

2010 Air Force Nationals

Eastern Region – Western Region Championships

EVENT SOP

Revision #1 – 18 September, 2009

Schools should read the entire SOP, however best efforts have been made to produce changes from the 2009 event SOP denoted in RED. All changes to this document will be prominently listed on the AF Nationals website (<http://www.thenationals.net/af-SOPupdates.htm>). Competing teams will be responsible to download and implement all SOP revisions periodically.

SECTION 1 - THE AIR FORCE NATIONALS OVERVIEW

A. General Competition Guidelines

1. The AFJROTC-HQ has become the military sponsor of the Air Force National competition. AFJROTC recognizes the Air Force Nationals as the official Championship of Air Force JROTC. Due to the immense size of the international AFJROTC community and the limits of both time and resources, this championship will be split between the Eastern Region (east of the Mississippi River) and Western Region (west of the Mississippi River). The exact sites for these two events will be posted within the official invitation which is released each year in late September.
2. This event is an Air Force JROTC-only drill competition. The primary competition manual in use for the Air Force Nationals event will be the latest edition of AFMAN 36-2203. Uniform regulations will be judged in accordance with AFI 36-2903 and AFJROTC Uniform and Awards Guide. **All armed drill rifle movements will be executed in accordance with U.S. Army FM 3-21.5. All other aspects of drill should be executed as per the Air Force Drill Manual, except where deviations are outlined within this event SOP and related event scoring items.** NOTE: A copy of the rifle regulations maintained within FM 3-21.5 can be downloaded from the Air Force Nationals website.
3. Schools are encouraged to remember that both manuals listed above were never written to judge a military drill competition where the idea is to find the "best of the best"! Therefore, many avenues of this competition have been tightened and made more stringent than the largely loose guideline written for many actions within these manuals.
4. No Commander's Call will be utilized for this event. Instead, start times and all event information is posted on the event website in advance. Accepted Air Force Nationals schools must download, complete and submit these items, as well as input needed team information on-line. The official website for the event is: <http://af.thenationals.net>. **Additionally, schools should check the website periodically to ensure event updates and other late-breaking information can be garnered by their school. While SNI does attempt to send a direct email for any major changes, schools should check the website weekly to ensure they have the latest materials.**
5. On site, schools will check in at the Event Registration Desk the morning of the event on arrival. At this time, each school will receive an event schedule book, as well as the t-shirts, medallions, and team photo paperwork. It also allows SNI to know your **school has arrived at the event and is ready to compete**. Event Registration is the first thing you must do upon your arrival.
6. At the Event Registration Desk, schools will also be given a "Performance Board" on which your school name will be displayed. This board allows spectators and SNI staff to know who is competing in what areas. Additionally, when not competing, this board stays with you in the bleachers to allow SNI to find your group without using the venue P.A. system. Take care of these boards – it is the responsibility of each team just prior to performing to place their performance board on the easel that will be located outside the entrance point at each drill area, and then removing it and returning it to your school's seating section of the bleachers when finished. It is also your responsibility to return this board to SNI in excellent condition at the end of the day when the team has completed all of their scheduled team events. These boards are EXTREMELY expensive. Failure to return the board may result in withholding **and retaining** your event score sheets and team photos.

7. Schools may enter a maximum of two complete drill teams (Armed or Unarmed) into the Air Force Nationals competition, **providing that no individual cadet competes for both teams**. This rule allows a school to enter two complete teams but does not allow individual cadets to compete on both, which would severely reduce the number of schools that could be accepted. Teams do, however, have cadets compete in multiple events for that team (Inspection, Regulation, Color Guard, Exhibition). Schools found to have an individual cadet competing for more than one team will have their team removed from the Air Force Nationals competition.
8. As the Event Director for the Air Force Nationals, Sports Network International (SNI) maintains sole judgment pertaining to the actual drill competition. All decisions or judgment calls made by SNI regarding rules, procedures or other matters necessary to the running of the drill competition are final with no protests entertained. If you have a question regarding any facet of the Air Force Nationals, look through this SOP to answer your questions. In most cases, **the answer is here**. If you don't find the answer, please call or email SNI in advance of the event. Don't wait to ask your questions the days just prior or worse, on-site at the competition.
9. Due to the high ceilings and ceremonial nature of the Nationals, OUTDOOR REGULATIONS are in effect during all facets of the event. **Covers will be worn and salutes will be rendered** while performing or receiving trophies.

