

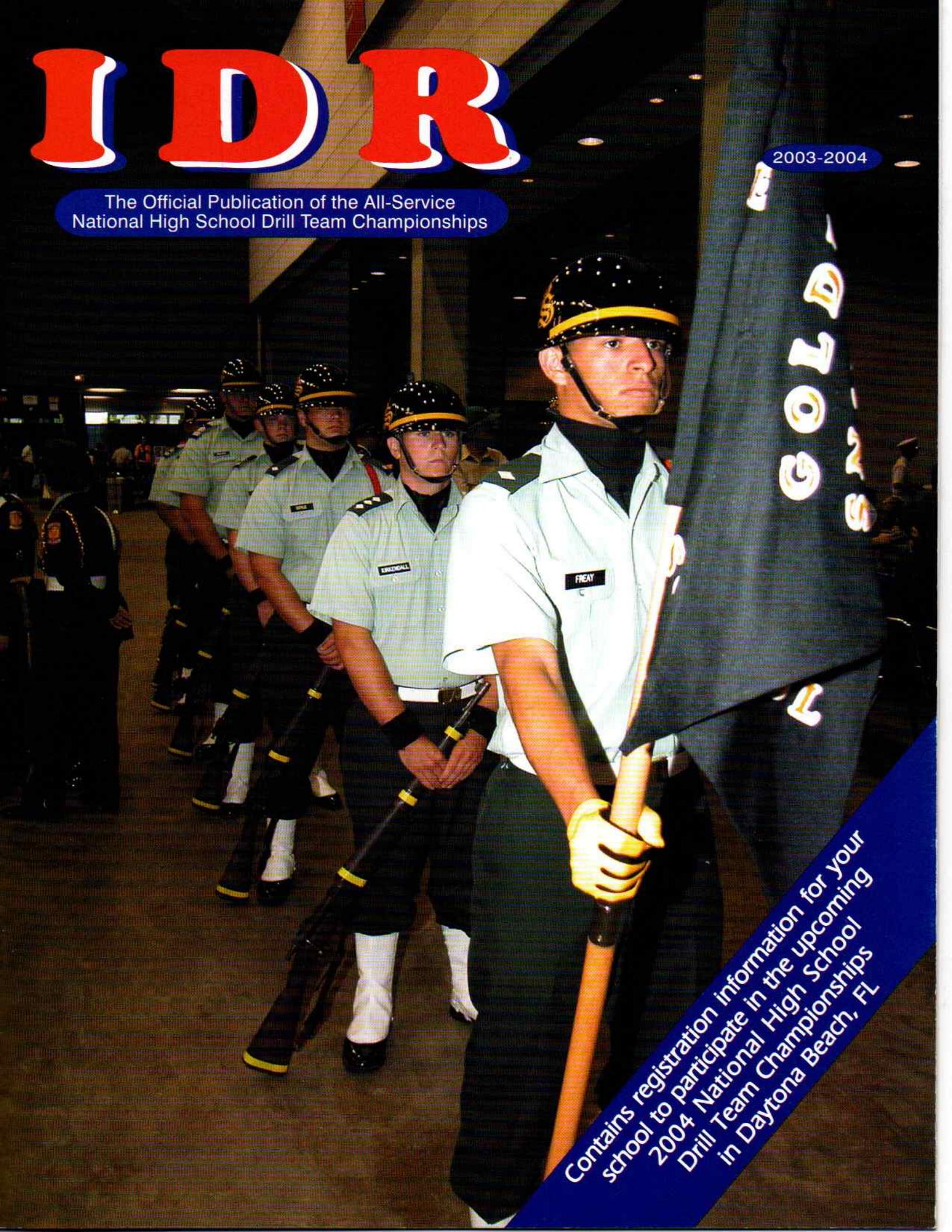
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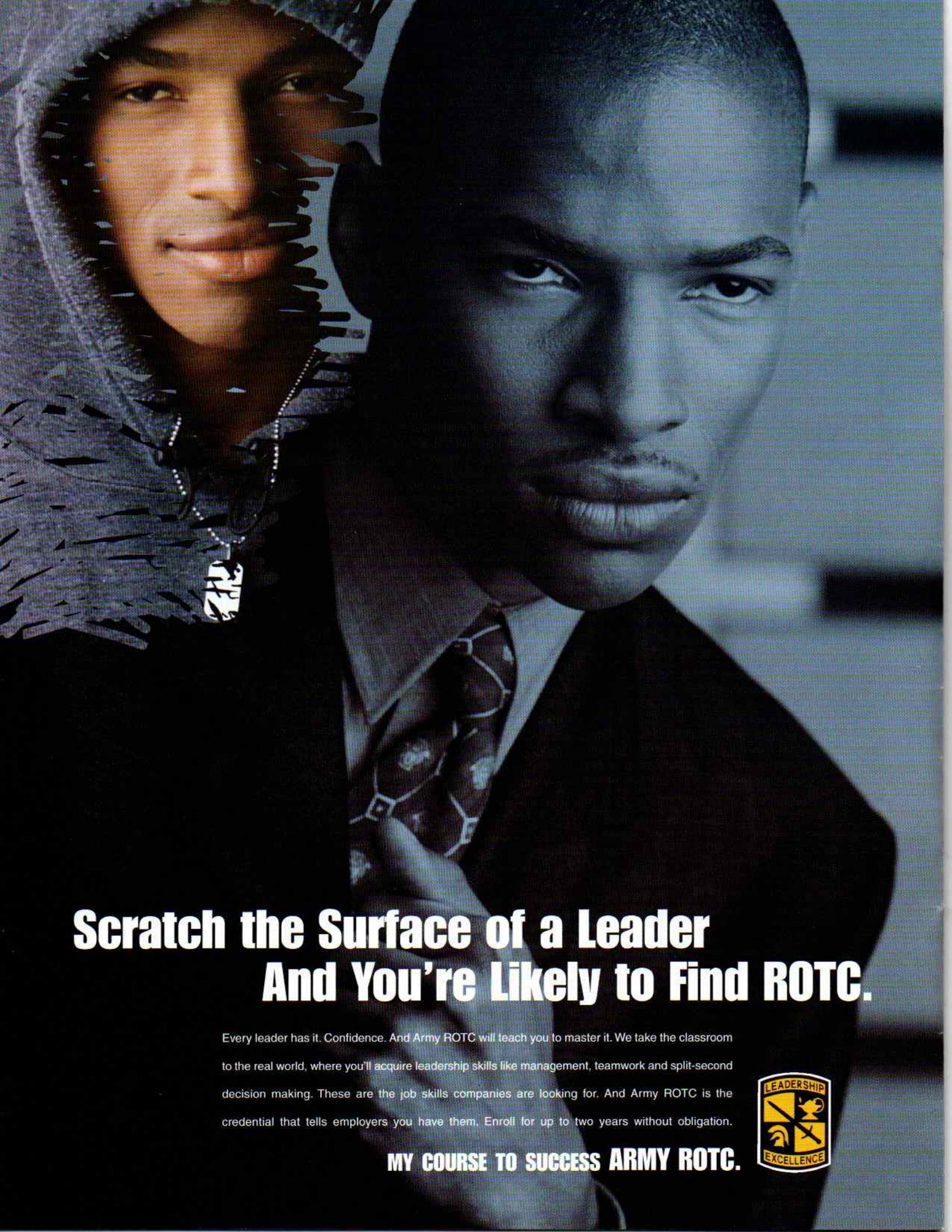
The Official Publication of the All-Service
National High School Drill Team Championships

2003-2004

GOLD

Contains registration information for your
School to participate in the upcoming
2004 National High School
Drill Team Championships
in Daytona Beach, FL





Scratch the Surface of a Leader And You're Likely to Find ROTC.

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IDR Magazine

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

Navy Nationals Brings Excellence Onboard
"Best of" Videotape Series - Order Form & Information
September 11th Fallout
Air Force Blue Turns to Gold in the Nation's Capital
Texas A&M University
A Final Salute to the Capital Classic
Army Nationals - The Dawn of a New Era
2004 National High School Drill Team Championships
Daytona Beach, Florida / April 30th - May 2nd, 2004
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2003 Nationals - Masters Level Roster & Photo Montage
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Editor-in-Chief **Samantha Ste.Claire**

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COVER

The Golden Snipers from Englewood HS in Jacksonville, Florida enter the ready area as they prepare to compete within Challenge Level Armed Exhibition.

