

Drill NATION

"Where JROTC Excellence is Celebrated Every Year"

2025-2026 Edition

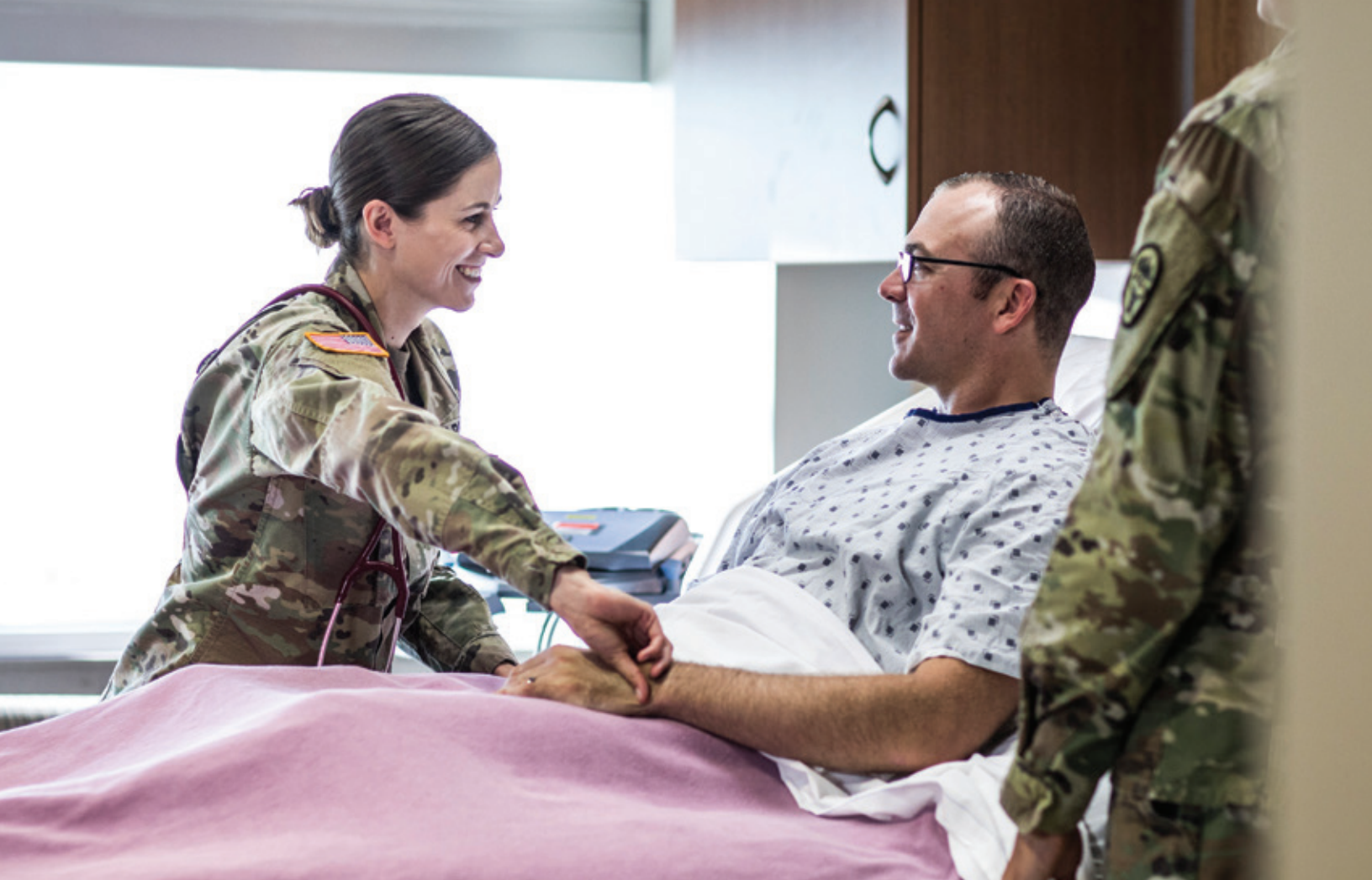
***Cadet Jamarion Wilkerson
from Sam Houston MSTC
demonstrates a rifle toss
in front of the iconic eagle
banner in the Ocean Center
Arena.***

Inside, see event recap information
and photos from the various service
Championship events.

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DrillNATION

**Official Publication of the Internationally Recognized
JROTC Drill & Ceremony Spectacular, the
National High School Drill Team Championships**

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On The Cover: Cadet Jamarion Wilkerson from Sam Houston MSTC demonstrates a high-flying rifle toss in front of the iconic eagle banner in the Ocean Center Arena.

MAGAZINE DEDICATION: With troop deployments that stretch across the globe, the 2025-26 DrillNATION Magazine is dedicated to both the active duty and reserve components of our American Armed Forces, along with the National Guard. These brave and selfless individuals continue to provide the blanket of freedom that Americans enjoy every day. Thousands of former cadets who have attended the Nationals in the past are currently serving around the globe in all branches of the Armed Forces, helping to protect the interests of the United States of America. SNI is honored by their commitment to duty and wish them all a safe and speedy return home when they complete their mission.

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The **National JROTC Fitness Challenge Championships** is the finest way for any athletic, raider or other fitness-style JROTC team to end their school year. This event remains a great test of overall fitness in an unparalleled, memorable setting, and it gets each team's following year leadership motivated to excel like nothing else!

The May 2025 competition hosted 76 Male, Female and Mixed teams. Over 1200 cadets took on five different events, battling Mother Nature on Daytona Beach to determine the top Fitness teams across the country. With teams representing the U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard, the all-service nature of this event is inspiring.

Competition day for most teams starts with the sun low in the sky as they prepare for the challenging **3K Team Beach Run**. This immediately precedes the **Physical Team Test** obstacle course in the blazing Florida heat. Soon after, teams who started at the beach grab lunch then move indoors to the beautiful Ocean Center for the **Standing Double Jump, Seated Power Throw, and Pull-up/Flexed Arm Hang** events.

"While no single event will wear a team down, add four events on TOP of that and you have a major test of physicality, talent, and strategy."

- Brie Gates, SNI Fitness Event Coordinator

The efforts on display by teams and individual cadets left spectators in complete awe as hundreds came from the nearby hotels to spectate. This year, the surf, weather and tides really affected the competition, but the cadets took this challenge head on. How do the best JROTC programs handle adversity? They adapt and overcome as they always must do to succeed on "The World's Most Famous Beach".

In the Female Division... we saw some of the strongest competition! With a dozen entries, teams knew they would need to give 110% to come out on top. As the day wore on, it became apparent that three schools were taking control. **Veterans HS** (Kathleen, GA) was one of only three schools who gained top three finishes in every team event. This consistency distanced them from the rest of the pack for a 3rd place overall finish. The battle between the two top schools, **Live Oaks CDC** (Milford, OH) and **Ridge Community HS** (Davenport,



FL) was fierce throughout the day. The battle was a repeat from 2024 as these same two teams ended that year on top. **Ridge Community Lady Bolts** powered home 1st place finishes in the beach events as well as the Female Flexed Arm Hang as **Live Oaks CDC Lady Wolfpack** won the Standing Broad Jump and Power Throw events and two 2nd and a close 3rd place finish. Both teams ended the day with 9 placement points each causing a tie. Co-Champion titles were awarded to credit both teams with their hard work. Very well done, ladies - your tenacity will take you far!



In the Mixed Division... taking home 1st place was no easy feat with 36 entries of trophy-hungry teams. **Spring Hill HS** repeated their 2024 pull-up win, and **Clarkrange HS** championed the power throw. Two strong Tennessee teams! But 2024 Overall Division Champion, **Brandeis HS** from Texas, nailed a 2nd place power throw and four other top ten finishes to grab 3rd place Overall. **Kenwood HS** another Tennessee powerhouse program, nabbed a 1st place in the 5K Beach Run and four other top five finishes to strongly solidify their Division Runner-up placement. The **Warren County HS** Pioneer Mixed team from Kentucky parlayed a win in the Physical Team Test and very solid finishes in every other competition for a hard-fought Mixed Division Overall National Fitness Challenge Championship Title.

In the Male Division... teams pushed themselves to the LIMIT! The top five schools all came down to the last event. Annual top finisher **Haines City HS** from Florida had four top four finishes paced by a win



on the pull-up bar, but a 16th place in the Power Throw secured the 5th place overall finish. **John Marshall HS** from Texas repeated their team excellence from 2024 by trophying in three events with two other solid finishes to post a strong 4th place overall finish. **Veterans HS** from

Georgia grabbed three 2nd place finishes within the indoor Ocean Center events to power to 3rd Place Overall. **Ridge Community HS** Striking Bolts gained three first place finishes and a 4th place in pull-ups, it seemed a race to the Overall title was on! **Perry HS** from Georgia finished up with just enough room from their consistent excellence to nose ahead. Gaining a single 1st place finish (Power Throw) and three other trophy finishes, the Panther Males stood tallest gaining the Male Division Overall National Fitness Championship Title.

Individual awards were highlighted by the top finishing cadets best known as the "**Ultimate Fitness Cadet**". **Richwoods HS** cadet **Desmond Richardson** was the Ultimate Male Fitness winner while **Air Academy HS** cadet **Alina Tuzmukhamedova** earned the Ultimate Cadet Female Award.

Great team feedback has the entire SNI staff highly motivated to make the 2026 event the best Fitness Nationals ever. Register this Fall as spaces go fast! Great job to all who attended this year and we look forward to seeing many back in 2026!



DAYTONA BEACH®



Welcome from sunny Daytona Beach, Florida!

We are very happy to again host your fine group for the National JROTC Championship Weekend here in Daytona Beach, Florida for May 2026! On behalf of the Daytona Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau, we want to welcome you all to “The World’s Most Famous Beach”.

Having your many military events and over 250,000 visitors here has been a huge treat for our city during your five decades of attendance. Hoteliers, restaurants merchants and even residents across the area look forward to seeing you and helping you make lifetime memories. Because that is what we are best at here in our corner of the Sunshine State.

While we know you are here with a competition focus, we hope you will get at least a small amount of time to put your toes in the sand along the 23 miles of white sand beaches or maybe experience the high-speed thrills at the Daytona International Speedway, or even head south on A-1-A to see the historic Ponce Inlet Lighthouse (Florida tallest!). We know you love the historic bandshell, as do our visitors who watch you practice & perform there late into the evenings!