B. Package Plan, Deadlines, & Refund Policy

1. **All participating cadets coming to the Air Force Nationals MUST participate in the event through the Team Package Plan.** Through this plan, we are able to pay the costs associated with an event of this nature. In organizing your attendance at the Air Force Nationals, remember that all participating cadets are required to pay the \$20.00 Team Package Fee. Instructors and other non-competing cadets in your program CAN receive this package if they CHOOSE to do so (it is not required).
2. It will be necessary for you to get shirt sizes for all competing cadets and other Team Package Plan individuals. You will use this information with the Master Participant List included within the Team Folder.
3. Once your school has been accepted into the Air Force Nationals, School Registration Fees are completely nonrefundable. The Refund Exception Policy is outlined below under "Important Refund Exception Note".
4. Schools that do not submit the required paperwork and/or the Team Package Fees on-time may be removed from the event with no refund of the school's registration fee. (See page 1-3 for these deadline dates.)
5. MOST IMPORTANT!: After submitting the School Registration Fee and the Team Package Fees, these monies are TOTALLY NON-REFUNDABLE. SNI must pay for the many items involved within the Team Package Plan (shirts, medallions, advanced photography items, numerous competition related items). If it is necessary to cancel or "drop" anyone who has paid the Team Package Fees, the school should find someone else from the program to substitute for that person as they cannot be "dropped". If this is not done, the school will pay for & receive all of the package materials they requested. You are responsible for the total number of packages you have requested (including changes called in by telephone.) Again, the refund exception policy is outlined below under "Important Refund Exception Note".
6. When sending in payment for the Team Package Fees, please remember that these payments must be made by either a school or drill team program check. Cashier's and certified checks, and money orders are also acceptable, but not necessary. NOTE: No personal checks can be accepted.
7. To add any individuals to your paperwork after you have sent in the paperwork and money simply call SNI and we will adjust your paperwork over the phone! DO NOT fax, email or land mail revised participant lists - CALL INSTEAD! Depending on the balance you owe for these individuals, SNI will either have you send a supplemental payment or pay the balance upon arrival. You should always verify any changes by checking your MY SCHOOL website.

Important Refund Exception Notes!

SNI understands that a blanket refund policy may appear inflexible. Understand however that tens of thousands of dollars in non-refundable, up-front payments are made by SNI each year to ensure every team coming to the event has a fantastic, well-planned competition. Teams simply deciding not to attend, albeit for valid reasons, would make hosting this event impossible to accomplish. It is our belief that a trip to the AF Nationals is just as safe as spending the weekend at your home city. Therefore, we do not foresee any problems in hosting the event this year and any year in the future. That being said, SNI has developed a corporate policy regarding exceptions to the refund policy that all attendees should be made aware of. Because of world events and the often over-reaction that can occur from schools and school boards, SNI will refund any school registration fee should a school board, principal, or other governmental oversight body ban school travel (and therefore your attendance) PRIOR to the Team Package Fee deadline. (Note: all teams should find out their current school board policy regarding travel BEFORE registering to enter this event). IF FOR ANY REASON the event is cancelled; all schools will be given a full refund of school registration fees paid. SNI will ship at our expense all pre-paid event shirts and medallions to your unit. Additionally, SNI will refund the costs of the team photo portion of your package fees (exact amount to be determined immediately following the competition). Understand that SNI will not put cadets or anyone else at risk through attending the AF Nationals. It is our belief that our small gathering of young men and women poses less of a target for anyone wishing to do harm than TENS OF THOUSANDS of everyday school activities happening in cities throughout the United States, including many cities where teams will be leaving to come to the event. Thank you for your understanding on this matter.

C. Drill Rifle Requirements & Regs - Armed Teams & Color Guards

1. Teams may utilize any drill rifle they choose (either demilitarized or facsimile). Judges will take into consideration on their scoring when a drill rifle of less than 8 pounds is in use. In either case, the drill rifle must: a) be rendered unfireable by either leading the barrel or removing the firing pin, AND b) maintain an adjustable sling.
2. The event Head Judge may visually and/or physically inspect one or more rifles among the set the team will use during that portion of the Air Force Nationals competition. Should any drill rifle not meet the above criteria, the team will be assessed a subjective penalty for using illegal drill rifle(s).
3. Teams are permitted to strap their slings to the stock of their drill rifles ONLY during the Exhibition portion of the competition. Teams **MAY** apply decorative tape or other foreign materials to their drill rifles during all facets of the event and not just for valid cause (repair, etc.). Teams **MAY NOT** however remove their drill rifle slings during any event at the Air Force Nationals – it is considered a part of a regulation rifle and cannot be removed. Again, should any drill rifle not meet the above criteria, a subjective penalty will be imposed for using illegal drill rifle(s).
4. Although all team members must compete with the same style drill rifle during each particular event, teams are allowed to use different sets of drill rifles for different team events (i.e. one set for Exhibition and another for Regulation). However, all drill rifles used by the team within any one event should be identical.
5. Some teams may have drill rifle bolts that are either mechanically unsound and/or are welded shut. SNI encourages these units to go through the physical movements to open the bolt when going to Inspection Arms to display to the judge that you know how the movement should be done. If asked by a judge why you didn't physically open/close the bolt, explain whatever the reason is (as this would be a logical question for the judge to ask).
6. The definition of a "dropped" drill rifle is when a drill rifle unintentionally leaves the control of a cadet and strikes the drill surface. Judges will certainly reduce scores for bobbles and other poor rifle control as well. No other element of the Armed competition is more stressed than drill rifle control.

