

U.S. ARMY CADET COMMAND

Army brass was everywhere, the bleachers were packed, the schools were fully motivated and they did not disappoint! with a MEGA-HOOAH! This National event continues to impress as the Eastern & Western Region Championships bring

Eastern Region Championships - Landover, Maryland

The day following the "Air Force Nationals" drill competition, 2,000 cadets, parents and instructors filled the Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex with spotless Class "A" uniforms for the **U.S. Army Cadet Command Championships**. Focused and eager cadets filled the venue as the championship was in sight for 49 Army Junior ROTC units from throughout the Eastern Region. These well-prepared schools came to battle in the hopes of gaining bragging rights by capturing the Eastern Region Army JROTC Championship!

With scores of qualified judges brought in by the Eastern Region HQ, the tension was high! No feeling compares with competing against your peers and the "Army Nationals" continues to give every cadet the unique experience of having every command and movement scrutinized not only by the scoring judges, but by everyone in the building!



Eastern Division Army Nationals top finishers with Official Party (left to right): McNair Academic HS (Unarmed Division Runner-up), Francis Lewis HS (Unarmed Division Champion); Col. Robert Frusha, U.S. Army Eastern Region Commander; CSM Michael Peters, CSM, U.S. Army Eastern Region Cadet Command; Xavier HS (Armed Division Champion); Carver HS (Armed Division Runner-Up).

ARMED DIVISION

A huge field of exceptional drill talent made for an exciting, wide-open Armed Division competition. With the unknown factor of the academic exam inclusion this year, few schools could predict the outcome. That said, the big chase came down to just two schools. **Xavier HS** from **New York, New York** guaranteed victory in advance of the event on the Army Nationals Yahoo! chat room and they backed up their talk with a convincing victory! The **X-Squad** showed great all-around strength, gaining no 1st place finishes but earning numerous trophies, finishing no lower than 6th in any event to win the overall Armed Championship.

Just missing the championship title was **Carver HS** from **Winston-Salem, North Carolina**. Capturing 1st place in all three basic drill events (Inspection, Regulation & Color Guard), along with grabbing a 2nd place finish in Exhibition, the victory was in sight! But a tough 16th place finish in the Academic Exam competition cost the **Blue Jackets** drill team the overall title. No doubt the team will be back stronger than ever as the grit they showed will have them even more ready in 2006!

The 3rd place Overall Armed Division title was taken by the well-rounded unit from **Francis Lewis HS**. The **Patriot Guard** from **Fresh Meadows, New York** earned trophy finishes within Academics (2nd), Exhibition & Color Guard (4th), and Regulation (5th) to easily surpass their nearest competitors.

Other schools within the Armed Division who put forth impressive performances included: **McNair Academic HS** (1st-Academics); **Cranston HS East** (1st-Exhibition, 3rd-Inspection); **Oak Ridge MA** (2nd-Color Guard, 3rd-Regulation); **Liberty HS** (2nd-Inspection, 5th-Academics); **East Gadsden HS** (3rd-Color Guard), **Thomas Stone HS** (3rd-Academics), **Kenwood HS** (4th-Regulation) and **Long Island City HS** (5th-Inspection & Exhibition).

UNARMED DIVISION

A blow-out of epic proportions took control of the Unarmed Division early on, making the real competition for Division Runner-up as **Francis Lewis HS** from **Fresh Meadows, New York** improved on their Runner-up finish in 2004 to dominate the division in 2005. The **Patriot Pride** drill team captured every competition event with the exception of a 2nd place finish in Academics. It was, to date, the most dominant team performance ever witnessed at an Army Nationals Championship event.

A cluster of strong teams remained in the hunt as the scores were being tallied, but a 1st place finish in Academics helped to power **McNair Academic HS** from **Jersey City, New Jersey** into the Overall Runner-up finish. Combined with a pair of 2nd place finishes, the **Tanko-Woosas** drill team had enough overall strength to take home the Division Runner-Up trophy.

The 3rd place Overall Unarmed Division placement belonged to the hard-chargers from **Carver HS**. The **Gold Jackets** drill team earned trophy finishes within Exhibition (2nd), Inspection (3rd) and Color Guard (4th) to put distance between their unit and the rest of the strong field.

Other outstanding finishes in the Unarmed Division included: **Long Island City HS** (3rd-Exhibition & Academics, 4th-Inspection); **T.C. Williams HS** (3rd-Regulation, 5th-Inspection & Color Guard); **Forestville MA** (2nd-Inspection, 4th-Regulation); and **East Boston HS** (3rd-Color Guard, 5th-Regulation).

After an exciting Armed & Unarmed Knockout competition, a packed formation of cadets on the drill floor flanked by instructors & parents in the bleachers were eager to wrap this long day of competition. Spirited keynote words by **Colonel Robert J. Frusha**, Commander, Eastern Region, U.S. Army Cadet Command, gave everyone a sense of pride that someone in such an important position would take the time to be on hand! When all of the trophies were presented, everyone in attendance had the feeling of a job well done! Congratulations go to all of the schools competing at the Eastern Division of the Army Nationals!

2006 Eastern Region Championships
Saturday, March 25th - Macon, Georgia

The Eastern Region event heads to the South for one year in 2006. Demand is expected to be high so register quickly to lock up your competition space.

