

Statement of Philosophy
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Growing up in an industrial neighborhood in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in the 60's and 70's presented many situations for conflict. One had to carefully choose routes to walk, and make fast decisions when adversity arose. The best decision was always get away as fast as possible; there were always many of them and a couple of you. Situations did happen and the outcome was never rewarding because chaos was the method of resolving the conflict. After graduating from high school I completed 3 years in the military and had my first exposure to an organized system architected for the dedicated purpose of resolving issues of conflict. Although my job function was in electronics, I supported the infantry and observed those whose career was to defend. After finishing my 3 years and then completing a Masters in Electrical Engineering, I have since been designing military government system electronics for the past 22 years. Hapkido has somehow found a very natural path in my life; I have found many parallels between the analytical requirements of engineering and the Art of Hapkido.

In military electronics, SWAP (size weight and power) and a never ending growing list of threats are constant topics. More capability is always required but at smaller size power and weight operating in the harshest of environments. These threats can be ourselves (recall hearing "*please turn off your cell phone and electronics before a plane lands or takes off*"). The personal electronics can jam vital communication electronics and avionics. Or the threat can be a deliberate act with the purpose of making equipment not perform.

The Art of Hapkido and the science of engineering both depend on fundamental principles and the learned wisdom of many before us. Understanding the strengths and weaknesses of a situation is an essential beginning to conquering an obstacle. However, Hapkido has shown me that the strong do not always prevail. Sometimes the strong can get stiff and tired, and begin losing their speed and the focus of the source of their power. The principles must be applied, understood, and practiced consistently to be effective. Working with Masters of an art or profession is always enlightening and amazingly insightful for truly understanding and mastering a technique or design. Science can help explain the center of gravity, Theory of Power, or why boards can be broken with bare hands. But I am in Hapkido for much more fundamental reasons, the enthusiasm the instructors bring to every class and seeing new students learning this art. The journey to black belt for me has taken a long time, but has given me many years of enjoyment and possibly added years to my life. I will try and return all I can to new students in the coming years and thank God and my family for allowing me the privilege to participate in such a rewarding journey.