BACK COVER

Top Left: Oxon Hill HS readies for Masters Level Flight Exhibition Drill phase.

Top Right: This Masters Level Navy unit prepares to Case Colors during Color Guard competition.

Mid-Left: A cadet from Douglas MacArthur HS is captured in a moment of mental preparation for the next grueling Masters Level event.

Mid-Right: This Colorado high school Color Guard unit proudly displays the National Emblem during the start of their Color Guard competition.

Lower Left: Fern Creek HS from Louisville, Kentucky render a team salute as their Cadet Commander moves to the stage to receive a team trophy.

Lower Right: The Army cadets Report-In to the Head Judge during the Masters Level Dual Exhibition competition.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the dedicated staff of the **U.S. Army Cadet Command** in Ft. Monroe, VA. Their longtime support of the Nationals helps to make this the premier showcase for JROTC drill & ceremony excellence. Special thanks also go out to **SGM Dennis Hastings** of Texas A&M University, **Mr. John Schultz** of American Management Systems and **Mr. Mark Loechel** of Pearson Education for their generous financial donations to the **Jean Weil Scholarship Foundation**. Lastly, special thanks go out to the **all-service judging corps** whose work helps to give the Nationals the deserved reputation of being "the best drill event in the country." Most importantly, our appreciation extends to every **JROTC instructor** who goes the extra mile for their cadets. No other program exists that better prepares young people from all walks of life to become quality citizens. With honor and an unwavering commitment to excellence, these cadets will guide our nation throughout the 21st century.



NOW HEAR THIS!

SIGHTS AND SOUNDS FROM THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DRILL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2003 National High School Drill Team Championships made its mark as the deepest, most talented competition field in the history of the event! On numerous occasions throughout the weekend, hushed murmurs in the crowd of, "wow, did you see...." were often heard. Judges on Sunday night resonated a common theme -- that the 2003 Nationals weekend brought forth the **finest top-to-bottom effort they had ever seen**. Thanks to all who participated!

Texas A&M University will continue as the "Official Collegiate Sponsor" of the Nationals with the **U.S. Army Cadet Command** continuing their support as the "Official Military Sponsor". We are hoping to announce one other official sponsor very soon. It is our great honor to have the support of these esteemed institutions.

SNI continues to be the Event Manager for several other excellent JROTC competitions. These events include the **Navy JROTC Nationals** - Academic, Athletic & Drill Championships (event wrap-up, pg. 4); the **Air Force National Drill Championships** (event wrap, pg. 7) and the **U.S. Army's National Capital Drill Classic** (event wrap-up, pg. 10). The Army has just announced that the decade long brigade-only National Capital Drill Classic will be retired. In its place, Cadet Command will be hosting an Eastern Region championship and adding a Western Region Championship event. The winners of these two events will be given entry spaces and significant financial support to attend the **NHSDTC** in early May. Complete event details and entry information for all of the above drill competitions can be found at the **SNI** homepage on the web at: <http://drill.thenationals.net>.

The **Best of the Nationals Videotape Series** is extremely popular once again this year. The two-hour tapes are ready for shipment! For the first time, a limited number of DVDs have been produced and are available for purchase. It is the hope of **SNI** that all programs looking to enhance their drill performances can view these tapes. Details regarding these tapes can be found on the order form, located on page 5.

Sports Network International is privileged to host many of the nation's finest JROTC drill teams. Showcasing these outstanding cadets and programs has become the highlight of our calendar and something we take great pride in. Good luck to all of the fantastic cadets, instructors and parents whose combined efforts continue to make Junior ROTC the finest high school program in existence throughout the world!

IDR (Infantry Drill Regulation) is the official publication of the National High School Drill Team Championships. IDR is produced by Sports Network International, Inc. (SNI), 775 Fentress Blvd., Daytona Beach, FL, 32114. For detailed information regarding IDR or Sports Network Int'l (SNI), please visit the SNI homepage at www.thenationals.net or contact SNI via email: drill@thenationals.net or call toll-free at 800/327-9311.

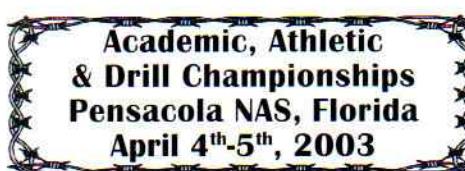
Navy Nationals Brings Excellence Onboard

On the shores of the Gulf of Mexico with the Blue Angels practicing excellence above, the **2003 NJROTC Nationals** cadets put forth excellence below, giving the spectators another nail-biting, seat-squirming affair! No other JROTC competition provides a more thorough test of unit talent than the two-day **NJROTC Nationals - Academic, Athletic & Drill Championships**. In all facets of the competition, Navy pride was on the line as cadets gave a 110% effort in the attempt to bring home the Navy Championship.

The event opens with Navy Chiefs giving every competing cadet the once-over in Unit Personnel Inspection (UPI). Summer Blues were sparkling as cadets fought back nerves while interacting with the tough judges. When the scores were tallied, **Flour Bluff HS** from **Corpus Christi, Texas** took home the victory. The multi-year NJROTC National Champions eased to victory with cool confidence, gaining 1,346 points out of a possible 1,500 total points. **Boca Raton HS** from **Boca Raton, Florida** earned 1,333 points in grabbing 2nd place, while **McDowell HS** from **Marion, North Carolina** surprised the field with a very strong 3rd place finish (1,317 points).

The event then moved outside to overcast skies for the arduous athletic competition. Once again, **Lake Howell HS**'s powerhouse unit from **Winter Park, Florida** stole the show, earning 934 out of a possible 1,000 points. Strength across the board gave these hard workers their victory. Just missing in 2nd place was **Princess Anne HS** of **Virginia Beach, Virginia**. Great team scores got them close, with only a soft male push-ups score costing these cadets a chance at the Athletic victory. Grabbing 3rd place were the flyers from **Valdosta HS** in **Valdosta, Georgia**! Looking like a high school track squad, these cadets nearly maxed out the Oval and Shuttle Relay scores as the skies cleared, the track dried, and the sun shown bright the rest of the weekend!

Teams hustled to the chow hall to grab dinner before returning for the pressure-filled Academic Exam. Schools formed 10-cadet academic teams, taking 100-question tests on



relevant NJROTC material. When the pencils hit the desks, three schools really set the standard. **Princess Anne HS** smoked the competition, nabbing first place by answering an amazing 900 out of 1,000 questions correctly! "PA" needed virtually every point as **Flour Bluff HS** gained a solid second place finish with 893 questions answered. In the academic mix every year, **Nease HS** from **St. Augustine, Florida** amassed 878 correct answers for third place, FAR outdistancing their nearest competitor by a staggering 81 points!

Cadets hit their racks for a few hours of sleep before jumping into the crowd-pleasing portion of the event, the drill competition. Comprised of five team events worth over one-third of the total national championship points, drill superiority remains the backbone of any quality unit, and three schools clearly excelled in this area.

Flour Bluff HS dominated the drill competition portion of the NJROTC Nationals. Capturing 1st place in four of the five team events, Flour Bluff's only missing piece of the puzzle was an uncharacteristic run of rifle drops with their armed exhibition team. **Lake Howell HS** kept the pressure up in gaining a solid 2nd place finish, while **Boca Raton HS** easily distanced their closest competitor for a 3rd place overall drill finish.

The red carpet was again rolled out for the event awards ceremony at the **National Museum of Naval Aviation** (www.naval-air.org). This historic facility on the grounds of NAS Pensacola remains an unparalleled presentation of Naval aviation history. The museum remains one of the largest and most beautiful air and space museums in the world.

The closing ceremony began with a brief welcome message by Museum President, **Vice Admiral John H. Fetterman (ret.)**. The ceremony was

then highlighted by a keynote speech from distinguished guest speaker **Rear Admiral Ann E. Rondeau, Commander, NTC**. Her captivating words and the standing ovation she received set the tone for a very special evening.

