

Washington DC area JROTC teams reach for the stars at the dynamic regional...

1998 National Capital Drill Classic

THE 7TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CAPITAL DRILL CLASSIC GAVE U.S. ARMY 1ST REGION, 4TH BRIGADE schools THE ABILITY TO PUT IT ALL ON THE LINE AT THIS SHOWCASE REGIONAL DRILL EVENT.

The NCDC once again brought forth the competitive fire for regional JROTC talent in the **Washington, DC area**. 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 grand setting for the competition field of 33 Armed and Unarmed drill teams. From the facility staff, all the way to **Armory Commanding General, Warren Freeman**, everyone connected with the Armory worked very hard to ensure that the NCDC was presented in a first-class manner.

The 1998 NCDC began with the distinctive "Parade of Colors". This opening ceremony features the presentation & posting of the colors from all of the competing units. The event was then officially kicked-off by **Colonel Alex B. McKindra**, U.S. Army Commander, 1st Region, 4th Brigade.

Four team events comprise the team scoring for the NCDC within both armed and unarmed divisions (Inspection, Regulation, Color Guard and Exhibition). This schedule makes for a very full event at this one-day drill meet. Overall awards, as well as placements within each of the team events, are often won by just a few total points.



The NCDC Opening Ceremony kicks off with colors unfurled under the direction of Army Colonel Alex B. McKindra, Commander, 1st Region, 4th Brigade.

Armed Division

Team scores were tight within the Armed Division making for nervous cadets! Mistakes made the difference as **Thomas Stone H.S.** from Waldorf, Maryland built on their 3rd place overall finish in 1997 and rallied to capture the Armed Division Championship. Led by **CSM Charles Henson**, a hugely impressive Regulation Drill score was the key factor as the **Blue Cougars** grabbed two first place finishes in Regulation and Exhibition drill. Amassing a 3,962 point total, Thomas Stone needed every point as they held off the field by a scant 55 point overall margin.

T.C. Williams HS from Alexandria, Virginia gave another strong overall performance coming just short of winning the Armed Division. Capturing two 1st place finishes (Inspection & Color Guard) and a 2nd place finish (Regulation), only a low score in exhibition drill kept the **Armageddon Blue** drill team from capturing the Armed title.

Earning 3rd place overall in the Armed Division, annual top finisher **Forest Park HS** from Baltimore, Maryland finished strong, placing 3rd in both Inspection & Exhibition events. The **Untouchables** drill team is expected to come back strong at the 1999 event and provide a serious challenge to all of the top schools looking for a championship.

Other strong Armed performances were on display by: **St. John's College HS** (3rd place Color Guard, 4th place Regulation, 5th place Inspection); **West Potomac HS** (2nd place Color Guard & 5th place Exhibition); **Woodrow Wilson HS/VA** (3rd place Regulation & 4th place Color Guard) and **Woodbridge HS** (4th place Inspection & Exhibition).

Unarmed Division

Like a speeding train, the unarmed team from **T.C. Williams H.S.** of Alexandria, Virginia put together a massive onslaught and crushed their peers by the largest overall margin in recent NCDC history. Grabbing two 1st place finishes (Regulation, Color Guard), a 2nd place (Exhibition) and a 5th place (Inspection), the strong

Armageddon Red drill team was up to the challenge as always at the 1998 NCDC. Led by drill team instructor **1SG LaGrant Smith**, T.C. Williams re-captured their Unarmed Division championship with a vengeance after finishing in 2nd place overall by a single point in 1997.

Returning champion **Thomas Walker H.S.** came up short in their quest to repeat as Unarmed Division champions in 1998. Trophy-level performances in Inspection (2nd place) and Exhibition (3rd place) were excellent as the **Pioneer Battalion** drill team produced another strong overall effort at the NCDC. Their strong finish and solid effort has become expected from this group of top-notch drillers!

Finishing 3rd place overall within the Unarmed Division was **Thomas Stone HS**. The Gold Cougars scored high overall with three 6th place finishes. Other strong Unarmed finishers included: **Howard HS** (1st place Inspection); **Forestville HS** (1st place Exhibition); **West Potomac HS** (2nd place Regulation); **Martinsville HS** (2nd place Color Guard); **Denbigh HS** (3rd place Inspection); **Forest Park HS** (3rd place Regulation); and **St. Johns College HS** (3rd place Color Guard).

Also awarded was the **Mayor's Trophy**, presented to the highest finishing JROTC unit in Washington, D.C. The 1998 trophy went to the local powerhouse program from **Eastern High School**.

Support for the NCDC is led by the **Military District of Washington** who assist in providing members of the judging corps from the **U.S. Army Old Guard**. These hard working professionals gave another fantastic effort judging this exciting drill event. Without the help of these role models, the NCDC would not be possible. A special thanks should also go out to the **U.S. Army Drill Team** who gave a show-stopping display of dazzling precision exhibition drill.

Other memorable moments at the NCDC included the Commanding of the Colors by **C/COL Sampson Marshall** and the reciting of the Cadet Creed by **C/LTC James Ford**. Lastly, the 44 stunning NCDC team trophies were presented to top finishing teams, thereby ending an exciting day for the schools who were a part of the 1998 NCDC.

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