

UECHIRYU BUTOKUKAI™

Black Belt History and Terminology

STUDY

GUIDE

For Black Belt Testing

A Brief History of

UECHIRYU KARATE-DO

Uechiryu is purportedly based on three animals: The Tiger, Crane, and Dragon

The history of Uechiryu (Pronounced Way-Chee-Roo), began in Okinawa on May 5, 1877, with the birth of the founder: Kanbun Uechi. Kanbun was the oldest son of Samurai descendants Kantoku and Tsura Uechi.

In 1897, Kanbun left Okinawa for China to avoid a Japanese Military conscription. He arrived in Fuchow City, Fukien Province and began his martial arts training. For the next ten years, he studied under the guidance of a Chinese Monk we know as Shushiwa (1874 - 1926). The style of karate that Kanbun learned from Shushiwa (Pangainoon) later became the foundation of Uechi Ryu.

In 1907, Shushiwa encouraged Kanbun to open his own school. He eventually did in Nansoe, a day's journey from Fuchow. Kanbun was credited with being the first Okinawan to operate a school in China. The school ran successfully for three years, then one of his students killed a neighbor in self-defense in a dispute over an irrigation matter. The incident hurt Kanbun to the point that he closed his school and returned to Okinawa. There he married, settled down as a farmer and vowed never to teach again. On June 26th, 1911, his first son Kanei Uechi was born.

In 1924 Kanbun Uechi, along with many other Okinawans, left his home and went to Japan for stable employment. He arrived in Wakayama and worked as a janitor. It was here that he met a younger Okinawan Ryuyu Tomoyose. It was through this friendship that Kanbun agreed to begin teaching in a limited capacity. On November 25th, 1948 Kanbun Uechi dies of nephritis. He was Seventy-One.

It was here that the co-founder of this style, Kanei Uechi (Son of Kanbun) began his martial arts practice. After ten years, he returned to Okinawa. Like his father, Kanei married an Okinawan (named Shige) and kept his martial arts practice from becoming public knowledge.

Sometime later Ryuko Tomoyose (born December 10th, 1928), son of Ryuyu, approached Kanei and following the advice of his father, did everything he could to convince Kanei to begin teaching in Okinawa. Kanei resisted until Ryuko and several fellow farmers built a dojo for Kanei. Later, this was moved to its current location in Futenma and was called "Uechi Ryu Karate Family Headquarters Dojo" (a.k.a. "Soke"). Kanei and Ryuko stayed together for many decades and became the best of friends. A friendship which continued until Kanei Uechi died (February 21st, 1991).

Ryuko Tomoyose has a long list of amazing accomplishments. In addition to becoming one of the highest ranking living martial artist in Okinawa, he was also given the title of National Living Treasure of Japan. He is also fluent in English. In 1956, with the permission of Kanei Uechi, he began teaching the first non-Okinawans Uechiryu Karate.

There have been several highly known non-Okinawan students. Two examples are, the late Ian Fleming, creator of James Bond, and George Mattson, who would become the first American to be promoted to Shodan (First Degree Black Belt). In 1958, Ryuko Tomoyose gave George Mattson two instructions for returning the United States: write a book and teach Uechiryu.

George Mattson began teaching at the YMCA in Boston and this grew into becoming the famous "Mattson Academy of Karate". It was at this school that many of the most remarkable Uechi practitioners began their training.

In 1963, George Mattson published his first book "The Way of Karate". This was the first hardcover publication of martial arts ever to be written in English.

In 1966, Buzz Durkin began his practice under the tutelage of George Mattson. In 1969 Mr. Durkin received his Shodan. In 1974, he opened his dojo in Salem, NH.

In 1984, Master Uechi visited the Salem dojo and named it "The Butokukan," which translates to mean "Place Where People Study the Virtues of The Martial Arts." That same year, Buzz Durkin formed the Uechi Ryu Butokukai (Gathering of People Who Study the Virtues of The Martial Arts). The Uechi Ryu Butokukai is now an association of schools consisting of Buzz Durkin's Karate School and all schools owned by Mr. Durkin's students.

