

America's Future Shines in DC!

Regional JROTC drill strength was the order of the day at the impressive 1996 National Capital Drill Classic

With a packed competition field and many anxious instructors and spectators looking on, cadets took to the drill floor to shine at the **National Capital Drill Classic**. The 5th annual 1996 NCDC competition gave well over 1,000 cadets the opportunity to test their mettle among their peers throughout the Army's 1st Region, 4th Brigade. Now focusing on the NCDC with extra effort, schools hope to win the "bragging rights" that go with being the best kid on the block!

The NCDC is a showcase of regional JROTC talent with schools attending from **Maryland, Virginia, Delaware and Washington, DC**. The NCDC event is held annually in March and is sponsored by the **U.S. Army Cadet Command**. The event is run on-site by national Event Manager, **Sports Network International with the strong support of U.S. Army 1st Region, 4th Brigade**.

The **DC National Guard Armory** provided a perfect venue for the competition field of 39 schools and 54 Armed and Unarmed teams. From the facility staff, all the way up to Armory **Commanding General, Warren Freeman**, everyone continues to go out of their way to ensure that each participant at the NCDC 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 **U.S. Army Old Guard for their excellent judging support**. Without the support of these units, the NCDC would not be possible. Special thanks also go out to the always-impressive U.S. Air Force and U.S. Coast Guard Honor Guards for their participation in this exciting regional drill event.

The 1996 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 Dennis J. Kennedy**, US Army, 1st Region, 4th Brigade Commander. Other notable highlights of the event included an incredible exhibition performance from the **U.S. Air Force Honor Guard and the U.S. Coast Guard Honor Guard**. The precision and overall excellence they put on display gave the 2,000 spectators a real treat during the mid-day judge's break.



Armed Division Highlights

In a dogfight for the top-spot, competition was fierce in the Armed Division once again. **Forest Park High School** from Baltimore, Maryland captured the overall Armed Division Championship title. Overall strength was the key factor as the **Executioners** drill team capturing three 1st place finishes (Unit Inspection, Regulation Drill, and Exhibition Drill) and a single 3rd place finish (Color Guard). Their finish was even stronger overall than their 1995 Championship performance. Amassing a total of 3,899 overall points, Forest Park held off their nearest rival by just **138 points**.

T.C. Williams HS from Alexandria, Virginia gave a strong performance coming just short of winning both the Armed and Unarmed Divisions. Capturing a 1st place finish (Color Guard), two 2nd place finishes (Inspection & Regulation), and a 3rd place (Exhibition) finish, the well-balanced **Armageddon Blue** drill team captured the Armed Runner-Up title and continues to impress every year. T.C. Williams took their strong overall showing at the NCDC and put forth the same impressive effort one month later at the Nationals in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Coming in 3rd place overall in the tight Armed Division, **Benedictine HS** from Richmond, Virginia displayed a strong finish, capturing both 2nd place (Exhibition) and 4th place (Regulation). The **Black's Gold** drill team displayed consistent strength in all areas.

Other top Armed performances were turned in by: **Woodbridge HS** (3rd place Inspection and Regulation, 5th place Exhibition); **St. John's College HS** (2nd place Color Guard); **Dover HS** (4th place Inspection); **Ballou HS** (4th place Color Guard); and **Forestville HS** (4th place Exhibition).

Unarmed Division Highlights
T.C. Williams High School from Alexandria, Virginia roared to life again at the 1996 NCDC, displaying the talent that earned them a repeat championship in the Unarmed Division. The **Armageddon Red** drill unit was buoyed by an outstanding Color Guard performance, capturing that tough event convincingly. The team also earned a 4th place finish in Inspection, winning the Division championship by just 104 points with an overall total of 3,782 points.

Hard-charger **Howard HS** from Ellicott City, Maryland gained the Division runner-up crown. The **Lion's Battalion** earned their superb ranking by capturing both 2nd place (Color Guard) and 4th place (Regulation). The runner-up title was won over third place finisher **Thomas Walker HS** by a scant 23 overall points. The **Pioneer Battalion** of Ewing, Virginia gained a 1st place finish (Regulation) and a 5th place (Exhibition).

Other strong finishers in the Unarmed Division included: a 1st place Inspection and a 5th place Regulation finish by impressive **Lackey HS**; 2nd place (Exhibition & Regulation), 1st place (Exhibition) by **Fairmont Heights HS**; 2nd place (Inspection) by **Forest Park HS**; 3rd place (Inspection) by **Caroline HS**; 3rd place (Regulation) by **McDonough HS**; 3rd place (Color Guard) by **Patrick County HS**; and 3rd place (Exhibition) by tough **Dover HS**.

Other overall team awards included the **4th Brigade Trophy**, presented to the **Armageddon Red** drill team from **T.C. Williams High School**. Additionally, the **Mayor's Trophy**, awarded to the highest finishing JROTC unit in Washington, D.C., went for the second year to the **Colts** drill unit from **Calvin Coolidge High School**. The presentation featured a brief inspirational speech by **D.C. Mayor, Marion Barry**.

Other memorable moments at the NCDC included positive & poignant closing words by **Major General James M. Lyle**, outgoing Commanding General of the U.S. Army Cadet Command. His heartfelt speech gave those in attendance a strong message of inspiration and a true sense of what Junior ROTC is all about. Finally, the presentation of the beautiful NCDC team trophies ended a fantastic and exciting day for everyone involved.

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.