



2012

U.S. ARMY CADET COMMAND JROTC DRILL CHAMPIONSHIPS

SATURDAY, MARCH 31ST, 2012

KENTUCKY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER - LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

"MOTIVATING YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE THE BEST THEY CAN BE"

REVISION #1 - 25 JULY 2011

SECTION 1 – THE "ARMY NATIONALS" OVERVIEW

A. The Competition Overview

1. This SOP will include all information that is pertinent to the competition and necessary for your team's preparation & attendance at the U.S. Army Cadet Command JROTC Drill Championships. The event will be more affectionately known as the **Army Nationals**. This meet will be a natural offshoot from the previous U.S. Army Cadet Command JROTC Eastern & Western Drill Championships that have been held for the past 5 years and is designed to bring together many of the finest drill & ceremony JROTC programs in the world for Army JROTC.
2. The Army Nationals website (<http://army.thenationals.net>) will be focal point for distribution of all event information. **The event website will undergo a huge revision in early December which will allow all schools to enter the Army Nationals event, submit all event paperwork, and pay all competition costs DIRECTLY ONLINE.** This will be done through the MySchool website (<http://myschool.thenationals.net>). Found on the Army Nationals website. All Army JROTC programs will be notified directly when this site is ready to accept team entries in early December.
3. Along with the rules and regulations of the meet, this document will also maintain information on both the structure & management of the event by Sports Network International, Inc. (SNI). To ensure a successful Army Nationals experience, please internalize all of the regulations of the Army Nationals found within this document and the Army Nationals website.
4. The Army Nationals are managed & produced by Sports Network International, Inc.. As the Event Manager, SNI is responsible for organizing all aspects of the competition, from setting up the rules and procedures, to training necessary judges. The Army Nationals are sponsored by the U.S. Army Cadet Command.
5. As the official Army JROTC drill & ceremonies championships, the "Army Nationals" will be judged in STRICT accordance with the newest revision of Army Field Manual, FM 3-21.5. Judges will be provided by the U.S. Army Cadet Command in combination with Ft. Jackson and other training posts, and/or JROTC instructors with strong training backgrounds. This Army manual can be downloaded from the web in its entirety directly from the Army Nationals website.
6. All competitors, instructors, and team supporters are subject to comply with all of the rules & procedures of this SOP and of the **Army Nationals**. Any items not specifically covered by your service manual(s) or by SNI regulations are at the sole discretion and determination of the Judging Director.
7. If you have a question regarding any facet of the Army Nationals, look through this SOP and the official website to answer your question -- in most cases, the answer is maintained in print. If you do not find the answer, please feel free to email or call the Competition Director Justin Gates (drill@thenationals.net) or telephone SNI in advance of the event on the 800 number. Please do not wait to ask your questions on site.

B. Event Management & Sponsorship

1. Under the new format of inclusion for the Army Nationals event, schools will be nominated to attend the Army Nationals from their Brigade Headquarters. The exact method each will use to select the representatives will be left up to the Brigade. **All schools should contact their Brigade directly for questions in the area as SNI is not qualified to answer anything outside the rules and regulations set forth within this documents.**
2. The United States Army will maintain sole control over any cancellation of this competition. IF FOR ANY REASON the event is cancelled; all schools will be given a full refund of any school registration fees paid. SNI will also ship at our expense all shirts & medallions that have been purchased for your cadets and pre-paid. Additionally, SNI will refund the costs of the team photo portion of your package fees (exact amount to be determined just following the competition).

