

National Capital Drill Classic

U.S. ARMY 4TH BRIGADE,
1ST REGION CHAMPIONSHIPS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

When the cool winds blow through the cherry blossom trees lining the tidal basin in front of the Jefferson Memorial in the Nation's Capital, everyone knows -- **IT'S TIME TO DRILL!** The **DC National Guard Armory** provided a wonderful, historic setting for the competition field of 32 schools to display the fruits of their sweat and dedication.

The NCDC begins with the impressive "Parade of Colors" Opening Ceremony. This ceremony, led by **C/Major Hope Williams** of Woodrow Wilson H.S., featured the presentation & posting of the colors from all competing units. The event was then officially kicked-off with by brief speeches by **Commanding General Stewart W. Wallace**, U.S. Army Cadet Command and **Mr. Todd A. Weiler**, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Army Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

Four team events in both the Armed and Unarmed Divisions comprise the NCDC team scoring. These events are: Unit Inspection, Platoon Regulation, Color Guard & Platoon Exhibition. A tight competition schedule makes for a long day of exciting team performances at this single-day 4th Brigade Championship drill event.

Armed Division

Some things change and some things stay the same every year at any drill meet. One constant at the NCDC is the strength of **Thomas Stone H.S.** from **Waldorf, Maryland** who repeated as Brigade Armed Champions with a truly overpowering effort. Readied by **CSM Charles Henson**, the **Cougars Blue** drill team earned first place finishes in Regulation and Color Guard along with 3rd place Inspection and 4th place Exhibition Drill finishes. Thomas Stone stomped their competitors in one of the largest margins of victory ever seen in the overall scoring at the NCDC.

Showing off the all-around versatility and strength that has become their trade-mark, **T.C. Williams H.S.** from **Alexandria, Virginia** finished a solid 2nd within the Armed Division. The **Armageddon Red** drill team captured trophies in three of the four team events (2nd place-Regulation and Color Guard; 5th place-Exhibition) and just missed a trophy in Inspection.

Earning a 3rd place overall finish, **Woodbridge Senior H.S.** from **Woodbridge, Virginia** continues to improve and is a force to watch for at the 2000 NCDC. The Armed Division was filled with other top performances high-lighted by: **Dunbar H.S.** (1st place Exhibition); **Liberty H.S.** (1st place Inspection, 4th place Color Guard); **Lake Clifton/Eastern HS** (3rd place Exhibition) and **Manchester H.S.** (3rd place Color Guard).

Unarmed Division

Hitting on all cylinders, **T.C. Williams H.S.** surpassed their Armed Division success with the Unarmed Division Championship. Led by drill team instructor **1SG LaGrant Smith**, the **Armageddon Blue** drill team repeated their 1998 championship and came out of the chute fast in their core disciplines, gaining 1st place in both Inspection and Regulation events and also gaining a 3rd place finish in both Color Guard and Exhibition.



Along with guest speaker, Commanding General Stewart Wallace, DC Mayor Anthony Williams presents the Mayor's Trophy to Anacostia H.S., received here by cadet James Ford.

Improving one place from 1998, **Thomas Stone H.S.** coupled their Armed Overall win with an Unarmed Runner-up title. The **Cougars Gold** top finish came from well-rounded performances in all areas (1st place Color Guard, 3rd place Regulation, 4th place Exhibition and 5th place Inspection).

Finishing a distant 3rd place overall within the Unarmed Division was **Lake Clifton/Eastern HS** from **Baltimore, Maryland**. Other strong finishes included: **Forestville H.S.** (1st place Exhibition); **Howard H.S.** (2nd place Inspection, 4th place Color Guard); **Martinsville H.S.** (2nd place Regulation, 4th Inspection); **Woodrow Wilson H.S.** (2nd place Color Guard) and **Thomas Walker H.S.** (3rd place Inspection).

The evening culminated with a pressure-filled Awards Ceremony that had everyone in the nail-biting mode. Powerful closing speeches were put forth by **General Stewart W. Wallace** and by Washington, D.C. Mayor **Anthony Williams**.

Along with all event team trophies, the **Mayor's Trophy** was presented to the highest finishing JROTC unit in Washington, D.C. The 1999 trophy went to top finisher **Anacostia H.S.**

Support for the NCDC begins at the top with D.C. Armory **Commanding General, Warren G. Freeman**. Without his strong support, the NCDC could not be presented in the first-class manner that the Armory provides. Also, the judging corps from the **U.S. Army Old Guard** gave another fantastic effort.

Sports Network would like to thank everyone who makes the NCDC a special part of their annual drill calendar. We are honored to produce this event for all the dedicated schools throughout the 4th Brigade and hope to see them all at the 2000 NCDC scheduled for **Saturday, March 11th** at the DC National Guard Armory.