

## News-Shugyokan and Pakamut-Torrance Mixed Weapons Martial Arts Challenges

November 30th 2008

By Prince Loeffler and Marc Lawrence

Gardena, California - November 30th 2008. The Okinawan Karate Kobudo Doukougai and in conjunction with the Pakamut Filipino Martial Arts debuted the first MWA (Mixed Weapons Arts) get together at the Shugyokan Shorin Ryu Dojo Hombu Dojo.

The joint training comprised of Okinawan Kobudo vs. Pilipino Weapons sparring. The Okinawan stylist used tonfa and the rokushakubo against the Pilipino's baston (sticks) and knife. The training allowed each stylist to test their ability of handling their particular weapons in an open combat arena.

According to the Shugyokan Dojo Deshi's David Acosta *"I always look for ways to explore a variety of martial arts. I have found that each one has something to offer and makes my overall fighting skills better. Philippine stick fighting is one of the hardest things I have tried and this method throws you right into it. I can see practical applications of this fighting in many other forms. If you want to push your limits, this is definitely worth trying"*.

The weapons used in this 'mock' combat are padded. "It feels like being smack with a sofa cushion" according to Prince Loeffler, who fought using the tonfa against Guro Marc Lawrence of the Pilipino Pakamut Fighting Art.

Guro Lawrence believes that *"As a fighter I am always willing to try my skills against other styles of fighting. This allows me to grow in ways that otherwise I could not. Sparring in mixed weapons-mixed system really makes my skills to be pushed in positive way. I feel that if you are truly serious about learning to fight than this is path you must take."*

The Shugyokan Dojo and the Pakamut-Torrance has decided to name this joint program as Mixed Weapons Art or MWA for short. The MWA Challenge will now hold this fun event every last Sundays of each month beginning at 10:00 am till 11:30 am.

This concept came out of the USFMAF Cultural Challenge that will be held April 2009 and August 2009 at the USFMAF Tournaments. The USFMAF-Eskrimador's World Tournament will feature USFMAF and Chanbara meeting on the mat for the first time. It will be an open padded weapons division.