SECTION 2 - THE ARMY NATIONALS COMPETITION

A. Competition Mechanics

1. The event maintains BOTH an Armed Division competition and an Unarmed Division competition. Both of these competition Divisions are trophied and scored separately. This will allow smaller schools to better compete with larger schools who always split their "talent" and form two competition units. There is NO Grand Championship or other overall scoring that combines Armed & Unarmed Team Scores as no team is REQUIRED to attend the event with the massive numbers that would be needed to form a team that competes within BOTH events (though many schools have both an Armed & Unarmed team).
2. The following events are counted towards a team's Armed/Unarmed Championship point totals: Team Inspection, Platoon Regulation, Color Guard, Exhibition Drill. Teams must enter and obtain a score in all four events in their division to win the division title. All teams are eligible to win team trophies within each specific event entered, no matter what other events the team enters. First through fifth place team trophies are awarded in each team event listed above.
3. Nominated schools from each Brigade will be allowed a maximum of two complete drill teams (one Armed and/or one Unarmed team) into the Army 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 the Armed & Unarmed teams to better allow smaller schools to concentrate their talent and compete on a more equal playing field.
4. Each school will be given a "Performance Board" upon check-in at the venue the morning of the event to use throughout the day. This board will contain the name of your school. This board will allow spectators and event staff to know who is competing in what areas at what time, as well as more easily find you when you are seated in the bleachers WITHOUT using the PA System. Therefore, 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 remove it and take it to the seating area with you when finished. This board is returned to SNI at the end of the competition day.
5. As the Event Director for the Army Nationals, Sports Network International (SNI) maintains sole judgment pertaining to the actual drill competition. All decisions made by SNI regarding rules, procedures or other matters necessary to the running of the drill competition are final with no protests entertained. The U.S. Army Cadet Command and the respective Cadet Command will have oversight and authority on all other matters not specifically related to the on-floor competition.
6. Due to the high ceilings and ceremonial nature of the event, OUTDOOR REGULATIONS are in effect in all facets of the event. Covers will be worn and salutes will be rendered while performing or receiving trophies.

B. Weapon Requirements & Regs - Armed Teams & Color Guards

1. In order for any team to compete at the Army Nationals, the weapons in use by the entire unit must fit a series of standards that qualify it to be considered "Regulation". These criteria require that the weapon MUST:
 - be rendered unfireable by one of several methods including but not limited to: - leading the barrel; - removing the firing pin; or any other means leaving the weapon unable to mechanically fire.
 - if a trigger is present, the weapon must maintain a trigger guard.
 - The weapon must have an adjustable sling.
2. No weight requirements are listed above because any weapon regardless of weight may be used so long as the weapon meets the above criteria at the Army Nationals. Also, the use of front and/or rear sights are strongly discouraged by SNI on any weapon used for exhibition drill. They can cause severe injuries and serve no purpose on these non-firing weapons.
3. 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 Army Nationals competition. Should any weapon not meet ONE OR MORE of the above criteria, a subjective penalty WILL be added to the offending scoresheet by the Judging Director.
4. Teams are permitted to strap/tape their slings to the stock of their weapons ONLY during the Exhibition portion of the competition. **Teams MAY apply tape to their weapons in any manner they deem appropriate.** Teams MAY NOT REMOVE their weapon slings during any event at the Army Nationals. If this is done, a subjective penalty WILL be added to the offending scoresheet by the Judging Director.

5. Although all team members must compete with the same style weapon during each particular event, teams are allowed to utilize a different set of weapons for different team events (i.e. one set for Exhibition, another for Regulation). However, all weapons used must fulfill all of the requirements set forth for a regulation weapon.
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.** With this definition, little judgment should be in play. 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.

C. Cadet Commander Regulations

1. Armed Division cadet commanders **MUST** carry either a rifle, saber or sword during ALL team events at the **Army Nationals**. All other cadets must carry a rifle. No other weapons (i.e. demilitarized handguns) are allowed.
2. In the Unarmed Division, cadet commanders **MAY**, if they wish, carry a saber or sword only. No other cadet may carry any weapon of any type (except the rifle bearers during color guard competition).
3. It is not permitted for a saber or sword to leave a commander's hand at any time upon entering the drill floor. When using a saber or sword, the commander must remain **AT LEAST TWO PACES** away from an event Head Judge when reporting in and reporting out. Violation of this rule will cause the Head Judge to retreat to a safe distance. Although there is no specific deduction for this action on the scoresheet, the action will certainly be reflected in the overall evaluation scoring by the event Head Judge, as well as the other event judges.
4. Allowing that each drill team is instructed differently, judges will evaluate any vocal projection of 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.

