

James Lewis: A Life of Service, Leadership, and Martial Arts Excellence

Early Life and Military Career

James Lewis is a retired U.S. Army Colonel with 37 years of distinguished service, including deployments and assignments to Iraq, Israel, Africa, Europe, and the Pacific. His military career was defined by leadership, adaptability, and a deep commitment to the development of soldiers under his command. He holds a **bachelor's degree in molecular biology from the University of Wisconsin**, a **master's degree in military operational art and science from the United States Army Command and Staff College**, and another **master's in national security and strategic studies from the Air War College**. Additionally, he earned a **law degree from Concord Law School of Purdue University**.



Martial Arts Journey

In addition to his military service, James has spent more than forty years studying and teaching martial arts. He holds black belts in Isshin Ryu Karate, Tousei Kan Karate, Shotokan Karate, and Kenjutsu, demonstrating expertise in both unarmed combat and traditional Japanese swordsmanship. His training philosophy centers on discipline, resilience, and adaptability—core values he strives to instill in each of his students. As the **owner and head instructor of Akitsukai Martial Arts Academy**, James continues to shape the next generation of martial artists. The academy operates under the motto "**Endure, Adapt, Conquer**," reflecting his lifelong approach to both combat and life's challenges.

Leadership in the Martial Arts Community

James's impact extends beyond his own dojo. He serves as the **Wisconsin Director for the United States Martial Arts Association (USMAA)**, where he promotes excellence and camaraderie among martial artists across the state.

Academic Contributions and Writing

As a scholar as well as a warrior, James has contributed to military thought and strategy. His article, "**Army Leader Development for the Cross-Cultural Environment**," was published in the *Air University Journal of Military Conflict Transformation* in February 2021, highlighting his expertise in leadership and global military operations.

Legacy and Philosophy

James is married to Sherry, and the couple share a commitment to living purposeful, active Christian lives. With a life defined by service, discipline, and lifelong learning, James Lewis continues to inspire those around him. Whether leading soldiers, teaching martial arts, or engaging in scholarly work, his philosophy remains steadfast: strength is forged through endurance, adaptation, and perseverance.