As the presentation of trophies proceeded, the handwriting appeared to be on the wall. By capturing the Overall Drill Championship, the Unit Personnel Inspection, and taking 2nd place in the Academic Exam, **Flour Bluff HS** cruised to a 7th consecutive NJROTC Nationals Championship. With a phenomenal score of 4,751 points, the victory left many to wonder what can defeat this immovable object? Grabbing the National Runner-up title was **Lake Howell HS** with a solid score of 4,537. Scoring for the 3rd, 4th and 5th place overall was very tight with **Boca Raton HS** (4,467) just surpassing **Princess Anne HS** (4,447) who barely nudged past **Nease HS** (4,436).

NAS Pensacola proved again to be an exceptional host, providing limitless logistical and personnel support. Many of the Navy's finest JROTC units are already gearing up for the 2004 event, scheduled to return to NAS Pensacola on **April 2nd-3rd**. Hats off to all of these NJROTC units for their hard work, dedication and pursuit of excellence!



Navy Nationals color guard units compete under the steely-eyed glare of the seasoned, dedicated U.S. Marine Corps judges of NAS Pensacola.



Sports Network International is once again pleased to offer the

Best of The Nationals Videotape Series



WHETHER YOU PLAN TO UTILIZE THESE TAPES FOR TRAINING YOUR DRILL UNIT OR FOR SHEER ENTERTAINMENT, THESE TAPES ARE THE FINEST AVAILABLE IN JUNIOR ROTC. ORDER A SET OF TAPES FOR YOUR PROGRAM TODAY! OVER 1750

JUNIOR ROTC UNITS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD HAVE MADE THESE HIGH QUALITY TAPES A PART OF THEIR PROGRAM FOR OVER 10 YEARS. THESE "BEST OF THE NATIONALS" VIDEOTAPES ARE A NECESSITY FOR EVERY SERIOUS JUNIOR ROTC MAINTAINING OR WISHING TO CREATE AN IMPRESSIVE COMPETITION DRILL & CEREMONY PROGRAM.

"Best of the Nationals" Video Series Order Form

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SERVICE AFFILIATION

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CITY

STATE

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PROGRAM OR PERSONAL E-MAIL ADDRESS

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copy(s) of 2003 Best of Exhibition* Drill..(\$29 EA.) \$ _____

copy(s) of 2002 Best of Basic Drill.....(\$29 EA.) \$ _____

copy(s) of 2002 Best of Exhibition Drill..(\$29 EA.) \$ _____

copy(s) of 2001 Best of Basic Drill.....(\$29 EA.) \$ _____

copy(s) of 2001 Best of Exhibition Drill..(\$29 EA.) \$ _____

*Limited DVD's are available for the 2003 videos only. Contact SNI for details!

SHIPPING/HANDLING = \$4.50

TOTAL ORDER = \$

MAIL TO: SPORTS NETWORK INTERNATIONAL
775 FENTRESS BOULEVARD * DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32114
OR FAX THIS FORM W/SIGNED PURCHASE ORDER TO: 386/274-1255

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND! IN ORDER TO SATISFY THE HUGE DEMAND FOR JROTC VIDEOTAPES, SNI HAS AGAIN PRODUCED THE FINEST COMPETITION VIDEOS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE. THESE 2-HOUR VIDEOTAPES ARE FILMED EXCLUSIVELY AT THE FAMOUS NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DRILL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS IN SUNNY DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA.

All videos focus on routine segments featuring a variety of ARMED and UNARMED drill styles. All tapes are timeless, all-service examples of what a team's hard work and dedication can accomplish on the drill deck.

OVER 20 SCHOOLS ARE FEATURED ON EACH VIDEO!

THE **BEST OF BASIC DRILL** VIDEOS FEATURE COMPETITION SEGMENTS FROM THE FOLLOWING FACETS OF ARMED AND UNARMED DRILL: UNIT INSPECTION, PLATOON/FLIGHT REGULATION AND 4-PERSON COLOR GUARD DRILL (TWO RIFLES/TWO FLAGS). THE **BEST OF EXHIBITION DRILL** VIDEOS ARE DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO EXHIBITION DRILL, FEATURING ARMED AND UNARMED SQUAD/ELEMENT AND PLATOON/FLIGHT PERFORMANCES, AS WELL AS INTERESTING ARMED SOLO & DUAL EXHIBITION ROUTINES.

Each tape is contained in a plastic, hard-shell case. THE RUNNING TIME FOR EACH TAPE IS 120 MINUTES. The cost is only \$29.00 per tape plus \$4.50 shipping/handling per order. Limited supplies from past years are still available. PERSONAL OR SCHOOL CHECKS, MONEY ORDERS AND SIGNED SCHOOL PURCHASE ORDERS ARE ACCEPTED. CREDIT CARD PAYMENT IS ACCEPTED ON OUR WEBSITE ONLY. **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO SPORTS NETWORK INTERNATIONAL.** Allow up to 10 business days for delivery of your order, with a slightly longer delay over the holiday season. Most orders are shipped the same day we receive them. Thank you for your continued interest and support of the "**BEST OF THE NATIONALS**" VIDEOTAPE SERIES! Look for our newest video next year with a behind-the-scenes look featuring top teams and their quest for the title!

September 11th Fallout: Will High School Travel Ever be the Same?

Parents and administrators wrestle with the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks and ask the question, "Do we allow our children to travel to out of school, county or state functions?" People think these are new issues. Society has changed in the quarter-century since I was in high school, but many of these same debates were just as heated in the late 1970's.

It was Spring, 1977. As an honors English student and middle school track team member, I made many trips by school bus. Much of my school travel involved our honors English instructor taking our class on a field trip every other Friday. These trips allowed our class to have unique hands-on experiences outside the classroom; exposing us to culture, government and the humanities to broaden our mostly blue-collar horizons. Looking back on it now, I believe it was the most impactful learning I ever experienced.

Living just 10 miles from the District of Columbia in suburban Maryland, we toured many Smithsonian buildings, the FBI, the White House and other amazing government facilities with overwhelming history - and only 15 minutes away by school bus.

It was in early March when I remember seeing a television spashed with news bulletins during our lunch break. Twelve heavily armed Muslim terrorists had taken over the B'Nai B'rith Int'l building in Washington, DC with over 100 hostages inside. I quickly grabbed my notebook and realized that we were supposed to go to this very building in just over two weeks!

In the ensuing days, news of the 39-hour conflict unfolded. Hostages were beaten, tied up and threatened with their lives. All endured death threats and guns held to their heads. It was a horrifying ordeal that left people in the District of Columbia and surrounding states shaken. *How could something like this happen? Was D.C. safe for field trips?* Parents, teachers and students had some hard choices to make in the coming months. *Would the administration ban all field trips? Would they ban travel to the Nation's Capital?*

How similar this all sounds to the issues faced today -- and this is over 25 years ago! Everyone expected the School Board to cancel all trips. But fortunately for all of the Montgomery County Public School students, the decision was made that no ban on school travel in any form would be imposed. *What a difference just 25 years makes!*

The school did make some modifications to allow nervous parents to step in and act in a parental capacity, making the decision what activities were acceptable and which were not without academic penalty. Our class went to the B'nai B'rith building, less a few of my classmates, and had an educational experience that could not have been matched by reading a textbook or watching a television set.

Why was there such a different way of managing this issue 25 years ago? It is too easy to say that today we live in a more dangerous world. And that is not necessarily true. There have been hundreds if not thousands of threatening situations that have occurred throughout the United States in just my short lifetime. I believe there are other societal changes that have led to decisions like these being handled in a reactionary manner.

In 1977, school administrations understood what a profound and lasting effect off-campus learning experiences have on the hearts and minds of their youngsters, be it JROTC drill meets, athletics, band competitions or other club activities. They did not fear the outrageously litigious society that we now face every day. Parents were far more involved in the daily education of their kids -- looking at schools as partners in education, not ceding control *"in loco parenti"*. Informing the parents of a situation and giving those who felt uncomfortable the ability to remove their children from the activity was the accepted practice of the day. In 2003, this is no longer enough.