We invite your teams to experience ALL of what makes Daytona Beach a great place to visit starting from the information available on Daytonabeach.com. We wish you all great success and hope that your visit is perfect in every way.



Sunny Regards,

Lori Campbell Baker
Executive Director

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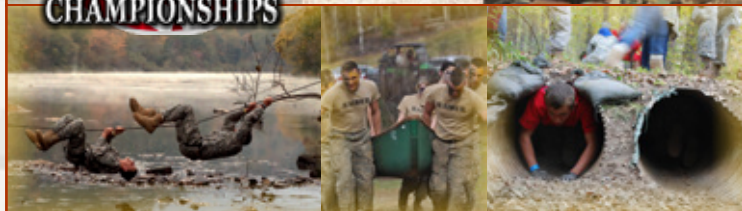
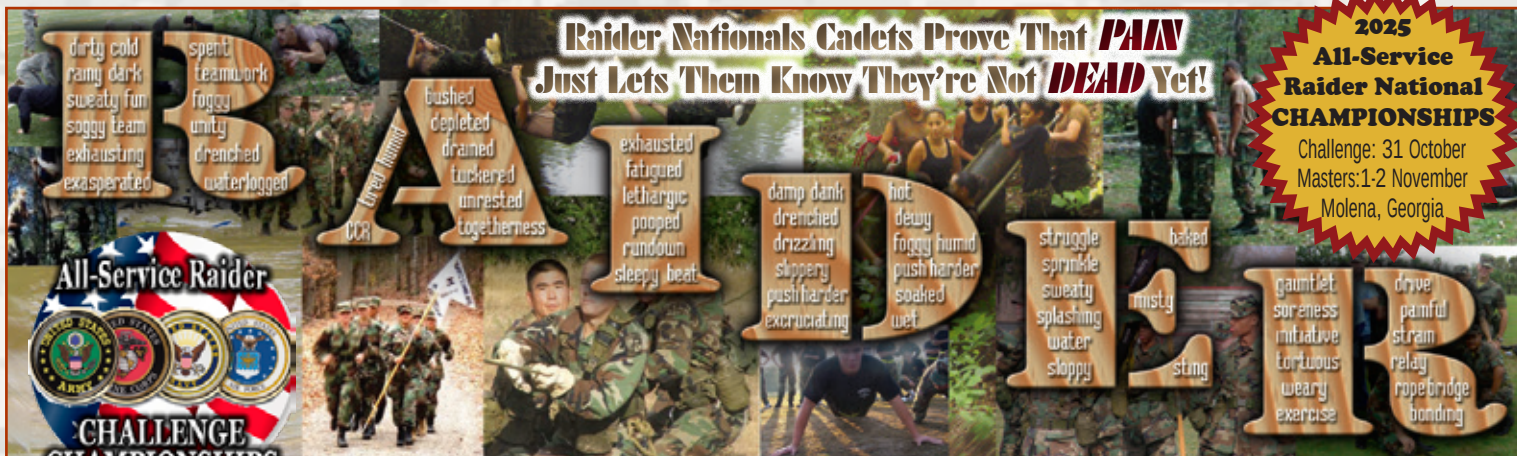
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For almost two decades, early November raider calendars are marked with the date for the **All-Service JROTC Raider National Championships**. With raider teams from across the USA split between a Challenge & Masters format, competition teams of all skill levels annually make the **Lawhorn Scouting Base in Molena, Georgia** their temporary retreat for this special weekend of natural tent camping, beautiful scenery, fire pit cooking, and raider excellence!

With transport between events only a short 5-to-10-minute march, spectators and competitors are never hurried or late. They focus on the task at hand. That focus yields awesome results in the home of raider excellence in central Georgia.

Raider is wildly popular and nowhere more than the southeastern USA! So many new schools each year, along with many annual returning teams, strap it up tight putting their raider mettle to the test. Most returning teams say there is no place like Lawhorn in the raider universe. The camaraderie, camping, and the natural beauty make this venue the team-building Mecca for Raider. Competition slots are generally available through September but that window will be closing in the coming days so **call now for your school to gain that experience first-hand!**

Scores of Air Force teams mix with many Army, Marine, Navy, and Coast Guard teams annually getting boots on the ground, making this an all-service event everywhere you look.

CHALLENGE LEVEL: The **Challenge Male Division** was a great learning environment for the newest teams and a great competition that didn't clear until the final scores posted! **Northside HS (USAF)** came out strong with three, 2nd place finishes (PTT, Gauntlet, Rope Bridge) setting the bar high. A tough Team Mountain Run left them with a 3rd place overall finish. **Logan County HS (USA)** won two events (PTT & Rope Bridge) and trophied in three others, but couldn't quite equal the pace of **River Ridge HS (USAF)**. River Ridge showed amazing balance for a newer team gaining five top three finishes with two, 1st place posts (Gauntlet & Tire Flip) to grab the Challenge top slot. All three teams will push into the Masters Level in 2025.

In the **Challenge Mixed Division**, maybe the most shocking result in raider history occurred! With **Clarkrange HS (USA)** grabbing the Rope Bridge title and **Kenwood HS (USA)** nailing four top trophy finishes, a spirited event was afoot, but **Lake Cormorant HS (USMC)** was not going down without a fight, gaining first place finishes in four of the five team events. The Lake was CRUISING but a 10th place Rope Bridge finish opened the door. Did anyone else have the consistency to take advantage? Knock, knock, knock - here comes overall strong **Veterans HS (USAF)**. The Warhawks Mixed team powered to four 2nd place finishes and a lone 3rd place which gave them the placement points needed to gain the top Mixed Challenge title.

MASTERS LEVEL: In the **Masters Male Division**, raider talent ran rampant! **Peabody Veterans Memorial HS (USAF)** secured five trophy finishes for an overall 5th place finish, not enough to take out **Warren County HS (USA)** who topped Gauntlet to finish 4th overall. Both **Blue Springs South HS (USAF)** and **Campbell County HS (USA)**

grabbed top 5 finishes in every team event, finishing 3rd overall and National Runner-up respectively. But **Etowah HS (USAF)** trophied first place in four of the five team events as the **Eagles** took care of business and blazed as the Male Division National Champions.

In the **Masters Female Division**, despite a 1st place finish by **Cherokee HS (USAF)** in the Team Mountain Run, **Northside HS** balanced top five team trophy placements in every event to grab a 3rd place overall. The Female Division really came down to two schools who crushed the rest of the field. **Peabody Veterans Memorial HS (USA)**, grabbed a single 1st place (PTT) along with three event 2nd place finishes to power forward, but the **Lady Tanners** stack of points would not surpass the **Lady Pioneers** from **Warren County HS (USA)** who let the rucks fly grabbing three, 1st place finishes (Gauntlet, CCR, Rope Bridge) and two, 2nd place trophies earning the Female Division National Championship.

In the **Masters Mixed Division**, the **Buffalo Stampeders** from **Clarkrange HS (USA)** repeated their 2023 dominance in crushing fashion, championing four events to take home Mixed Division National Championship. Four schools were clustered behind them in an exciting talent-laden raider run. **Walker HS (USMC)** and **Etowah HS (USAF)** photo-finished with Walker's win in PTT giving them the National Runner-up title placing Etowah in 3rd Overall. **Perry HS (USAF, 4th place)** and **Sahuarita HS (USMC, 5th place)** each gained three team trophy finishes competing with distinction.

On Sunday morning just before the awards ceremony, one male and one female cadet from each Masters team can compete in the **Ultimate Raider Competition**. This is a grueling 1.4 mile run accomplished while carrying a 35-pound ruck. This year Male Division **Cadet Michael Dailey** from Sahuarita HS ran a sizzling 10:12:44. Female Division **Cadet Brooklyn Dishmon** from Clarkrange HS blazed a 12:07:58 as the Ultimate Raider Champions. The times are more impressive every year as the talent level of cadets continue to rise.

The final Masters Level awards ceremony gathering is a celebration of excellence every year. The mass horseshoe formation in front of the most beautiful trophies in raider always rivots attention and rewards those who have worked so hard to get there. This ceremony above all else defines the raider experience in Molena. With **AFJROTC Director Colonel Matthew Tipton** speaking to the Challenge cadets on Friday and **Mr. Wayne Barron** from AFJROTC HQ speaking to the Masters cadets on Sunday, the praising words and towering trophies are the exclamation point on an amazing weekend. 2025 looks bright after seeing the raider trajectory spiraling upwards. What a weekend we will have knowing the talent of raider keeps rising with amazing all-service cadets leading the charge!

2024 Air Force JROTC National Raider Champions		
MALE DIVISION	FEMALE DIVISION	MIXED DIVISION
Perry HS	Peabody Veterans Mem. HS	Etowah HS
Perry Panthers	Peabody Girls	Eagles Mixed
Perry, Georgia	Peabody, Massachusetts	Woodstock, Georgia



To see complete results, gain future event info or even snag one of the final slots within the upcoming All-Service JROTC Raider Championships, visit <https://thenationals.net>



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2025 U.S. Army Cadet Command JROTC National Drill Championships

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When you think of what competition drill provides to young cadets, you see individual discipline, delayed gratification and sacrifice. You think of putting the needs of the team ahead of the individual. Cadets learn to come back stronger from a mistake and push to excel. The 2025 Army Drill Nationals was an exemplary display of the qualities listed above. The nation's top Army JROTC programs gather annually in Daytona Beach, Florida to compete not only for trophies and a national title, but to leave the event a better cadet and a stronger unit. This year, in May of 2025, the competition field included 77 schools and 95 Army JROTC drill & ceremony teams to put forth a collection of cadets from all backgrounds who will undoubtedly take the skills and lessons learned on the drill floor through this unique sport and make themselves successful long after their marching days are over.

With nearly 2,000 cadets & instructors giving maximum effort, the venerable Ocean Center Arena provided the huge spotlight to feature the dedication, sacrifice and talent these teams put forth. The Army again leads the way in showing off the future leaders of this nation with a massive crowd of impressive young men and women as they competed in various disciplines of drill with precision & excellence.

