

Big Time in the Big City

Strong rivalry from the 38 school competition field highlighted the 1993 National Capital Drill Classic

In the shadows of RFK Stadium, home of the Washington Redskins, the 1993 National Capital Drill Classic dazzled spectators and judges alike. The expansive DC National Guard Armory provided the perfect venue for a competition the size of the NCDC. Thirty-eight schools were in attendance, representing all four branches of the armed forces. While most teams attending this regional event were from the DC area, several schools attended from as far away as Tennessee and Florida. The gracious DC Capital Guardians and DC Armory Board hosted this prestigious youth competition.

The NCDC event is sponsored by the US Army ROTC Cadet Command and the US Army 4th Brigade. The event is overseen by national Event Manager, Sports Network International. The NCDC, in keeping with the goals and ideals of *Operation Capital*, gives all local and regional drill units a platform to display the outcome of their hard work and dedication. Operation Capital is a dynamic Army program to provide inner-city cadets with positive opportunities and recognition of their accomplishments.

The NCDC began with a rousing opening ceremony which featured remarks by 4th Brigade Commander, Colonel Joseph C. Dyer. The appearance of the illustrious U.S. Army Old Guard Drill Team brought the crowd to a familiar standing ovation for their stirring performance. This set the stage early on for an exciting confrontation among the 55 separate armed & unarmed teams in attendance.

Armed Division Competition Highlights

The Calvert HS Navy Junior ROTC unit from Prince Frederick, MD captured the always formidable Armed Division of the NCDC competition. The unit was well prepared by MGySgt. McCoy, capturing first place finishes in Inspection, Regulation Drill, and Unit Exhibition. The Cavaliers from Calvert HS dominated the Armed competition through early preparation and a great deal of hard work after a 3rd Place finish at the 1992 NCDC.

The Army Junior ROTC unit from **Benedictine HS** in Richmond, VA finished as divisional runner-up. Consistency played a major factor in the strong performance by the Black's Gold drill unit; maintaining 3 top five finishes out of the four team events.

Many other strong performances were on display within the Armed Division. These included a 1st and 2nd Place performance in Color Guard and Regulation Drill respectively by the Untouchables of **Forest Park HS**; a 3rd and 4th Place performance in Color Guard and Regulation Drill respectively by the 1992 NCDC Armed Division champion Untouchables of **Lake Clifton/Eastern HS**; a pair of 3rd Place finishes by the Young Guns of **Warren County HS**; a 2nd and 4th Place finish in Exhibition and Color Guard respectively by the Lords of Discipline of **Oxon Hill HS** and a 2nd place finish in Color Guard by the Talons from **Randolph Macon Academy**.

Unarmed Division Competition Highlights

The dynamic Air Force Junior ROTC unit from **Oxon Hill HS** of Oxon Hill, MD repeated their 1992 romp, capturing both championship and runner-up crowns in the Unarmed Division. The Devastation drill unit captured 1st Place in both Inspection and Exhibition events, as well as reaping a 5th Place Regulation Drill performance, just 97 points behind the 1st Place finisher in this tight competition. Their Blue Guard drill unit finished in the overall runner-up position by gaining three top four finishes.

Durham HS of Durham, NC finished 3rd overall. The Bullhorn Battalion drill team used their overall unit strength to capture their lofty finish, coming in no lower than 8th in all four Unarmed Division events.

Other strong finishers in the Unarmed Division included: a 1st and 3rd Place finish in Regulation and Color Guard Drill respectively by the Sarge's Drill Team of **Warren County HS**; a 2nd and 5th Place finish in Exhibition and Color Guard respectively by the Red Knights of **Lake Clifton/Eastern HS**; a 2nd Place performance by the Raiders of **Atholton HS** and a strong 3rd Place finish in the intense Inspection event by the Titans of **T.C. Williams HS**.

Under the watchful eye of the all-service judging corps, both Armed and Unarmed Knockouts put on display all of the intangibles that make these Junior ROTC youngsters among the finest in the nation. The drama that builds in this one-hit-and-out event is unparalleled.

Other memorable highlights included a powerful awards ceremony presided over by Brigadier General Julius F. Johnson, Commanding General of the U.S. Army First Region. His message of hard work bringing about rewards and giving your best effort, win-or-lose, were inspirational points impressed on the audience. The presentation of stunning team trophies by Marine Corps GySgt. Keith Williams was certainly looked forward to by all of the cadets. With team trophies unlike any others, as well as t-shirts, specially-minted medallions and 8" x 10" color team photos provided to every competing cadet, the National Capital Drill Classic has again proved to be a great success and a fantastic experience for all who attended.

NOTE: Due to the overwhelming success and demand from other teams wishing to attend this outstanding drill competition, SNI will again allow select teams from across the United States to attend the NCDC. For information on how to attend this exciting drill & ceremony event, contact Sports Network International at 800/327-9311.



The performance of the US Army Drill Team is greeted with celebrity status at the National Capital Drill Classic.