

U.S. ARMY CADET COMMAND

The Green Wave of Army Excellence swept into the U.S. Army Cadet

Eastern Region Championships - Macon, Georgia

With a venue shift south to the Peach State for the first time ever, 49 Army Junior ROTC units from throughout the Eastern Region descended on Macon, Georgia. Their mission was simple - to see whose brains (academics) and brawn (drill) could dominate in one special day to capture the Army's Eastern Region Championship.



The Eastern & Western Region events comprise the "Army Nationals" - the finest single day collection of Army JROTC drill & academic talent found anywhere!

Schools knew from the 2005 event that the New York duo of Xavier HS and Francis Lewis HS would be the front-runners that would require vanquishing to take home the tallest hardware. Would other schools be up to the task? Only a long day of spirited competition would decide.

ARMED DIVISION

Dozens of talented armed competition units paraded on the drill floor throughout the day. This depth of talent left most onlookers to believe the issue would be decided deep into the event. However, in the rich history of the Eastern Region Championships, no one team had ever maintained such a dominating overall single school performance. **Francis Lewis HS** from **Fresh Meadows, New York** ended any doubt about their ability to return to dominance early on through jaw-dropping performances featuring 1st place Inspection and Color Guard finishes (note: one of the finest color guard presentations many had ever witnessed), as well as 1st place in the Academic Exam competition and a very strong 2nd place Platoon Exhibition finish.

Their dominion was so complete in capturing the Armed Division Overall title and the lead so insurmountable, the Regulation finish (a respectable 6th place) by the **Patriot Guard** drill team was virtually unneeded to capture their Championship!

A bunched pack of talented drillers congregated and clawed for the coveted Armed Division Runner-up title. When the rifles cooled down, **Winter Springs HS** from **Winter Springs, Florida** came out on top. With solid trophy finishes in Color Guard (2nd place), Platoon Exhibition (3rd place) and Inspection (5th place), the **Golden Bears** drill team fought back the tough challenge from 2005 Armed Champion **Xavier HS** from **New York, New York** (3rd place Armed Overall). With two 1st place finishes (Regulation & Platoon Exhibition), a disastrous 13th place finish in the Academic Exam and 11th place in Inspection kept these tough drillers only 2 quality points away from grabbing the Runner-up title.

Other schools in the Armed Division who had noteworthy results included: **McNair Academic HS** (2nd-Regulation & Academics, 3rd-Color Guard); **Carver HS** (2nd-Inspection, 4th-Regulation); and **Cranston HS East** (4th-Inspection, 5th-Regulation & Exhibition).

UNARMED DIVISION

Spirited displays of military drill excellence glorified the tradition-rich Army green uniform throughout the Unarmed Division competition. However, much like the Armed Division competition, the Unarmed division early on changed from a horse race to a one horse warm-up lap. **Francis Lewis HS** repeated their complete domination in 2005 to again crush the competition. The **Patriot Pride** drill team captured 1st in every competition event with the sole exception of a 3rd place finish in Color Guard. The last New York domination of this magnitude belongs to **LaSalle Military Academy** from Long Island, New York back in the mid-to-late 1980's at drill meets throughout the Eastern United States.

The battle for Division Runner-up was strong but the victory for **McNair Academic HS** from **Jersey City, New Jersey** was very convincing. Powering their way to 2nd place finishes in every team event except Regulation (6th place), the **Tanko-Woosas** drill team was clearly deserving of the Unarmed Division Runner-up title over 3rd place Overall Unarmed Division finisher **Carver HS**.

With so much dominance at the top of the leaderboard, **Long Island City HS** (3rd-Academics; 4th-Inspection and Exhibition); **Forestville MA** (2nd-Regulation, 3rd-Inspection, 5th-Exhibition); and **Hutchinson Central Tech HS** (4th-Academics, 5th-Regulation) were the only other schools to gain strong trophy finishes.



Eastern Region top finishers (left to right): Winter Springs HS (Armed Div. Runner-up); Francis Lewis HS (Armed Div. Champions); Col. Robert J. Frusha, Commander, USACC; CSM Michael Peters, CSM, USACC; Francis Lewis HS (Unarmed Div. Champions); McNair Academic HS (Unarmed Div. Runner-up).

After a massive dual Knockout competition, cadets were on the edges of their seats in the Macon Centreplex to prepare for the trophy and award distribution. Kicking off the ceremony in a dramatic fashion was the inspirational keynote words delivered by **Colonel Robert J. Frusha, Commander, Eastern Region, U.S. Army Cadet Command**. The words of wisdom imparted by this dynamic Army leader made a mark on all of the attendees and their families as they anxiously awaited the results of the day-long competition.

The 2006 event's southern exposure was a nice change but the Nation's Capital of Washington, DC holds such a historical and governmental draw that we look forward to bringing the event home to Washington, DC in 2007 and beyond!

2007 Eastern Region Championships
Saturday, March 24th - Landover, Maryland

A return to the Nation's Capital yields high demand for competition spaces - lock up your event space today!

JROTC CHAMPIONSHIPS

Command Eastern & Western Region Drill & Academic Championships.

Western Region Championships - College Station, Texas

With the omnipresent "Howdy" in the campus air of event host Texas A&M University, 33 Army JROTC units marked their drill calendar to migrate to the Lone Star State to compete at the event the cadets commonly call the "**Western Nationals.**" With Texas being the continental U.S. home of national drill excellence, Army programs from Houston, San Antonio and other famous drill stops in Texas combine with many regionally strong drill programs to make the Western Army Regionals event the most talent laden drill competition held outside of the Daytona Beach all-service Nationals event.