Parents now pressure school administrators to **cancel** activities rather than just remove their own child. This makes it easier for the parent, never having to explain to little Johnny why his friends may be doing something that he cannot. Oftentimes, administrators cave to this influence and look reactionary. School boards or principals will cancel activities because it is easier to explain an "irrational overreaction" than to explain a "failure to act". People often look at inaction as uncaring and unfeeling when in reality, inaction may simply be a review of the matter and deciding that action is not warranted.

How many millions of school children have had activities cancelled in the wake of the September 11th tragedy? How many of these children have had hopes of once-in-a-lifetime experiences snuffed out by the mere possibility of terrorist activity at some unspecified time, place and manner? Risk is a part of life. Keeping kids from travel yields the illusion that they are safer at school. Ask the Columbine H.S. students if they were safer at school on April 20, 1999 when 13 students were gunned down and 21 were wounded.

To cancel or delay our dreams and desires without cause begs the question...until when? Would you never allow your child to experience the thrill and awe of a tour at the White House because it *might* be attacked someday? Those administrators who would look to restrict travel or otherwise curtail natural high school learning experiences off-campus need to carefully consider what type of world we are shaping for our future leaders. For how long will this ban last? A month? A year? A lifetime? Schools and parents must apply a level of rationale to this ongoing debate. Otherwise terrorists will claim a profound victory - exerting a stranglehold on our very freedom to live a normal life.

The greatest action we can take as Americans is to continue to stand up to the threat of terrorism and strive forward, unabated, pursuing those dreams we hold most dear. This is not a blind dogma, but in the absence of specific, targeted terror threats, life must go on; teaching our children that logic must triumph over irrational fear. Let us, as parents, step up to the plate and take back the responsibility to guide our children, making the choices we feel necessary to protect their safety and enrich their minds. When we abdicate this role to a school board, we are parenting by proxy. It is my hope that by taking a moment to reflect, all individuals charged with making these types of life-altering decisions, be it parents, instructors or school administrators, will use their knowledge, rational minds and experience to guide our children - not their emotions and fears.

- Justin Gates, Sports Network International

ONCE AGAIN IN 2003, A SEA OF AIR FORCE UNIFORMS ENGULFED THE DRILL FLOOR YIELDING A SEEMINGLY ENDLESS WAVE OF DRILL EXCELLENCE. THE UNPARALLELED STRENGTH OF THE ARMED AND UNARMED DRILL PERFORMANCES CONTINUED TO MAKE THE AIR FORCE JROTC NATIONAL DRILL CHAMPIONSHIPS THE LARGEST AND FINEST AFJROTC-ONLY DRILL COMPETITION CURRENTLY HELD ANYWHERE IN THE UNITED STATES.

WITH HISTORIC WASHINGTON, DC AS THE BACKDROP JUST DOWN THE ROAD FROM THE COMPETITION HOME AT THE PRINCE GEORGE'S SPORTS & LEARNING COMPLEX IN LANDOVER, MARYLAND, EACH SPRING THE "AIR FORCE NATIONALS" PROVIDES AN EXCITING BLEND OF DRILL STYLES AND DISCIPLINES EXCLUSIVELY FOR AFJROTC CADETS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

ARMED DIVISION

THE ARMED DIVISION STARTED OUT CLOSE BUT AS THE DAY WORE ON, THE OUTCOME WAS AS INEVITABLE AS THE SETTING OF THE SUN. WITH ONE OF THEIR BEST BALANCED ATTACKS IN YEARS, THE BATTLE-HARDENED HIGH FLYERS FROM COVENTRY HS IN COVENTRY, RHODE ISLAND GRABBED ANOTHER ARMED USAF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP. THE FALCONS DRILL TEAM ONCE AGAIN TROPHIED IN ALL FOUR TEAM EVENTS (1ST-INSPECTION, 2ND-REGULATION & COLOR GUARD, AND 4TH-EXHIBITION) SHOWING THE OVERALL STRENGTH THAT HAS SERVED THEM WELL OVER THE YEARS! THIS BALANCE IS THE STANDARD SET BY DRILL ORACLE MSgt. DICK LeBEL!

TWO SCHOOLS DISTANCED THEMSELVES FROM THE REST OF THE FIELD, WITH CENTRAL HS FROM SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS POWERING TO A SOLID ARMED DIVISION NATIONAL RUNNER-UP FINISH. DESPITE THREE STRONG EVENT FINISHES BY THIS NORTHEAST DRILL POWERHOUSE (1ST-REGULATION, 2ND-EXHIBITION & 4TH-INSPECTION), THE CENTRAL GUARD DRILL TEAM STUMBED A BIT IN COLOR GUARD WITH A SOFT 7TH PLACE FINISH. THIS TOUGH PLACEMENT COST THE TEAM A SHOT AT THE OVERALL ARMED DIVISION TITLE.

SURRATTSVILLE HS FROM SURRATTSVILLE, MARYLAND WAS IN THE HUNT NEAR THE TOP OF THE PACK MOST OF THE DAY AS WELL. THE SILVER HORNETS DRILL TEAM CAME UP JUST SHY, GAINING THREE EVENT TROPHIES (2ND-INSPECTION, 4TH-COLOR GUARD, 5TH-REGULATION) BUT WITHOUT THAT BREAKTHROUGH FIRST PLACE TROPHY IN ANY EVENT, THE TEAM FINISHED WITH A RESPECTABLE 3RD PLACE OVERALL FINISH.

AIR FORCE BLUE TURNS TO GOLD IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

Air Force JROTC drill teams from around the Beltway and across the United States dazzled judges and spectators alike with their awesome talents and uncanny maneuvers.

OTHER STRONG ARMED DIVISION FINISHES WERE MARKED BY: NORTHSIDE HS (1ST-EXHIBITION); LARGO HS (1ST-COLOR GUARD); ANCHOR BAY HS (3RD-COLOR GUARD, 5TH-EXHIBITION); NEVADA HS (3RD-EXHIBITION, 5TH-COLOR GUARD); E.E. SMITH HS (3RD-INSPECTION); AND HIALEAH HS (3RD-REGULATION).

UNARMED DIVISION

WITH THE 2002 UNARMED DIVISION TITLE COMING DOWN TO THE FINAL FEW POINTS, EXPECTATIONS WERE LOFTY FOR ANOTHER SHOOT-OUT FINISH IN 2003! LEAVE IT TO SOUTHERN REGIONAL HS FROM MANAHAWKIN, NEW JERSEY TO ABSOLUTELY DOMINATE THE FIELD WINNING THE UNARMED DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP HANDS DOWN. THE BLUE KNIGHTS DRILL TEAM POWERED THEIR WAY TO 1ST PLACE IN INSPECTION, REGULATION AND COLOR GUARD. THIS LEFT THEM PLENTY OF BREATHING ROOM WHEN THEIR EXHIBITION TEAM TOOK THE FLOOR (THEY STILL GRABBED A 5TH PLACE FINISH!) PREPARED AGAIN IN 2003 BY MSgt. LEE MESSINA (STILL THE WEBMASTER OF THE FINEST JROTC WEBSITE IN THE COUNTRY - www.srsd.org/jrotc), THE NATIONAL STRONGMEN FROM THE GARDEN STATE ARE STILL SEEKING A SERIOUS CHALLENGE TO THEIR AIR FORCE NATIONALS DOMINANCE IN 2004!

FINISHING IN A DISTANT UNARMED DIVISION NATIONAL RUNNER-UP POSITION IS THE ALWAYS TOUGH SILVER EAGLES DRILL TEAM FROM SANDALWOOD HS IN JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA. DISPLAYING GREAT BALANCE AND SOLID PREPARATION, THE FLORIDA UNIT FINISHED WITH THREE EVENT TROPHIES (3RD-INSPECTION, 3RD-COLOR GUARD, 4TH-REGULATION).

BEATING OUT A VERY TIGHT PACK OF TEAMS FOR THIRD PLACE WAS LACKEY HS FROM INDIAN HEAD, MARYLAND. THE LADIES OF DESTRUCTION TROPHIED IN JUST ONE EVENT (2ND-INSPECTION) BUT WITH OTHER SOLID FINISHES JUST OUT OF TROPHY PLACEMENT, THE UNIT SQUEEKED BY TO CAPTURE THE 3RD PLACE FINISH.