D. Cadet Commander Regulations

1. Armed Division cadet commanders **MUST** either carry a drill rifle, saber or sword during ALL team events at the Air Force Nationals. All other cadets must carry a drill rifle. No other type of drill rifle (i.e. handguns, etc.) are allowed.
2. In the Unarmed Division, cadet commanders **MAY**, if they wish, carry a saber or sword. No other cadet may carry any drill rifle of any type (except the rifle bearers during color guard competition).
3. It is not permitted for a saber/sword to leave a commander's hand at any time upon entering the drill floor. When using a saber/sword, the commander must remain **AT LEAST TWO** normal paces away from an event Head Judge when executing Report in and Report out. Violation of this rule will cause the Head Judge to retreat to a safe distance away from the Cadet Commander. Although there is no specific deduction for this action on the scoresheet, the action will be deducted in the overall evaluation scoring by the Head Judge, as well as other judges.
4. With each drill team instructed differently, judges will evaluate cadet commanders in the following manner. During Inspection and in evaluating the commander during the Regulation event, an individual's voice projection, confidence, and tone will be the criteria upon which judges will base any vocal evaluations.

E. Uniform Regulations

1. Cadets will be **required to maintain** Regulation Service dress uniform, authorized ribbons (no medals), and AFJROTC shoulder patch **during Flight Inspection, Flight Regulation & Color Guard**. Utilization of the "Windbreaker Jacket" will only be allowed during Team Exhibition competition. Teams failing to meet these regulations will receive major point deductions from their scoresheets. Teams are encouraged (but not **REQUIRED**) to wear the Service Dress Coat in both Flight Inspection and Flight Regulation, while the coat will not be expected in Color Guard due to the restrictive nature of the uniform.
2. **Items pinned on the uniform (name tags, ribbons, etc.) will be required ONLY during the Inspection phase of the competition.** All schools are authorized to remove these items during all other phases of the competition to ensure these items do not snag or rip the uniform of a performing cadet. Air Force Nationals uniform regulations will also **PERMIT** the use of berets in all phases of the competition should any team wish to wear them.
3. Exhibition drill will allow teams to wear any accessories to an otherwise approved AFJROTC uniform, so long as the uniform is within good taste. During Team Exhibition, units may add accessories including but not limited to: spatz, scarves, ascots, gloves, fancy headgear, etc. **Units who have added accessories to the issued AFJROTC uniform must have their HQ approval letter in their possession and present it to the head judge if requested.** All units must keep in mind however that **dressing room facilities are VERY minimal**, therefore uniform changes should be simple and easy to add / remove. **Teams without HQ approval will receive a maximum uniform violation penalty for EACH event they compete with modified uniforms.**
4. Color Guard units should note that chrome helmets, gloves, ascots and many other exhibition-style common color guard accessories **ARE NOT ALLOWED at the Air Force Nationals**. **PISTOL BELTS ARE ALLOWED** as they are required to execute the drill correctly. Please ensure your unit is in strict compliance with all uniform regs.
5. Any schools **AUTHORIZED** by AFJROTC-HQ to wear trousers with a stripe, and/or covers with a silver bar may do so. These are allowed as their removal can be cumbersome and leave damaging remains to the trousers and/or cover. **Any other uniform modifications, EVEN IF AUTHORIZED, must be outlined in writing with SNI in advance to ensure the judges are briefed prior to the meet on these alterations.**

SECTION 2 - COMPETITION EVENTS & AWARDS

A. Air Force Nationals Events

1. The event maintains both Armed & Unarmed Competition Divisions which are trophied and scored separately. WESTERN EVENT ONLY: Should sufficient interest occur, SNI plans to offer a "Challenge Level" competition for weaker programs or JV programs from strong schools. This is only offered at the Western event due to the massive size of the Alamodome. If this occurs, scoring will be separate and trophies will be separate as well. The size and scope of these trophies will again be determined by the number of entries into this division.
2. The following events are counted towards a team's Armed or Unarmed Championship point totals: 1)Flight Inspection, 2)Flight Regulation, 3)Color Guard, and 4)Exhibition Drill. **TEAMS MUST ENTER AND OBTAIN A SCORE IN ALL FOUR EVENTS IN THEIR ENTERED DIVISION TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE OVERALL TITLE.** All teams are eligible to win team trophies within each specific event, as well as Armed & Unarmed Overall Champion and the Armed & Unarmed Overall Runner-up as well. No "grand champion" combining both the Armed & Unarmed scores are considered or awarded.
3. The Commander's Award will be derived from commander's evaluation scored during the Armed/Unarmed Regulation Drills. The overall unit scoring during Regulation Drill has no direct impact on the scoring used in evaluation of the Commander's Trophy (first, second & third place awards are presented in each division).
4. First through Fifth Place Team Trophies are awarded in each team event listed above.

B. Performance Regulations

1. Report in & Report out must be executed in each event AND it must be done verbally in a clear and resonant vocal manner to the event Head Judge. During the report in of any event, the Cadet Commander in charge of leading the performance should announce the name of their school & team name loudly and clearly. Other items may certainly be mentioned but are not required. The verbiage of the report out is left up to the unit but it **must make clear the unit has completed their performance.** NOTE: It is generally believed to be an exhibition maneuver to have an entire unit execute this verbal report to a head judge during report-in/out.
2. All events will require the team to report-in to the Head Judge as outlined within this SOP. In all non-exhibition events, an ORANGE CONE on the boundary tape will denote the location in which the Head Judge will stand (found on the event diagram). In Exhibition drill, the cadet will direct the judge where to stand within the drill area for report-in and report-out.
3. **Teams MAY NOT wear any form of shoe/sole taps during any facet of the competition.**
4. No bayonets, handguns (demilitarized or otherwise), special effects, props, music or musical instruments (bugles, drums - ANY musical instrument), or pyrotechnics are allowed to be used or carried by anyone at the event. Also, no horns, whistles, or any other artificial noise-making devices may be used inside the building by anyone. The only exception to this is that cadet commanders may utilize a whistle only while leading their unit in Exhibition Drill.
5. Teams must contain the following prescribed numbers of cadets:
 - FLIGHT INSPECTION: 12 cadets + a Cmdr. only
 - COLOR GUARD: 4 cadets (two rifles/two flags)
 - FLIGHT REGULATION: 12 cadets + a Cmdr. only
 - EXHIBITION DRILL: 8 cadets + a Cmdr & up, no max limit

