

What a Capital Day!

Regional drill strength was on full display at the impressive 1995 National Capital Drill Classic

Spirited spectators, nervous instructors, and a packed competition field paved the way for the most exciting, competitive event in the history of the **National Capital Drill Classic**. The 1995 NCDC competition provided the ideal vehicle for many of the area's finest drill units to "strut their stuff". Schools now focus on the NCDC by putting in that extra effort in the hopes of winning "bragging rights" that go with being the big kid on the block!

The NCDC remains a showcase of regional JROTC talent with schools attending mainly from **Maryland, Virginia, Delaware and Washington, DC**. The NCDC event is held annually in late March and is sponsored by the **U.S. Army Cadet Command**. The event is run on-site by national Event Manager, **Sports Network International**.

The **DC National Guard Armory** provided a perfect venue for the record-setting competition field of 44 schools and 58 Armed and Unarmed competition teams. From the facility staff, all the way up to Armory **Commanding General, Russell C. Davis, USAF**, everyone continues to go out of their way to ensure that each participant is treated as an honored guest of this historic military facility.

Support for the NCDC is also extended through the **DC Capital Guardians**, the **DC Armory Board**, as well as the **97th ARCOM**, the **80th Training Division**, the **Air Force Honor Guard** and our longtime friends within the Washington area **Marine Corps** stations. Recognition for a job well-done goes out to the members of the ROTC unit at **Howard University** who provided the necessary security during the single-day drill event. Without the support of all of these selfless individuals, the NCDC would not be possible.

The 1995 NCDC began with the colorful opening ceremony featuring the presentation and posting of the colors from all competing units, as well as a rousing opening speech from **Colonel Joseph C. Dyer**, Commander, US Army Cadet Command, 4th Brigade. Other notable highlights of the event included an incredible exhibition performance from the **U.S. Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon**. The precision of this thrilling exhibition unit held the 2,000 spectators in a silence which was punctuated by a well-deserved standing ovation at the conclusion of their stirring show.



Armed Division Highlights

In the tightest competition in the 4-year history of the NCDC, **Forest Park High School** from Baltimore, Maryland captured the overall Armed Division Championship title. Consistency was the key factor as the **Executioners** drill team captured a 1st place in Unit Inspection, two 3rd place finishes in Color Guard and Regulation Drill, and a 4th place in Exhibition Drill in the four team events. Amassing a total of 4,123 overall points, Forest Park held off their nearest rival by a **scant 23 points** to gain the school their first-ever Division Championship.

Benedictine HS from Richmond, Virginia gave everything they had and came within a whisker of taking home the gold. Capturing a 1st place (Exhibition), a 2nd place (Inspection), a 4th place (Color Guard) and a 5th place (Regulation), the hard-charging **Black's Gold** drill team improves every year and continues to finish well at both Regional and National drill levels.

Coming in 3rd place overall in the tight Armed Division, **T.C. Williams HS** from Alexandria, Virginia displayed their standard of drill excellence, capturing a 1st (Color Guard), a 2nd (Regulation) and two 3rd place finishes (Inspection and Exhibition). The **Armageddon Blue** drill unit fell short of a 2nd place overall finish by only 6 points, but their performance was outstanding and deserving of recognition.

Other top Armed performances were turned in by: **Oak Ridge Military Academy** (1st place Regulation, 2nd place Exhibition and 4th place Inspection); **John Marshall HS** (2nd place Color Guard & 5th place Inspection); **Woodbridge HS** (4th place Regulation); **Magruder HS** (5th place Color Guard); and **Lake Clifton/Eastern HS** (5th place Exhibition).

Unarmed Division Highlights

T.C. Williams High School from Alexandria, Virginia displayed the poise and talent that makes them an annual force on the drill circuit, winning the always-tough Unarmed Division competition at the NCDC. The **Armageddon Red** drill unit featured an outstanding Regulation Drill performance, capturing that event. The team also earned 4th place finishes in both Color Guard and Exhibition Drill competitions, winning the Division championship by 140 points with an overall total of 4,046 points.

Annual contender **Lake Clifton/Eastern HS** gained the Division runner-up crown. The **Blue Knights** drill team captured the Inspection competition and placed 2nd in the Unarmed Exhibition event. The runner-up title was won over third place finisher **Forest Park HS** by a scant 15 overall points. The **Untouchables** of Forest Park gained two 3rd place finishes (Inspection & Regulation) and a 5th place (Color Guard) finish, with only a sub-par Exhibition routine keeping this powerhouse unit from winning the division.

Other strong finishers in the Unarmed Division included: a 1st place Exhibition and a 4th place Regulation finish by always-impressive **Dover HS**; a 2nd place Inspection and a 3rd place Exhibition finish by **Southern HS**; a 1st place Color Guard and 4th place Inspection finish by **Howard HS**; and a 2nd place Regulation and 3rd place Color Guard finish by **Patrick County HS**.

Other overall team awards included the **4th Brigade Championship Award**, awarded to the Armed Division champion **Executioners** drill team from **Forest Park High School**. Additionally, the inaugural **Mayor's Trophy**, awarded to the highest finishing JROTC unit in Washington, D.C., went to the **Coolidge Colts** drill unit from **Calvin Coolidge High School**. The trophy and a brief inspirational speech were presented at the event by **D.C. Mayor Marion Barry**.

Other memorable moments at the NCDC included poignant closing words by **Major General James M. Lyle**, Commanding General of the U.S. Army Cadet Command. His brief "*Hua*" speech left everyone in attendance with a real sense of what being a Junior ROTC cadet is all about. Finally, the presentation of the beautiful NCDC team trophies ended an outstanding day that will be remembered for a lifetime.

Sports Network International would like to thank everyone who makes the NCDC an annual part of their drill calendar. We remain humbled by the efforts that many schools undertake to attend the NCDC and are thrilled to be a part of this truly worthwhile event.