With the buzz of the lights as teams began filling into the arena in the morning darkness, you felt the pressure building as each set of judges began stalking their domains of drill with scoresheets in hand. As the day progressed, stories became legend and memories were made forever.



Ronald Reagan HS Armed Rattler Guard drill team from San Antonio, Texas cleaned house in nailing down the Armed Division Championship.

ARMED DIVISION

With Drill & Ceremonies being a 50+ year passion for scores of programs across the Lone Star State, it was no surprise that the "Texas Stampede" continued again in 2025 with six of the top seven overall Armed division finishers chasing the "Best Team in Texas" tag. Fierce battles were everywhere and watching

the raw emotion with every turn of the head in this 45-team competition field was a genuine treat for all.

Claudia Taylor Johnson HS just outpaced fellow Texan Mansfield HS with all-around solid displays to place 6th & 7th in the overall title chase. The Midwest Marauders from Leavenworth HS (KS) squeaked into the 5th place slot with an excellent showing in Regulation. The top four spots were neck and neck with scores so close that a SINGLE mistake could make all the difference.

Theodore Roosevelt HS was just shy of a Team Exhibition win but also trophied in two other events and amassed enough points to gain a 4th place overall finish. Historic powerhouse Central Catholic HS won Inspection and trophied in two other events driving them to a 3rd place overall finish. Sam Houston MSTC HS was set-up well in winning both Regulation and Color Guard, as well as a 2nd place Inspection finish. A tough 8th place score in Team Exhibition left them as the Armed National Runner-up finishers.

As normal, power in all areas carried the day as Ronald Reagan HS piled it on early and often putting the exclamation point on an amazing day. The impressive Rattler Guard drill team won Team Exhibition, then gained 2nd, 3rd and 4th place in the other remaining events. This left no doubt who the top dog was on this day. This all-around juggernaut separated themselves from the nearest team by more than 100 points!

UNARMED DIVISION

The Texas onslaught continued in the Unarmed Division as did the talent on display everywhere. The final scoring was unique as the Color Guard event was won by a school not competing for the overall title.

John F. Kennedy HS (CO), Leavenworth HS and Mansfield HS all finished a whisper apart in 5th, 6th and 7th place respectively, separated by less than 15 POINTS! Each team had their strong suits, with Leavenworth taking home a first place spot in Regulation, Mansfield achieving 3rd place in Color Guard, and John F. Kennedy having well-rounded scores in ALL events.

Ronald Reagan HS nailed down two 2nd place finishes in Inspection & Team Exhibition, but a tough Color Guard showing led to their photo-finish win of 4th place overall by 3 points out of 4,000! Winston Churchill HS grabbed 5th place trophies in just two events but finished strong in all to take home the 3rd place Overall Unarmed Division title. The southern tip of Texas stood tall as Harlingen HS won Inspection and finished 4th in Color Guard storming to the Overall Unarmed Runner-up finish.



The Theodore Roosevelt HS Riderettes show that they are "number one" in the Army Nationals Unarmed Division.

Proving that all-around strength wins, Theodore Roosevelt HS brought the heat in all phases grabbing 1st place in Exhibition and 4th place in Inspection, but just as important two near trophy gains in Regulation and CG had them amass the points needed to take home the biggest trophy. The Riderettes continued their decades of dominance displaying the overall excellence that put them in the Military Drill Hall of Fame over a decade ago. Congrats to your program, ladies!

With 1,800 scoresheets to review, it is always a pressure cooker to have an on-time awards ceremony. The tight Ocean Center turn-around with trophies front & center was a grand backdrop for both the winning cadets and the Army Keynote Speaker, BG Steven M. King, Deputy Commanding General, USACC.

A massive THANK YOU to those who worked hard to give these cadets their shining platform to honor their achievements. Army JROTC has set up these remarkable young men and women to succeed in any future endeavors.



CADET COMMAND NATIONAL DRILL CHAMPIONSHIPS

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Announcing the Air Force Nationals' Chris Longfellow Luminary Award

Sports Network International is sad to announce that we have lost a valued member of our family. Chris Longfellow passed away on August 10, 2025 from complications related to pancreatic cancer. Cadets and instructors that have attended both the Air Force Nationals and the National High School Drill Team Championships will remember him as the congenial gentleman who coordinated Team Pictures.

With a life-long passion for helping others, Chris spent the last 25 years serving as a law enforcement officer with the Greene County Sheriff's Office in Ohio. He was very active with community service programs, notably starting the Cops with Cones and Challenge Coin programs. His big smile and kindness ensured that he never met a stranger which allowed him to meaningfully connect with people of all ages.

Chris was almost single-handedly responsible for the Air Force Nationals being moved to Dayton, Ohio in 2015. As an Air Force Veteran, proud JROTC parent and active booster member at Lebanon High School he knew that the Nutter Center would make a perfect home for the event and arranged massive support, championing the move from Washington, DC. He and his family went on to join SNI, working at multiple events throughout the years and became an irreplaceable part of our team.

As a lasting tribute to his contribution to the Air Force Nationals, in 2026 and beyond, we will be awarding the Chris Longfellow Luminary Award to the school that most exemplifies the attributes that he embodied: service above self, integrity, generosity of spirit and eternal optimism in the face of adversity.

Chris was a beacon of light who left an indelible mark on all who knew him and will be truly missed. It is SNI's hope to keep his light going and live up to his inspiring legacy.



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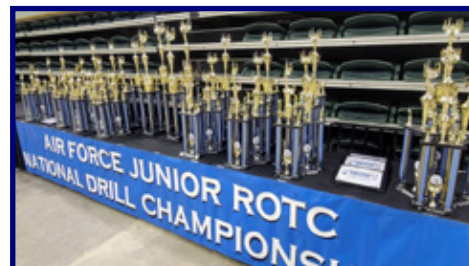




2025 AFJROTC Open Nationals

The Battle In Blue Is always Midwest Memorable

Air Force JROTC - Integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do!



For ten years, the vast Nutter Center Arena in Dayton, Ohio on the campus of Wright State University has played host to the **Air Force JROTC Open Drill Nationals**. The collection of teams who annually make their mark here come from a wide variety of backgrounds and skill levels. But no event produced by SNI maintains a finer collection of people and cadets! With a chance to visit the **FINEST** Air Force museum in the world in the shadows of Wright-Patterson AFB, many schools from across the USA circle the date on their calendar annually! Always held in early to mid-March, the "Air Force Nationals" remains that perfect mix of camaraderie and competitiveness that makes attending a positive experience for all.

Teams arrive early and stake their claim to their favorite seating areas that often repeat annually. Smiles and nervous excitement are everywhere as banners hang and rifle cases roll to a stop. Teams gather to perform a few practice moves on the floor, and then the fun begins! Hope springs eternal at 8am when the first event begins with all teams hopeful to gain a spot on the award ceremony stage. While the event remains a testament to the competitive spirit of the cadets, there is always a sense of unity and mutual respect underscoring the fundamental values of AFJROTC. It makes the event an honor to be a part of each and every year.

ARMED DIVISION

In the Armed division, teams know going in that over the past few years, **Beavercreek HS** from Ohio is generally considered the team to beat. 2025 was no exception as the B-1 Bomber drill team **DOMINATED** three of the four events to take home the "three-peat" championship. This strong start could have closed the door to a challenger, but a lower finish in Team Ex left teams eager to rise up and snatch away the overall title.

Always fierce **Jefferson HS** from Georgia gave a phenomenally strong effort hugely distancing themselves. The **Black Dragons** won 1st place in Team Ex and two other top trophies, but a lower Regulation score kept them from besting the B-1 Bombers.

A strong finish by **Woodrow Wilson HS** from West Virginia turned heads as the **Flying Eagles** nailed down two 4th place (Inspection and Regulation) and a single 5th place (Team Ex) finish to place in 3rd place overall.

Other notable finishes thrilled all in Armed Commander's scoring where **Cadet Koester** from Beavercreek held out a

top finish, besting **Cadet Williams** from Woodrow Wilson High School. Supremely high scores from these two highly impressive cadets. Big shoes to fill in 2026 for the future commanders from both schools.

Southern Regional HS from New Jersey on the team side showed broad strength taking home Regulation & Commander Trophies (3rd) and Exhibition (4th). It was a great armed drill day all around.

UNARMED DIVISION

By well over 300 points, **Beavercreek HS** again took total command of the division by four trophy finishes and top scores in both Inspection & Exhibition. The **B-2 Bombers** repeated as the Unarmed Champs in impressive fashion. Who is ready to FLY HIGH and challenge this program in 2026?

In 2024, **Unity Reed HS** from Virginia barely missed out on the Runner-up title by just five points to **Green HS** from down the road in Ohio. But 2025 "flipped the script" as the Lion's Pride drill team from Unity piled points just high enough in Team Ex (2nd place) and Regulation (4th place) to carry home that Runner-up title. The hard-charging **Band of Bulldogs** nearly repeated gaining two, 2nd places (Inspection, Color Guard) and a 3rd place (Regulation). A tough 8th place in Team Ex took them just out of the championship hunt with a solid 3rd overall.

Other noteworthy performances came from **Springboro HS** (1st place Inspection, 4th in Color Guard), **Jefferson HS** (3rd place Team Ex, Inspection) and a VERY LONG plane trip from Germany for **Kaiserslautern HS** to gain a jump seat ride home for 4th place Inspection and 5th place Regulation & Commander's Award.

Knockout Drill execution bridged the end of the team events and the start of the awards ceremony. Our two victors stood tall as the last Cadets standing in Armed and Unarmed Knockout respectively, beating out HUNDREDS of their peers for their Championship Knockout titles.

The 2025 Air Force Nationals will be remembered for many things. Long-time judge, **MSgt. Robert Barnett** received **SNI's Air Force Excellence Award**; an accolade truly deserved. The many teams taking home trophies for the first time was noted, but without parallel, the biggest impact was left by **Chief Master Sergeant Tessa M. Fontaine**, Command Chief of the 88th Air Base Wing at Wright-Patterson AFB, serving as the award ceremony's Keynote Speaker. What a special treat to see the stars in the eyes of the cadets and to have support from that level of leadership!

