

# RIO

## Sensei Mason Bergeron

6th dan Uechi Ryu Karate | 4th dan Kobudo

Mason began studying Uechi Ryu in 1991 under Sensei Julius Scott, a former Air Force Sergeant and student of Seiyu Shinjo. Mason earned his Shodan in December of 1995 and continued his training until Sensei Scott passed away in 2000. In 2002, Mason joined James Foley Sensei and his Dojo to participate in the Koshukai held at Sensei Alan Dollar's Dojo in Antioch, CA and met Shinjo Sensei for the first time. He was so moved by the training and the experience that he decided during that trip that he would join the military in an effort to be stationed in Okinawa, Japan where he could train directly under Shinjo Sensei and continue the legacy of his teacher, Julius Scott. In October of 2008, he was finally sent to Okinawa and immediately became a dedicated student of the Uechi Ryu Kenyukai Honbu Dojo.

Shortly after, he began studying Ryukyu Kobudo under Kinjo Masakazu Sensei and Okinawan Minyo (folk music) under Tadashi Irei Sensei of the Okinawa Minyo Hozonkai. Mason has since competed in many tournaments in the U.S and Japan and was the Karate Grand Champion in Honolulu, HI in 2010 and the Silver Medalist in the most recent, 2022 Okinawa Karate World Tournament Uechi Ryu division.

He retired from Active Duty Air Force in August 2024 in Okinawa, and currently holds the rank of Uechi Ryu Renshi Rokudan, Ryukyu Kobudo Yondan, Danzan Ryu Jujitsu Nidan and is a Master Certified Personal Trainer and a 500- Hour Registered Yoga Teacher with the Yoga Alliance. He continues to teach Karate and traditional Yoga to military members and their families on Kadena Air Base.