OTHER TOP UNARMED DIVISION FINISHES INCLUDED: OXON HILL HS (1ST-EXHIBITION, 2ND-REGULATION); HIALEAH HS (2ND-COLOR GUARD, 5TH-REGULATION); TIFT COUNTY HS (2ND-EXHIBITION); SURRATTSVILLE HS (3RD-REGULATION, 5TH-INSPECTION) AND MIAMI EDISON HS (3RD-EXHIBITION).

AS MANY OF YOU NOW ARE AWARE, AFOATS JROTC HAS STATED THEIR OFFICE NO LONGER WISHES TO BE LISTED AS AN EVENT SUPPORTER OF ANY DRILL COMPETITIONS. THEY HAVE ALSO REQUESTED TO HAVE THE TERMS "NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP" AND "AIR FORCE" REMOVED FROM THE TITLE OF ANY DRILL COMPETITIONS (INCLUDING THIS ONE). WE HAVE COMPLIED FULLY WITH THEIR REQUESTS, HAVING CHANGED THE NAME OF THE EVENT FOR 2004 TO THE NATIONAL CAPITAL INVITATIONAL DRILL CLASSIC. REST ASSURED THE EVENT WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED IN ALL OTHER ASPECTS!

RARELY DO CADETS GET THE CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN A FIRST-CLASS, SINGLE-SERVICE DRILL EVENT WHILE ALSO TOURING THE CAPITAL OF OUR NATION. SCHOOLS INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THE 2004 AFJROTC-ONLY NCIDC EVENT SHOULD CHECK OUT THE OFFICIAL EVENT WEBSITE AT: ([HTTP://DRILL.THENATIONALS.NET](http://drill.thenationals.net)). ON THE SITE, SCHOOLS MAY DOWNLOAD THE EVENT S.O.P., SCORE SHEETS, OFFICIAL INVITATION & MOST IMPORTANT, THE EVENT REGISTRATION FORM.

WE AT SNI HOPE TO SEE YOUR UNIT NEXT YEAR IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL FOR THE MOST EXCITING & MEMORABLE SHOWING OF AFJROTC DRILL EXCELLENCE YOU WILL EVER SEE!



The Blue Devils Unarmed Drill Team from Naugatuck HS in Naugatuck, Connecticut display a snappy team salute prior to competing in Unarmed Regulation competition.

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JCAP

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OCTOBER 30TH-NOVEMBER 2ND, 2003

★ ★ ★

FEBRUARY 19TH- 22ND, 2004

JCAP is your golden opportunity as a school senior to experience the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M University! For 127 years the Corps of Cadets has produced more commissioned officers than any other college in the nation. Today, the Corps - with a strength of approximately 2000 students - is the largest uniformed body of students outside the military academies. The Corps teaches principles of leadership, develops responsibility, honor and integrity. It builds pride and self-confidence, develops physical stamina, and lays the foundation for intelligent and involved citizenship. Cadets learn time management skills, build life-long friendships, and graduate as leaders possessing character and competence, ready for service to the state and nation. The Corps is organized much like the military, and works in concert with the ROTC departments at Texas A&M to provide cadets the opportunity to receive a commission into the United States Armed Forces.

Where will JCAP be held?

- ★ On the campus of Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas

Who can attend JCAP?

- ★ High School Seniors in JROTC and
- ★ Students interested in the military as a career and
- ★ Ranked academically in the top half of their class
 - ★ If ranked in 1st quarter - SAT1 920 or ACT 19
 - ★ If ranked in 2nd quarter - SAT1 1050 or ACT 23

How much will it cost?

- ★ All candidates must pay a registration fee of \$50.00, which includes all meals.
- ★ Cadets traveling over 250 miles may apply for travel assistance which would cover up to 50% of their travel costs.

Who will handle my arrangements?

- ★ Corps of Cadets and associates will make all arrangements for you including airline and room reservations.

How do I apply and when?

- ★ **APPLY NOW!** Cadets should contact the Corps of Cadets Recruiting Office at (800) TAMU-AGS, Attention: SGM Hastings or apply online at www.jcap-tamu.org.

What will the JCAP experience include?

- ★ Cadets will gain valuable insight and information about the University Admissions Process, Financial Aid, Scholarships, Academic Support Programs and ROTC opportunities.
- ★ Cadets will spend the night inside Aggie Corps dormitories and witness the intensity of daily Corps training.
- ★ Cadets will meet other outstanding JROTC cadets from other schools around the nation who are planning to earn their military commission at Texas A&M University.
- ★ Cadets that attend the February program will be a part of a weekend military conference that includes the participation of the nation's service academies and the top military universities in the country.

SENIOR CADETS!

TEXAS A&M WANTS THE NATION'S
BEST JUNIOR ROTC CADETS.
CALL (800) TAMU-AGS FOR INFORMATION

Corps of Cadets scholarships range in value from \$1,000 - \$10,000 and carry no military obligation.
Most Corps scholarships qualify non-Texas residents for a non-resident tuition waiver.

A Final Salute to the Capital Classic

The last year of the venerable National Capital Drill Classic competition showed the best and the brightest that Army JROTC units in the 1st Region, 4th Brigade had to offer.

The final year of the 1st Region, 4th Brigade Championship was a fitting sendoff for this innovative and historic competition. With 2004 bringing to the Nation's Capital the Army National JROTC Eastern Region Championship (see adjacent page), the 2003 NCDC was a fitting end to a fantastic decade-plus of Army Brigade Championship excellence in the greater Washington, DC area.

A heightened national threat level kept a few schools from attending, but over 700 Army JROTC cadets from Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, Maryland and the District of Columbia were on-hand for an exciting day of competition drill. Cadets seemed to relish the ability to forget about the tensions in the world and display what months of practice and teamwork could yield in a first-class, indoor facility like the Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex.

ARMED DIVISION

One of the most overpowering displays of excellence in the history of the NCDC was put forth this year as long-time top finisher and 2002 runner-up **LIBERTY HS** from **BEALETON, VIRGINIA** crushed the Brigade competition to capture the Overall Armed Division Title. The **EAGLES** drill team brought home 1st place trophies in Inspection, Color Guard and Exhibition to power their way to the title. The tough cadets had their game on from the start taking the lead early in the day and never looking back!

Finishing as the Armed Division runner-up, **THOMAS STONE HS** from **WALDORF, MARYLAND** put together their annual run at the title but came up just a bit short. The **COUGARS** Blue trophies in all four team events (1st-Regulation, 3rd-Inspection/Color Guard, 5th-Exhibition) but needed a few higher placements in the eyes of the judges to challenge for the overall top spot. You can always be sure that Thomas Stone comes prepared to win and the 2003 unit that attended the NCDC did another exceptional job.

Many other schools within the Armed Division put forth very solid, noteworthy drill performances. These included last minute event addition **NEW YORK MA** (2nd-Inspection, 3rd-Regulation, 4th-Exhibition); **FORESTVILLE MA** (2nd-Color Guard, 3rd-Exhibition); **MCDONOUGH HS** (2nd-Regulation, 4th-Color Guard); **FAIRMONT HEIGHTS HS** (2nd-Exhibition, 4th-Inspection) and **PRESTON HS** (4th-Regulation).

UNARMED DIVISION

A very strong and evenly matched competition field butted heads with tight top scores in every event. When the sheets were coming in and being totaled throughout the day, it was obvious that Unarmed Division schools would have no idea who the overall champion would be until the champion's name was read at the awards ceremony as no single team trophies in every team event! This lack of knowing made for an electrically-charged awards ceremony with cadets literally sitting on the edge of their seats!

2002 Unarmed Champions **FORESTVILLE M.A.** from **FORESTVILLE, MARYLAND** had just enough in their tanks to take home another Unarmed Division Championship in 2003! Paced by a 1st place finish in Inspection, the **SILVER KNIGHTS** drill team also gained a strong 2nd place in Exhibition and a 3rd place in Regulation to secure the victory. Forestville M.A. once again proved that they are a force to be reckoned with on the drill floor!

Just missing their bid for the Unarmed Division title, **ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE H.S.** from **WASHINGTON, DC** put together a tremendous effort in gaining the Overall runner-up title. With a 2nd place finish in Inspection and two, 4th place finishes in Color Guard and Exhibition, the **McGOVERN BROTHERS** drill team just missed their chance. Knowing the leadership at St. John's, they will be back stronger than ever in 2004!