Teams were heard planning for 2026 as they departed, piling their cadets and gear onto the buses. The date is set (Saturday March 7th, 2026) and we will be ready. Congratulations to all on a fantastic day of USAF excellence!



<https://thenationals.net>



2025 USMC JROTC DRILL CHAMPIONSHIPS

See the Full Scoring Results: <https://thenationals.net/mc-results-2025.pdf>

As news of an online competition format for the 2025 U.S. Marine Corps JROTC Drill Championships became evident, SNI was ready to spring into action. Event staff quickly pivoted to make this unconventional competition experience jump off the screen for our deserving teams. Despite not gathering in-person, the 12 Armed and 12 Unarmed USMC JROTC finalists competing for the title of Overall National Champions were ready to give it their all.

In mid-April after all of the final teams had been identified and registered on-line, their video submissions secured and reviewed by SNI, the event was ready to spring forward. Two members of the SNI team flew to Reagan National Airport from sunny Florida with gear

The 72 dress blue routines began rolling in six events (Armed/Unarmed Platoon Regulation, Platoon Exhibition & Color Guard). The three events in each division would determine both an Armed & Unarmed Champion. The meat & potatoes of drill that each of these cadets have executed thousands of times previously would be done here with one shot, recorded, and reviewed by a judge. No do-overs, no excuses. The pressure was palpable and you could see it on many cadet faces.

Each judging group maintains a moderator to ensure the SOP and Drill Manual rules & regs were enforced. USMC JROTC provided a single individual with oversight function.



stowed ready to kick off judging just outside Quantico, Virginia. No matter how many times we do this, 'make sure everything is perfect' is on mental repeat the night before.

With the National Museum of the Marine Corps a few miles from the judging site, 3 sets of judges, SNI and watchful staff from MCJROTC HQ were ready for this single day event.

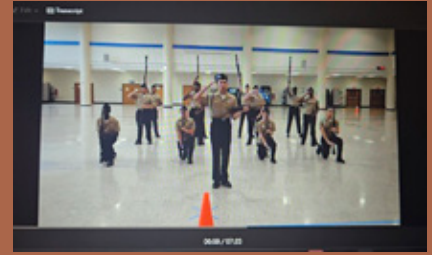
ARMED DIVISION

Three schools went at it hard, with each winning a single event. **Brenham HS** (Brenham, TX) won Color Guard, **Reading HS** (Reading, PA) grabbed Regulation, and **South Iredell HS** (Statesville, NC) won Exhibition. But with the overall strength of gaining two additional 2nd place finishes, Brenham HS had plenty in their tank to repeat again as Armed Division MCJROTC Drill Champions.

UNARMED DIVISION

Brenham HS simply annihilated the division competition by winning all three events by a margin unseen in the history of this event. The "event sweep" was, in a word, overwhelming. **Lynn English HS** (Lynn, MA) pushed to a division Runner-up title with a 2nd place in Platoon Ex, a 3rd

IN APRIL, 2025 BOTH THE USMC & THE NAVY JROTC CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS WERE MOVED TO AN ON-LINE EVENT.



With the Federal government taking a massive review of spending just as these two competitions were slated to kick-off, the Pentagon paused travel and also restricted spending for many non-mission critical aspects of the service. After much thought, this one-two punch caused both events to move on-line to comply with these efforts.

place in Regulation, and a 5th place in Color Guard. **Reading HS** and **Windmill Lakes Orem HS** (Houston, Texas - as just a three year old program) nabbed 3rd & 4th overall respectively. **Kubasaki HS** (Kubasaki, Japan) had a genuine shot gaining two 2nd place finishes early, but the judges dashed their hopes with a tough score in Team Exhibition.

The overall results were streamed live on the event Facebook page informing all schools of top placements at one time. The presentation of 24 gorgeous scarlet & gold trophies made an electric awards ceremony days after the results were finalized. This video was created by SNI and posted on the official MCJROTC Drill Championships Facebook page with hundreds watching within minutes.

Thank you to the HQ and the judges who came together to make the event special, teaching the cadets you don't just quit when things get tough. All these programs are looking forward to a return to an in-person championship event in the Spring of 2026.

What are the Best Success Tips for Teams Entering an On-line Video Drill Competition?

SNI has now hosted five large international on-line drill & ceremony competitions involving over 3,000 scoresheets. After listening to judges' feedback and watching countless competition videos, we have learned much about what teams should do to optimize their scores. Here are the top six performance enhancing recommendations from our judging director:

#1 - **READ THE SOP:** Nothing is more important...Learn what is required and, equally as important, what is NOT specified. The SOP should explain exactly what to do and how to do it.

#2 - **PRACTICE YOUR CAMERA:** It doesn't matter how well you drill, if your camera is shaky, poorly lit or focused, or doesn't follow your marching well, you cannot gain a top score. Ensure your camera person KNOWS your routine!

#3 - **GET YOUR CAMERA UP & OUT:** Judges cannot judge

The rules and formats were revised and this info was sent out to schools who adapted and excelled. Event Manager SNI went about getting the on-line world ready for these fantastic programs. Both services and their cadets should be very proud of their efforts!

Marine Corps JROTC moved to on-line regionals and finals. Online judging among the elite for both services would determine a champion. SNI worked with both services to gain and train deeply experienced judges to review the videos and score in judging groups much like the actual on-site event on a single day. The judging in both was solid and detailed.

IN THE END...

**CHAMPIONSHIPS WERE EARNED &
GREAT MEMORIES WERE MADE!**

The on-line event left no footprints in the sand in and around NAS Pensacola, Florida. Command appears committed to make the future events on-site if at all possible and that is great news for all!

"The Navy Nationals" may have been digital, but the performances were so strong and the quality of the recordings so vivid, the event had an in-person feel. As the event host, SNI viewed every submission to ensure the filming rules were met, as well as verifying the videos were viewable without issues (glitching, buffering, etc.). Only a school who tried to upload a true 4k level video with a three day upload time had a problem that was easily solved. The game was afoot!

Being able to see every performance during the days leading up to the judging, staff was more excited than normal to see what the judges would think. One thing was without question after viewing - these schools represented the finest NJROTC programs across the nation and they worked hard in getting ready for this day!

The competition was still very wide-ranging despite the significant changes made. Inspection was dropped along with the Push-up & Curl-up events. Lastly, Athletics was trimmed to one

what they cannot see. Cameras shooting from eye height straight on will immediately "cover up" your ranks behind #1 for stationary basic performance. Put your camera up 10-12' feet in the air (top of bleachers, on a ladder/platform) and shifted left or right shooting at an angle, judges will see much more of your stationary performance block.

#4: THINK ABOUT WEATHER: Wind issues can often be avoided by shooting earlier in the day. Ensure you have good light but not directly into the cadets' eyes and ensure your auto camera setting makes you look good. Which leads to the most vital tip...

2025 NAVY NATIONALS

Academic, Athletic & Drill Championship

See the Awards Ceremony: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YmMGtZ1svaA>



16x100yd relay. The brutal 100-question Academic Test, the single athletic event, and the five drill events (Armed/Unarmed Platoon Basic, Armed/Unarmed Platoon Exhibitions and the four-person Color Guard) still yielded the finest all-around test in JROTC.

With twenty-four outstanding NJROTC schools nominated by their NJROTC Area Managers, there was no clear front-runner going into judging, but all that changed with the Academic Test.

The way the schedule laid out, the Academic Exam was graded first. As it is worth a large swath of points, this 100-question, 50-minute test for 15 team members often sets the tone EARLY for which teams will be vying for the National Championship title.

When the Scantron cooled, 5 schools were perched near the top. **Troy HS (CA)** took the top slot collectively gaining 1,147 points (questions correct) paced by Caden Salazar scoring an event best 90 on the arduous exam. **Gaither HS (FL)** was just behind with 1,122 points, grabbing 2nd place. **Pacifica HS (CA)** with 1,092 points slotted into 3rd place. **Pace HS (FL)** just missed with 1,085 points but easily defeated **Green Run HS (VA)** with 1,020 points in 4th and 5th place respectively.

The relay came next where all you need...is speed! 16 members per team (8 males & 8 females) each running 100yards and handing off to an opposing stationary runner. The teams that practice are very apparent on their handoffs with **Pace HS** running a blistering 3:23:89 to take the event top spot.

Less than 4 seconds separated **Notre Dame HS (NY)** clocking a 3:27:15 (2nd place), **Pacifica HS** @ 3:29:31 (3rd place), **Colts Neck HS** @ 3:30:15 (4th place) and **Southeast Guilford HS** @ 3:30:80 (5th place) really helped these high flyers move forward!

For the drill & ceremony events, five separate judging pools were formed, one for each distinct drill event. SNI and NJROTC HQ were positioned to monitor, make rulings, and invoke penalties just like at a standard Navy Nationals.

Drill overall results were impressive! **Allen D. Nease HS (FL)** at 2269.29, **El Camino Real HS** at 2254.72, and **Shawnee Mission North HS** at 2253.39 clustered together in a distant drill overall pack for 3rd 4th & 5th overall drill, respectively.

Pacifica HS took first in 3/5ths of the team events (Armed Basic, Armed & Unarmed Exhibition) gaining 2nd in both drill and Overall. But **Pace HS** who didn't capture a single drill event but gained five top trophy finishes took home the **Overall Drill AND the Overall 2025 Navy National Event Championship!** This amazing depth & breadth of talent in all aspects of the event keeps them at the top of Navy Nationals every year!

Results were sealed until released by NJROTC **Rear Admiral Matthew T. Pottenburgh, Commander, Naval Service Training Command** during the mid-April on-line zoom awards ceremony. His keynote speech encouraging the cadets was exceptional.

SNI worked hard to make the event special by hand-delivering the massive Pace Championship trophy to coincide with the Rear Admiral's speech, as well as flying 19 trophies across the USA, won by a small cluster of top finishing SoCal area programs.

The 2025 event needed so much extra work by so many, but the reward was well worth it! Thanks go out to NJROTC HQ, all of the Area Managers, Instructors, and judges for their time involving this special event. They gave the cadets an experience to remember!

#5: MAKE A PRACTICE RECORDING: Nothing is more important! Do everything just like it was game day. Try and use a high-resolution setting. Look at the result. How does the finished product look? Get other cadets out marching at other times to record and compare.