NOTE: A cadet is "performing" and is considered a competitor when he/she enters the competition area and materially participates within the competition.
6. It is a common practice by many teams to have a spectator deliver signals to let the unit on the floor know they are approaching their performance time limit. As this can be done easily without detection, Sports Network does not prohibit this, so long as the guidelines described on whistles and other artificial noise-making devices are followed. Teams failing to follow these rules may be removed from that competition event.

7. A guide is permitted during Exhibition Drill only. They count towards the cadet numbers outlined.
8. During Regulation & Color Guard events, performing extra movements (those not required by your service manual & done primarily to avoid boundary violations) will result in a 5-point per-occurrence deduction.
9. Schools are NOT required to utilize rubber but pads on rifles during any phase of the event.
10. The standard cadence for Regulation Drill & Color Guard Drill is 100-120 steps per minute. However, for this level of competition a team must maintain between 112-120 steps per minute for no penalty. This range is tighter than the Air Force Manual prescribes because ***schools at this level should be better disciplined than a standard marching unit.*** Any school omitting multiple commands during any routine where cadence is checked may receive a max cadence violation by the head judge if this omission hampers the judge's ability to secure a cadence check for your team. As called for within AFJROTC regs, a 24-inch step is mandatory during much of Regulation & Color Guard Drill. The judges will mark teams down in the "overall evaluation" section of the scoring for those teams who deviate.
11. When a command is listed on Regulation Drill & Color Guard sequence sheets and is CAPITALIZED and in BOLD PRINT, the command must be performed with a 5-second pause between the completion of this command and the verbal command to begin the next movement. Failure to perform the drill with these required pauses will result in a 5-point per-occurrence penalty. Please ensure this penalty is not put on your cadets -- **Practice the pause!**
12. Units competing with the incorrect number of cadets will incur a 25-point per cadet penalty on the scoresheet of the Head Judge. **No unit will be allowed to compete in any team event with over two cadets missing from the numbers prescribed above** except Color Guard units which must have four cadets to compete.
13. To maximize drill area & ready area sizes, All units during Regulation & Exhibition competition may stage their unit when prepared to drill JUST INSIDE the boundaries to the drill area. When the team moves in unison at this point to begin, grading starts. Units should march out of the areas in a standard manner to complete their routines.
14. Teams WILL move to check alignment and execute all required movements/commands during the "Open Ranks" sequence **of the REGULATION DRILL ONLY** (do not move to check within Inspection). Teams will execute this maneuver as required by AFMAN 36-2203 during the Regulation sequence, except the Cadet Commander **WILL NOT** verbally direct any cadet to change their position in the formation. Time is tight and judges will be looking at the movements of the Cadet Commander, NOT for commander adjustments during this command.

SECTION 3 – AIR FORCE NATIONALS SCORING & TIMING

A. Event Timing

1. An official timekeeper among the judges will keep the official performance time. Event timing will begin when the first cadet crosses the drill area entry point and ends when the last cadet crosses the exit point. The penalty assessed for a performance not falling between these time periods is one (1) point per second over/under the time range. The time limit for Exhibition Drill is between 6 minutes and 9 minutes. Flight Inspection has no time limit, however, the cadet commander should move the unit into and out of the inspection process expeditiously. There is no overall event timing of Flight Regulation or Color Guard as the completion of the movements, in cadence, is sufficient.
2. Exhibition performances can maintain team/individuals motivation displays just prior to the unit actually entering the drill area. These displays can be quite involved, making judges wait, and therefore time consuming and actually part of the exhibition display. Teams performing any synchronized, team display just prior to entering the drill floor for their performance will have the clock start and judging will begin to include this exhibition display. We are not discouraging this action, we are just ensuring this display is judged and graded as a part of the performance. Please ensure your performance does not go over the maximum time limit if you plan to include one of these displays. The official time will end when the team exits the drill area (as the judges have finished watching and are then looking down and scoring).

B. Scoresheets & Score Tabulation

1. All scoresheets used at the Air Force Nationals can be found online at the event main page. A complete scoring package maintaining all of the judge's scoresheets, as well as team placement information, will be available following the Awards Ceremony (if time permits to prepare them) or will be mailed to your team immediately after the event.
2. It should be noted that every scoresheet will be triple-checked by SNI personnel, as well as inputted & totaled on a computer program specially designed for the Air Force Nationals by Sports Network International.