In 1988, Buzz Durkin opened his new facility in Atkinson, NH. Mr. Tomoyose, Mr. Nakahodo and Mr. Kanmei Uechi attend the dedication ceremonies. The dojo would later be awarded "Best Martial Arts Facility in North America" for three years in a row by the United States Martial Arts Association.

February 21st 1991 Master Kanei Uechi dies at the age of 79. Kanmei Uechi then became the headmaster of Uechiryu.

September 14th 2015 Master Kanmei Uechi dies at the age of 74. Currently, Kancho Uechi (Great-Grand son of Kanbun Uechi) is the headmaster of Uechiryu Karate-do.

On August 19, 2017 Buzz Durkin was promoted to the rank of Judan – Tenth Degree Black Belt.

In 2018, Judy Durkin (Mr. Durkin's wife) was promoted to the rank of Kudan (Ninth Degree Black Belt). Among her many accomplishments, Judy is credited with being the highest ranking woman in all Okinawan Martial Arts.

Ryuko Tomoyose passed away on April 9th, 2019

UECHI TERMINOLOGY

Term	Translation	Term	Translation
Ichi	1	Karate	Empty Hand
Ni	2	Karate-Do	Way of Karate
San	3	Uechi Ryu	Uechi's Style / Uechi's Way
Chi	4	Pangainoon	Half-hard / Half-soft (Foundation of Uechiryu)
Go	5	Butokukai	Gathering of people who study the virtues of the martial arts
Ryuk	6	Butokukan	Headquarters dojo of the
Seichi	7	Sensei	Teacher (One who has gone before)
Hach	8	Karate Ka	Karate student
Kyu	9	Sempai	Senior student
Ju	10	Kohai	Junior student
Ju-Ichi	11	Dan	Senior
Ni-Ju-Ichi	21	Kyu	Junior
Hyaku	100	Chi	Spirit (<i>Chinese</i>)
Dojo	Way-Place	Ki	Spirit
Makiwara	Striking Post	Kiai	Shout of spirit
Kami Dana	Guard Shelf	Kumite	Clashing hands
Gi	Uniform	Bunkai	Application
Do-Gi	Uniform of the way	Kotekitae	Forging of the bone
Wa-Gi	Shirt	Shinkokyu	Deep breathing exercise
Obi	Belt	Seiza	Proper sitting

UECHI TERMINOLOGY

Term	Translation	Term	Translation
Waza	Technique	Hiraken	Fore-knuckle fist
Uke	To accept / block	Shoken	One-knuckle fist
Wa-Uke (Mawashi-Uke)	Circular block	Shuto	Knife-hand strike
Jodan-Uke	Upper-area block	Nukite	Spear-hand strike
Chudan-Uke	Middle-area block	Haito-Uchi	Ridge-hand strike
Gedan-Uke	Lower-area block	Empi-Uchi / Hiji-tsuki	Elbow Strike
Nagashi-Uke	Push block	Geri	Kick
Tsuki/Zuki-Uke	Thrust block	Shomen-Geri	Front kick
Hajiki-Uke	Striking block	Mawashi-Geri	Roundhouse kick
Uki	Strike	Yoko-Geri	Side kick
Tsuki	Punch / Thrust	Sokuto-Geri	Kick using the blade edge of the foot
Seiken-Tsuki	Straight punch	Tobi-Geri	Flying / jumping kick
Mawashi-Tsuki	Roundhouse punch	Ushiro-Geri	Back kick
Seiken	Flat fist punch	Hiza-Geri	Knee strike
Uraken	Backfist	Keage	Snap (Snap kick)
Bushiken	Palm-heel strike	Kekomi	Thrust (Thrust kick)