#6: SOUND IS A PLUS: If your SOP does not specify against it, consider using a wireless microphone and/or a shotgun microphone extended to the perimeter to gain far better sound quality. Play back your practice recording to see if better sound quality would benefit your performance.



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THE NATIONALS - what makes this the greatest event in drill history?

- ★ Premier All-Service National Drill Championship Event, in its 44th year
- ★ Sponsored by U.S. Army Cadet Command and supported by all service headquarters
- ★ Schools can attend with full teams in multiple levels and divisions
- ★ Schools can attend with stand alone Color Guards and/or individual exhibition cadets
- ★ Produced by SNI, with experience in managing over 300 competitions in the past 43 years
- ★ Nationals Judging Corps brings together professional judges from active duty military training facilities across the nation; with extensive pre-event/on-site training, this gives the event the finest judging available in the world of competition drill
- ★ Schools submit and track all paperwork & payments online
- ★ SNI works with all services to ensure payments and receipts are done in strict accordance with all military requirements
- ★ Awards ceremony streamed on-line
- ★ Daytona Beach Ocean Center Arena & Conference Center is a state-of-the-art facility, including elevated fixed seating for over 6,000, complete concessions, ample parking, extensive indoor and outdoor practice areas, and private meeting rooms
- ★ Beachfront location of venue and many hotels, nearby theme parks, Kennedy Space Center and college tours make a trip to the Nationals awesome on and off the drill floor

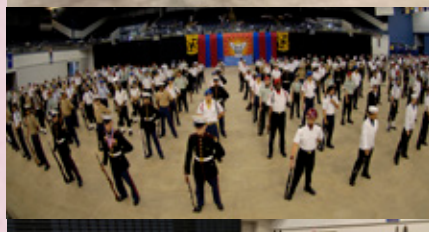
EVENT REGISTRATION - register by 5 December for automatic acceptance

- ★ School Registration Fee is \$300 per school for up to 2 teams entered into Masters, Advanced, or Basic
- ★ Open Level Color Guard & Stand Alone Solo/Dual registration - \$75 per team
- ★ All fees paid are fully refundable prior to 5 December 2025
- ★ All schools who register by the 5 December deadline have a guaranteed entry slot!
- ★ Contact SNI for registration details if you have any questions regarding the Divisions
- ★ See the custom MySchool website where all schools register at: <https://myschool.thenationals.net>

PACKAGE PLAN - what your cadets & instructors will receive

- ★ All participants are required to attend through the Hotel Package Plan to cover all event costs
- ★ Discounted billeting in standard through premium hotels in the Daytona Beach area
- ★ NHSDTC attendees receive a bronze medallion on a chest ribbon, NHSDTC collared sport shirt for adults and t-shirt for cadets (ordered to size), NHSDTC embroidered 4" event patch, 8" x 10" color team photograph taken during the event

The price of the four day / three night Package Plan (based on four people in a room) starts at only \$205 per person. Three, two & one-to-a-room prices are slightly higher; used primarily for instructors & other adult supporters (all prices shown online). Parents may stay through this package with the school, but this is optional. Schools interested in the Hilton Hotel package (located directly across the street) or other upgraded and premium accommodations should check the website for those rates at <https://thenationals.net>



The Ocean Center Arena & Conference Center



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for photos, videos
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TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Service National Championship Drill Event

May 2026

to have made "The Nationals" a part of their unit's history!

COMPETITION EVENTS

Masters, Advanced, and Basic Levels with Armed & Unarmed divisions

Saturday, 2 May 2026 - Sunday, 3 May 2026

- ★ UNIT INSPECTION (All Divisions: 12 cadets + cmdr)
- ★ TEAM REGULATION (All Divisions: 12 cadets + cmdr)
- ★ COLOR GUARD (2 rifles + 2 flags only)
- ★ TEAM EXHIBITION (All divisions: 8 cadets + Commander & over - no maximum)
- ★ SOLO EXHIBITION (Armed Divisions)
- ★ DUAL EXHIBITION (Armed & Unarmed Divisions)
- ★ OPEN LEVEL COLOR GUARD competition (2 rifles + 2 flags only)
- ★ WORLD DRILL CHAMPIONSHIPS (Post High School Drillers - see pg 29 for details)

AWARDS, TROPHIES & ACCOLADES

- ★ The finest event trophies and cadet competition awards presented anywhere!
- ★ National Championship trophy stands over six-feet tall
- ★ 1st-5th awarded in all events due to the amazing depth of talent & sheer number of schools
- ★ Many schools attending are featured within the *DrillNATION Magazine*, Service Headquarters websites, and the event Facebook page

With almost 45 years of experience and history, "The Nationals" remains without parallel in the 3,500+ program JROTC and non-affiliated drill community. The Nationals provides the finest all-service drill & ceremony competition available anywhere! Your program's fundraising dollars and quest for excellence are precious, so make sure to invest in the best and most trusted experience possible for your cadets by attending the only national drill competition with a proven track record for excellence.

Become a partner in the history and excellence of the Nationals. See, be seen and become part of the brother and sisterhood that only comes from competing with the best schools and the best instructors. Over a dozen colleges on-site offer information along with many national drill supporters/vendors. For full competition details, see the NHSDTC website online at: <https://thenationals.net>

book site for the Nationals
ideos and fun for all!
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For additional information:
Event Manager
Sports Network International, Inc.
388 Muddy Creek Lane
Ormond Beach, Florida 32174
800/327-9311 ☎ 386/274-1919
website: <https://thenationals.net>
email: drill@thenationals.net

Sunny Daytona Beach, Florida

Where do PT/Fitness teams, Raider teams and other JROTC Athletic teams want to end their year?

2026 NATIONAL JROTC FITNESS CHALLENGE CHAMPIONSHIPS



FOR THE ANNUAL FITNESS CHALLENGE THE SWEAT WILL FLOW IN THE ULTIMATE FITNESS BATTLE ON THE SHORES OF THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS BEACH!

Imagine your cadets competing on the shores of the World's Most Famous Beach in the most exciting and fun fitness competition ever hosted! This one-day, all-service JROTC-only competition held in Daytona Beach, Florida during the National H.S. Drill Team Championships will provide your cadets the ability to pull together an entire year of effort into one stellar weekend!



The "Fitness Nationals" typically has teams from 25 states. "The World's Most Famous Beach" is the competition home and is traffic-free. This area hosts the



3K Team Beach Run and Physical Team Test (obstacle course) events. The Pull Ups/Flexed Arm Hang, Standing Double Jump and Weighted Ball Throw are held inside the Ocean Center facility just a few blocks away.

Divisions for the event include a MALE Division, a MIXED Division and a FEMALE Division. Nine cadets compete in every event with a team maximum of 14 cadets on a team.

Events for the National Fitness Challenge include:

- 3K TEAM BEACH RUN -
- P.T.T. BEACH OBSTACLE COURSE -
- PULL UPS/FLEXED ARM HANG -
- STANDING DOUBLE JUMP -
- WEIGHTED BALL THROW -



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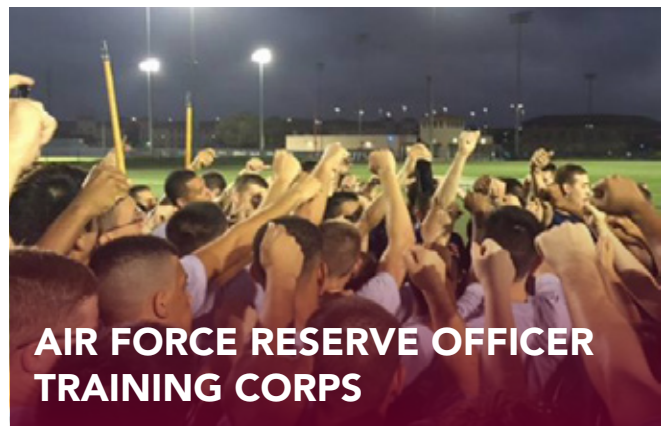
See the FACEBOOK PAGE for all of the latest details:



<https://www.facebook.com/JROTCFitnessNationals/>

GO TO THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE FOR THE EVENT:

[HTTPS://THENATIONALS.NET](https://thenationals.net)



AIR FORCE RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS

Schreiner University participates in a cross-town agreement with the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) AFROTC Detachment 842. Students who are interested in participating in Air Force ROTC will be able to do so while also attending Schreiner University. On Tuesdays and Thursdays the university will provide transportation for students to attend ROTC required activities located at the UTSA campus.



MILITARY ACADEMY PREPARATORY SCHOOL (MAPS)

The Schreiner Institute Military Academy Preparatory School is a 10-month intensive academic program for post-high school students seeking a nomination to one of the five US military service academies. Students will focus on academics, physical fitness, leadership and ethics training, and community service. During our 10-month program, the behavior and character of the cadet candidate will be modified and developed, respectively.



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Wellness Checks



Armed Exhibition with Paul Naki



Art of Drill Seminar



Color Guard



Train the Trainer Instructor Seminar



Platoon Movements



Unarmed Exhibition

- ✦ Six nights housing
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- ✦ Basic and Advanced classes
- ✦ Color Guard, Inspection, Regulation
- ✦ Specific instruction in Exhibition
- ✦ Team Building exercises
- ✦ Leadership skills
- ✦ Fun and new friends

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COME HUNGRY TO LEARN ... AND LEAVE READY TO COMPETE WITH THE BEST!

For further information on the Nationals Drill Camp, Contact Sports Network International
email: sni@thenationals.net ★ website: <https://thenationals.net> ★ toll-free: 800/327-9311

VISIT THE NATIONALS DRILL CAMP WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS!



NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DRILL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

2025 EVENT

"Where the 'World's Most Famous Beach' .."



JROTC units have many choices when it comes to co-curricular activities. All have benefits, but there is nothing in the military framework of JROTC that promotes lifetime exceptionalism more than military drill. These dedicated young people who gravitate to the hard work, delayed gratification, high standards, and exactness of championship caliber drill & ceremony competitions often prove to be exceptional later in life. The programs who choose to end their efforts, display their skills, and compete on the biggest stage under the brightest spotlights at the National High School Drill Team Championships (NHSBTC) also deserve the highest accolades. Hosted at the acclaimed Ocean Center Arena & Conference Center in sunny Daytona Beach, Florida, this event brings together the most dedicated JROTC units from around the world for the pinnacle showcase of precision, camaraderie, and patriotic pride.