C. Overall Scoring

1. The fundamental scoring system in use for the AF Nationals is known as a "Proportional Event Scoring System". In short, scoring in this manner will ensure all facets of the competition receive the exact percentage of points available, while taking into account the level of excellence each school displays in their raw score total compared to their competitors (which the previous system did not).
2. The overview of this scoring system is relatively simple. All four team events are worth exactly 1,000 points each. The school who is the winner of any particular event receives the maximum points available within that event. For example, the school with the highest raw point total earned in Inspection will receive 1,000 points (regardless of the actual points awarded by the judges) The team finishing in 2nd place will receive a percentage of the 1,000 points **identical to the percentage they finished behind the first place team**. 3rd, 4th, etc. to the final team will all receive points in the same manner.
3. A practical example of this application is shown in the shortened table below. The judges raw points earned is listed, along with the percentage each team finished behind the winner. These percentages then multiply into the total max points available to generate a Scoring Points total for each school within that event.

Event Finish	Judge Raw Score Earned	Actual Score/ % of Winning Score	Proportional Scoring Points Earned
1st place team	900 pts.	100% (900 of 900)	1,000 pts. awarded (100% of 1,000)
2nd place team	810 pts.	90% (810 of 900)	900 pts. awarded (90% of 1,000)
3rd place team	788 pts.	87.6% (788 of 900)	876 pts. awarded (87.6% of 1,000)
4th place team	733 pts.	81.4% (733 of 900)	814 pts. awarded (81.4% of 1,000)
5th place team	600 pts.	66.7% (600 of 900)	667 pts. awarded (66.7% of 1,000)
6th place team	450 pts.	50% (450 of 900)	500 pts. awarded (50% pf 1,000)

D. Tie Breaking

1. All efforts are made to prevent scoring ties at the Air Force Nationals. All event and Overall Championship scoring ties will be broken by re-totaling scoresheets utilizing the applicable tie-breaker in the following order:

For Team Events/Individual Events:

- φ Level #1 - total only Head Judge's scores
- φ Level #2 - total only overall evaluation scores
- φ Level #3 - total only Judge #2, then #3, etc.
- φ Level #4 - lowest total penalty points

φ Level #5 – team/ind that competes EARLIEST in the day

For Event Championship Totals:

- φ Level #1 - highest total points earned
- φ Level #2 - most team trophies earned
- φ Level #3 - highest Regulation points earned

E. Event Judging

1. Judges are instructed to move around the drill area much like a boxing judge to allow the best angle to judge. Cadets may use every inch of all drill areas. Judges are instructed to move out of any cadet's path, allowing cadets free access to all drill area space. Judges may come within close proximity of a cadet to gain the best possible judging perspective while the cadet is stationary or moving - tell your cadets to be ready for this. Teams should be aware that drill areas maintain judge's chairs placed against the boundary tape inside the drill area. If you believe the chairs could hinder your performance, you may remove these chairs IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING the completion of the performance prior to yours. You must replace these chairs immediately following your performance or face the wrath of the judges!
2. Each competition unit will be judged by the SAME JUDGES within each event. The Air Force Nationals are planned to be judged by men and women with solid backgrounds in AF drill and from local AF Honor Guards from nearby base commands, as well as other quality Air Force personnel throughout the area. All judges' scoring & decisions are final.
3. As a matter of proper conduct, discussion with judges during the competition ABOUT ANYTHING IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN. Judges are considered off-limits much like a jurist during a trial. Any questions from parents, cadets, or instructors regarding any portion of this event should be directed to the Judging Director of the Air Force Nationals.
4. Judges will not discuss evaluations concerning performances among themselves. They will, however gather after Regulation and Color Guard performances to discuss correct rulings on any boundary violations, omitted commands & other non-subjective items. This ensures correct rulings on these vital items.

SECTION 4 - COMPETITION AREA SPECIFICATIONS

A. The Competition Venue

1. The Air Force Nationals competition may take place at a different arena or sporting complex venue each year. Regardless of location, each facility will have concessions, FREE ample car/bus parking areas, as well as elevated seating for several thousand people to view the performances of other drill units at the event.
2. Drill area diagrams and their corresponding ready areas are available for download and review on the official website for the event.
3. It is very likely the venue will not provide advanced medical service on-site. However, advanced medical services can be summoned at any time for major medical trauma within minutes. Should you require immediate medical assistance while at the venue, please get to the Information Desk where we can call for an ambulance, if necessary. It is HIGHLY recommended that all units maintain a basic first aid kit to attend to minor injuries sustained while on the drill floor, **the trip to/from the venue**, or while practicing. **SNI will have basic first-aid supplies at the Information Desk (Band-Aids, cold-packs, etc.) during the competition.**
4. The venue maintains minimal dressing facilities. Therefore, schools looking to change uniforms for exhibition drill should plan to utilize their bus or if the change is minimal, a small changing room will be made available on-site.

B. Drill Area Specifications

1. All drill areas are indoors and have a flat surface. All drill areas maintain high ceiling heights if rifles or flags are in use. The drill area dimensions are listed on the drill area schematic found on-line.
2. Drill areas are created using fluorescent tape connected to 20" traffic pylons standing on the floor. All drill areas use a single entrance/exit point. This point will vary depending on the drill area (see maps) but most entry points are 15' across (except inspection rooms). This is the only point where a team may enter/exit a drill area – **(please do not call and ask for an exception – design your routine to enter/exit through a 15' entryway!)**.
3. Boundary violations are penalized when a cadet or his/her clothing comes in contact with any part of the boundary tape. Should the boundary tape or cones become dislodged, a violation will occur when a cadet crosses the point where the tape should have been were it not displaced.

