

Tuesday July 15th, 2008

### **An Evening With Friends**

This evening Maj. Phil Porter, Dr R. Braff, Joy Porter, Linda Cummings and Robert Sacerich (aka "Junior") had a wonderful dinner together. Maj. Porter and I began to talk about moving United States Martial Arts Association (USMAA) forward again and to begin to get membership registration rolling. The principals of honor, courage, loyalty and citizenship are paramount in this task. Maj. Porter with his wonderful wit and perseverance set the tone.

The system of Combative Army Self Defense (CASD) was one of the primary topics. A need to aid National Guard units and assist these units in unarmed martial arts is very important with the deployments of these units and companies. A proficiency in both tactical and strategic thinking will hopefully aid these folks in their tasks on foreign soil and to help insure that they come home safe and sound.

The United States Martial Arts Association has always been in the forefront in leading martial arts from both spiritual, intellectual and physical training, methodology and martial thinking. All the participants at the dinner had a wonderful evening. Maj. Porter and myself had the privilege of awarding one of my students, Junior his fourth Dan in Judo as well as his life membership to USMAA. It has always been my pleasure to associate with Maj. Porter and USMAA. I think the future is bright and with a little hard work and the unbridled enthusiasm and leadership of this martial arts legend, many wonderful things are in the works.

In August, we will start training Ohio National Guards personnel that will be deploying to the Sinai Peninsula. I cannot stress the importance of making this program a success. Its ramifications and possibilities seem almost endless and with USMAA support guidance and leadership, I am sure this will become a successful program.

Check back for exciting updates and personal stories from the National Guard and CASD. We are always looking for a few good instructors to aid in these programs. If you are interested in getting these programs up and running for your Guard Units or for general information about CASD please contact Phil Porter USMAA President or Dr. R Braff at [CASD@ymail.com](mailto:CASD@ymail.com)

Dr. R. Braff