UECHI TERMINOLOGY

Term	Translation	Primary Kata
Hai	Yes	<p>Sanchin The first kata in Uechi Ryu. It was also the first kata taught by Shushiwa to Kanbun Uechi.</p> <p>Chinese translation <i>Three Conflicts.</i></p> <p>There are many interpretations, but the generally agreed upon conflicts are mind, body, and spirit.</p>
Eii	No	
Dozo	Please	
Domo Arigato	Thank you	
Arigato Gozaimashita	Thank you (formal)	
Go Kuro Sama	Thank you for your hard work	
Do Itashi-Mashite	You're welcome	
Kaicho	Good word	
Gambati Masho	Work hard	
Onegaishimasu	Do me this favor	
Shomen / Mae	Front (sometimes refers to the front wall of a dojo)	<p>Seisan The fifth kata in Uechi Ryu. It was the second kata taught by Shushiwa to Kanbun.</p> <p>Chinese translation <i>Thirteen</i></p> <p>This is generally understood to mean <i>Thirteen modes of attack and defense.</i></p>
Migi-e	Right	
Hidari-e	Left	
Massugu	Straight	
Mawate	Turn	
Sanchin-Dachi	Sanchin Stance	
Kiba-Dachi	Horse Stance	
Zenkutsu-Dachi	Leaning-forward Stance	
Masubi-Dachi	Neutral Stance	
Hachiji-Dachi	Informal Stance	
		<p>Sanseiru The eighth and final kata in Uechi Ryu. It was the third and final kata taught by Shushiwa to Kanbun.</p> <p>Chinese translation <i>Thirty-Six or Tiger coming down the mountain.</i></p>
		<p>Suparimpe According to legend, this is the fourth kata of Shushiwa's system. It was never taught to Kanbun Uechi.</p>

UECHI TERMINOLOGY

SECONDARY OR INTERMEDIATE KATA	OTHER EXERCISES
<p>Kanshiwa This is the second Kata in Uechiryu. This was added to the style under the influences of Kanei Uechi in 1956.</p> <p>The former name to this kata was <i>Kanshabu</i>. Both names are a mix of Kanbun and Shushiwa (Shushabu).</p>	<p>Kumite Three This was designed by George Mattson in the 1960s to teach to beginning students the concept of distancing.</p> <p>Kyu Kumite This was added to the style, under the influences of Kanei Uechi in 1973. The word <i>Kyu</i> means <i>junior</i>, which would indicate that it was designed for beginning students.</p>
<p>Kanshu This is the third Kata in Uechiryu. This was added to the style under the influences of Kanei Uechi in 1956.</p> <p>The former name to this kata was <i>Dani Seisan</i>, which meant <i>Second Seisan</i>. Current name is a mix of Kanbun and Shushiwa.</p>	<p>Dan Kumite This was added to the style, under the influences of Kanei Uechi in 1965. Originally called <i>Ten-Point Kumite</i>. The word <i>Dan</i> means <i>Senior</i>, which would indicate that it was designed for advanced students.</p>
<p>Seichin This is the fourth Kata in Uechiryu. This was created by Saburo Uehara, and added to the style in 1963.</p> <p>In Chinese the name translates to mean <i>Ten Conflicts</i>.</p>	<p>Kumite One This is understood to be the first Kumite introduced to Uechiryu. It was added under the influences of Kanei Uechi in the 1956.</p> <p>Kanshiwa Bunkai Applications of Kanshiwa Kata. This was added under the influences of Kanei Uechi in the 1956, as a more junior version of Seisan Bunkai.</p>
<p>Seirui This is the sixth Kata in Uechiryu. It was added to the style under the influences of Kanei Uechi in 1950.</p> <p>In Chinese the name translates to mean <i>Sixteen</i>.</p>	<p>Seisan Bunkai Applications of Seisan Kata. This was added under the influences of Kanei Uechi in the 1958.</p>
<p>Kanchin This is the seventh Kata in Uechiryu. It was added to the style under the influences of Kanei Uechi in 1960.</p> <p>The name mean the <i>Tactics (Chin) of Kanbun</i>.</p>	<p>Junbi Undo Primary Exercises. This was added under the influences of Kanei Uechi in the 1950s.</p> <p>Hojo Undo Secondary Exercises. This was added under the influences of Kanei Uechi in the 1950s.</p>