The 2025 NHSBTC was, in a word, MASSIVE! From doors opening before sunrise to shutting the lights off well into the night, the crowds were bustling, and the excitement was palpable. To many onlookers, success at The Nationals is determined by the quantity and size of trophies earned, but our remarkable JROTC programs know true success comes from embracing the discipline, determination, and sacrifice it takes to lead your team in victory AND defeat. These lessons learned will carry onwards decades after cadets leave their mark on the drill pads in Daytona Beach.

The two-day extravaganza is a part of a larger military weekend that brings to town over 5,000 competitors, instructors and observers in various related National Championship events - but without parallel, the NHSBTC is the feature event. The Nationals includes a variety of team events with three levels of talent ranging from D3 for the newer programs honing their craft, to D2 who display solid drill in most all areas, to the D1 Level who remain the top teams in the nation in their service.

These events and levels are designed to be a fair, all-around test of a program's D&C excellence. The teams display all the technical skills and incredible precision their time & talents have taught them, but even more importantly, cadets must work as a team, remain poised under pressure, and exhibit unwavering professionalism on and off the drill floor. The NHSBTC is a culmination of months, even years, of rigorous training and practice. This event always provides every cadet with an opportunity to put their dedication and hard work on display for peers, instructors, and spectators alike. There are no short-cuts as our skilled array of judges observe every movement with a critical eye.

Division 3 Basic

This year's Division 3 had an excellent showing of brand new JROTC programs to The Nationals as well as many hard-working returning schools. In the Armed Division, Floyd Central HS (IN) had a strong showing, earning trophies in 3 of the 4 team events, but Oak Ridge Military Academy (NC) came from behind with an outstanding 1st place Team Exhibition routine to win a TIEBREAKER for the 3rd place Overall Armed Division title. Flower Mound HS (TX), with an impressive Armed Inspection win and a 3rd place Team Exhibition run, had enough to capture the Division 3 Overall Runner-Up title. With top 5 placements in ALL team events, including a 1st Place Color Guard finish, the Black Knights from Kenwood HS (TN) dominated to achieve the Armed Division 3 Overall Championship title.

In the Unarmed Division, Montgomery Central HS (TN) came in 3rd Overall pushed by a solid win in Color Guard, just topping Dunedin HS (FL). When the dust settled, two schools powered to the top. Providence Senior HS (NC) won both Team Exhibition & Regulation events but were just ousted from the D3 Unarmed title by the Army cadets from Harlingen HS (TX). The Silver Guard gained top 3 trophies in every event, powering them to the top of the podium. This type of excellence & consistency will serve them well in the D2 Level next year.



Division 3 Unarmed

Division 2 Advanced

With top three finishes in Regulation, Inspection, and Color Guard, Claudia Taylor Johnson HS (TX) made an impressive leap from 5th place overall in 2024 to 3rd place overall this year. Another school on the rise, Mansfield HS (TX), grabbed two 1st place (Regulation & CG) and a 2nd place (Exhibition) trophy to change their 4th place overall finish in 2024 to an Overall Runner-Up title in 2025! Despite the hard work of these two challengers, no one could stop Union HS (NJ) from powering to the top of the D2 Armed leaderboard. Taking 1st place in both Inspection & Team Exhibition, along with trophy finishes in the other two events, made the Maroon Guard too tough to catch.



Division 2 Armed

In the Division 2 Unarmed events, the scores were very close between our top finishers. With a fantastic 2nd Place showing in Inspection, Winston Churchill HS (TX) nailed down the 3rd Place Overall finish. Union HS grabbed a 1st (Inspection) and

DRILL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

HIGHLIGHTS

.. Meets the "World's Most Famous Drill"



2nd Place trophy (Color Guard) to bring home the D2 Overall Runner-Up title. Making Tennessee proud, the Coyote Pride from West Creek HS conquered 1st Place in Color Guard and 3rd in Exhibition, as well as great showings in all other team events, to capture the D2 Unarmed Overall Championship title.

Division 1 Masters

The Division 1 Masters Level is for the best of the best to compete. These cadets don't just practice until they get it right, they practice until they can't get it wrong! The competition was exceptional as a past D1 National Runner-Up, Brandeis HS (TX), had a 1st place Exhibition and 2nd Place Regulation finish to hold the respectable 3rd Place Overall title. To no one's surprise, Ronald Reagan HS (TX) competed with strength and pride to claim the D1 Overall Armed Runner-up position. The Rattler Guard drill team displayed overall quality and consistency to trophy in all four team events. With a powerful 1st Place finish in Team Exhibition and three additional trophy placements, no one could stop the Patriot Guard drill team from Francis Lewis HS (NY) from recapturing the Division 1 Armed Overall Championship title.

The D1 Masters Level Unarmed had the closest overall finish seen in decades! Brenham HS (TX) triumphantly won Color Guard, but Ronald Reagan HS (TX) won BOTH Inspection & Team Exhibition to grab 3rd Place overall. Francis Lewis HS



Division 1 Armed

(TX) was looking to do the daily double after winning the armed side of the house with the Patriot Pride drill team nailing two 2nd Place finishes (Color Guard & Team Exhibition) and a 3rd (Inspection), but a lower Regulation score opened the door just wide enough for Flour Bluff HS (TX) to take home the Unarmed D1 Championship. After finishing 10th in 2024, the Navy SeaHawks from Corpus Christi were DETERMINED to take back their throne in 2025, and they succeeded!

With thousands in the arena and twice as many watching on-line, the closing night Awards Ceremony puts forth the biggest stage in drill, both literally and figuratively. The massive stage, red carpet, the spotlights, and legendary trophies, and distinguished dais guests all help make this the punctuation mark of a drill season well-lived. Thanks are in order for the JROTC service heads in attendance, the all-service judging corps, and ALL teams that took on the challenge of competing at The Nationals. They combine to make the night a fitting end to a weekend of wonder.

The National High School Drill Team Championships stands alone as a shining platform for the next generation of civilian and military leaders. As these young cadets march onto the stage, they carry with them the legacy of generations who have come before them. Competing on the grand stage, they remind us all that excellence is achieved through hard work, dedication, and a shared commitment to something greater than oneself. The road to NHSDTC 2026 begins NOW!



Ocean Center

Open Level Color Guard Competition / Solo & Dual Exhibition

From over 30 states, the Open Level Color Guard and the Solo/Dual Exhibition events were PACKED! In a tight race, Tomball Memorial HS Wildcat CG (958 pts.) secured the OLCG Overall Championship trophy. Eagle River HS, all the way from Alaska, went home as the Overall Runner-Up (938 pts.). In a crazy twist, both William Howard Taft HS Color Guard teams received the exact same score (933 pts. each), taking home 3rd and 4th place, and yet another Alaska school, North Pole HS, rounded out the division with 5th place (911 pts.).

This year saw the largest Solo/Dual Exhibition competition in the history of The Nationals! When the tabulators cooled, Octavio Martinez from Central Catholic HS Chaminade Guard (1121 pts.) had just enough to edge out Alejandro Cerda Argueta from Brandeis HS (1111 pts.) & Jeremiah Ross from Central HS (1006 pts.) for the championship. Top Female Armed Soloist was Ana Gonzalez Rodriguez from No Quarters Drill (1018 points), followed closely by Julia Ciarrocchi from Brandeis HS (995 pts.) and in 3rd place, Samantha Minton from Lake Mary HS (939 pts.).



Tomball High School

The Armed Dual Exhibition also utilized Qualifying Rounds due to a record 57 entries! Cadets Bull & Hayes from North Pole HS Patriots Drillers (1004 pts.) fought to the top for the championship title! Runner-up went to Leavenworth HS cadets Smith & Smith (995 pts.) with cadets Rukab & Cigliano from Allen D. Nease HS gaining a 3rd place overall finish. Mixed Division competition yielded Lake Mary HS - cadets Burton & Minton as champions (988 pts.), Blythewood HS cadets Ekechukwu & Simmons (967 pts.) in 2nd place with Ringgold HS (924 pts.) cadets Parell & Cook gaining a solid 3rd place.

The Dual Unarmed Exhibition entries were laden with talent in a 51-team field. Cadets Lee & Cyr (1069 pts.) from Ronald Reagan HS narrowly beat out cadets Granados & Rios (1061 pts.) from Waukegan HS but both dominated a closely packed field. Cadets Hardin & Sanchez (1026 pts.) from Winston Churchill HS achieved 3rd place. Dynamic cadets Turrubiarres & Bernal (1023 pts.) from Brenham HS gained 4th by a single point over cadets McQueen & Clayborn from West Creek winning 5th place between three other duals tied at 1022 points!

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Contact our Membership Director:

LTC Rene' Jewett (US Army Ret.)



membership@pershingblackjacks.org



Blackjack Staff

President: Nicholas F. Campagna

president@pershingblackjacks.org

Membership: LTC (R) Rene' Jewett

membership@pershingblackjacks.org



Local Support Through Our Ambassadors

- MG (R) Donald Jacka – Kansas | MGJacka@gmail.com

- Col (R) Robert A. Kvederas – Connecticut | rkvederas@snet.net

- Col (R) Samuel Licorish – Maryland | Slicoris@rvaschools.net

- Maj Craig Zagorski – South Carolina | craigzagorski@gmail.com

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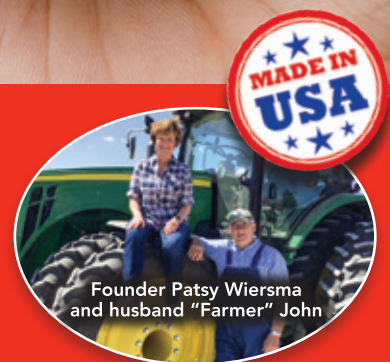
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Junior ROTC Needs to Speak Up!

A CALL TO ACTION



"Closed mouths don't get fed," is a proverb that has echoed across generations. It is a reminder that we have the power to shape our own lives, create new opportunities, and achieve our goals when we speak up for what we need. Learning to advocate for yourself (and in this case, your program) is a skill that cannot be understated, especially when it comes to political causes. Government spending has always been a hot-button topic, but never more so than in the last year. Though the rumblings of Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) being slated for the chopping block have been squashed, this is subject to change at any time without cadets and their supporters taking a stand.