Other top finishes in the Unarmed Division included: **HOWARD HS** (1st-Color Guard); **FOREST PARK HS** (1st-Exhibition); **WEST POTOMAC HS** (1st-Regulation); **MCDONOUGH HS** (2nd-Regulation, 3rd-Color Guard); **THOMAS STONE HS** (2nd-Color Guard) and **PARKDALE HS** (3rd-Exhibition).

Multiple, exciting Knockout Drills were held while the team event scores were given their final double-check. This preceded a boisterous and cathartic NCDC Awards Ceremony. The towering presence of **BG GRATTON O. SEALOCK, II**, Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Cadet Command delivered a wonderful message to the assembled mass that helped to set the tone for a special evening.

Sports Network International wishes to thank everyone who, over the years, has helped to give over 10,000 Army JROTC cadets special lifetime memories from competing at the National Capital Drill Classic. As the event moves to an Army Region Championship next year, we hope that the finest teams from the old NCDC competition will continue to enter and dazzle the crowd within the new 2004 Army JROTC National Drill Team Championships - Eastern Region.



Parkdale H.S. Cadet Adesola Adepegba from Parkdale, Maryland stands tall during the tough Armed Division Inspection event.



ARMY NATIONALS



The Dawn of a New Era in Drill Excellence

Army JROTC National Drill Championships

Western Region Army Nationals

Saturday, March 13th, 2004

College Station, Texas

Texas A&M University's Reed Arena

Eastern Region Army Nationals

Saturday, March 20th, 2004

Landover, Maryland

Prince George's Cty Sports & Learning Complex

A massive reorganization of U.S. Army Cadet Command, command and control of Brigades, Senior Units and Junior Programs is underway. In combination with this effort, the United States Army Cadet Command is announcing the dawn of another new & exciting era on the JROTC drill floor!

Beginning in 2004, Army Junior ROTC units around the world will have the ability to compete within the first Army JROTC-only National Championship drill competition! Sponsored by U.S. Army Cadet Command, the Army JROTC National Drill Championships (already earning the moniker "Army Nationals") looks to provide Army units with a platform to display their years of training amongst their peers.

"We want these events to be as special to the cadets as the Nationals in Daytona Beach," stated COL Carlos Glover, Director, Army JROTC. "Having an Army JROTC competition of this caliber will give all of our cadets something to be proud of."

While the two events are over a thousand miles apart, both will be very similar. Held indoors in first-class, multi-thousand seat arenas to allow plenty of seating, parking and security, both events will maintain Armed and Unarmed Divisions. Competition events will be: Inspection, Regulation, Color Guard and Exhibition; with these scores determining the Championship title.

Because of the solid financial support of U.S. Army Cadet Command, the costs to attend this premier drill competition are kept very low. Just a \$100 School Registration fee and a \$10 per cadet fee are required. For this, each cadet will receive a competition t-shirt, uniform medal and 8" x 10" color team photograph, along with all facets of the competition.

Due to space limitations, each event will be limited to roughly 50 teams. Each accepted school will be allowed to enter either an Armed or Unarmed team, or both. However, schools choosing to enter both Armed & Unarmed units must maintain two completely different groups of cadets for their two teams.

All Army JROTC units in good standing are eligible and encouraged to apply for a competition space within their designated Region Championship (Eastern or Western). For best consideration, schools should ensure their School Registration Form and Registration Fee is received by Event Manager Sports Network Int'l. NO LATER than **Friday, December 5th, 2003**. Entry decisions will be based on recent history of overall drill finishes and other related drill accomplishments, with an emphasis on maintaining a broad geographic competition field that best represents the caliber of drill excellence throughout the Region.

On the Registration Form, schools should make their best case why their unit belongs within this elite field of drill teams. With so many programs in each Army Region, demand for the competition spaces should far outnumber supply. These qualifications will be the primary factor in selecting the competition field.

For complete details on entry matters, event regulations, scoresheets, as well as the ability to download, review and submit the official Army Nationals Invitation and Army Registration Form, go to the official home of the Army Nationals at: <http://drill.thenationals.net> and click on the "Army Nationals" weblink.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

As an extra incentive, the Overall Champion and Overall Runner-Up from each division of the two Region Championships will have their transportation and team package expenses paid by U.S. Army Cadet Command to attend and represent Army JROTC at the National High School Drill Team Championships in sunny Daytona Beach, Florida. See the website for complete details on the Army's support for these champions!

2004 National High School

Introduction

Sports Network International is pleased to provide this invitation to all precision drill units to attend the 22nd annual **National High School Drill Team Championships** in Daytona Beach, Florida. This event is open to all Junior ROTC units and select other military-style programs competing in Armed & Unarmed divisions. This is your school's **official invitation** to enter the nation's finest JROTC drill & ceremony competition, referred to worldwide as simply "**The Nationals**."

The **National High School Drill Team Championships** remains the most coveted drill destination in the nation. Schools travel from across the U.S. to attend this all-service drill spectacular. Schools considering entry into the Nationals should make plans early as competition spaces are limited to roughly **50 schools at the Masters Level; 55 schools at the Challenge Level; and 35 schools within the Open Level Color Guard event**.

Sports Network International, Inc. (SNI) serves as the Event Manager for the Nationals. The National High School Drill Team Championships are **proudly sponsored by the U.S. Army Cadet Command and Texas A&M University**.

Competition Guidelines

All schools drill and are judged in accordance with their own service manual. In Armed Divisions where their manual is not specific, U.S. Army FM 22-5 (1986) is used. In the Unarmed Division, U.S. Air Force FM 36-2203 (1996) is used. The variety of services that have gained top finishes at Daytona is a testament to the fairness of this drill event. The event SOP is mailed to all registered schools in mid-January and posted on the website. Schools having questions regarding the event should contact SNI before registering for the competition.

Event Judging

All judges at the NHSDTC maintain a strong background in military drill. Judges are fully qualified military personnel representing all four branches of the service. All judges are given extensive judging manuals in advance of the event, as well as a full on-site briefing on the eve of the competition. The Nationals' judges are extremely motivated and give a 110% effort. This remains a major reason why so many teams look to end their drill season at "**The World's Most Famous Beach**."

Competition Events

The NHSDTC maintains two competition levels. The **Challenge Level** is designed for drill teams who wish to be part of the Nationals experience while competing against similarly talented schools at a less intense skill level than the Masters Level. The Challenge Level maintains Armed (demilitarized weapons only) & Unarmed divisions. Military Academies are no longer excluded from the Challenge level. All schools are also encouraged to consider entering "stand-alone" Color Guards into the exciting Open Level Color Guard competition also held on Friday.

The **Masters Level** brings the finest drill programs in the nation together to compete within three separate divisions. Teams utilizing standard demilitarized rifles compete in the **Demilitarized Arms Division**. Teams competing without weapons enter the **Unarmed Division**. The **Alternative Arms Division** is for teams using lightweight, facsimile weapons (regardless of their gender) AND teams that are all-female (regardless of the weapon type used).

CHALLENGE LEVEL EVENTS

- ★ Unit Inspection (12 + Cmdr.)
- ★ Platoon/Flight Regulation (12 + Cmdr.)
- ★ Color Guard (4-person only - w/arms)
- ★ Team Exhibition (9 cadets & over - *Squad or Platoon Formation is acceptable*)

MASTERS LEVEL EVENTS

- ★ Unit Inspection (12 + Cmdr.)
- ★ Platoon/Flight Regulation (12 + Cmdr.)
- ★ Color Guard (4-person only - w/arms)
- ★ Squad/Element Exhibition (8-11+ Cmdr.)
- ★ Platoon/Flight Exhibition (13 & over)
- ★ Solo & Dual Exhibitions

Schools may enter multiple complete teams in different divisions at the Nationals as long as no cadet competes for more than one team. Therefore, schools entering both an armed and unarmed team may do so, but the two teams must have separate cadets for each team. This rule allows maximum cadet participation without adding multiple school entries utilizing the same cadets.