D. Uniform Regulations

1. Cadets will be **required to maintain either an approved class A or class B uniform** (as called for within Cadet Command reg 670-1) during **Inspection, Regulation and Color Guard** competition at the **Army Nationals**. Noted exceptions to the class A or B uniform will be the allowance of berets in all events. During Platoon Regulation competition, units may remove name tags and ribbons to protect their uniform from tearing. Additionally, during Color Guard, units may remove the jacket, along with name tags and ribbons as it can restrict movements. **Only during Team Exhibition may any unit vary from the class A or B uniform policy outside the exceptions set forth previously.** Exhibition competition will allow teams to wear any clothing or accessories they choose, so long as the uniform is within good military taste. However, elaborate uniform changing may cause scheduling issues for your unit – plan accordingly.
2. Instructors and other JROTC personnel attending the competition must adhere to the regulations set forth by Cadet Command on appropriate attire. This will be communicated directly to each program by USACC.
3. Cadets or instructors failing to meet the required dress regulations will receive subjective point deductions from their scoresheet. **IN EVERY EVENT they are deemed OUT OF PROPER UNIFORM.** Please ensure your school is in compliance with all uniform regs listed above and within US Army Regulation 670-1..
4. Color Guard units should note that chrome helmets, ascots, boots, gloves, color case pouches and other color guard accessories **ARE NOT ALLOWED** at the **Army Nationals**. Please ensure your unit is in compliance with this uniform regulation as outlined and do not add these items.

SECTION 3 – PERFORMANCE REGULATION SPECIFICS

A. Performance Regulations

1. **Teams must Report In & Report Out in each event AND they must do so verbally to the Head Judge by the cadet leading the unit.** During the report in of any event, the team should announce the name of their school 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.***
2. **TEAMS MAY NOT WEAR ANY FORM OF SHOE TAP.** Teams found using ANY FORM of shoe tap WILL be utilizing an improper uniform and penalized accordingly.
3. Bayonets, handguns (demilitarized or otherwise), props, special effects, music or musical instruments (bugles, drums... ANY musical instrument), or pyrotechnics are **NOT 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 remains that cadet commanders may utilize a whistle while leading their unit in Exhibition Drill. If you use any item, contact SNI in advance to get a ruling as it is likely considered a "prop".
4. 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, it is not prohibited by Sports Network 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.
5. Teams must contain the following prescribed numbers of competing cadets:
 - *INSPECTION: 12 cadets + a commander only*
 - *REGULATION DRILL: 12 cadets + a commander*
 - *COLOR GUARD: 4 cadets (two rifles/two flags)*
 - *EXHIBITION DRILL: 9 total cadets minimum – no max.***NOTE: 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 which must have the exact number of cadets specified above to compete. A cadet is "performing" and is considered a competitor when he/she enters the competition area and materially participates within the competition.
6. A single guide is permitted during Exhibition Drill only. His or her inclusion does not apply to the minimum number of cadets required within the Exhibition event.
7. **NO SEPARATE CADENCE JUDGE WILL BE IN PLACE FOR A MEET OF THIS CALIBER.** The Head Judge and other judges may reduce scores if they feel the performance by the team was vastly out of the required cadence range, OR for any team who displays "uneven cadence" (i.e., wheel marching at a vastly faster cadence than standard marching that follows, etc.).
8. **A 30-inch step is mandatory during much of Regulation Drill and Color Guard Drill.** Teams who find their sequences fitting easily inside all event boundaries should closely review their use of a 30" step. Teams who deviate from this 30-inch step will be marked down by the judges in the "overall evaluation" section of the scoresheet.
9. When a command is listed on the Regulation Drill & Color Guard sequence sheets and it 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 imposed on your cadets during these drills -- practice the pause!***
10. To maximize drill area & ready area sizes, ALL UNITS during Regulation and Exhibition competition may stage their unit when prepared to drill directly JUST INSIDE the boundaries to the drill area. The judge will approach the team inside this area, then move to the Report-in/out location. The judge will motion for the team to begin, and when the team moves to begin, grading starts. Units should march out of the areas in a standard manner to complete their routines.
11. **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 raised off the floor in any manner will cause the judge to immediately direct the raised cadet to dismount and the team to leave the floor. The team will be disqualified from that event immediately at that point.
12. 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.
13. **Cadet Commanders WILL NOT move to check/adjust alignment at any time during the Regulation or Inspection competitions.** At this level, cadets must maintain very solid alignment WITHOUT this long process.

