



# MIDWEST SEMINAR

## Featuring Soke Nagamine

The seminar featuring Soke Nagamine was an amazing event. I am very honored by the overwhelming support that was demonstrated by those that attended. Soke arrived in Cincinnati, Ohio on Wednesday July 13<sup>th</sup> and immediately went to the Silverton dojo. He taught 2 classes that evening. The first was a youth class followed by an adult class. In both classes, we worked on basics and kata. The class schedule was very similar on the Thursday and Friday evening workouts. Soke increased the intensity and elaborated on some of the advanced fighting techniques from kata. Soke also taught some self-defense techniques. Each night we would go to dinner and discuss the classes. Soke wanted to make sure that the students understood the meaning of the lessons he was trying to convey. On Saturday morning (July 16<sup>th</sup>), we arrived at the Anderson Healthplex. There was a great turn out of people from all over the United States. It was very inspiring to see people that were anxious about training with Soke Nagamine. I was very honored to have 3 different 8<sup>th</sup> Dan Blackbelts and 1- 7<sup>th</sup> Dan Blackbelt in attendance. Soke was very pleased to see the support that these individuals demonstrated. Sensei Fred Christian, Sensei Walter Rowden and Sensei Dwight Holley (Shotokan) made up the cast of the 8<sup>th</sup> Dan rank. Sensei Bob Seibert was the 7<sup>th</sup> Dan that attended. Our totals for the seminar made up over 60 hard working men, women and children. Soke covered basics and kata. He also demonstrated some kata/ fighting applications. The highlight of the seminar was the bunkai from Fukyugata Ichi up thru Pinan Sandan. (A bunkai that we started in Okinawa but were not able to finish.) After our break for lunch, we learned Pinan Godan bunkai. This was the 1<sup>st</sup> time that Soke had taught this bunkai at a seminar. It was very refreshing to work on a new and exciting routine. At the conclusion of the seminar, there were rank promotions. (6 total individuals tested) The highlight of the test was Sensei Michael Norvell who tested for 6<sup>th</sup> Dan, Renshi.

On Saturday night, we met at the Firemen's Lodge and enjoyed dinner and fellowship together. At the dinner, Soke addressed everyone with the announcement of the 2013 World Seminar to be held in Okinawa. He also made a heart-felt speech in honor of Sensei Dave Williams who is no longer with us.

I cherish the time, talks and special training with Soke. As I reflect back on the entire event, I am happy to see the kindness and dedication of all of those who attended the event. Not one single ego or negative comment. No harsh words or questioning. Everyone worked together as a big family dedicated to honoring O'Sensei Shoshin Nagamine's wishes. He asked everyone to support his successor / Soke Nagamine. It is clear that since 2008, there has been a tremendous change in the organization. In Okinawa last year, it was obvious that the momentum for constancy and hard work had gained steam. With the recent seminar, I am grateful to be a part of such a great time period in Matsubayashi-ryu. It is encouraging to see O'Sensei Shoshin Nagamine's style back to where he had envisioned it. I believe that the speed bumps of the past have created a great direction for the future. Let us all continue to support Soke Nagamine and his teachings. He is doing his duty to honor his father.

Thank you,



Scott Mastin  
6<sup>th</sup> Dan, Renshi