All Masters Level Armed units are allowed two entries (per team) in both Solo & Dual Exhibition. Unarmed Masters units can enter two pairs in Unarmed Dual Exhibition. Also, ALL CADETS are urged to compete in their level's Armed & Unarmed Knockout Drills. NOTE: no "knockout fee" is charged to participate.

NHSDTC Event Specifics

The National High School Drill Team Championships are held at the impressive **Ocean Center Civic Arena** in Daytona Beach, Florida in late Spring every year. This state-of-the-art facility features permanent seating for over 6,000 with outstanding amenities for a drill competition the size and prestige of the Nationals. The Ocean Center also features a complete concession area and ample bus parking. All cadets and instructors who attend the Nationals will attest that the Ocean Center Complex remains the most exceptional drill & ceremony facility currently in use in the United States.

Schools are housed in Daytona Beach at one of 20+ oceanfront hotels located within 10 minutes of the Ocean Center Arena. They provide quality & affordable billeting for every Nationals team. SNI will also offer schools the ability to choose an Upgrade Hotel Package Plan at one of several select premium hotels. The Headquarters for the event is the **Adam's Mark Resort**. Located directly across the street from the Ocean Center, the Adam's Mark is an oasis which will provide exceptional billeting for the few schools selected to stay in this luxury hotel environment. Schools requesting a specific hotel should contact SNI directly.

All schools must be in town the day before their competition begins. Schools attend the **NHSDTC Commander's Call** the evening prior to their competition. At this meeting, all teams are presented their competition schedules and receive a short briefing by NHSDTC Competition Director, Justin Gates. The Challenge & Open Level events will be held on **Friday, April 30th**, with the two-day Masters Level competition held on **Saturday & Sunday, May 1st-2nd**. Both competition levels feature Knockout Drills at the conclusion of the judging and an Awards Ceremony in the evening following the competition.

Awards and Trophies

The Nationals feature beautiful, impressive trophies & awards. National Championship and National Runner-Up trophies are awarded in all competition divisions - Demilitarized Arms, Unarmed and Alternative Arms (at the Masters Level); Armed & Unarmed (at the Challenge Level). The impressiveness of these trophies remains legendary within the Junior ROTC drill community!

Drill Team Championships

Team events in all competition divisions are trophyed in 1st-5th place. All schools competing for a Championship (schools entering every team event in a division) will receive a personalized NHSDTC plaque to commemorate their quest at Daytona.

The Masters Level division maintains both Solo & Dual Exhibitions for all armed teams and Dual Exhibition for unarmed teams. Regulation Cadet Commanders at both the Masters & Challenge Levels also compete for Commander's Trophies. These individual trophies are awarded in 1st-3rd place. Top finishers in all Armed & Unarmed Knockout Drills will receive a hand-painted medallion.

Costs to Attend

All schools choosing to attend the National High School Drill Team Championships **must attend through the Team Package Plan**. This plan is designed to ensure all cadets and instructors are given the enjoyment of staying together in superb oceanfront hotels with other schools from across the country, provided with treasured event mementos, as well as **ensuring all schools receive the finest drill event they have ever attended at an affordable cost**.

Team Package Plan Includes:

- ❖ Four days & three nights billeting in one of several oceanfront hotels in Daytona Beach
- ❖ NHSDTC bronze medallion on a chest ribbon
- ❖ NHSDTC collared sports-shirt for adults or NHSDTC t-shirt for cadets, both ordered to size
- ❖ Swiss-embroidered four-inch patch designed exclusively for the NHSDTC event
- ❖ 8" X 10" color team photograph

The price of the Team Package Plan, based on staying four-to-a-room, is only \$101.00 per person for the full 4-day / 3-night package. Challenge level schools have the option to stay in a 2-night package for only \$91.00 per person. Three, two and one to-a-room prices are slightly higher, utilized primarily for instructors and other adult team followers. Schools interested in Upgrade or Luxury billets should contact SNI ASAP or check the website for those upgraded rates. **All participants (cadets, chaperones & instructors) are required to attend the NHSDTC through this Team Package Plan to ensure all event costs are fully covered.** Parents and other team followers MAY attend through the package, but it is optional.

Registration Fee

The School Registration Fee for Nationals entry is \$300 for the Masters Level, \$200 for the Challenge Level and \$50 per team for the Open Level Color Guard. Schools wishing to enter multiple teams within multiple levels should contact SNI for details. **This Registration Fee is completely refundable if requested before Friday, December 5th, 2003. It is non-refundable once a school has been accepted for entry into the Nationals.** This ensures only schools who are fully committed to attend the event occupy a valuable competition slot and will ensure the Nationals remains the home for the finest drill teams in the country.

To Register for the NHSDTC

To register your school for the Nationals, please complete the enclosed NHSDTC Registration Form and mail it to Sports Network International along with your Registration Fee. Schools unsure of which competition level they should enter should contact SNI before submitting their School Registration. Upon receipt by SNI, your school will be notified by mail that we have received your entry request.

SELECTION PROCESS: All registrations will be accumulated and reviewed by the SNI Competition Committee beginning on Friday, December 5th, 2003. SNI will evaluate all entries on their merits and decide which schools will be accepted. This judgment will be based on many factors but the largest of these include:

- ❖ Overall team strength in past Nationals performances as well as other regional drill meets you have attended.
- ❖ Teams looking to capture an Overall Championship (complete teams entering all team events within a division) are given preference over partial teams.
- ❖ Geographic spread, service diversity, gun-ho nature & previous entry attempts are all very strong points considered by SNI.

While most returning schools to the Nationals register within weeks of receiving this invitation, a few schools wait. Schools who register after the December 5th review deadline will have only a small chance of getting into the Nationals. The event will be full on December 5th, with only a rarely used "standby slot" available after this date.

Additional Registration Info

Schools accepted for entry will be mailed confirmations and listed on the SNI website by Monday, December 8th. Any school not accepted into the NHSDTC will have their Registration Entry Fee refunded within 10 business days from the review deadline.

All checks and correspondence should be sent to **Sports Network International** at the address listed below. Schools may contact SNI by email **BUT** all required paperwork should be sent through the mail.

In Closing

We invite all teams, especially those **who have considered attending in the past**, to look at attending the 2004 Nationals. Your drill team's attendance will become the highlight of your school year, giving focus and purpose to your drill season. It provides a strong means of attracting interest in your program from within your community and will give your school and drill unit the national notoriety and incredible learning experience that they richly deserve. The Nationals are renowned for the strong teams who annually attend. With the availability of the Challenge & Open Level competitions, schools of all talent levels now look to become a part of the exciting & memorable Nationals experience.

Mostly, a trip to the Nationals will give your cadets, parents and staff a great experience to reflect upon for the rest of their lives. The Nationals are the ultimate reward for a long year of hard work and dedication.

Veterans of the Nationals will attest that **no other drill meet compares with the National High School Drill Team Championships**. The overall talent, all-service flavor and vast geographic spread of teams attending the Nationals give this drill event an unparalleled atmosphere of drill excellence! We at SNI wish your program and your cadets the best of luck this school year and **we hope to see you in Daytona Beach, Florida at the Nationals!**

For additional information:

Event Manager
Sports Network International, Inc.
775 Fentress Boulevard
Daytona Beach, Florida 32114
800/327-9311  **386/274-1919**
website: <http://drill.thenationals.net>
email: drill@thenationals.net

Leathernecks Lead the Way in the NHSDTC Challenge Level competition

THE CHALLENGE LEVEL COMPETITION AT THE 2003 NATIONALS WAS MEMORABLE FOR MANY REASONS. BUT THE ONE "IN YOUR FACE" FACT WAS THE OVERALL DOMINANCE ON DISPLAY BY THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS JROTC UNITS. WITH JUST OVER 200 TOTAL JROTC UNITS WORLDWIDE, A STAGGERINGLY HIGH PERCENTAGE OF THESE SCHOOLS ATTEND THE NHSDTC (14 SCHOOLS THIS YEAR!) AND TOOK HOME A MASSIVE NUMBER OF TEAM TROPHIES. AS THE TALENT IN THIS DIVISION HAS SKYROCKETED IN THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, THE NUMBER OF EYE-POPPING DRILL DISPLAYS CONTINUE TO SOAR, BLOWING AWAY A FEW OF THE LONG-TIME JUDGES WHO REMEMBER THE CHALLENGE LEVEL AS A HOME PRIMARILY FOR BRAND NEW PROGRAMS WITH "GREEN" DRILL UNITS. THOSE DAYS ARE GONE AS OVER 45 TOP-QUALITY UNITS ANNUALLY VIE IN BOTH THE ARMED & UNARMED DIVISIONS TO BRING HOME A CHALLENGE LEVEL NATIONAL TITLE.

