



Sensei Lee Gray began his studies of the martial arts in the spring of 1960 while living on the island of Okinawa. There he became the direct student of Goju Ryu Karate Master MASANOBU SHINJO (1937-1993) founder of Goju Ryu Karate Do Shobukan. He was one of the few foreign students at that time allowed to teach senior classes at the Honbu dojo. Sensei Gray lived and trained on the island for over 12 years. During this time he had a chance to train with many Okinawan legends and still maintains close allegiance to the martial arts community of Okinawa.

He holds a 7th degree black belt in Goju Ryu Karate, a 5th degree black belt in Okinawan Kobudo, and a Kancho Menkyo issued by the Shobukan Honbu in Okinawan. He has acted as representative for several U.S. Karate Organizations including the AAU Karate Program and the International Martial Arts Federation (IMAF).

As an active duty career United States Marine, Sensei Gray taught hand-to-hand combat, as well as karate to armed forces personnel around the world. He has been certified by the Supreme Court of the state of California as a Martial Arts weapons expert, and by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice as a defensive tactics master instructor and martial arts expert. He has been awarded a Congressional Distinguished Service Award by the United States Congress for his community service through Karate programs. He has taught defensive tactics at police departments and correctional institutions nationwide, and has lectured and taught at many major colleges and universities.

He often travels nationally and internationally to give lectures, seminars, and instruction on Okinawan Karate and Kobudo. In 1984 he became the senior men's AAU National Karate Weapons Champion, and acted as a coach for the Southern California team that produced three individual National Champions and the Team Champion. In 1987 he coached the first International Martial Arts Federation (IMAF) United States Champion. Since then Sensei Gray has produced many Junior and Adult Regional and National Karate Champions.

Sensei Gray's philosophy on training emphasizes total personal development. He teaches that the true purpose of Karate is peace, not conflict, and emphasizes dedication, loyalty, and sincere effort. To some, the strategy of karate appears to be "to win" at all cost, but to win through virtue is the true philosophy of karate training. In karate, to heighten one's own virtue one must master the strategy of winning without fighting. The discipline of constant training leads the practitioner to an understanding that will open the door to the development of body, mind, and spirit of character.

*"The true karate way is aimed at the pursuit of excellence, not just in the training hall, but in life. Its disciples strive to apply the true karate way in every vocation, and its adepts tend to be achievers in any field of endeavor. This is what separates the karate way from other pursuits and makes it so valuable."*