



Adam Bueb/Staff

# the art of WAR

Left and below, members of the military, SWAT teams and law enforcement agencies train for close quarters combat at Satori Martial Arts Center on Alpharetta Highway. The agents withheld their names for security purposes.

## Martial arts expert prepares SWAT, police for combat

By Joan Durbin  
North Fulton Neighbor Staff Writer

For many men and women in law enforcement and the military, Pete Pukish is the go-to guy for learning specific self-defense skills that could someday save their lives.

At his Satori Martial Arts Center on Alpharetta Highway in Roswell, Pukish offers the usual karate, jujitsu and kung fu classes. But he also instructs a separate division that focuses solely on teaching defensive tactics against potential threats.

"I specialize in hand-to-hand combat. It's for serious, real-life experiences that are common in law enforcement and military situations," Pukish said.

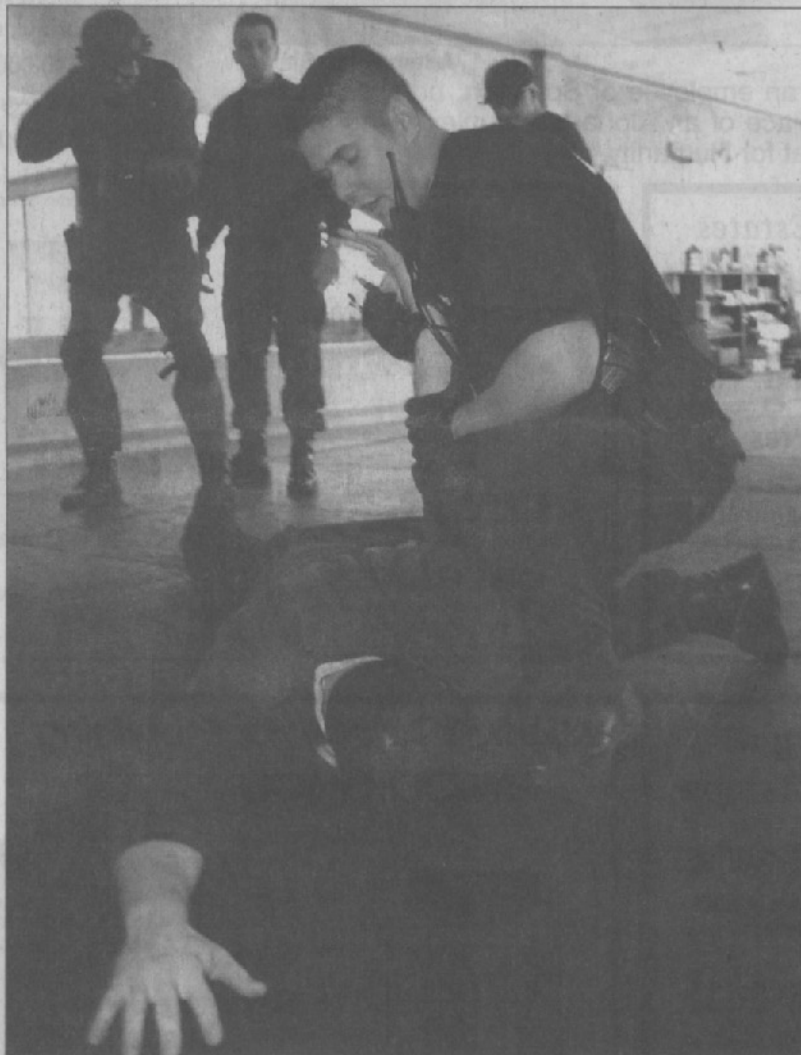
U.S. Army Lt. Jeff Green, who has trained with Pukish, said the combat techniques are "time-proven and battle-tested."

"The tactics he teaches are very practical to the mission we do," said Green, who leads a force reconnaissance platoon in the 3rd Brigade Combat Team stationed at Ft. Benning.

"Other places teach the traditional stuff that's not really efficient on the street," said another student, a 10-year FBI veteran who asked not to be identified for security reasons. "What Pete teaches is what to do if you're in hand-to-hand combat and someone's intent on hurting you."

Pukish said the tactics he teaches are part of his philosophy about being a true warrior.

"All people have a good, caring



side and a worse, darker side. A warrior has to understand both sides," he said. "It's easy to say you choose the path of peace if you're not capable of anything other than that. There have to be people who know how to stand up in the face of

adversity."

Pukish has been practicing martial arts for more than 25 years. Among his many teachers was Ramon "Lono" Ancho, author of a hand-to-hand combat manual and a martial arts instructor at the

United States Military Academy West Point from 1969 to 1975.

Students in the defensive tactics division of his school are diverse. At any session, there may be a mix of federal agents, U.S. Army personnel and members of the Roswell S.W.A.T. team. As part of the training, Pukish and his staff set up real-life scenarios such as hallway doors with "suspects" lurking behind them.

"We walk entry teams through to clear the building. They engage with potential attackers and have to react accordingly," Pukish said.

In addition to instruction duties at his Roswell school, Pukish has traveled to Germany to train border patrol personnel. He and his partner also opened a branch of Satori in Trinidad 14 months ago where they train embassy security from several countries.

Within the last five years, military personnel have become a prominent part of his business.

"I teach a lot of Army groups. We're getting more calls from special ops teams," he said. "The military has started getting real serious about its ground war. Look at what just happened in Fallujah, where they've been kicking in doors to apprehend people. It's very similar to what we do here."

Green agreed.

"The modern battlefield is often urban and in very close quarters. What Pete teaches is how to win in that type of enclosed area, how to move through an opposing group maintaining your posture, your awareness and momentum," he said.