



Report of March

New members 5

Total number of adults training 73

Total number of children training 65

Results of Sogo Shinsa on 25th March

<u>Yondan</u>	Brendan Stuart	<u>Jun-3rd Kyu</u>	Mark Coleman	<u>4Y4 step</u>	Frank Barletta
<u>Shodan</u>	Matt Carpenter		Manfred Beyrer	<u>4Y3 step</u>	Lee Stemm
<u>2nd Kyu</u>	Ryan Slavin		Jim Stanley	<u>4Y2 step</u>	Brent Weston
	Jack Goener	<u>7th Kyu</u>	Carlo Mills	<u>3Y9 step</u>	Matthew Watson
	Aaron Stewart		Robert Austin	<u>3Y4 step</u>	Albert Lu
	Matthew Pethig	<u>9th Kyu</u>	Joseph Stuart	<u>3Y3 step</u>	Douglas Buchanan
<u>3rd Kyu</u>	Mark Davies		Joshua Morris	<u>3Y2 step</u>	Eric Kwok
	Greg Smith		Nicholas Economidis	<u>2Y7 step</u>	Sam Gray
	Koray Karanfilici		Jeffrey Reeves	<u>2Y6 step</u>	Vladislav Neklyaeu
	Layla Harrington	<u>4Y12 step</u>	Emmanuel Economidis	<u>2Y5step</u>	Eagle Kao
	Amy Hughes	<u>4Y9 step</u>	Jason Economidis	<u>S3 step</u>	Mark Frost

Results of children's grading tests on 25th March

<u>1st Kyu</u>	Kiichi McMahon	<u>5th Kyu</u>	Julian Ladd	<u>8th Kyu</u>	Louis Hanley
	Kaido Mori	<u>6th Kyu</u>	Jasper Garland-Fyfe		Hisanao Komoto
<u>2nd Kyu</u>	Steven Bannah		Anthony Gillespie		Alex Sargent
	Aimee Pennisi		James Gillespie		Medhavi Praphakorn
	Genevieve Sargent		Lucy Davis		Parangana Narula
	Linda Vu		Sam Porter		Joshua Funnell
<u>3rd Kyu</u>	Marek Coleman		Ben Macmahon		Kadir Akbulut
	Joseph Buchanan		Nick Lewis		Kerim Akbulut
	Ella Keys		Luke-George Holna		Ulas Caglayan
	Karlee Pennisi		Jesse Coyne		Finnegan Laver
	Monica Davis		Theo Carney	<u>9th Kyu</u>	Thomas Byers
<u>4th Kyu</u>	Alexander Hanley		Devrim Caglayan		Kelsey Neucom
	Michael Austin	<u>7th Kyu</u>	Nathaniel Kelly		Bryce Thompson
	Isobella Austin		Elizabeth Owens		

Events in April

1. Getsurei Shinsa

- ♦Saturday, 29th 1:00pm~
- ♦Shinsa training starts from 24th Saturday.

2. This Month's Holiday

♦**Easter Holiday** We are closed from **17th Monday to 23rd Sunday** for a whole week due to our pilgrimage to Japan. We are open on Easter Friday 14th and Easter Saturday 15th.

A bit of knowledge for Aikido

In Good Order

Sometime last year, I saw an interview of a division commander of Japan Self-defence Forces (SDF) that had just come back from Iraq completing the first term. Before I write about his comment, I should explain the background of sending the troops from Japan to Iraq.

The government approved sending the Forces to Iraq by a request or almost a demand from US even though the Japan Constitution upheld a provision that Japan does not dispatch SDF overseas. Of course people spoke out loud and strong over the issue including if we should amend the Constitution or not. But having pressure from the US there was only one answer. The government decided to dispatch the Forces with the least weapons for the purpose of revival of Iraq but not for using force. SDF personnel left for the battlefield with anxiety which was rather alarming, as they didn't have many tools to protect themselves.

SDF is basically armed forces but what they took to Iraq were just bigger versions of pistols that ordinary policemen carry and their tasks were repairing facilities like hospitals, schools, water pipes and sewerage works that were destroyed by the war. Even though the tasks of SDF were restoration of Iraqi facilities SDF was a foreign military outfit in the eyes of Iraqi terrorists.



Therefore the US requested Australian Forces to protect the poorly armed Japanese troops from terrorists.

Because the first troops came back to Japan without having any casualties or direct attacks of terrorists an interviewer asked the division commander what kind of measures they took against terrorists' attacks. The commander was a quite famous elite brass being well respected within the troops. His favourite book was "Bushido" (way of Japanese Samurai) which is in our library too and he held a most honoured compliment from Japanese men, "the last Samurai".