Many cadets under the age of 18 may think that their voice has no weight without a vote to cast, but that is not the case. Between social media, letter-writing campaigns, and family support, cadets who SPEAKUP for the importance of JROTC can make a tremendous difference. No other program in this

country has fostered more valiant leaders, promoted a stronger sense of patriotism, and further enriched the educational experience of its students than JROTC. Because this program moves in humble silence, letting the results speak for themselves rather than self-aggrandizing their triumphs, it would be easy for members of Congress to make assumptions about JROTC's impact on this country. With over 300,000 JROTC cadets across the country, as well as millions of family members, supporters, and alumni of the program, JROTC has the numbers to make their voices heard, but that requires standing up for what you believe.

Without ever leaving the comfort of your smartphone, there are endless ways to reach Congressmen and women to show them the importance of JROTC. Social media is a powerful tool for spreading awareness. For better or worse, viral videos get your message across to millions of people across the world. In this case, a video

showcasing your program's drill prowess or personality could capture viewers' attention. Tag your elected officials to get their attention! If you are under 18, talk to your parents about calling their representatives to express the importance of JROTC. Letter writing campaigns and phone banking are classic techniques for sharing your support for a cause with your representatives.

Best way to ensure JROTC stays both viable and visible to the members of Congress is to REACH OUT to those in charge of the existence of the program, tell them how important it is to the nation.

U.S. Capitol Switchboard: You can reach any House or Senate office by calling the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121.

House of Representatives & Senate Directory: The House.gov and Senate.gov websites offer a Directory of Members to include phone numbers for each member. The Senate link below has the same items:

<https://www.house.gov/representatives>

<https://www.senate.gov/senators/>



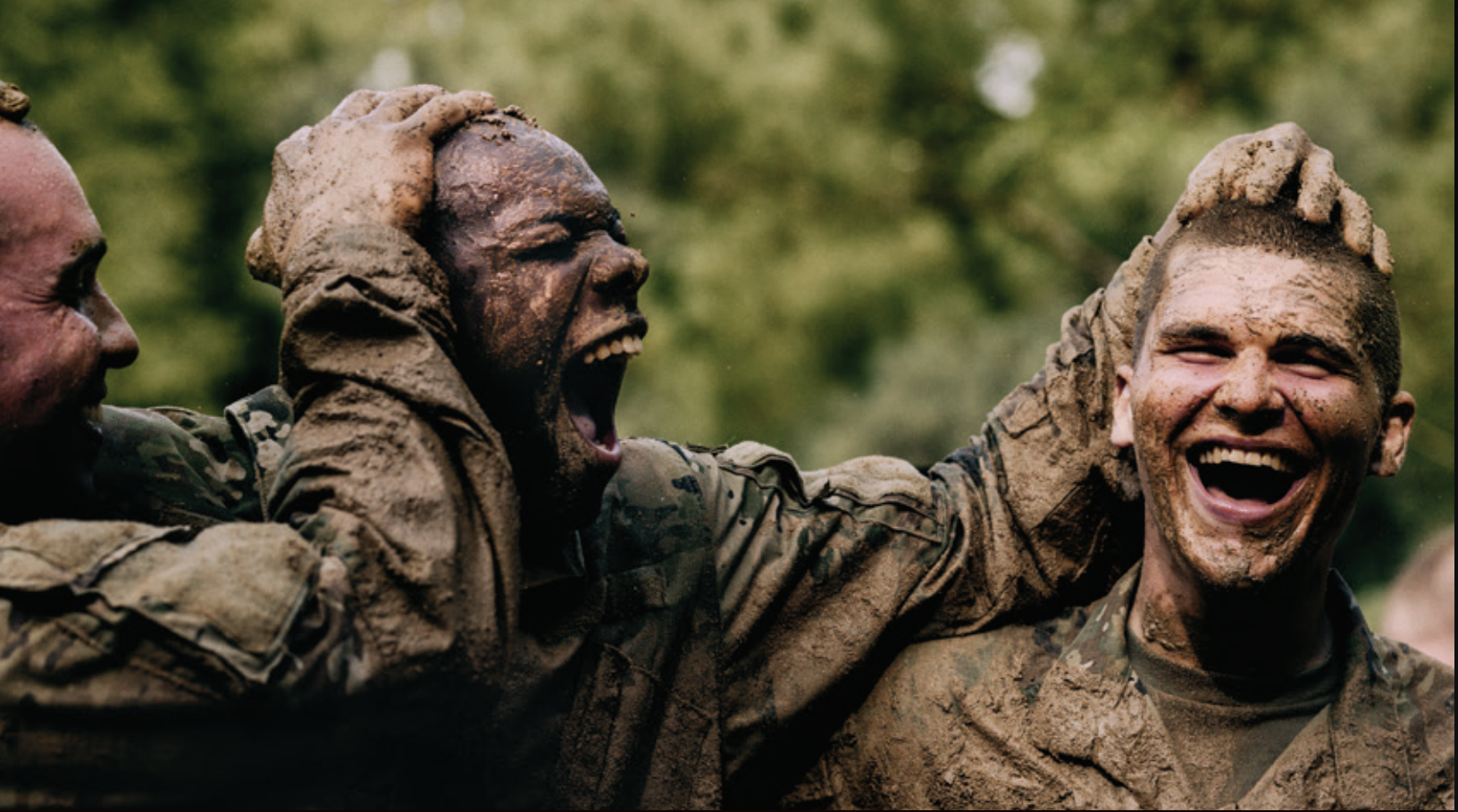
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or call 1-866-405-7682.



Unlock the leader in you.

Two-, three-, and four-year scholarships are available for qualified students at Senior Military Colleges (SMC) and Military Junior Colleges (MJC). Army ROTC scholarships cover tuition and fees, room and board, a book allowance per semester, and a monthly stipend. Become an Army Officer in just two years through the Military Junior College Early Commissioning Program.

For more information about Army ROTC scholarships and Military Colleges, email MC-info@army.mil or text MCINFO to GOARMY (462769).

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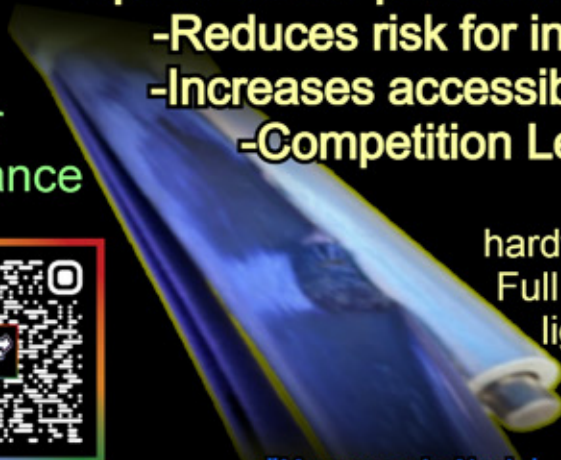


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WORLD DRILL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Dare Mighty Things

Where the Elite Meet to Compete!

Drillers from around the globe make the World Drill Championships their annual home each & every May. The "Worlds" competition remains the finest collection of post high school exhibition drillers ever assembled in a single location each & every year. Founded by Drill Hall of Fame member and former nationally ranked driller, Mr. Abdul Al-Romaizan, the WDC welcomes all drillers who feel they are ready to be a part of the best drill weekend ever presented. Be surrounded by the legends in drill every year and see dozens of the newest superstars, graduating cadets from the championship ranks of the NHS DTC. There is no other weekend in the world of competition drill that can compare to the Nationals weekend!

***THE BUZZ CAN ONLY BE EXPERIENCED
IN THE OCEAN CENTER COMPETITION ARENA!***

This WDC event is ONLY for those who are post-high school. With the addition of a brand new Team division this year, there are more opportunities than ever for talented drillers to demonstrate their prowess to the visiting JROTC cadets, spectators, and the WORLD! This international event is operated for independent, college, military reserve or active-duty drillers. With the motto, "Dare Mighty Things", the WDC serves to take drill to the next level beyond the high school arena. Winners are crowned on the biggest stage in drill during the Awards Ceremony of the National High School Drill Team Championships. The WDC is without parallel - ask anyone who has been there! Drillers of all skill levels are urged to be a part of the brother and sisterhood that is the trademark of the WDC. There is simply nothing like it!

World Drill Championships

Saturday/Sunday 2-3 May 2026
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2025 Solo Exhibition Winners

First Place: **Trey Davidson**

Second Place: **Jackson Rainwater**

Third Place: **Ethan Radar**

2025 Dual Exhibition Winners

First Place: **Davidson & Katz**

Second Place: **Davis & Stratton**

Third Place: **Guerin & Rainwater**

2025 Team Exhibition Winner

First Place: **Norwich University**

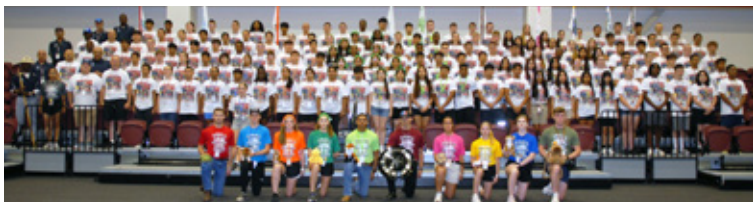


NATIONALS

S C R A P B O O K

A 360° View Around the Nationals & the JROTC Universe!

Summer 2025 brought together a record number all-service cadets & instructors for a week of unparalleled training & fun!



Schreiner University in Kerrville, Texas served as the official home for the 7-day Nationals Drill Camp. Cadets & instructors of all backgrounds gain a huge jump start learning from our accomplished cadre, from current and former Nationals Drill Champions to experienced judges. It is a total immersion camp starting and ending everyday in darkness, milking every minute to improve all aspects of your personal skills and those of your program.

Booster Clubs, Navy Areas, Army Brigades and even parents send campers to better themselves and their unit with great success. Rarely does anyone get the chance to be surrounded by drill devotees like themselves, with instructors who know how to excel. It is the ultimate fantasy camp for a totally transformative experience into excellence. The progress can be quite astounding. Start making plans today for your cadets to be there in 2026!



