

A Capital Time at the NCDC

Impressive performances abound at the 1994 National Capital Drill Classic

With the spirits of Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln standing guard in the distance, competitors at the 1994 National Capital Drill Classic put on an impressive display of drill & ceremony excellence. The expansive DC National Guard Armory provided the perfect venue for a competition the size of the NCDC. Forty schools attended in 1994, representing all four major branches of the armed forces.

The NCDC continues to impress as a regional showcase for Junior ROTC talent. While most schools were from the DC area, several schools attended from as far away as Michigan, New York and Ohio. The hard work and support of the DC Capital Guardians and the DC Armory Board annually make this event possible. The DC Guard Armory provides the ideal venue to host this noteworthy competition.

The NCDC event is sponsored by the U.S. Army Cadet Command. The event is run by national Event Manager, Sports Network International. The NCDC is designed to provide schools throughout the Northeastern United States with an impressive, first-class regional drill competition.

The NCDC competition began with a stirring opening ceremony which featured the presentation of colors from all competing units and a brief opening speech from Brigadier General Thomas J. Konitzer, Commanding General of the 1st Region, US Army Cadet Command. Other notable highlights of the day included an incredible exhibition performance from the U.S. Coast Guard Drill Team. Their awesome display of precision and execution ended with a standing ovation for a job well done from the 1,000 cadets in the stands.

Armed Division Highlights

The Lincoln HS Marine Corps Junior ROTC unit from Yonkers, New York made the trip to the nation's capital and took no prisoners, capturing three first place finishes and missed out on a sweep by just 19 points; gaining a second in Unit Inspection. The team was well prepared for the NCDC and it showed. The Lancers drill team annually display their power at the Nationals in Daytona Beach and showed the same hard-nosed determination and rigid bearing in Washington, D.C., winning the Armed championship.

Well-rounded excellence provided the Air Force Junior ROTC unit from Oxon Hill HS in Oxon Hill, Maryland with the momentum to capture the divisional runner-up title. The Lords of Discipline held true to their name with top five placements in all four team events. This excellent finish was the cherry for the Oxon Hill program and capped off a solid season of accomplishments at numerous drill meets throughout the DC area.

Many other strong performances were on display within the Armed Division including: a 1st and 3rd Place performance in Inspection and Exhibition respectively, by the Black's Gold drill team of Benedictine High School (Army); a 3rd and 4th Place performance in Inspection and Color Guard respectively, by the Untouchables of Forest Park HS (Army); a pair of 2nd Place finishes in Regulation and Exhibition by the Indestructible Patriots of Freedom HS (Army); a strong 2nd place finish in Color Guard by the tough Black Knights drill team of Colonel White HS (Army); and a tough 3rd place Regulation finish for John Marshall HS (Army).



Knockout drill puts on display the esprit-de-corps that is the hallmark of Junior ROTC & the NCDC.

Unarmed Division Highlights

Never in the history of the NCDC has such a tight battle been fought for an overall championship. With 4,128 total points, the Lincoln HS Marine Corps unit captured the overall title by just 3 points over Oxon Hill HS. This hard fought victory came through overall strength rather than single event domination. The Lady Lancers captured only a single first place trophy, but also earned a second & two thirds to gain top three finishes in every event. This top finish allowed Lincoln High School to capture both the Armed and Unarmed championships.

The Oxon Hill HS drill unit defended their 1993 championship with grit and determination, but came up just short. Team Devastation was rolling, gaining a 1st Place finish in Exhibition and two 2nd Place finishes in Regulation and Color Guard. Only a weak showing by the Devastation drill unit in the Inspection competition prevented their capture of the overall Unarmed championship.

Other strong finishers in the Unarmed Division included: a 1st and 4th Place finish in Color Guard by the always-impressive Red & Blue Titans of T.C. Williams HS (Army); a 4th and 5th Place finish in Exhibition and Inspection respectively, by the Blue Knights of Lake Clifton/Eastern HS (Army); a strong 3rd Place finish in the intense Inspection competition by the Lion's Battalion of Howard HS (Army); and a strong overall performance by the Executioners of Forest Park HS captured the U.S. Army 4th Brigade trophy.

Under the watchful eye of the selfless and dedicated all-service judging corps, both Armed and Unarmed Knockouts were riveting and put on display all of the attributes that make Junior ROTC the finest young adult program in the nation. The pressure that can build in this one-hit-and-out event is unparalleled.

Other memorable highlights included a rousing closing awards ceremony presided over by Major General James M. Lyle, Commanding General of the U.S. Army Cadet Command. His important message of how to become a winner both on and off the drill floor were inspirational points impressed upon listeners of all ages.

Finally, the presentation of stunning team trophies by the head judges in each event topped off the evening. Overall, the 1994 National Capital Drill Classic proved to be a fantastic regional drill meet for all who attended. Many changes are underway for the 1995 NCDC. Teams eligible to attend have been mailed an invitation with this magazine. For more information on the 1995 NCDC, please contact Sports Network International at 800/327-9311.