SECTION 4 - EVENT SCORING & TIMING

A. Scoresheets & Score Tabulation

1. All event scoresheets can be found in advance of the competition on the Army Nationals website. Please review these sheets in advance to ensure your school can achieve the maximum score available within the areas listed.
2. A complete scoring package maintaining all of the judges scoresheets, as well as team placement information will be available immediately following the Awards Ceremony (if time permits to prepare them for distribution) or they will be mailed to your team immediately following the event. Questions regarding **Army Nationals** scoring are welcomed and addressed after you have received your completed scoresheets.
3. 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 **Army Nationals** by Sports Network International.

B. Overall Scoring

1. The fundamental scoring system in use for the Army Nationals is known as a "Proportional Event Scoring System". In short, **scoring in this manner will ensure all FOUR 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.
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)

C. Tie-Breaking

1. All event and Overall Championship scoring ties will be broken by re-totaling the scoresheets as listed below. Should a tie remain after applying these tie breaking methods, the score will officially be declared a tie and a duplicate trophy will be awarded to both teams. Tie breaking criteria are in order and as follows:

For Team Events/Individual Events:

- ◆ Level #1 - totaling only Head Judge's scores
- ◆ Level #2 - totaling only overall evaluation scores
- ◆ Level #3 - totaling only Judge #2, then Judge #3
- ◆ Level #4 - team w/least amount of penalty points
- ◆ Level #5 - team/ind performing earliest in the day

◆ For Event Championship Totals:

- ◆ Level #1 - highest total points earned
- ◆ Level #2 - highest Regulation points earned
- ◆ Level #3 - highest single event total

D. Event Judging

1. All judges are instructed to move around the competition 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.
2. Each unit will be judged by the SAME JUDGES within each event. The **Army Nationals** will maintain a judging corps with a solid knowledge of both Army FM 3-21.5, as well as the rules and regulations of this drill competition. All judges' scoring & decisions are final. As a matter of proper conduct, discussion with judges during the competition ABOUT ANY ASPECT OF COMPETITION 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 competition should be directed to the Judging Director of the **Army Nationals**.
3. 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 crucial items.

SECTION 5 – GENERAL TEAM COMPETITION INFORMATION

A. General Information

1. The actual size & dimensions of the Regulation drill floor(s), as well as the positioning of the Head Judge where the Report-In / Report-Out will take place is outlined completely within the "Maps & Schedules" section of the Army Nationals website.
2. Only one entry/exit point will be shown on the drill area map per drill area. PLEASE DON'T CALL FOR AN EXCEPTION to allow entry or exit at another location. Practice using the maps as listed.
3. Any/all SOP changes/clarifications will be detailed on the SOP Update page of the Army Nationals website (<http://www.thenationals.net/army-SOPupdates.htm>). All schools should check this site at regular intervals to ensure they maintain the most up to date information as all schools will be responsible for the content.

SECTION 6 – TEAM INSPECTION

A. General Information

1. Teams will formulate their inspection unit just like they do every other event competition unit at the **Army Nationals** - by selecting the cadets and the Cadet Commander they wish to lead the cadets in advance.
2. The Team Inspection takes place in a relatively secluded area of the main floor of the arena, thereby providing the appropriate atmosphere to carry out a proper inspection.
3. The inspection is relatively brief using four inspection judges. Units should pay special attention to the entry/exit described in this booklet. Execution of the event guidelines AS OUTLINED are imperative for teams to earn a top score.

