

LEON SILL

Leon Sill is a retired Electrical Engineer and Computer Scientist, having worked as a programmer for several companies, as well as a mathematics/ computer science instructor for the University of



Houston, the University of South Alabama, and the University of Southern Mississippi. Leon was born and raised in New Orleans LA and began his Karate training there under Mr. Douglas Abadie on January 3, 1962. He received his Shodan in September 1964 from (now Grandmaster) Teruyuki Okazaki. Shortly thereafter, Master Takayuki Mikami was assigned to the Southern Region of the-then All America Karate Federation, and he became Leon's full-time instructor. Leon has had the good fortune to train with Masters Masatoshi Nakayama, former Chief Instructor of the Japan Karate Association, Hidetaka Nishiyama, Teruyuki Okazaki, Hirokazu Kanazawa (who with Mikami was the co-champion of what has been called the greatest Karate match of all time), Yutaka Yaguchi, and the late Shigeru Takashina.

Although he has won several Kumite (sparring) championships, including the 1968 All-Armed Forces Championships and the first two All-South Karate Championships, his competition preference is kata. He has been U.S. National Shotokan Individual Kata Champion 5 times, won the American Continental Championships in Mexico City, defeating the National Champions of Canada, Mexico, and Cuba, and placed 5th in the International Amateur Karate Federation 1977 World Championships in Tokyo, Japan. In team kata, his team won the USA-NKF National Championships, the American Continental Championships in Mexico City, and tied for 6th place out of 50 teams in the Japan Karate World Championships in Tokyo.



Promoted to Hachidan (8th Dan) in 2014 by the ISKF, Leon has recently been honored by his promotion to 9th Dan by the International Karate-do Organization. He is rated as an International (A-level) Instructor, Examiner, and Judge. He has written several technical papers dealing with the mechanics of Karate, and many of these can be found on the IKO website.

Leon enlisted in the United States Air Force in July 1966, and after 4 years of active service, returned to Louisiana State University to complete his Electrical Engineering Bachelor's degree. After graduation, he later became a member of the Air Force Reserve and was eventually commissioned a Second Lieutenant. After 8 years of working in industry, he returned to university to receive a bachelor's degree in Computer Science, and later a master's degree in the same field.

After 28 years of commended service, Leon retired from the Air Force as a major. He now devotes his leisure time to his hobby of leatherworking, enjoying reproducing holsters and gun belts of the old west. A musician for many years, mostly as a guitarist, he played with a local teenage Rock and Roll band and had the

pleasure of playing with many of the great acts on the New Orleans scene of the late '50's and early '60's, including the great Aaron Neville, and was once able to back up famous actress Jane Russell, whose trio was appearing at a local hotel night club. He now plays Bassoon with the Baldwin Pops Band in Baldwin County, Alabama.

Leon lives in Daphne with his wife Connie, teaches a small Karate club there, and is now, of course, greatly and honorably involved with the growing activities of IKO and USSSA.

EDUCATION/ CREDENTIALS:

Bachelor of Science, Electrical Engineering, Louisiana State University, 1972

Bachelor of Science, Computer Science, Louisiana State University, 1986

Master of Science, Computer Science, Southern University, 1989

Completed Japan Karate Association Instructor Program, 1985

Member of Technical Committee, USA-National Federation, 1999 – 2002

Member of Technical Committee and ShihanKai, ISKF, 2009 – 2016

Rated A Class (International) Instructor, Examiner, and Judge, 2009