

A Capital Event in the Nation's Capital!

Washington-area Junior ROTC drill teams are the stars at the impressive 1997 National Capital Drill Classic

THE 6TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CAPITAL DRILL CLASSIC GAVE 38 U.S. ARMY 1ST REGION, 4TH BRIGADE SCHOOLS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHINE AT THIS PREMIER REGIONAL DRILL COMPETITION.

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 55 Armed and Unarmed drill teams. From the facility staff, all the way to **Armory Commanding General, Warren Freeman**, everyone worked very hard to ensure that each participant at the NCDC was treated as an honored guest at this historic military/community facility.

The NCDC began with the trademark colorful opening ceremony featuring the presentation and posting of the colors from all competing units. The event was officially kicked off with a brief inspirational opening speech by **Colonel Dennis J. Kennedy**, U.S. Army, 1st Region, 4th Brigade Commander.

The four team events comprising the NCDC (Inspection, Regulation, Color Guard and Exhibition) provide a strong test of the overall mettle of both armed and unarmed teams. Overall awards, as well as placements within each of the team events, are often won by just a few total points.

Armed Division Highlights

Once again, competition was fierce throughout the division. It came down to the final event but when the dust had settled, **Forest Park High School** from Baltimore, Maryland re-captured the overall Armed Division Championship title for the third consecutive year. Overpowering strength in exhibition drill was the key factor as the **Untouchables** drill team finished no lower than fourth place in every team event. Their overall strength was needed as Forest Park's 3,600 total points held off their nearest rival by **just 62 points**.



Major General Stuart W. Wallace, Commanding General, US Army Cadet Command, congratulates Thomas Edison High School cadet and NCDC Knockout medallion winner, Zareen Jafil.

T.C. Williams HS from Alexandria, Virginia gave a strong performance coming just short of winning both the Armed and Unarmed Divisions. Capturing two 1st place finishes (Inspection & Regulation) and a 3rd place finish (Color Guard), only a poor score in exhibition drill kept the **Armageddon Blue** drill team from capturing the Armed title. The well-rounded Forest Park and T.C. Williams programs 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.

Earning 3rd place overall in the Armed Division, **Thomas Stone HS** from Waldorf, Maryland finished strong, placing 5th in three events (Regulation, Color Guard and Exhibition).

Other strong Armed performances were on display by: **Massanutten MA** (2nd place in Regulation and 3rd in Inspection); **St. John's College HS** (1st in Color Guard, 3rd place Regulation and 5th place Inspection); **Woodbridge HS** (2nd place Inspection); and **Benedictine HS** (2nd place Exhibition).

Unarmed Division Highlights

In the closest scoring in military drill history, **Thomas Walker High School** from Ewing, Virginia put together a balanced attack to capture the overall Unarmed Division title **BY A SINGLE POINT!** Displaying positive motivation and skill, the **Pioneer Battalion** drill team featured outstanding balance in winning the overall Unarmed championship *without capturing a single team event!* The team earned a 2nd place finish in Exhibition and two 5th place finishes in Inspection and Color Guard, building on their very strong event runner-up placement the year before.

Returning champion **T.C. Williams H.S.** missed out on a repeat championship by a single point. Despite capturing 1st place in Unarmed Regulation and 2nd place in Color Guard, the **Armageddon Red** drill team came up just short in their bid to repeat as Unarmed Division champions. Their strong effort typifies why their overall drill program remains one of the finest in the nation.

Earning 3rd place overall within the Unarmed Division was perennial NCDC top-finisher **Howard H.S.** from Ellicott City, Maryland. The dynamic **Lion Battalion** grabbed both a 4th place in Inspection and a 5th place in Regulation. This unit continues to improve and should be in top contention for the overall title at next year's event.

Many other strong finishers in the Unarmed Division included: **McDonough HS** (1st place Inspection, 3rd place Color Guard); **Parkdale HS** (2nd place Inspection, 5th place Exhibition); **Thomas Stone HS** (3rd place Inspection, 4th place Color Guard); **Huguenot HS** (1st Place Color Guard); **Denbigh HS** (1st Place Exhibition); and **Massanutten MA** (2nd place Regulation).

Also awarded was the **Mayor's Trophy**, given to the highest finishing JROTC unit in Washington, D.C.. This went to the local hard chargers from **Dunbar High School**. The presentation featured an inspirational speech by event guest, **DC Mayor, Marion Barry**.

Support for the NCDC is put forth by the **DC Capital Guardians**, the **DC Armory Board**, as well as the **Military District of Washington**. Additionally, the members of the **U.S. Army Old Guard - Bravo Company** gave a fantastic effort judging this exciting regional drill event. Without the effort of these groups, the NCDC would not be possible. A special thanks should also go out to the **U.S. Army Drill Team** who gave a dazzling display of unique precision exhibition drill.

Other memorable moments at the NCDC included a highly positive closing speech by **MG Stuart W. Wallace**, Commanding General of the U.S. Army Cadet Command. His important closing words hit a home run with the many cadets, instructors and parents in attendance. Lastly, the 44 impressive NCDC team trophies were presented to top finishing teams, thereby ending an exciting day for the schools who were a part of the 1997 NCDC.

Sports Network International would like to thank everyone who annually makes the NCDC a special part of their drill calendar. We remain humbled by the efforts so many schools undertake to attend the exciting NCDC.