

Army GREEN Dominates the Day

The NCDC competition was a tough test but 1st Region, 4th Brigade Army JROTC programs stepped up to the challenge and more during this single-day drill meet

Like a green tidal wave washing over the shoreline, the 11th Annual National Capital Drill Classic brought together nearly one thousand motivated Army JROTC cadets from Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, Maryland and the District of Columbia for a day of competition drill. The NCDC competition field of twenty-nine schools and forty-nine teams worked hard to impress their peers, making for many outstanding performances at this showcase drill & ceremony event.

ARMED DIVISION

Two schools distanced themselves from the pack and tied for the quality points lead within the Armed Division. With their raw score breaking the tie (a 35-point margin out of a total 4,800 points available!), the drill team from **CAPITAL HS** in **CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA** pushed hard to capture the razor-thin victory prepared for competition by **SGM Ray Dillon**, the **CAPITAL COUGARS** drill team. Tropheied in all four team events while capturing 1st place within Regulation & Exhibition events. In just their first year at the NCDC event, this hard-working unit dazzled the crowd with a perfect blend of hard-nosed discipline and crowd-pleasing showmanship!

Just missing an Armed division championship title, **LIBERTY HS** from **BEALETON, VIRGINIA** was painfully close to gaining their first-ever NCDC crown for the second straight year! Despite repeating as Inspection and Color Guard champs, the **EAGLES** drill team tropheied in every event but fell short in the total points tie-breaker. 2003 could be their year as the team is poised for excellence once again!

Many other schools within the Armed Division put forth noteworthy, top-drawer drill performances. These included:

THOMAS STONE HS (2nd-Regulation, 5th-Inspection & Color Guard); **FORESTVILLE HS** (2nd-Exhibition); **WEST POTOMAC HS** (2nd-Color Guard, 4th-Regulation); **DENBIGH HS** (3rd-Inspection) **FAIRMONT HEIGHTS HS** (3rd-Exhibition) and **LAKE CLIFTON/EASTERN HS** (5th-Exhibition).

UNARMED DIVISION

While nothing like the three-way tie for first place that shook the field in 2001, 2002 brought **FORESTVILLE HS** from **FORESTVILLE, MARYLAND** into dominance as the Unarmed Division Champion. Paced by a 1st place finish in Inspection and a 2nd place finish in Exhibition, the **SILVER KNIGHTS** drill team worked exceptionally hard against a very talented competition field. Trained by the ebullient and tireless **ISG Gwen White**, Forestville expanded their previous exhibition prowess into a more well-rounded drill team and captured their first overall championship at the NCDC.

A tie for quality points between perennial powers **THOMAS STONE HS** (Waldorf, Maryland) and **T.C. Williams HS** (Alexandria, Virginia) left both teams tense at the awards ceremony. Paced by their bread & butter strength of basic drill, the **Cougar Gold** drill team from

THOMAS STONE HS captured the runner-up title with a strong 2nd place in both Inspection and Regulation, and a 4th place in Color Guard. The **ARMAGEDDON BLUE** drill team from **T.C. WILLIAMS HS** earned a 1st place Color Guard, but 7th place finishes in Inspection and Exhibition cost the fine team a chance at a higher finish.

Other top finishes in Unarmed included: **DENBIGH HS** (1st-Exhibition); **MCDONOUGH HS** (1st-Regulation); **WOODBRIDGE HS** (2nd-Color Guard); **HOWARD HS** (3rd-Regulation & Color Guard); **FOREST PARK HS** (3rd-Exhibition) and **WEST POTOMAC HS** (3rd-Inspection).

Both drill competitions are held at the beautiful Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex in the shadow of the Nation's Capital in nearby Landover, Maryland.

Spirited Knockout Drills preceded a tense NCDC Awards Ceremony. Heart-felt closing words were delivered by **SGM RAYNARD L. PALMER**, Special Projects Director, US Army, 1st Region, 4th Brigade.

Sports Network International wishes to thank everyone who continues to help make the National Capital Drill Classic the impressive event that it has become. The 2003 NCDC event looks even better as early interest from throughout the

Brigade is high and advance work with the Army Old Guard should ensure the finest judging corps ever assembled for the event! Bigger and better changes are on the horizon for the NCDC in 2003 and beyond. As event details are finalized, they will be immediately posted on the official SNI drill homepage: <http://drill.thenationals.net>.

Good luck to all Army Junior ROTC units across the nation as you prepare your drill teams and march proudly into the 2002-2003 school year and competition drill season.



Forestville High School from Forestville, Maryland cadet commanders proudly salute in front of the wall of trophies their teams earned at the 2002 NCDC.