SECTION 5 - FLIGHT INSPECTION

A. General Information

1. Teams will formulate their Flight Inspection unit just like every other event competition unit at the Air Force Nationals - by selecting the twelve cadets as well as the Cadet Commander they wish to lead the cadets in advance.
2. The inspection is relatively brief, utilizing three inspection judges. Units are asked to pay special attention to the entry and exit methods described in this booklet. Execution of these guidelines AS OUTLINED WITHOUT EXCEPTION is imperative for teams to earn a top score in the Inspection competition.
3. Head Judge positioning will be exactly half-way along the boundary against the boundary tape, giving the cadets maximum floor space to utilize.
4. Additionally, competing cadets **MUST WEAR** all AFJROTC ribbons earned during their time in AFJROTC.
5. The Inspection areas are a tight fit for the standard inspection spacing. For the sake of uniformity and to allow that every unit is inspected using the same standard, **all units will be expected to report in with the cadet commander roughly 2 paces from the Head Judge and centered AFTER the Open Ranks command is executed.**
6. PLEASE REMEMBER – DO NO MOVE TO REVIEW THE CADETS FOR PERFECT DRESS & COVER DURING THE OPEN RANKS COMMAND DURING OPEN RANKS INSPECTION.

B. Inspection Preparation

1. All instructions regarding Flight Inspection rules and regulations must be carried out to the letter to earn a top score. Several procedures have been changed from AFMAN 36-2203 for safety and/or other reasons. Deviations from these regulations will result in lower scores in several facets of the event.
2. While the preceding unit is being inspected, the Cadet Commander will QUIETLY assemble their inspection cadets in the inspection ready area. This area is located just outside the entry/exit point for the area. As soon as this prior team is finished, your parents should enter the inspection room and turn off all cell phones/pagers.
3. The Head Judge will have you initial the scoresheet, then will retreat into the inspection room. When you hear the judge command, "your school name, REPORT!", the Cadet Commander will lead his cadets into the inspection area centering his unit on the Head Judge. Teams should enter, **forming with four elements of three cadets each.** NO OTHER FORMATION will be acceptable. Forming in this manner will allow each judge to inspect a single element.

4. The unit should then be instructed to "**Open Ranks**" by the Cadet Commander. The cadet commander then turns, salutes and states, "Sir/Ma'am, XXXXX High School (school name) XXXX drill team (team name) is prepared for inspection. **Done properly, the Cadet Commander should be centered on the judge and roughly two paces directly in front of the judge.** NOTE: DO NOT have the entire formation salute the judge – this is an exhibition movement! The unit is then ready to be inspected by the judges. The judge will visually evaluate the Cadet Commander and then the Head Judge will command, "**Precede me through the inspection**". All judges at this point step off to evaluate the element leaders.
5. All judges will move across the formation, visually and verbally evaluating each cadet. Armed cadets when fronted by a judge should move to inspection arms and expect the rifle to be taken and evaluated. Judges will look at the back of their rank before moving from the formation and completing their inspection.
6. Upon completion of the inspection, the Cadet Commander will report out and the head judge will instruct the Cadet Commander to exit the drill floor. The Cadet Commander should exit the drill area by moving the unit out of the drill area. This should be done in a formal military movement, chosen and executed by the cadet commander. Ensure the entrance and exit of your unit is done in a manner than maintains **Element leaders in the front of the formation** to receive maximum possible scores.

C. Inspection Judging

1. After the Cadet Commander reports in, the event Head Judge, as well as the other three judges, will begin the inspection. The Head Judge may briefly inspect the cadet commander then will move on to the first element. The other judges will each take their corresponding element.

D. Cadet Verbal Responses

1. Inspection will include questions asked to determine a cadet's poise, confidence, and overall military / governmental / historical knowledge, along with specific questions about their service branch. Judges WILL ask questions they do not expect the cadet to answer correctly. Don't allow your cadets to get flustered or lose their military bearing! If a cadet doesn't know the answer to any question, a strong, "This cadet does not know, sir!" or similar response is best.

E. Related Flight Inspection Matters

1. Hair length should correspond to AFJROTC regulations. General appearance should be well-groomed and uniforms should be well-prepared.
2. Teams will be inspected using their own uniforms as the standard. The way one looks is the way they all should look. How late in the day the team is competing in the inspection competition is taken into consideration by all judges during the inspection event (judges know the difference between a uniform that was unprepared AND one that has been worn throughout the day).
3. Leather shoes or Corfram shoes are appropriate wear for all portions of the Air Force Nationals. While Corframs are comparatively easy to maintain, leather shoes will require a great deal more effort to achieve the same appearance and must be so maintained. Should Corfram shoes be worn, the judging standard will demand absolute perfection to achieve the same score as a well-maintained leather shoe.
4. While it is rare, a judge may incorrectly apply a regulation to your team's inspection. If a cadet feels a rule has been applied incorrectly to their unit, DON'T BELABOR THE POINT with the judge! If a judge presses a point a cadet feels is wrong, the correct response should be "Sir, I have been instructed that "thus & so" is correct". Don't lose military bearing! Should this occur, IMMEDIATELY after completing the inspection process, reach the SNI Judging Director and discuss the incident. He will then contact the judges and make a ruling, thereby assuring the scoresheets reflect the correct rule interpretation and scoring when possible.