JROTC CHAMPIONSHIPS

Coming from throughout the US, many of the finest Army JROTC units put their best efforts on the line and came away thousands of cadets the opportunity to compete against the best of the best! We salute these outstanding programs!

Western Region Championships - College Station, Texas

With the unparalleled hospitality of the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets as a backdrop, 34 Army JROTC units traveled to College Station in March of 2005 to compete with honor at the **U.S. Army Cadet Command Championships**. Without question, Texas remains the home to the vast majority of the nation's finest Junior ROTC drill units, therefore the competition field at this Western Region Championship is always a distinguished roster of military drill excellence.

Judging strength was boldly increased this year with the help of both U.S. Army Western Region Cadet Command and the U.S. Army 12th Brigade. The knowledge and dedication of the judges were exceptional and their efforts added to the prestige of this exciting competition.

With over half of the competition field capable of winning the Overall Championship on any given day, an air of excitement hung throughout the venue when word emerged that event favorite Winston Churchill HS requested to have all of their event starts as early as possible in order to attend an evening school engagement in San Antonio. This major disadvantage would make it extremely difficult for the world famous Black Watch drill team to repeat as champions in 2005.

ARMED DIVISION

All the schools kept their eye on the San Antonio drill units with their reputation for excellence, but deciphering which will have "their day" is always the trick! Early on, no clear favorite jumped to the front. But as the day wore on, it was apparent that **Ronald Reagan HS** from **San Antonio, Texas** had the strength and consistency to grab the Armed Division Overall title. With three 2nd place finishes (Inspection, Regulation & Exhibition) the Rattler Guard drill team had more than enough firepower to veto the hard charge from the rest of the competition field.

The hunt for the Overall Runner-up title was extremely tight between two more powerhouse San Antonio programs. **Douglas MacArthur HS** captured 1st place finishes in both Inspection and Regulation, along with a solid 5th place finish in the Academic Exam. The **Blue Guard** drill unit held together just enough points in the other events to ward off the assault from always-tough **Theodore Roosevelt HS**. Their Color Guard garnered a 1st place finish, along with a 3rd place finish in Exhibition and a 4th place in Inspection. Ironically, both teams maintained 8th place finishes in every other event, leaving the **San Juan Guard** drill team a single quality point shy in 3rd place.

Other schools in the Armed Division who blazed with star quality included: **Winston Churchill HS** (1st-Academics, 3rd-Inspection); **J.H. Reagan HS** (1st-Exhibition); **Henry J. Kaiser HS** (2nd-Academics); **Trevor Browne HS** (2nd-Color Guard, 3rd-Academics); **J.H. Reagan HS** (3rd-Regulation, 5th-Inspection) and **James Madison HS** (4th Academics, 5th-Regulation).

2006 Western Region Championships
Saturday, March 11th - College Station, Texas

Complete event invitation and registration forms for both events are found at the official home of the Army Nationals: <http://army.thenationals.net>.

UNARMED DIVISION

The Army Nationals Unarmed Division came down to the wire as only two quality points separated the top two schools. **Theodore Roosevelt HS** seemed to sew things up with a 1st place finish (Regulation) followed by three 2nd place finishes (Color Guard, Exhibition, Academics). The **Riderettes** drill team left the door ajar with a 6th place finish in Inspection, but they had just enough to ensure they continued their dominance, repeating as the Unarmed Division Overall Champion in 2005.

Douglas MacArthur HS from **San Antonio, Texas** gave Roosevelt everything they could handle, capturing two 1st place finishes (Academics & Inspection), a 2nd place (Regulation) and a 4th place (Exhibition) but a tough 7th place finish in the tough Color Guard event left the **Blue Angels** drill team in the Unarmed Runner-up position again for the 2nd consecutive year. **Ronald Reagan HS** also grabbed three trophies (2nd-Inspection, 3rd-Academics, 4th-Regulation) which pushed the **Diamondback** drill team to the 3rd place Overall Unarmed Division finish.

Other top finishes in the Unarmed Division were: **Walla Walla HS** (1st-Exhibition, 3rd-Inspection); **Henry J. Kaiser HS** (1st-Color Guard); **Robert E. Lee HS** (3rd-Regulation & Exhibition, 4th-Color Guard); **Alamo Heights HS** (5th-Color Guard & Academics); and **Kemper County HS** (3rd-Color Guard).

Two powerful members of the Army on hand (Texas A&M University Commandant of Cadets **Lt.Gen. John Van Alstyne** and U.S. Army Western Region Commander **Colonel Steven R. Corbett**) put forth strong messages to the assembled cadets, instructors and family members just prior to the trophy distribution at the closing-night Awards Ceremony. Emotions were running high and a good time was had by all. A big "Mega-Hooah" goes out to all of those who assisted in producing this effort and especially to all of the schools who attended and put it on the line at the Western Division of the "Army Nationals."



Western Division top finishers with the Official Party (left to right): Douglas MacArthur HS (Armed Division Runner-up); Ronald Reagan HS (Armed Division Champion); Lt. Gen. John Van Alstyne, Texas A&M Commandant of Cadets; COL Steven R. Corbett, Commander, U.S. Army Cadet Command, Western Region; Theodore Roosevelt HS (Unarmed Division Champion); Douglas MacArthur HS (Unarmed Division Runner-up).