

THE 4TH ANNUAL **National Capital Invitational Drill Classic** brought together another outstanding group of Air Force Junior ROTC units from all corners of the United States, including representatives from as far away as Colorado, Michigan, Texas, Florida and Rhode Island. While the accents from the competing cadets varied, the intensity and talent all cadets displayed was focused in all portions of the competition. Flight after flight of exciting and pumped up cadets took to the drill floor to show what thousands of hours of training and discipline have done for these premiere AFJROTC cadets. Without any doubt, the NCIDC remains the largest and finest AFJROTC-only drill competition currently held anywhere in the United States.

Each March, the "Air Force Nationals" provides unparalleled memories for the competing cadets, both on and off the drill floor. The 89th Airlift Wing from Andrews AFB provides much of the logistical support for the competition and the Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex in Landover, Maryland provides the first-class surroundings needed for an event of this stature. Both of these entities combine to ensure the event is top-notch before the first weapon is tossed!

ARMED DIVISION

THE ARMED DIVISION came out of the gate as a two-horse race. Throughout the day, scores remained neck and neck but in the end, a near-flawless Flight Exhibition routine by **Coventry HS** of **Coventry, Rhode Island** led the battle-hardened warriors to another Armed Division Championships. The solid balance that Coventry has become known for was once again in full effect, with the **Falcons** drill team capturing 3rd place or higher finishes in all four team events (1st-Regulation / Exhibition, 2nd-Inspection, 3rd-Color Guard). Coventry HS maintains that competitive streak that all champions wear on their sleeve and they are looking forward to defending their title at the 2005 event!

Finishing in a tight 2nd place overall was **Oak Ridge HS** from **Conroe, Texas**. Overall excellence paved their way to a runner-up finish, garnering a 1st place (Color Guard), a 3rd place (Inspection) and two 4th place finishes (Regulation and Exhibition). With such a strong showing in their first year attending, the Mad Dogs drill team looks to come back strong in 2005. In an extremely tight finish for 3rd place, **Surrattsville HS** from **Surrattsville, Maryland** repeated their

Air Force JROTC Lights Up the Sky!

A wave of blue uniformed cadets took control of the drill floor and impressed parents and judges alike with their determination and talent in the shadows of the Nation's Capital.

strong performance in 2003 and again grabbed the bronze finish. The **Silent Silver Hornets** drill team stormed in strong, earning two 2nd place finishes (Regulation and Exhibition) but a 7th place Inspection and a 9th place Color Guard doomed the determined group from making a run at the overall title.

Other strong Armed Division finishes were marked by: **Spring Valley HS** (1st-Inspection, 5th-Exhibition); **Hialeah HS** (2nd-Color Guard / 4th-Inspection); **Largo HS** (4th-Overall Armed); **Terry Sanford HS** (3rd-Exhibition) and **Franklin K. Lane HS** (4th-Color Guard / 5th-Regulation).

UNARMED DIVISION

THE 2004 UNARMED DIVISION competition can best be remembered as incredibly tight but also as the year of missed opportunities. Four schools each had a wide-open chance to grab the top spot but tough finishes kept three from taking home the gold. Finishing in 4th place overall was always-tough **Newburgh Free Academy** from **Newburgh, New York**. With solid trophy placements in Regulation and Color Guard, the **Screaming Eagles** were in the hunt but two disappointing performances in Inspection and Exhibition left the unit just six placement points away from the title.

2003 UNARMED CHAMP **Southern Regional HS** from **Manahawkin, New Jersey** had the door open after trophy placement finishes in both Regulation and Color Guard and a solid 7th place finish in Exhibition, but the **Blue Knights** had the door slammed shut with a poor Inspection finish, thereby settling for a 3rd place overall Unarmed Division finish.

THE EVENT THEN came down to two familiar rivals who traveled 900 miles to compete, 2003 UNARMED DIVISION NCIDC RUNNER-UP **Sandalwood HS** from **Jacksonville, Florida** and multi-year Florida state champion **Pine Ridge HS** from **Deltona, Florida**. Displaying the solid Color Guard and Inspection scores that were expected, Pine Ridge captured 1st place in both of these events, yet Sandalwood played their trump card in

capturing 1st place in the Exhibition event to keep things close. Pine Ridge opened the door wide with a disastrous finish in Regulation drill, but Sandalwood came up just short trying to capitalize allowing Pine Ridge's **Golden Vengeance** drill team to win the Overall Unarmed Division title in their first-year of attendance. Sandalwood's **Silver Eagles** drill team earned a hard-fought runner-up title with solid balance and strength in all four competition events. Both schools look forward to renewing their friendly rivalry at the 2005 NCIDC event.

Other Unarmed Division finishes included: **Plainfield HS** (1st-Regulation); **Salem HS** (2nd-Inspection); **East Henderson HS** (2nd-Color Guard); **Houston County HS** (3rd-Inspection & Regulation); **Tift County HS** (3rd-Exhibition); **Taunton HS** (4th-Inspection) and **Central HS** (4th-Color Guard).

Rarely do AFJROTC cadets get the chance to participate in a first-class, single-service drill event while also touring the capital of our great nation. Schools from across the United States interested in attending the 2005 NCIDC event should check out the official event website at: <http://af.thenationals.net>. On the website, schools should download the event S.O.P., score sheets, official invitation & most important, schools can download the event registration form, complete it, and be considered for acceptance into the 2005 NCIDC event.

WE AT SNI HOPE to see your unit in the Nation's Capital on **March 18th, 2005** for the most exciting & memorable showing of AFJROTC drill excellence you will ever see!



Unarmed Exhibition drill is always a cadet favorite, as well as a crowd-pleasing part of the National Capital Invitational Drill Classic.