progression, consisting of four distinct phases, within a well defined curriculum.

The first phase of training in Tukkong Military Arts is focused on physical fitness. Through demanding, high-level fitness requirements and intense training standards (as one might associate with “special forces boot camp”), esprit de corps is developed amongst the student group. This makes for dynamic learning and supportive, intense practice of the curriculum. Aside from encouraging morale, the physical fitness standards and requirements of Tukkong Military Arts prepare a student to face the harsh realities of combat, most obviously being able to physically withstand a real altercation. Therefore, Tukkong Mu Sool employs the high impact, jumping and diving break falls and rolls common to arts like Hapkido and judo to condition both the body and mind.



The second phase of Tukkong Mu Sool is mental and verbal training. This phase needs to go hand in hand with the physical fitness training. Students of Tukkong Military Arts spend a considerable amount of time studying the mindset of combat while seeking to understand how the human mind reacts to given combative stimuli. In a practical example, one may take note of the explosive kihap (yell) used in Tukkong Mu Sool forms and techniques. More than merely for show, the powerful kihaps serve to move the mind of the opponent and amplify the effect of a given technique, partially through eliciting a “surprise” reaction, and partially by overcoming the combative focus, spirit, and resistance of an opponent.



Tukkong Military Arts, having been developed for modern military application, contains a third phase of training focused on weaponry. Whereas most martial arts practice weaponry after years of training, it should be understood that Tukkong Mu Sool picks up where most martial arts training leaves off. Tukkong is a close-quarter combat system that is meant to deal with opponents physically only after ammunition has been spent. Thus, Tukkong’s formal training with non-traditional weaponry includes such weapons as the machine gun bayonet; not something typically found in any traditional martial art.



In the unfortunate event that a soldier has spent their ammunition and lost their battlefield weapons, the area of empty hand combat is taught as the fourth phase of training in Tukkong Military Arts. Empty hand combat is actually further sub-divided into the four categories within the curriculum that are taught in graduated order. Generally, Tukkong Mu Sool prefers to keep distance from an opponent and utilize gross motor over fine motor skills. This approach is designed to combat the natural effects of adrenaline and stress on the body, while effectively disengaging an opponent. The first category of empty handed Tukkong is Kyuk Ki (kicking and striking), followed by Sool Ki (trapping and locking), then Too Ki (throwing and pinning) and finally Jap Ki (grappling).

The foundational principles of Tukkong Military Arts are considerations that every responsible teacher of combat martial arts today should keep in mind. Relevant questions to ask might include:

- 1) Is the training efficient and applicable to contemporary conflict/combat?
- 2) Can important skills and techniques be taught to the masses in a limited amount of time?
- 3) Is the training static, or can it be continually refined to maintain relevancy; in other words, can it change with the times?

Our world seems to be in an increasingly dangerous and volatile state. Today more and more people are hard pressed to find time to simply relax and spend time with family and friends, let alone train in a martial arts school. Though Tukkong Military Arts was developed for large scale modern warfare, the art's applications to twenty-first century civilian life are numerous. Through





intense physical training, Tukkong combats the modern reality of sedentary living. Developing a comprehensive mental and verbal skill set, Tukkong fends off the effects of stress and interpersonal conflict. In understanding contemporary weaponry and graduated combative engagement, Tukkong very quickly prepares its students to stand up to the everyday dangers present in many cities and neighborhoods; from robbery and home invasion to gang violence and domestic terrorism.

Under the guidance of Chief Master John B. Murphy, the International Jun Tong Mu Sool Group is continually nurturing, refining and furthering the original spirit of Tukkong Military Arts. Through a unique curriculum design and training plan, JTMS is providing Tukkong training, networking and certification at the highest levels. JTMS offers custom tailored training and transition programs in this growing, dynamic martial art for bona fide instructors.