ARMED DIVISION

With so much drill talent in this field, it was anyone's guess if 2005 Armed Champion **Ronald Reagan HS** from **San Antonio, Texas** would have enough talent and good fortune to repeat their victory.

As suspected, the competition began with no clear favorite. Literally 6-8 schools were deep in the hunt for the top spot half-way through the day. **Theodore Roosevelt HS** from **San Antonio, Texas** jumped out with a big early lead. The **San Juan Guard** drill team earned a 1st place within both Inspection and Color Guard competitions. However a disastrous 19th place finish in Exhibition drill poured cold water on their chances to capture the top spot, settling for a 3rd place Overall Armed finish.

As the day wore on, it became obvious the competition was going to lie between cross-town rivals. **Winston Churchill HS** also from **San Antonio, Texas** displayed the legendary strength that has earned their distinguished program several Armed Division National Championship titles in Daytona Beach. With three 2nd place finishes (Inspection, Regulation & Academics) the **Black Watch** drill team put forth a strong overall finish. Historically one of their strongest events (Exhibition) proved to be their downfall as miscues gave these proud warriors a 14th place finish, forcing a tough Armed Division Runner-up title.

The Overall Armed Division championship title was, in fact, earned again by 2005 champion **Ronald Reagan HS**, despite finishing no higher than 3rd place in any team event! The breadth of talent displayed by the **Rattler Guard** drill team gave them just enough points to eke out the impressive victory with trophy finishes in Inspection, Regulation & Color Guard (3rd place) and Exhibition (4th place). Many people whispered that Reagan was poised to challenge Flour Bluff's dominance at the Nationals in Daytona but that would have to wait until May of 2006 to be decided!

Other Armed Division performances of note included: **Douglas MacArthur HS** (5th-Reg, 4th Overall); **James Madison HS** (1st-Ex); **J.H. Reagan HS** (4th-Reg, 4th-CG, 5th-Ins); **Grant HS** (1st-Reg, 4th-Ins); **Central Catholic HS** (1st-Academics); **La Joya HS** (2nd-Ex); **Sam Houston HS** (3rd-Ex) and **Ozark HS** (3rd-Academics).

UNARMED DIVISION

18 schools competed for the Overall Unarmed Division title and it was apparent early the top spot would come down to a three-horse race between familiar foes. 2005 Unarmed Division event champion **Theodore Roosevelt HS** pushed to the front with a 1st place finish (Inspection) followed by a 2nd place finish (Regulation). But the placements in the remaining events did not fare as well and the **Riderettes** were left with the same solid 3rd place Overall finish their male counterparts earned.

Ronald Reagan HS charged out of the gate with both guns blazing, capturing two 1st place finishes (Regulation, Color Guard) as well as two, 2nd place finishes (Inspection, Academics). The **Diamondback** drillers earned an uncharacteristic 8th place finish in Exhibition, totaling an impressive 14 "placement points" score (*the determining factor on who wins where lower is better*). But would this amazing finish be enough to win the title?

For years, **Winston Churchill HS** made a living off of their overall consistency and never was it more apparent than at the 2006 Army Championships! With FIVE trophy finishes yet only ONE top finish (1st-Academics, 2nd-Color Guard, 3rd-Regulation and Exhibition and 4th-Inspection), the **Queen's Guard** drill team had, by a single point, knocked off the impressive Ronald Reagan performance to capture the Overall Unarmed Division title. It was one of the closest finishes in history at this always tight competition.

Other top finishes in the Unarmed Division were: **Douglas MacArthur HS** (2nd-Ex, 3rd-Ins, 4th Overall); **Robert E. Lee HS** (1st-Ex); **Alamo Heights HS** (3rd-CG, 5th-Ins, 5th-Academics); **Caddo Parish Magnet HS** (3rd-Academics); **James Madison HS** (4th Ex) and **La Joya HS** (4th-Reg, 5th-Ex).

Two powerful members of the Army were on hand to congratulate the hard working cadets. **Texas A&M Commandant of Cadets, Lt. Gen. John Van Alstyne** and **U.S. Army Western Region**

Commander, Colonel Steven R. Corbett provided a positive message to the assembled cadets, instructors and family members before the trophy distribution at the closing-night Awards Ceremony. Tension was everywhere as the top finishers were announced and featured before the audience.

The involvement of the U.S. Army 12th Brigade helped to organize and ensure that knowledgeable, motivated judges were on hand to give the cadets a fair evaluation throughout the day. Their efforts led the way to ensure a fantastic experience was had by all. Work has already begun on the 2007 event, which should be another fantastic showing of drill talent. Early emails show this event will be another blockbuster!



Western Region top finishers (left to right): Winston Churchill HS (Armed Div. Runner-up); Ronald Reagan HS (Armed Div. Champ); COL Steven R. Corbett, Commander, USACC, Western Region; Lt. Gen. John Van Alstyne, Texas A&M Commandant of Cadets; Winston Churchill HS (Unarmed Div. Champ); Ronald Reagan HS (Unarmed Div. Runner-up).

2007 Western Region Championships
Saturday, March 10th - College Station, Texas

For complete event invitation & registration forms:
Army Nationals: <http://army.thenationals.net>.