

ONCE AGAIN IN 2003, A SEA OF AIR FORCE UNIFORMS ENGULFED THE DRILL FLOOR YIELDING A SEEMINGLY ENDLESS WAVE OF DRILL EXCELLENCE. THE UNPARALLELED STRENGTH OF THE ARMED AND UNARMED DRILL PERFORMANCES CONTINUED TO MAKE THE AIR FORCE JROTC NATIONAL DRILL CHAMPIONSHIPS THE LARGEST AND FINEST AFJROTC-ONLY DRILL COMPETITION CURRENTLY HELD ANYWHERE IN THE UNITED STATES.

WITH HISTORIC WASHINGTON, DC AS THE BACKDROP JUST DOWN THE ROAD FROM THE COMPETITION HOME AT THE PRINCE GEORGE'S SPORTS & LEARNING COMPLEX IN LANDOVER, MARYLAND, EACH SPRING THE "AIR FORCE NATIONALS" PROVIDES AN EXCITING BLEND OF DRILL STYLES AND DISCIPLINES EXCLUSIVELY FOR AFJROTC CADETS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

ARMED DIVISION

THE ARMED DIVISION STARTED OUT CLOSE BUT AS THE DAY WORE ON, THE OUTCOME WAS AS INEVITABLE AS THE SETTING OF THE SUN. WITH ONE OF THEIR BEST BALANCED ATTACKS IN YEARS, THE BATTLE-HARDENED HIGH FLYERS FROM COVENTRY HS IN COVENTRY, RHODE ISLAND GRABBED ANOTHER ARMED USAF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP. THE FALCONS DRILL TEAM ONCE AGAIN TROPHIED IN ALL FOUR TEAM EVENTS (1ST-INSPECTION, 2ND-REGULATION & COLOR GUARD, AND 4TH-EXHIBITION) SHOWING THE OVERALL STRENGTH THAT HAS SERVED THEM WELL OVER THE YEARS! THIS BALANCE IS THE STANDARD SET BY DRILL ORACLE MSgt. DICK LeBEL!

TWO SCHOOLS DISTANCED THEMSELVES FROM THE REST OF THE FIELD, WITH CENTRAL HS FROM SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS POWERING TO A SOLID ARMED DIVISION NATIONAL RUNNER-UP FINISH. DESPITE THREE STRONG EVENT FINISHES BY THIS NORTHEAST DRILL POWERHOUSE (1ST-REGULATION, 2ND-EXHIBITION & 4TH-INSPECTION), THE CENTRAL GUARD DRILL TEAM STUMBED A BIT IN COLOR GUARD WITH A SOFT 7TH PLACE FINISH. THIS TOUGH PLACEMENT COST THE TEAM A SHOT AT THE OVERALL ARMED DIVISION TITLE.

SURRATTSVILLE HS FROM SURRATTSVILLE, MARYLAND WAS IN THE HUNT NEAR THE TOP OF THE PACK MOST OF THE DAY AS WELL. THE SILVER HORNETS DRILL TEAM CAME UP JUST SHY, GAINING THREE EVENT TROPHIES (2ND-INSPECTION, 4TH-COLOR GUARD, 5TH-REGULATION) BUT WITHOUT THAT BREAKTHROUGH FIRST PLACE TROPHY IN ANY EVENT, THE TEAM FINISHED WITH A RESPECTABLE 3RD PLACE OVERALL FINISH.

AIR FORCE BLUE TURNS TO GOLD IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

Air Force JROTC drill teams from around the Beltway and across the United States dazzled judges and spectators alike with their awesome talents and uncanny maneuvers.

OTHER STRONG ARMED DIVISION FINISHES WERE MARKED BY: NORTHSIDE HS (1ST-EXHIBITION); LARGO HS (1ST-COLOR GUARD); ANCHOR BAY HS (3RD-COLOR GUARD, 5TH-EXHIBITION); NEVADA HS (3RD-EXHIBITION, 5TH-COLOR GUARD); E.E. SMITH HS (3RD-INSPECTION); AND HIALEAH HS (3RD-REGULATION).

