

Always eager to show the drill community what the Air Force is made of, this year's AFJROTC Western Division Championships were ripe with well-prepared drill units. They were all looking to make an impression on the hard-boiled judges from nearby Lackland AFB in the tall shadows of the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas. They say everything is bigger in Texas, and in the city that has been made famous for its strong drill teams representing all branches of the armed services, the teams at this year's Air Force Western Championships were forced to either go big or go home!

In recent years, the members of the **John Jay HS** AFJROTC have flexed their muscles in both the Armed & Unarmed Divisions, picking up several overall titles for the **Silver Eagles** and **Snap II** drill teams. Several big dogs were on-hand to see if they could kick the stool out from under these amazing drillers by putting together their own display of excellence.

### ARMED DIVISION

While the **Silver Eagles** from **John Jay HS** (San Antonio, TX) have been an omnipresent force at the NHSOTC for many years, their record of accomplishment at the Air Force Nationals event has been filled with only Championship and Runner-up crowns with the last two Overall titles. This year was no different as the **Silver Eagles** took the overall championship with ease as they swept through their competition with nothing but first place finishes. Their closest challengers were the always tough **Centurion Guard**

# Flying "Above All" at the 2010 Air Force Nationals



*The creative world of drill always shines at the Eastern & Western Air Force Nationals! Official Sponsor*

## AF Western Championships - San Antonio, Texas

from **Thomas C. Clark HS** (San Antonio, TX) who took home their third consecutive Runner-up trophy. Several calls have already been taken to know that more than a few teams are gunning for the top slot at the 2011 event, including a few new West Coast schools looking to take the **Silver Eagles** down off their perch at next year's event to be held in Phoenix, Arizona!

### UNARMED DIVISION

Much like their armed counterparts, the **Snap II** drill team from **John Jay HS** have maintained pristine status as the team to beat in their division, and 2010 was another affirmation why that is the case. While they did not dominate like their counterparts, **Snap II** had impressive finishes throughout the competition (1<sup>st</sup>-Color Guard & Exhibition; 2<sup>nd</sup>-Regulation; 4<sup>th</sup>-Inspection). Hot on their heels was **Silver Valor** from **Thomas C. Clark HS** who came close to snapping the title from **Snap II**. With these two schools battling it out so closely in both divisions, this deep rooted rivalry looks to get better and better as time goes on.



*AF Nationals Western Division Armed Overall top finishers (left) Centurion Guard & Silver Eagles along with Unarmed Division top finishers (right) Snap II and Silver Valor are congratulated by Air Force Association Board Members and event supporters Mr. Bill Croom (left center) and Mr. Ed Garland (right center).*

Solid performances by schools like upstart **Brandeis HS** (1<sup>st</sup>-Inspection & Regulation; 5<sup>th</sup>-Color Guard & Exhibition) indicate that this competition looks to become more difficult to dominate in the future.

**For the first time ever, next year's Western Air Force Nationals will be held in gorgeous Phoenix, Arizona on March 12th, 2011** to allow more West Coast schools in on the fun! If the meet is well attended, we look to rotate back to Phoenix every other year! We can't wait to see you there as the best in blue battle it out in the wild, wild west!

## AF Eastern Championships - Macon, Georgia



*AF Nationals are well supported by none other than Joseph Sutter, AFA Chairman of the Board (center left) and Greg Winn, Deputy Director, AFJROTC (center right). Overall top finishers shown (l to r) are: Spring Valley HS, Lackey HS, East Paulding HS and Lackey HS.*

This year's Air Force Eastern Division Championships were held in the fabulous Macon Centreplex in Macon, Georgia in mid-March. You could feel the electricity in the air as the nation's finest AFJROTC units east of the Mississippi River battled it out to see who among them would reign supreme.

### ARMED DIVISION

For two straight years, the **Falcons** from **Coventry HS** (Coventry, RI) have clinched the overall title but the departure of drill legend MSG Dick LeBel would make it hard to stay on top with everyone gunning for you. The two-time champs were solid but slipped to 3<sup>rd</sup> place as a new champion was crowned in the form of the **Ruff Ryders** from **Lackey HS** (Indian Head, MD)! With trophy finishes in

every event, they had enough to hold on for their first overall championship. Had it not been for a 10<sup>th</sup> place finish in Color Guard, this year's Runner-up, the **Vikings** from **Spring Valley HS** (Columbia, SC) would have taken the title with an impressive overall display! This division now appears wide open with so many competitive teams vying for gold. This year's nail biter is only a taste of what's to come in the near future!

### UNARMED DIVISION

Always amazingly competitive and wide-open, the Eastern Unarmed Division did not disappoint. Much like the Armed Division, the previous year's champion was knocked completely out of the top two spots as the **Raiders USA** from **East Paulding HS** (Dallas, GA) made a huge impact taking home the big event trophies in 3 out of 4 events (1<sup>st</sup>-Exhibition; 3<sup>rd</sup>-Color Guard & Inspection). Also impressive was the overall Runner-Up finisher from **Lackey HS** (Indian Head, MD). The **Ladies of Destruction** just missed clinching the championship by a mere 30 points overall in this 4,000 point competition! Had they been able to place slightly higher in any one of their events,

they would have taken BOTH tall trophies that they have been clawing after for many years.

Next year's Eastern Air Force Nationals heads north as the blue beasts from the east will invade the Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex in Landover, Maryland on March 25th, 2011! Can there be a finer citizenship and government trip than a drill competition in the Nation's Capitol? All eligible units are strongly urged to make this event a weekend to remember for your AFJROTC unit. DrillNATION will be there in full force - how about YOU?

For scoring results, photos & info:  
<http://af.thenationals.net>



*What to do when you end the day 30 minutes EARLY? Instructor Knockout to the raucous applause of the cadets & parents looking on!*