B. Inspection Preparation

1. All instructions regarding Inspection rules and regulations must be carried out to the letter to earn a top score. Several procedures have been changed from 3-21.5 for safety and 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. At this point, all other team members and followers will be required to leave the immediate area.
3. The Head Judge will state, "XYZ HIGH SCHOOL, REPORT!". Cadet Commander will then command the cadets into the inspection area centering the unit on the Head Judge with correct spacing into four squads of three cadets each. **The unit MUST be placed within FOUR squads with THREE cadets each.** The specific manner of entry through the door is completely up to the unit but you must finish with a four squad formation!

5. The unit should then be instructed to "**Open Ranks**" by the Cadet Commander. The commander should then ready his unit through "Aligning the Company" (Dress & Cover). 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. Important Note: **UNIT INSPECTION CADET COMMANDERS WILL NOT MOVE TO REVIEW THE CADETS FOR PERFECT DRESS & COVER!** Cadets will be instructed to dress & cover only. Cadets at this level are expected to maintain adequate dress & cover without supplemental review from the Cadet Commander. Commanders who move to review the ranks will be graded down for their efforts. With this, the logic for the need to "count off" is also gone. Therefore, units are not expected to count off and judges will be instructed to not expect the unit to count off.
6. Upon completion of the inspection, the head judge will instruct the Cadet Commander to exit the drill floor. The Cadet Commander should then close ranks and then exit the drill area by commanding the team to leave through the exit door found on the event diagram. This should be done in a formal military movement, chosen and executed by the cadet commander.

C. Inspection Judging

1. To begin the inspection, the Cadet Commander will report in to the Inspection Head Judge, stating (for example) "Sir, Acme High School, Army JROTC Unit ready for inspection". Upon completion of this report 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 row of cadets. The other judges will each take their corresponding ranks of three cadets each.
2. 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!
3. 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.

D. Related Inspection Matters

1. Inspection will include questions asked to determine a cadet's poise, confidence, and overall military / governmental / historical / first aid knowledge, along with specific questions regarding Army matters. Judges WILL ask questions they do not expect the cadet to answer correctly or questions which may have no single correct answer. Don't allow your cadets to get flustered or lose military bearing! If a cadet doesn't know the answer, a strong, "This cadet does not know, sir!" or similar response is best.
2. Hair length should correspond to JROTC regulations. General appearance should be well-groomed and uniforms should be well-prepared.
3. 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 competition (judges know the difference between a uniform that was unprepared AND one that has been worn throughout the day).
4. Leather shoes or corfram shoes are appropriate wear for all portions of the **Army 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.

SECTION 7 – PLATOON REGULATION DRILL

A. General Information

1. All of the Regulation Drill movements must be done, in the order they are listed, using the commands listed on the scoresheet in strict accordance with FM 3-21.5.
2. 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 halt the unit, 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. The Platoon Regulation drill sequence is comprised of many scoring opportunities. Teams will also receive additional points for their report in and report out, and for the judges' overall impression of the performance.
2. The execution of this Platoon Regulation sequence can be quite challenging. Any solid unit with sufficient advanced practice can execute the entire Platoon Regulation sequence adequately. The unit's ability to perform this sequence without extra commands, utilizing the 30" step where required, is vital to a team's success.
3. Given that much of the skill of marching is doing this within 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. **These 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 8 - COLOR GUARD DRILL

A. General Information

1. All of the Color Guard Drill movements must be done, in the order they are listed, using the commands listed on the scoresheet in strict accordance with Army FM 3-21.5.
2. 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.
3. While FM 3-21.5 is very specific regarding the strict definition of a "flag" and a "color", units competing within Color Guard competition at the Nationals may utilize either a flag or a color within the color guard competition. Also, this performance will be done in the manner of a "ceremony" with outdoor conditions (due to the high ceilings).
4. Salutes and/or eyes right commands while marching will NOT be able to execute with the prescribed 6-paces execution before and after. Judges know this limitation and have planned for this.
5. Also to further clarify, the color guard competition is designated as