UNARMED DIVISION

WITH THE 2002 UNARMED DIVISION TITLE COMING DOWN TO THE FINAL FEW POINTS, EXPECTATIONS WERE LOFTY FOR ANOTHER SHOOT-OUT FINISH IN 2003! LEAVE IT TO SOUTHERN REGIONAL HS FROM MANAHAWKIN, NEW JERSEY TO ABSOLUTELY DOMINATE THE FIELD WINNING THE UNARMED DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP HANDS DOWN. THE BLUE KNIGHTS DRILL TEAM POWERED THEIR WAY TO 1ST PLACE IN INSPECTION, REGULATION AND COLOR GUARD. THIS LEFT THEM PLENTY OF BREATHING ROOM WHEN THEIR EXHIBITION TEAM TOOK THE FLOOR (THEY STILL GRABBED A 5TH PLACE FINISH!) PREPARED AGAIN IN 2003 BY MSgt. LEE MESSINA (STILL THE WEBMASTER OF THE FINEST JROTC WEBSITE IN THE COUNTRY - www.srsd.org/jrotc), THE NATIONAL STRONGMEN FROM THE GARDEN STATE ARE STILL SEEKING A SERIOUS CHALLENGE TO THEIR AIR FORCE NATIONALS DOMINANCE IN 2004!

FINISHING IN A DISTANT UNARMED DIVISION NATIONAL RUNNER-UP POSITION IS THE ALWAYS TOUGH SILVER EAGLES DRILL TEAM FROM SANDALWOOD HS IN JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA. DISPLAYING GREAT BALANCE AND SOLID PREPARATION, THE FLORIDA UNIT FINISHED WITH THREE EVENT TROPHIES (3RD-INSPECTION, 3RD-COLOR GUARD, 4TH-REGULATION).

BEATING OUT A VERY TIGHT PACK OF TEAMS FOR THIRD PLACE WAS LACKEY HS FROM INDIAN HEAD, MARYLAND. THE LADIES OF DESTRUCTION TROPHIED IN JUST ONE EVENT (2ND-INSPECTION) BUT WITH OTHER SOLID FINISHES JUST OUT OF TROPHY PLACEMENT, THE UNIT SQUEEKED BY TO CAPTURE THE 3RD PLACE FINISH.

OTHER TOP UNARMED DIVISION FINISHES INCLUDED: OXON HILL HS (1ST-EXHIBITION, 2ND-REGULATION); HIALEAH HS (2ND-COLOR GUARD, 5TH-REGULATION); TIFT COUNTY HS (2ND-EXHIBITION); SURRATTSVILLE HS (3RD-REGULATION, 5TH-INSPECTION) AND MIAMI EDISON HS (3RD-EXHIBITION).

AS MANY OF YOU NOW ARE AWARE, AFOATS JROTC HAS STATED THEIR OFFICE NO LONGER WISHES TO BE LISTED AS AN EVENT SUPPORTER OF ANY DRILL COMPETITIONS. THEY HAVE ALSO REQUESTED TO HAVE THE TERMS "NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP" AND "AIR FORCE" REMOVED FROM THE TITLE OF ANY DRILL COMPETITIONS (INCLUDING THIS ONE). WE HAVE COMPLIED FULLY WITH THEIR REQUESTS, HAVING CHANGED THE NAME OF THE EVENT FOR 2004 TO THE NATIONAL CAPITAL INVITATIONAL DRILL CLASSIC. REST ASSURED THE EVENT WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED IN ALL OTHER ASPECTS!

RARELY DO CADETS GET THE CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN A FIRST-CLASS, SINGLE-SERVICE DRILL EVENT WHILE ALSO TOURING THE CAPITAL OF OUR NATION. SCHOOLS INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THE 2004 AFJROTC-ONLY NCIDC EVENT SHOULD CHECK OUT THE OFFICIAL EVENT WEBSITE AT: ([HTTP://DRILL.THENATIONALS.NET](http://drill.thenationals.net)). ON THE SITE, SCHOOLS MAY DOWNLOAD THE EVENT S.O.P., SCORE SHEETS, OFFICIAL INVITATION & MOST IMPORTANT, THE EVENT REGISTRATION FORM.

WE AT SNI HOPE TO SEE YOUR UNIT NEXT YEAR IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL FOR THE MOST EXCITING & MEMORABLE SHOWING OF AFJROTC DRILL EXCELLENCE YOU WILL EVER SEE!



The Blue Devils Unarmed Drill Team from Naugatuck HS in Naugatuck, Connecticut display a snappy team salute prior to competing in Unarmed Regulation competition.