

History of the 29th Infantry Division “ICKU” TAEKWON!

The 29th Infantry Division was activated on November 26, 1953, and was deactivated on January 1, 1959.

It was organized by combining the 1st, 5th, and 8th Regiments of the 1st Training Center on Jeju Island.

When division was moved to Yondae-ri, Gangwon-do which borders the DMZ on the easter coast of South Korea. it was deactivated and transferred to the 20th Infantry Division.

The day that Gen. Choi received orders to fond the 29th Infantry Division, he asked his wife to draw his clenched fist and forearm. Then the white fist and forearm was laid on the field of blue, and the background was the shape of Korea (both north and south).

The symbolism denotes a fist punching through the 38th Parallel. The fist implied the number 9 and the nick name for the division was “Ick” which was a shorted pronunciation of 29 “E-Ku!” Also, “ICK” is an informal exclamation meaning “whoop/gosh.”

The whole division had to learn the martial arts which at its founding was called “Tang Soo Do” as that was the term most Kwans at the time used and specifically the Chung Do Kwan where they pulled the division’s top two head instructors from. 1st Lieutenant Nam, Tae-hi and Sergeant Han, Cha-kyo both were Chung Do Kwan black belts at the time with LT. Nam being a 2nd Degree and Sgt. Han being a 1st Degree black belt from the Chung Do Kwan under the head of the Chung Do Kwan, which was Son, Duk-sung (손덕성, 孫德成) who became the 2nd Head of the Chung Do Kwan from its founder Lee, Won-kuk (이원국, 李元國). In 1951 Lee, Won-kuk left Korea due to political reasons, and this is why Son, Duk-sung became the Kwan leader and thus remained in the position until Lee returned to Korea in 1961.

While the reason for the term Tae Kwon Do varies as both Son, and Choi claim they submitted the term, what is important is that the Official Naming Committee took place on April 11th, 1955. Present at the Committee was of course Son, Duk-sung Chung Do Kwan; Choi, Hong-hi Oh Do Kwan; General Lee, Hyung-gun ROK ARMY; Cho, Kyung-ku Vice Speaker of the National Assembly, and several journalists.

History of the 29th Infantry Division “ICKU” TAEKWON!



1st from left is Chung, Yu-hwa, 2nd From left in the photo is GM Son, Duk-sung; 3rd from left is Gen. Choi, Hong-hi; 4th Gen. Lee, Hyung-gun.

The majority of those present actually wanted to keep the term Tang Soo 唐手 (China Hand) or Kong Soo 空手 (karate) and even Kwon Bub 拳法 (Kenpo) as they voted by secret ballot. It was only when the President of the Mi-Chang Company Mr. Chung, Yu-hwa who wanted to know who submitted the term Tae Kwon 跆拳道 as it was an unusual rendering. Gen. Choi spoke and said he submitted it and said “Tae means jumping, kicking or stamping 跆 and Kwon 拳 denotes fists but not just a clenched fist that both Tang Soo and Kong Soo suggest but also all the other various movements such as thrusting, punching and striking as well. Therefore, with the two characters, Tae Kwon depicts the dynamic characteristics of protecting oneself using the feet and fists jumping, kicking, stamping, blocking punching, striking, and ducking.”

When the Division was called to attention or a salute was rendered, they shouted “TAEKWON.”

History of the 29th Infantry Division “ICKU” TAEKWON!

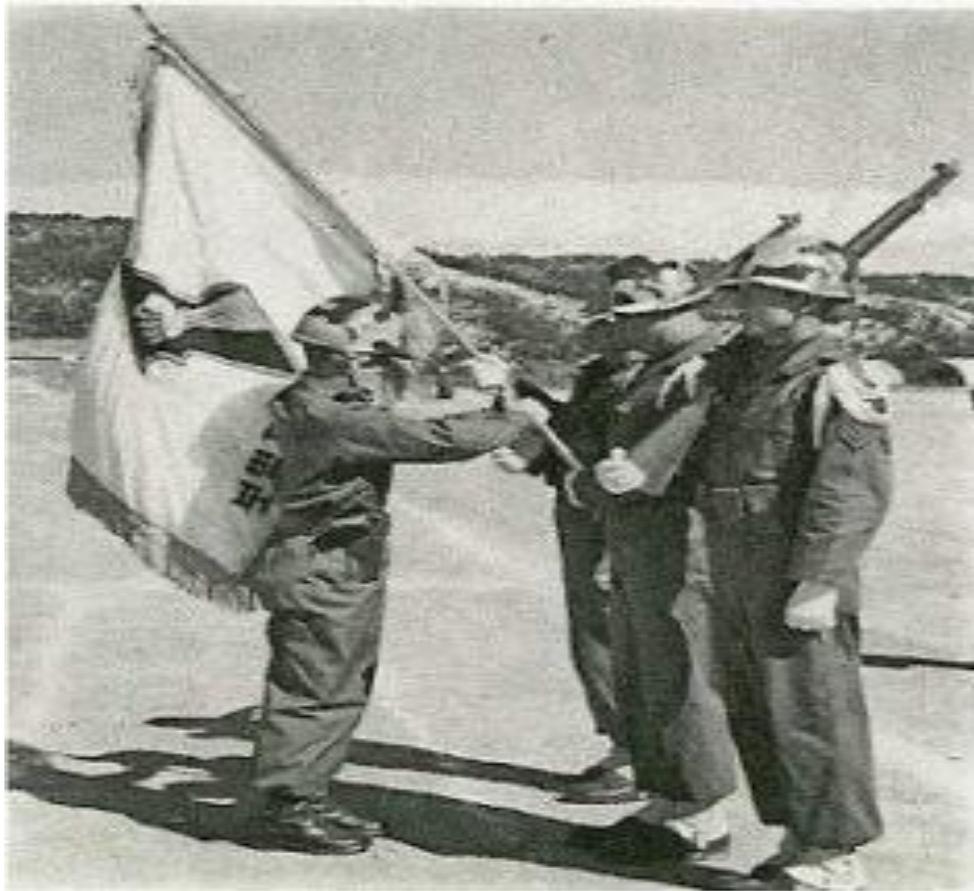


Middle back row is Sgt. Han, Cha-kyo.



GEN. CHOI, Hong-hi with “ICK” patch

History of the 29th Infantry Division "ICKU" TAEKWON!



GEN. CHOI, Hong-hi receiving the 29th Division Colors



Korea Tae Kwon Do Association 03 SEPT 1959