SECTION 6 – FLIGHT REGULATION

A. General Information

1. The regulation sequence will be executed in accordance with correct movements outlined within AFMAN 36-2203, **with drill rifle maneuvers done in accordance with Army Field Manual (3-21.5).**
2. The Regulation area maintains a fixed entry/exit point and the dimensions/layout are shown in the floor diagram. All of the Flight Regulation drill movements must be executed from memory, in the order they are listed, using the commands listed on the scoresheet and in strict accordance with AFMAN 36-2203.
3. To maximize drill area & ready area sizes, ALL UNITS during Regulation competition will stage their unit when prepared to drill directly INSIDE the boundaries to the drill area.
4. The entire sequence must be completed from memory. No external notes or assistance may be used to complete the drill. However, each Cadet Commander may keep a copy of the scoresheet in their pocket or under their cover in case the drill is forgotten and the team becomes hopelessly disoriented. Should this occur, the Cadet Commander should pull out the scoresheet and utilize it to finish the drill. However in doing this, the team will receive a zero from each judge for all individual graded commands performed after the scoresheet has been utilized and will also certainly produce a diminished score in the "Overall Evaluation" scoresheet segment.

B. Judging & Scoring

1. While the execution of this Flight Regulation sequence can be a challenge, it can be executed well by any unit who puts in sufficient practice. The unit's ability to perform this sequence without extra commands, utilizing the 24" step where required, is vital to a team's success.
2. The Flight Regulation Head Judge position is fixed (see enclosed layout). A 5th Judge will be responsible for event scoring, as well as counting cadence and deducting all boundary, movement-pause, and other violations. The sequence for Regulation Drill is comprised of numerous graded movements, each with varying point totals.
3. Given that much of the skill of marching is doing this within cadence (with appropriate penalty deductions for improper cadence), it should be noted that teams are not allowed to sing, call cadence or otherwise generate any sounds for the purpose of maintaining proper cadence. **Singing, chanting or other sounds are used for training purposes and/or for exhibition drill only and have no place during non-exhibition events at a meet of this caliber.** Any team found doing so within the Regulation event will receive the maximum cadence penalty allowed.

SECTION 7 - COLOR GUARD DRILL

A. General Information

1. The color guard area maintains a fixed entry/exit point and the dimensions/layout are shown in the floor diagram.
2. Color Guard Drill movements must be done, in the order they are listed, using the commands listed on the scoresheet. **All schools competing at the Air Force Nationals will utilize Air Force Manual 36-2203 for all flag casing/uncasing, marching, etc. to properly execute the color guard sequence as written.** Only rifle position & movements will be graded using Army Field Manual 3-21.5.
3. **Cartridge/pistol belts are REQUIRED equipment** as a part of the color guard competition as regs dictate the folded canvas cases are placed inside these belts when uncasing Colors.
4. The entire sequence must be completed from memory. No external notes or assistance may be used. However, each Cadet Commander may keep a copy of the scoresheet in their pocket or under their cover in case the drill is forgotten and the team becomes hopelessly disoriented. Should this occur, the Cadet Commander should pull out the scoresheet and utilize it to finish the drill sequence. However in doing this, the team will receive a zero from each judge for all individual graded commands performed after the scoresheet has been utilized and will also certainly produce a diminished score in the "Overall Evaluation" scoresheet segment.

B. Color Guard Regulations

1. While the execution of the Color Guard sequence can be a challenge, it can be executed well by any unit who puts in sufficient practice. The unit's ability to perform this sequence without extra commands, utilizing the 24" step where required, is vital to a team's success.
2. All units must contain four cadets only. Two cadets will bear arms and two cadets will bear flags. The National Colors will be the senior flag with a state, service, or other appropriate flag used as the second color. The Cadet Commander for the Color Guard unit must be the National Colors bearer. However, at the Air Force Nationals, the Cadet Commander is not required to be the highest-ranking member of the Color Guard unit.
3. Flags should not measure less than 3' x 4' in total exterior dimension. Units using a smaller flag may face deductions under the overall evaluation segment of the competition, as well as reduced scores during the case procedures.
4. The Color Guard Drill Head Judge will be stationed on the left side of the drill area entrance against the inside perimeter of the drill area as designed in the drill area layout). The 5th Judge will be responsible for counting cadence and deducting all boundary, movement-pause, and other violations.
5. The structure and armed nature of two of the four color guard cadets does not differ between the Armed and Unarmed divisions of the Air Force Nationals competition. **These division names (Armed vs. Unarmed) are not reflective of the drill team composition.** They are named ONLY to distinguish the competition division the team has entered. **All Color Guard units will utilize two flags and two rifles regardless of the competition division entered.**
6. While military regulations are often very specific regarding the definition of a "color" and a "flag", at the Air Force Nationals competition, schools may utilize either to compete within the color guard competition.

