

A.T.F. Official Dan Belt Colors

All Formal and Official Uniform Belts will have Golden Stripes. As before, Rank stripes will be on the left under the ATF patch.

The right side of the belt may be customized. Please make sure the message is appropriate and you can translate it if written in a foreign script.

Like the Red pants for a Red Belt, These Dan Belt Colors are optional to a standard Black Colored Belt in regular classes. However, the official colors are regulation for all formal tests and events.

Black Belt Candidate (B.B.C.) - Red with Black Center Stripe – The BBC Belt will have up to 3 Golden Stripes on the left and up to 3 Proficiency stripes on the right for each rank stripe. See BBC manual for more details about the requirements for BBCs. All requirements must be passed before rank advancement may be granted. The Gup Rank Color Red (as you can read in the blue book) represents the ripening of knowledge and the culmination of years of labor. The Black Stripe running around the center of the Red Belt represents the total commitment it takes to “Die to Self” and give your all in the transition from Gup to Dan as they prepare for their Black Belt exams.

Titles and Positions:

Dan Bo Nim; All Black Belt Candidate Levels (Black Belt in training / Belt Color – Red with one Black Horizontal Strip with Golden Rank Strips – One through Three and Proficiency Stripes for each rank on the right tail.

Junior Black Belt (Jr. B.B.) - Black with Red Center Stripe – Jr. Black Belts will have Golden Stripes for degrees on the left and up to 3 black proficiencies on the right for testing every cycle in-between yearly rank testing. Each test cycle will be a repeat of the BBC Level 1, 2, and then 3 rank testings. Then each year they have the opportunity to advance to the next Jr. Dan rank. All in an effort to prepare for full adult 1st Dan. The Red Stripe runs around the center of the Black Belt. This symbolizes that the Jr. Black Belts are not finished growing or “Giving of Themselves” to be a complete black belt yet. They must continue to learn and “Die to Self” to be transformed into a full-fledged 1st Dan.

Titles and Positions:

Jo Gyo Nim; **Instructor in Training** - All Junior Black Belt Instructors (Instructor in Training / Belt Color – Black with One Red Horizontal Strip with Golden Rank Strips).

1st Dan - Black with One Golden Stripe - The color Black is the result of the complete absorption of all other colors. Black represents the mastery of the Gup Skill Fundamentals and the beginning of the journey of Martial Arts Development. The stripes of the Dan Belts are Golden to represent the journey towards Grand Mastery. The 10th Dan Belt is completely outlined in Gold.

Titles and Positions: **Sa Nim; Instructor** (1st degree Black Belt / Belt Color - Black with One Golden Stripe)

2nd Dan - Black with Two Golden Stripes

3rd Dan - Black with Three Golden Stripes

Titles and Positions:

Bu Sa Bom Nim; Deputy Senior Instructor (2nd – 3rd degree Black Belt / Belt Color - Black with Two then Three Golden Stripes)

4th Dan – Midnight Blue with Four Golden Stripes - The Color Midnight Blue (Dark Navy Blue) is traditionally used in Tang Soo Do - Soo Bahk Do - Moo Duk Kwan instead of a Black Belt for Dan Ranks. The Black Belt is a color that does not become darker signifying a “Death to Self”. The Midnight Blue belt origin lies in Hwang Kee, who used it instead of Black signifying the positive concepts of the element of Water and a “Rebirth” of Knowledge and Skill. In A.T.F. it further represents the seasoning a 4th & 5th Dan learns beyond the fundamentals of 1st – 3rd Dan. 4th and 5th Dans are expected to be fundamentally solid and technically sound as well innovative and creative. They bring new life into the system.

