



**David Eayrs**  
**Founder of Kenshinkai Aikido UK**  
**Founder of Misogikan Aikido Russia**

**[Died May 2019]**

Sensei David Eayrs Sensei began studying Yoshinkan Aikido in Malaysia in 1962 whilst he was stationed in Malaysia with the Army. David was a second dan in Shotokan Karate at the time David was unable to locate a Karate club and was told about an Aikido class, he was interested to see what Aikido could offer and was immediately impressed by Yoshinkan Aikido. David was then introduced to Francis Ramasamy Sensei and began training with him and in 1965 David helped Francis establish his first dojo at Minden Barracks on the island of Penang. In 1967 David left the army and returned to the UK where he started teaching Yoshinkan Aikido to a small group of private students.

In 1968 David was awarded Shodan from Gozo Shioda Sensei and in 1970 David opened his first official Dojo in Denmead, Hampshire, UK as part of the UK Shudokan Institute of Aikido which was run by Sensei Ted Stratton. After David had returned to the UK he had been approached by Ted who had told David that he had a mandate from Gozo Shioda Sensei to develop Yoshinkan Aikido in the UK and he had asked David to join his organisation which David agreed to.

Yoshinkan Aikido had been introduced to the UK by Ted in 1961, whilst he was still serving in the British Army, Ted had formed the UK Shudokan Institute of Aikido organisation. Ted had learned Yoshinkan Aikido from Thamby Rajah Sensei whilst he was stationed in Malaysia with the Army. This was all long before the formation of the International Yoshinkan Aikido Federation (IYAF).

David along with Ted were founder members of the British Aikido Board (BAB), the governing body for Aikido in the UK, which was formed in the mid-1970s. In the early 1980s David arranged for a visa for Yasuhisa Shioda Sensei to come to the UK for a few years to assist with the development and promotion of Yoshinkan Aikido in the UK. In 1985 David chose to break away from the UK Shudokan (amicably), and form Kenshinkai UK.

David left the UK in 1993 to develop Yoshinkan Aikido in Moscow, Russia where he had been invited to teach security operatives martial arts. David established the Misogikan Yoshinkan Aikido organisation in 1994. David attended seminars taught by Kyoichi Inoue, Tsutomu Chida and Takefumi Takeno among others and in 2008 David became part of Chida Senseis Renshinkai Aikido organisation and taught at various dojos in Russia including Kamchatka until his death in May 2019. Misogikan continues to teach Yoshinkan Aikido in Moscow and is now run by one of Davids closest students.