His answer to the question was very clear and simple, "In good order". He said that the troops were undaunted and unabashed and in good order wherever they were, whatever they were doing; staying at the basement, working at sites, moving to the sites either by car, tanks or on foot. His answer that they were always beautifully in good order even though death was their next-door neighbour reminded me of the Samurais in a dignified manner at the battlefield that they never showed they were in disarray even though they knew they were marching towards their death. I was impressed by the words of 'the last Samurai' that showed they were always in good order physically that indicated that their mental attitudes were also in good order was the best protection by not giving a chance to attackers.

This comment of the commander gave a hint to solve my long-term question. The question is about an episode when Masu Oyama, the founder of Kyokushin Karate, visited the Aikido Yoshinkan Headquarters to challenge Gozo Shioda (Kancho Sensei). The episode was that even though he came to challenge Kancho Sensei originally he went home happily being impressed by Kancho Sensei and Yoshinkan after some chatting with him and watching the Senshusei training (riot policemen and uchi-deshi training). I was not at the scene but heard the story from my senior uchi-deshis and I could not understand why he changed his mind. What he really saw at the Headquarters? How could he be convinced that Kancho Sensei was the genuine Budo-ka by just looking at the Senshusei training?

I questioned myself what I would see if I was visiting other dojos. I visited the Headquarters last year for attending their 50th annual demonstration after eleven years of gap. I will write my impressions honestly. I went into the office to greet everyone at the Headquarters. When I entered the office I was quite surprised at the chaotic room. When I was working there, I was scolded badly by Kancho Sensei if the room was not totally in order. He taught us that things being in disorder meant that our mind was unguarded and that kind of mind status showed through in our techniques. I remember that I was in big trouble for my clothing not being folded properly when I had to rush to the dojo not because I was simply busy but because I was running between two dojos when the Headquarters was moving into the new building and I was extremely busy being the youngest uchi-deshi which meant I was the busiest doing all sorts of work. I thought in my mind that my clothing being not tidy would never relate with my Aikido techniques, at that time. However, many years had passed from then, and the grown-up man felt looking at the room in disorder that the disciplinary rules and techniques of uchi-deshis must have been getting loose. I do not mean to talk ill of Headquarters but I am concerned about their current way because I respect where I was trained. Though, I can make very favourable comments to excuse the situation for them that they were simply too busy to tidy up because Yoshinkan was growing so much both in Japan and overseas, if I try.

I also observed their entrance, bathroom and changing room with the habit of being Budo-ka. I do not say they were not cleaned but ill-maintained. I was not fussy over minor details but I thought that the conditions of the dojo itself showed the level of the Headquarters.

Let's finish talking about the Headquarters but now about Yamanashi Yoshinkan run by Takeno Sensei where I did not visit this time but saw a DVD and photos when my students visited there. I saw weapons and cleaning utensils were in order beautifully and that's why the video taker took the scenes, I suppose. What I felt from the scenes was that all the members of Yamanashi Yoshinkan cherished the dojo and the teaching of Takeno Sensei was well maintained in every corner and therefore I had the impression that this dojo was a strong, good quality dojo. If the DVD showed the scenes being in disorder I probably assessed the dojo in a very low class even though I knew Takeno Sensei himself was exceptionally strong.



When I consider my way of assessing other dojos, I was able to see how Masu Oyama saw the Headquarters. He checked the entrance first and then the office where he assessed the attitudes of uchi-deshis and then the way students were treated at the dojo, how weapons and utensils were treated, all with severe eyes. He assessed all the trifles before he actually checked the Sensusai training and he concluded that the Yoshinakan was one of the genuine dojos, not the one which was after publicity, even though the style was completely different to what he believed. At last he had an opportunity to talk with Kancho Sensei in his room and then he was convinced of him being a genuine Budo-ka from his manner that was clear and all in order without a moment of being unguarded. This is how I associated the event of Masu Oyama encountered with Kancho Sensei, with the words of the commander, "in good order".

In this connection of 'in good order', I may add one more episode. There was a feudal warlord called Shingen Takeda who led the most powerful army corps ever in the late 16th century in Japan. The Takeda corps all wore red armour and all the enemies were most terrified at the sight of 'Takeda's Red Order' marching towards them to invade their territories. Even Ieyasu Tokugawa who finally integrated all domains and finished the Civil War period ran about trying to escape from Takeda's Red Order. The way everything was in perfect order was only possible by maintaining their minds unperturbed.

I, who learn about the beauty of samurais being Aikido-ka, felt the necessity to examine myself; if my manner is in good order, my attitudes to people are in good order, personal belongings are in good order and if the way of my dojo is in good order too. The words 'in good order' gave me another important aspect of being Budo-ka which I hadn't realised before. I hope this article has given you some reference for your Aikido life too.

OSU!

Michiharu Mori