5th Dan – Midnight Blue with Five Golden Stripes

Titles and Positions:

Sa Bom Nim; Senior Instructor (4th – 5th degree Black Belt / Belt Color - Dark Navy with Four then Five Golden Stripes)

6th Dan - Red and White Panel with 6 Golden Stripes – At the Masters Rank level, there is a drastic change in Dan Belt color. From very Dark Black and Midnight Blue to Red and White Panels. The progressive lightening of the belt is the depiction of the martial artist's journey from the beginning of their life (white belt through red belt Gup ranks - childhood) to the major milestone of mastery of the fundamentals (black belt – beginning of adulthood) then towards enlightenment of the Dan master levels (white and red panel belt – wisdom that comes from constant training and old age). The Panel Belt is traditionally used in Japanese and Okinawan Martial Arts. A.T.F. uses this belt to honor Mr. Weeks, his study in Goju-Ryu, Jujitsu, and Shorin-Ryu and how his eclectic research has influenced his teachings. The Red and White Panel Belt also represents how important it is for Martial Artists at the Masters level to research all things, Add what is useful, Reject what is useless, and Create what is specifically their own above and beyond their traditional paradigms... like a real artist... master the rules to break the rules and develop beyond their limitations.

7th Dan – Red and White Panel with 7 Golden Stripes

8th Dan - Red and White Panel with 8 Golden Stripes

Titles and Positions:

Kwan Jang Nim: Master Instructor (6th - 8th degree Black Belt / Belt Color - Red and White Panel with Six, Seven, then Eight Golden Stripes) – Mr. William T. Fortson 8th Degree and Black Belt Board President.

9th Dan - Black and/or Navy with complete Red Border with 9 Golden Stripes – At the Grand Master level, not only is this person the epitome of Martial Arts Mastery, but also Leadership. Just like the Red Belt Gup rank, Red represents leadership, sacrifice, and life... The 9th Dan is the reflection of the life our Founder and 10th Dan Great Grand Master Fred Weeks poured into A.T.F. Their belt is outlined in Red signifying that the Black/Blue (Death & Rebirth) colors are surrounded by the Grand Master's support, guidance and example.

Titles and Positions:

Chong Kwan Jang Nim; Grand Master Instructor (9th degree Black Belt / Belt Color - Black and or Dark Navy with complete Red Border with 9 Golden Stripes) (Head Instructor of School) – Mrs. Janet Atkinson – The Head Master of the Walnut Ridge Dojang (Home School).

10th Dan - Solid Red outlined in Gold with 10 Golden Stripes – The Great Grand Master belt is Solid Red completely outlined in Gold. This belt returns to solid Red representing the circle of life like the Red Gup rank embarking on new things, the Great Grand Master is always a student looking to grow, full of ripe knowledge, experience, and skill, but always seeking to evolve beyond. This is also to honor ATF's founder who opened his first Martial Arts Studio when he was a Red Belt.

Titles and Positions:

Kuk Sa Nim; Supreme Founder & Great Grand Master Instructor (10th degree Black Belt / Belt Color – Any combination of previous listed belts plus Red with Gold Border and 10 Golden Stripes) (Founding National Teacher) – Mr. Fred Weeks

Silak/Simo; Guiding Light/Matriarch – Co-Founder of System – Mrs. Susan Weeks

Hae Jang Nim; Grand Master Instructor (10th degree Black Belt / Belt Color - Any combination of previous listed belts Plus Red with Gold Border and 10 Golden Stripes) (Chief Head of Martial Arts System/Association) – Dr. Keith Waggoner

NOTES:

The Black Belt Board President – May choose to wear the **Black and Red Panel Belt** to denote their position within the Federation. This distinguishing belt indicates that the B.B.B. President is the bridge between the ATF Systems Head (10th Degree Red and Gold Belt) and the Black Belt Community. They are the representative of the Head Grand Masters of the Allied Tang Soo Do Federation & ATF Martial Arts System to the martial arts community at large. The BBB President may wear this belt without gold stripes or with gold stripes displayed with the established protocol.

All Adult Dan Ranks may wear the lower Dan Rank Color Combinations in informal classes. They must however display the correct number of stripes according to their rank or wear no strips at all. Keep in mind we encourage you to wear the official belt to formal events.