

A Capital Event in a Capital City

25 schools compete at the National Capital Drill Classic

On March 21st, 1992 the inaugural National Capital Drill Classic provided a historic and exciting drill & ceremony competition for teams throughout the District of Columbia and its neighboring states. The prodigious DC National Guard and Armory Board hosted this solid 25-school contest. Many teams captured local or regional drill events before attending the NCDC.

The NCDC is sponsored by the US Army ROTC Cadet Command and supervised by national Event Manager Sports Network International. The event, in keeping with the goals and ideals of *Operation Capital*, provides drill units with a superior, all-service drill event to feature the fruits of their many hours of after-school hard work. Operation Capital is a dynamic Army program in which many inner-city cadets are given a number of positive activities in which to participate.

With a stirring opening ceremony and the appearance of the distinguished U.S. Army Old Guard Drill Team, the table was set early on for a memorable event. Strong schools provided an excellent competition in both Armed and Unarmed Divisions. Lake Clifton/Eastern H.S. and Oxon Hill H.S. were two of the earliest registering schools to attend the 1992 NCDC and their preparation paid off.

Armed Division

The Lake Clifton/Eastern Army JROTC unit from Baltimore, MD captured the Armed Division competition with an overall score of 3,695 points. Their White Knights drill team amassed this total through a first place finish in Team Inspection, a second place finish in Team Exhibition, and quality performances in both Regulation and Color Guard Drill.

Army JROTC unit Franklin Military School in Richmond, VA finished just 58 points behind the division champions with a total of 3,637 points. Their Imperial

Guard drill team was buoyed by a first place Team Exhibition performance and a third place finish in Color Guard Drill by only 3 points!

The Navy JROTC unit from Calvert H.S. in Prince Frederick, MD finished just 84 points behind the leader. The tenacity displayed by the scrappy Calvert H.S. team was unparalleled, gaining three out of four second place finishes that vaulted the Cavaliers drill team. Only a poor Team Exhibition performance thwarted an overall NCDC championship.

Other event champions included the Black Jacks from Lee County H.S. in Sanford, NC who captured the Regulation Drill competition and the Trojan Warriors from Gaithersburg H.S. in Gaithersburg, MD who captured the Color Guard event. Strong performances were also turned in by the Black's Gold drill team from Benedictine H.S. (VA) and the Crimson Tide drill team of Dunbar H.S. (DC).

Unarmed Division

Air Force JROTC unit Oxon Hill H.S. of Oxon Hill, MD seized both the Unarmed Division championship and runner-up crowns with a tremendous 4,033 score for the Blue Guards and a 3,812 point total by the Devastation drill team. The Blue Guard captured three of the four team events in very convincing fashion.

Forest Park H.S. of Baltimore, MD finished strong gathering the highest point total of all Army JROTC units in the 4th Brigade and a third place Unarmed Division finish overall. Along with capturing the Color Guard competition in the Unarmed Division, the Executioners drill team maintained a top five finish in every team event at the NCDC.

Other very strong finishers in the Unarmed Division included: the Yellow Jackets of Randolph-Macon Academy, VA (2nd place-Color Guard); the Chosen Few of



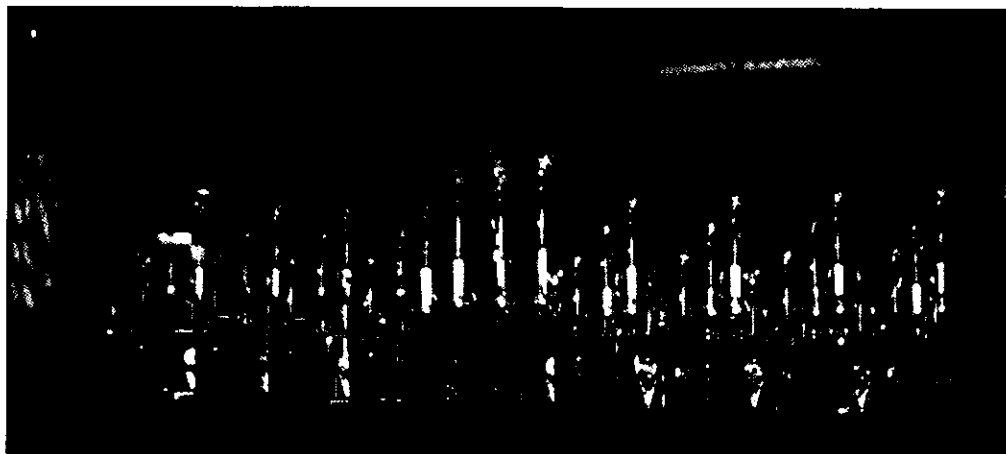
This signature 16' NCDC banner gives all teams an attractive photographic backdrop

Parkdale H.S., MD (3rd Place-Color Guard); the Justices of John Marshall H.S., VA (2nd Place-Regulation Drill); and the Lion's Battalion of Howard H.S., MD (3rd Place-Team Inspection).

By far the most outstanding element of the competition was the knockout drill. In this one-hit-and-out event, the tension level is always high. Despite the watchful eye of a sixteen member, all-service judging corps, both the Armed and Unarmed Knockout took on a marathon veneer. Many of the final cadets on the floor simply would not let themselves make a mistake and be "knocked out". This is a direct tribute to the concentration and determination shown by cadets at the NCDC.

Other memorable highlights included a powerful awards ceremony presided over by 4th Brigade Commander Colonel Andrew L. Jackson, Jr., as well as the presentation of stunning first through fifth place team trophies by Marine Corps Gunnery Sergeant Keith Williams. With team trophies unlike any others, as well as t-shirts, specially-minted medallions and 8" x 10" color team photos, along with competing in historic Washington, DC, the National Capital Drill Classic proved to be a great success and a fantastic experience for all who attended.

Due to the overwhelming success and demand of teams wishing to attend the 1993 National Capital Drill Classic, SNI will allow select teams from across the United States to attend this national event. All teams wishing to obtain additional informational on how to attend this exciting drill & ceremony competition should contact the Event Manager, Sports Network International (see page 2).



Beautiful trophies at the NCDC Awards Ceremony are a highlight of the competition -4-