Read about it, work to make it happen, then gain benefits for life!

Visit the Nationals Drill Camp website to learn more:
<https://thenationals.net>

The Jean K. Weil Scholarships for 2025 were Taken Home by the “Best of the Best” in Nationals Excellence!



The prestigious Jean K. Weil Scholarship recognizes the most outstanding overall graduating cadets at the NHSDTC. The finalists submit their transcripts, an extended essay, personal recommendation letters from JROTC instructors and school admin and more. A panel reviews their package and the top five finalists are then chosen to go through on-site interviews. With these being the best of the best, it is a pleasure to meet these amazing individuals who have gotten so much from JROTC!

Cadet Sophia Ariz-Mendi of Blythewood HS in Columbia, South Carolina and Cadet Marie Garza of Harlingen HS in Harlingen, Texas displayed excellence and will be fantastic representatives of the Jean Weil Scholarship for all-time. It is always outstanding selecting two people who will undoubtedly offer so much to the future of this great nation. They should be quite proud and as always, we expect great things going forward!

Along with the notoriety of such an award, each of these two graduating cadets earned a \$1,000 scholarship to be used for future scholastic expenses. To see more on this award or how to ensure your top graduating senior cadets apply for the award at the upcoming 2026 Nationals, go to the on-line home: <https://thenationals.net/jkw-main.htm>.

Mansfield HS has one objective - to be the BEST with no EXCUSES!

Every year, Sports Network selects one school at The Nationals to be awarded the Spirit Banner. This program must epitomize hard work, excellence in the face of adversity, and overall champion spirit that we have come to expect from ALL of the incredible programs that attend the Nationals. The decision is never easy, as all JROTC cadets and instructors frequently are a cut above the rest, but, after difficult deliberation, the school unanimously selected was Mansfield High School from Mansfield, Texas.



Learn more about the Spirit Award:
<https://thenationals.net/dt-spiritaward.htm>

This unit is relatively new on the drill scene, but they came out with a bang! Several years ago, the program attended the Army Drill Championships, and their scores were among the best teams in the nation. This prompted many schools to comment, “Who is Mansfield HS?” as the team captured numerous awards. The parade of trophies has deepened over the years, and now spectators see them at top-level drill meets and have a more concerned tone when they say, “Oh no, Mansfield High School is HERE!”

The Mansfield Storming and Lady Tigers have no easy roads, and everything they win they do through hard work and sacrifice. They join an illustrious group of schools as they carry the banner for just one school year. Congrats cadets & instructors, the future is yours!

How can Army JROTC improve your education and future career?

A study from the Rand Corporation analyzed the educational and career outcomes of Army Junior ROTC cadets in Hawaii and Texas compared with peers at non-JROTC schools with similar enrollment and demographics, found that cadets who participated in all four years of the program are more likely to graduate, have higher rates of attendance and lower rates of suspension.

Once they are in the Army, former cadets, especially those who participate in JROTC for three or more years, are more likely than their fellow enlisted peers to complete their first contract, according to Rand. “Among enlisted soldiers who start in the active component in our sample, more than 23 percent do not complete their first contracted term,” the report says. “...Former cadets are less likely to leave service before the end of their first term. ... Cadets who start in the active component are, on average, 3 percentage points (about 13 percent) less likely to attrit.”

Former cadets are also more likely to have longer careers than their peers, the study found. While the average career length of soldiers in the study’s sample was 5 1/2 years in the active component, the study found “strong evidence that former cadets serve longer.” “Former cadets are 7.3 percentage points more likely than non-JROTC cadets to serve at least 6 years and 4.2 percentage points more likely to serve at least 15 years,” the report found.

The JROTC program serves over a half million students each year in more than 3,400 high schools, according to data in the report. The program was established in the National Defense Act of 1916 as a citizenship and leadership program. The data supports what all of us have known for decades: high school students and their families’ lives are improved in great ways through JROTC!

The National Drill Hall of Fame Shines with a Norwich Sparkle

The National Drill Hall of Fame represents an illustrious & diverse group of military related entities that each forever changed the world of military drill. On the fourth of May 2025, the illustrious Shock Platoon from Norwich University was forever enshrined into the 2025 Class of the National Drill Hall of Fame.



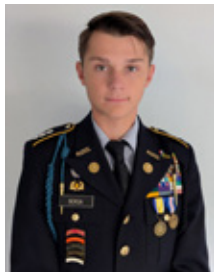
While this pantheon of drill has grown in stature since the humble beginnings in 1937 at the inception of Norwich University, they continue to gain national notoriety and accolades to exemplify what few others can match. Their consistent push for excellence makes them a standard bearer among collegiate programs. The artistry and power of military drill on display through their talents, now approaching 100 years, is a level of dedication few can match.

While the team continues to dominate regionally and powers to top finishes at well-respected national meets, it is their longevity, strength and power of their past and present members that make this program infinitely worthy of addition to such a hallowed armory of Drill excellence. Sports Network is proud to immortalize the Norwich University Regimental Drill Team into the National Drill Hall of Fame.

We love to receive nomination ideas for the DHoF. Drop us a note for a person or entity who you believe deserves to be recognized among the greatest of all time - you never know who will be honored next!

Broward County JROTC Cadet Submitted for the Medal of Heroism

On March 15, 2025, Christian Boksa, a Senior LET 4 Cadet at Pompano Beach High School in Pompano Beach, Florida, showed the world that JROTC helps to produce our most courageous and selfless future leaders. As a menacing rip current threatened the safety of his fellow cadets at Fisher Family Pier, Cadet Boksa did not hesitate to risk his life to save theirs. His instinct to act reflected the training and principles he had internalized as a JROTC cadet. He assessed the situation and made a split-second decision to enter the tumultuous waters, prioritizing the lives of those in danger over his own safety. In a display of remarkable determination, Cadet Boksa fearlessly swam against the current, navigating the treacherous waves with the sole purpose of reaching his peers. His ability to remain calm under pressure was pivotal, as it allowed him to effectively guide and support his fellow cadets during their time of crisis. Through his quick thinking and unwavering resolve, Boksa successfully rescued all four cadets, steering them back toward safety. Cadet Boksa's heroic actions that day not only highlight his bravery, but also serve as a powerful example of the core values instilled through the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program.



Sports Network International Youth Foundation Gives Back

Dating back to its inception in the early 2000's, the Sports Network International Youth Foundation was created to give back to the JROTC cadets and programs who keep our events operating at the highest caliber. As a not-for-profit 501-c-3, 100% of ALL donated funds are used toward specific scholarships and causes, such as the Jean K. Weil Memorial Scholarship awarded every year at the NHSDTC. SNI pays for any and all legal and administrative costs to operate the not-for-profit entity, allowing 100% of all donations to go to those in need, a rarity in the world of charitable giving.

The horrific floods and human tragedy that occurred throughout Kerrville, Texas this July hit very close to home, as the Nationals Drill Camp has been in Central Texas for almost two decades. We are proud to announce that the Sports Network International Youth Foundation donated over \$2,000 worth of blankets to the community. Looking for ways you can help the people of the Texas Hill Country? Kerr County Flood Relief Fund is a great location: <https://www.communityfoundation.net/>

"Big Raider" Shines in both Molena & Ft. Knox

RAIDER flexes its muscle primarily in the Fall and 2026 will be no exception. Exciting challenges await all teams!

Begun in North Georgia over 30 years ago, that small cluster of raider teams has now grown to roughly 1,000 all-service programs. This growth naturally expands the competitive atmosphere as powerful new teams push forward and blossom, annually making history.



The Army Raider Competition is hosted mid-October in Ft. Knox, Kentucky. This event is HUGE, hosting upwards of three hundred teams brought in by the Army from all of their Brigades and a few select other programs. Cadets get hands-on with Kentucky's wilderness, running through the woods, and up grueling hills to achieve greatness. There is no weekend with more HOOAH! Reach out to your Army Brigade to learn more.

In early November, SNI hosts the All-Service Raider National Championships in Molena, Georgia at the Lawhorn Scouting Base. This central Georgia event hosts a Challenge Level competition on Friday, October 31st and a Masters Level competition (to include the Male, Female and Mixed Divisions) on Saturday and Sunday, 1-2 November. The rural scenery makes for the perfect weekend of camping, s'mores, and unforgettable memories. Spaces are available on a first-come, first-filled basis on the MySchool website: <https://myschool.thenationals.net/>.

HAVE YOUR PROGRAM INTERN AMONG THE BEST OF THE BEST AT "THE NATIONALS!"

Every year, Sports Network International looks to accept one (sometimes TWO) outstanding JROTC programs looking to step forward and participate as our official "Internship School". Begun in 2006, our internship program selects a school that wishes to learn what it takes to succeed at the National High School Drill Team Championships. They are best described as a "fully emersed spectator school," but they experience the Nationals from a "behind the scenes" perspective. This school will see the event from the eye of an event director, interacting extensively with event officials, cadets, judges - everything that normally only the few Sports Network International officials have the opportunity to do. Your involvement will help your cadets appreciate what it takes to run a competition the size and scope of the Nationals, as well as learn the psychology, motivation and often details that both judges and competing cadets maintain.

If selected, your cadets will receive training in advance and upon arrival. Staff vests identify your cadets as special envoys of the National High School Drill Team Championships. Food is provided for the cadets working

the day and of course for the instructors supervising. Schools can rotate two groups of cadets should they wish for their students to get a chance to roam around the event arena as well.



Braswell HS interns with their instructor SMSgt Koopmans (R) and AFJROTC Director COL Tipton (L)

This selected school must be willing to attend the entire event and be highly motivated! Many cadets will work as event runners attached to a specific judging group to see the performance, review and scoring of the best drill units in the nation UP CLOSE. Some would work with the scoring of the NHSDTC while other cadets will assist with the photo room, where 4,000+ cadets move through to make memories lasting a lifetime.

History shows this position often serves as the perfect stepping stone to competing here in the future! Complete details are best provided via telephone. We encourage all schools who may be interested in joining the illustrious groups that have been a part of the Nationals Internship Program to contact SNI today. Speak directly with Samantha Ste. Claire and she can help provide all details needed to make this trip happen (800-327-9311).

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