C. Judging & Scoring

1. The Color Guard Head Judge position is fixed (see drill area layout). The 5th Judge will be responsible for event scoring, as well as counting cadence and deducting all boundary, movement-pause, and other violations. The sequence for Color Guard is comprised of numerous graded movements, each with varying point totals.
2. Given that much of the skill of marching is doing this within cadence (with appropriate penalty deductions for improper cadence), it should be noted that teams are not allowed to sing, call cadence or otherwise generate any sounds for the purpose of maintaining proper cadence. Singing, chanting or other sounds are used for training purposes and/or for exhibition drill only and have no place during non-exhibition events at a meet of this caliber. Any team found doing so within the Color Guard event will receive the maximum cadence penalty allowed.

SECTION 8 – TEAM EXHIBITION COMPETITION

A. General Information

1. The Exhibition area maintains a fixed entry/exit point and the dimensions/layout are shown in the floor diagram.
2. Exhibition routines consist of stationary/marching drill movements as well as trick rifle maneuvers in the armed division that are limited only by the imagination & creativity of the drill unit. Units should remember that the Air Force Nationals is a military competition with military judges -- therefore design your routines with good military taste.
3. To maximize drill area & ready area sizes, ALL UNITS during Exhibition competition will stage their unit when prepared to drill directly INSIDE the boundaries to the drill area.
4. **No cadet may be lifted off the marching surface by any means.** Therefore, all cadets must drill and perform ENTIRELY on the floor. Any cadet who is lifted or otherwise raised off the floor in any manner will cause the judge to immediately move to the team and tell the raised cadet to dismount and the team to leave the floor. The team will also be disqualified from that event at that point.
5. Teams should design their routine to ensure any dangerous or very long rifle tosses DO NOT have the rifle travel in a manner that places anyone except the receiver at risk of being hit with the drill rifle. This prohibition is due exclusively to safety concerns where rifles are sent soaring through the air and placing non-involved team members in physical danger. If undertaken, this may result in your unit being subjectively disqualified from this Exhibition event.
6. In these routines, the cadet commander will instruct the Head Judge where he/she should stand for report in & report out. This can be anywhere on the drill floor and can be in a different location for report out vs. report in. The cadet commander provides this location to the Head Judge while in the event ready area before the team performs.

B. Judging & Scoring

1. Exhibition judging is very subjective. Judges at the Air Force Nationals are asked to look at the routine mechanics as well as the togetherness, "snap" and style of the performance. Also, while the degree of difficulty a unit displays is most certainly a consideration, the flawless perfection of a performance cannot be overlooked.
2. As previously stated, the Team Exhibition scoresheet is located in the back of this SOP. This scoresheet should be studied to see how your performance might receive the maximum amount of points available.
3. A 25-point penalty is assessed for each dropped drill rifle during Armed Team Exhibition. Drill rifle safety & control are major emphasis points at the Air Force Nationals. Design and practice your routines to maintain drill rifle control.

SECTION 9 - KNOCKOUT DRILLS

A. General Information

1. The event will maintain two separate Knockout competitions, Armed followed by Unarmed Knockouts. All cadets attending the event are encouraged to enter both the Armed Knockout Drill and the Unarmed Knockout Drill regardless of what type of team you have entered the competition through. The only special requirement to enter Armed Knockout vs. the Unarmed event is the possession of a competition rifle - no other drill rifles.
2. The event is a single-hit & out style competition. Individuals will be eliminated one by one until only one cadet remains as the respective knockout champion in each division.
3. Cadets will be expected to maintain proper dress & decorum throughout this event. This will include in particular the appearance of the uniform and the appropriate manner in which hair/cover is worn. This applies particularly to females who must continue to have long hair pinned-up under their cover.

B. Judging & Scoring

1. This event will be judged by approximately 20-25 judges. All judges' decisions are final. Mistakes are kept to a minimum but they do happen. DO NOT approach a judge or anyone during the competition regarding any decision made by a judge during knockout drill.
2. No cadence is utilized. The knockout movements are not published in advance and are known only to the Head Judge and the Drill Meet Director. Knockout parameters will be discussed briefly with competitors immediately prior to the start of each Knockout Drill.
3. Knockout commands will be given in clear, understandable language. However, a few commands will be given which either cannot be executed from the position issued or are a two-part command with only the first part of the command given. These are not given as trick commands, but are given to test the cadet's ability to both know the military manual of arms and to keep a cadet from anticipating verbal commands.
4. Upon being knocked out, any cadet who refuses to leave the floor immediately may be cause for that cadet's entire remaining team to be eliminated from the Knockout Drill or from further participation at the Air Force Nationals, including forfeiture of any trophies earned at the entire event. Cadets are expected to maintain military bearing while leaving the floor. Cadets and spectators in the audience are expected to have exemplary behavior, keeping noise and commentary to a minimum so that the knockout can be conducted without distractions.
5. Knockout drills in general are a HIGHLY subjective form of individual drill exhibition. All experienced drill personnel will tell you that a certain amount of luck is just as important as skill in many cases! Please do not approach the table with complaints, suggestions, and/or other interaction DURING the knockout. However, all constructive ideas are welcomed after the entire drill meet has ended for future improvements.

C. Knockout Awards

1. Special hand-painted cloisonné medallions will be awarded to the top 3 finalists in both the Armed and Unarmed knockout drill competitions. These medals will be presented immediately following the Knockout competition.

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