B. Color Guard Regulations

1. All units will be comprised of four competing cadets, 2 rifle bearers and two flag bearers. Unarmed division color guards utilize the exact same color formation, sequence, etc. The only difference lies in the fact that their scores only total and compete against other Unarmed Division competition units.
2. Any solid unit with sufficient advanced practice can execute the entire Color Guard sequence adequately. Performing this sequence without extra commands, utilizing the 30" step where required, is vital for a successful performance.
3. 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 **Army Nationals**, the Cadet Commander is not required to be the highest ranking member of the Color Guard unit.
4. 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.
5. The structure of the four color guard cadets does not differ between the Armed and Unarmed divisions of the **Army Nationals** competition. **These division names are not reflective of the drill team composition.** They are utilized only to distinguish the competition division the team has entered. **All Color Guard units will utilize two flags and two rifles and both have the exact same sequence, regardless of the competition division entered.**
6. As a reminder, TEAMS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO WEAR EXHIBITION ITEMS IN COLOR GUARD COMPETITION. These items often include chrome helmets, ascots, jump boots, color cade pouches, or other similar items. Color guard is a REGULATION event and requires a REGULATION UNIFORM as outlined within this SOP.

C. Judging & Scoring

1. The Color Guard sequence is comprised of many scoring opportunities. Teams will also receive additional points for their report in and report out, and for the judges' overall impression of the performance.
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. **These 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 9 - EXHIBITION COMPETITION

A. General Information

1. 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 **Army Nationals** is a military competition with military judges -- therefore design your routines with good military taste.
2. 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 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 near the receiver. If undertaken, this may result in your unit being disqualified from this Exhibition event.

B. Event Timing

1. An official timekeeper among the judges will keep the official performance time in Exhibition Drill only. Event timing will begin when the first cadet crosses the drill area entry point and ends when the last cadet crosses the exit point. In Exhibition, the unit is pre-placed within the competition area. Therefore, timing will begin at the first movement of the drill team when the judge is in place and ready to begin judging.
2. 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. 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 Regulation Drill or Color Guard as the completion of the movements, in cadence, is sufficient.
3. Teams performing any synchronized, team display just prior to entering the drill floor for their performance **with judges waiting** will have the clock start (if applicable) 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 this is a part of your performance. The official time will end when the team exits the drill area (as the judges have finished watching and are scoring).

C. Judging & Scoring

1. 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 will provide this information to the Head Judge while in the event ready area before the team performs.
2. Exhibition judging is very subjective. Judges at the **Army 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.
3. The Exhibition scoresheet above all others should be studied in detail to see how your performance may be designed to receive the maximum amount of points available.
4. A 25-point major penalty is assessed for each dropped weapon during Armed Exhibition. Weapon safety & control are major emphasis points at the **Army Nationals**. Design and practice your routines to maintain complete weapon control.

SECTION 10 – KNOCKOUT DRILL

A. General Information

1. The event will maintain two Knockout competitions, one Armed & one Unarmed. All cadets attending and paying through the package are eligible 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 requirement to enter Armed Knockout is the possession of a competition rifle - no other weapons.
2. Cadets will be brought to the competition floor and placed at double-arm interval in line formation. Brief instructions and a few practice commands will be given, then the competition starts. The event is a single-hit & out style event. Individuals will be eliminated one by one until only one cadet remains as the respective knockout champion in each division.
3. 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.
4. 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 and not touching the collar.

B. Judging & Scoring

1. This event will be judged by 20 or more judges throughout most of the event. Judges' decisions are considered 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. 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. 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. 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 **Army Nationals**, including forfeiture of any trophies earned at the **Army Nationals**. 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.
4. Knockout drills in general are a HIGHLY subjective form of individual drill. All experienced drill personnel know that a certain amount of luck is just as important as skill! 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.

C. Knockout Awards

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

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