

National Capital Drill Classic

When you think of Washington, DC, images of monuments and museums come to life on a grand scale. This national landscape was a fitting backdrop for the pagentry and polish of the 9th annual **National Capital Drill Classic**. The DC National Guard Armory provides an impressive home for this heralded JROTC drill event.

The NCDC field of 48 Army JROTC drill teams made for a busy and spirited one-day competition. The "Parade of Colors" Opening Ceremony started the day off with a colorful flair. A brief inspirational speech by **Commanding General Stewart W. Wallace**, U.S. Army Cadet Command, added an element of drama to the early morning event kick-off.

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 organization and motivation an important recipe for ultimate success.

Armed Division

A fiery rivalry has developed in Armed competition drill between Thomas Stone H.S. and T.C. Williams H.S. The 2000 NCDC was no exception as **T.C. Williams HS** from Alexandria, Virginia powered their way to the Armed Division Championship by just a single placement point! Led by **1SG LaGrant Smith**, the **Armageddon Red** drill team earned 1st place finishes in both Inspection & Regulation and a strong 2nd place finish in Color Guard, but a 6th place finish in Exhibition nearly cost them a title.

Finishing as the division runner-up, **Thomas Stone HS** from Waldorf, Maryland just missed in retaining their previous year division championship. The **Blue Cougars** drill team finished exactly one place behind T.C. Williams in each of the three basic events (Inspection, Regulation and Color Guard) and also gained a 4th place exhibition finish. Their solid finishes almost pulled them to the top and sets up a real showdown in 2001.

Repeating their 1999 finish as 3rd place overall, **Woodbridge Sr. HS** from Woodbridge, Virginia grabbed 3rd again. Displaying strength in all areas, Woodbridge featuring a stunning 1st place finish in Armed Exhibition drill.

The Armed Division was filled with other top performances highlighted by: **Liberty HS** (1st place Color Guard); **Fairmont Heights HS** (2nd place Exhibition); **Dunbar Sr. HS** (3rd place Exhibition) and **Lake Clifton/Eastern HS** (3rd place Regulation).

Unarmed Division

Hitting on all cylinders, **T.C. Williams HS** blew away the competition in a runaway Unarmed Division Championship. The **Armageddon Blue** drill team repeated their 1998 & 1999 championships, winning every team event except Unarmed Exhibition where they grabbed a 2nd place finish.

Overall preparation and determination led **Thomas Walker HS** to a much improved finish at the 2000 NCDC. The **Pioneers** won the tie-breaker (more overall points) for the runner-up crown, paced by strong finishes in Color Guard (2nd place) and Regulation (3rd place).

Gaining 3rd place overall within the Unarmed Division was **Forestville HS** from Forestville, Maryland. The hard-nosed **Silver Knights** drill team finished well across the board, gaining a 1st place Exhibition, a 2nd

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place Inspection, and a 3rd place Color Guard finish. Only an 8th place in Regulation performance cost them a clear runner-up title.

Other top finishes in the Unarmed Division included: **Thomas Stone HS** (three top 5 finishes); **West Potomac HS** (3rd place Inspection); **Howard HS** (2nd place Regulation, 5th place Inspection) and **Denbigh HS** (3rd place Exhibition, 4th place Regulation).

Knockout drills preceded the tense NCDC Awards Ceremony. Powerful closing words were delivered by **General Wallace** and the **Mayor's Trophy** was presented to the highest finishing JROTC unit in Washington, D.C. This trophy went to returning city champion, **Anacostia HS**.

The NCDC has grown and thrives under the tremendous support of **D.C. Armory Commanding General, Warren G. Freeman**. Without his efforts, the NCDC would not be presented in the first-class manner that has become the standard. Also, the judging corps from the **U.S. Army Old Guard** gave another fantastic effort for the cadets.

Sports Network would like to thank everyone who makes the NCDC the impressive event it has become. The dedicated schools throughout the 1st Region, 4th Brigade are already tightening their boot straps getting ready for the 10th annual NCDC scheduled for **Saturday, March 17th, 2001**.



T.C. Williams HS of Alexandria, Virginia is the reigning powerhouse at the NCDC. Capturing both Armed & Unarmed Overall titles, the Armageddon Red & Blue teams have set the standard in the nation's capital.