ARMED DIVISION

THE ARMED DIVISION COMPETITION WAS A REENACTMENT OF IWO JIMA, AS THE MARINES STORMED THE AWARDS CEREMONY, CAPTURING THE TOP FOUR PLACEMENTS. LEADING THE WAY WAS FIRST-TIME NATIONALS ATTENDEE **JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL** FROM NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA. THE **BLUE JAYS** DRILL TEAM CRUISED TO A CHALLENGE LEVEL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WITH AMAZING CONSISTENCY. THE HARD-CHARGERS GAINED TOP 10 FINISHES IN ALL FOUR EVENTS, HIGHLIGHTED BY 3RD PLACE FINISHES IN BOTH COLOR GUARD AND EXHIBITION COMPETITION. THE QIDDY EXCITEMENT AT THE AWARDS CEREMONY WAS A STARK CONTRAST TO THE TOUGH GAME FACES THEY WORE DURING THE EVENT. THESE GROUND POUNDERS COULD BE BACK MAKING NOISE IN THE MASTERS LEVEL IN 2004 AND BEYOND!

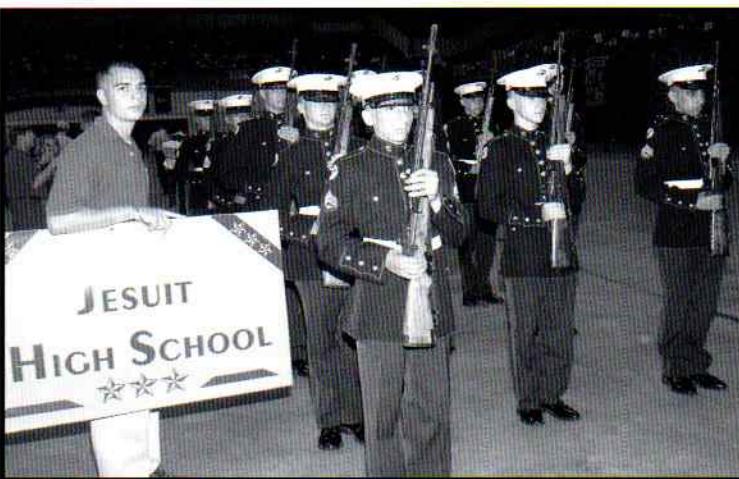
THE FIGHT FOR SECOND AND THIRD PLACE PROBABLY CONTINUED ALL THE WAY HOME ON THE BUS, AS **CLEARWATER HIGH SCHOOL LADY TORNADOES** GRABBED THE CHALLENGE LEVEL NATIONAL RUNNER-UP TITLE, JUST EDGING OUT THEIR 3RD PLACE FINISHERS AND MALE COUNTERPARTS, THE **TORNADOES**. WHILE BOTH OF THESE CLEARWATER, FLORIDA TEAMS GARNERED TOP TEN EVENT PLACEMENTS, THE HARD-NOSED FEMALE CADETS HAD JUST ENOUGH TO EDGE OUT THEIR CADET BROTHERS. IT MUST BE NOTED THAT THE LADY TORNADOES ARE THE FIRST ALL-FEMALE ARMED DRILL TEAM TO TAKE HOME ANY OVERALL AWARD TITLE IN THE CHALLENGE LEVEL COMPETITION. GREAT JOB LADIES!

THE ARMED DIVISION HAD MANY EXCITING FINISHES, INCLUDING: **ABRAHAM CLARK HS** (1ST-REGULATION, 3RD-INSPECTION); **NORTHEAST HS** (1ST-EXHIBITION, 2ND-REGULATION); **WICHITA HS SOUTH** (2ND-COLOR GUARD); **COL. WHITE HS** (1ST-COLOR GUARD, 5TH-REGULATION); **LYNN ENGLISH HS** (1ST-INSPECTION) AND **GULFPORT HS** (2ND-INSPECTION).

UNARMED DIVISION

THERE IS WINNING AND THEN THERE IS **W-I-N-N-I-N-G!** BY ONE OF THE LARGEST MARGINS IN THE HISTORY OF THE CHALLENGE LEVEL EVENT, THE **LADY DEVIL DOGS** FROM **ABRAHAM CLARK HS** CAPTURED THE UNARMED DIVISION CHALLENGE LEVEL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP. JUDGES WERE TOTALLY IN AWE OF THIS USMC JROTC DRILL UNIT FROM ROSELLE,

NEW JERSEY. THEIR PREPARATION AND INTENSITY WAS UNRIValed, GARNERING A 1ST PLACE IN INSPECTION, AND 2ND PLACE FINISHES IN COLOR GUARD AND REGULATION.



The Bluejays Drill Team from Jesuit HS in New Orleans, Louisiana display the form and discipline that helped them earn their first Armed Division Challenge Level National Championship.

THE NAVY JROTC UNIT AT **HAZELock HS** FROM HAZELock, NORTH CAROLINA GAVE IT QUITE A RUN, WINNING THREE TROPHIES, INCLUDING A 1ST PLACE IN REGULATION. THIS EXCELLENT OVERALL FINISH SECURED THE CHALLENGE LEVEL NATIONAL RUNNER-UP TITLE FOR THE **IRON BRIGADE REGULATORS**.

THE **Ronald Reagan HS Diamondbacks** FROM DRILL MECCA SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS CAPTURED THE TEAM EXHIBITION EVENT. THIS WIN PUT THEM INTO A SOLID POSITION, GAINING ENOUGH QUALITY POINTS TO CAPTURE A 3RD PLACE OVERALL FINISH IN THE UNARMED CHALLENGE LEVEL EVENT.

OPEN LEVEL COLOR GUARD CHAMPIONSHIPS

IN A WORD...WOW! EASILY THE LARGEST, FINEST AND MOST GEOGRAPHICALLY DIVERSE OPEN LEVEL COLOR GUARD FIELD EVER ASSEMBLED PUT ON A DISPLAY THAT STILL HAS PEOPLE TALKING! FORTY-ONE COLOR GUARD UNITS FROM ACROSS THE UNITED STATES WERE ACCEPTED TO ATTEND AND THEY COMPETED WITH DISTINCTION IN THIS COLOR GUARD ONLY COMPETITION.

WITH SCORING COMPLETED, A MERE 9 POINTS SEPARATED THE TOP THREE SCHOOLS. WHEN THE TALLIES WERE TRIPLE-CHECKED, THE DRACONIAN GUARD FROM **SEAGOVILLE HS** GRABBED THE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE. THIS ARMY JROTC UNIT FROM DALLAS, TEXAS EXCELLED IN WINNING THEIR FIRST OLCG TITLE. NARROWLY MISSING THE TITLE WAS THE ALWAYS-TOUGH AFJROTC FALCONS FROM **COVENTRY HS** IN COVENTRY, RHODE ISLAND. GRABBING 3RD PLACE WAS THE ARMY JROTC UNIT FROM JUST 70 MILES DOWN THE ROAD AT **ST. CLOUD HS** IN ST. CLOUD, FLORIDA. ROUNDING OUT THE TROPHY PLACEMENTS WAS THE ARMY JROTC UNIT FROM **TREVOR BROWNE HS** FROM PHOENIX, ARIZONA (4TH PLACE) AND THE USMC UNIT FROM **GLOUCESTER HS** IN GLOUCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS (5TH PLACE). TO SEE DETAILED, TOP-TO-BOTTOM SCORING IN ALL EVENTS OF THE 2003 NHSDTC, GO TO THE OFFICIAL NHSDTC WEBSITE AND CLICK ON THE "SCORING RESULTS" LINK.

Sports Network Int'l salutes the color guard units who attended this historic event. Entry spaces are always limited, therefore schools looking to enter the 2004 OLCG competition should apply before the early December deadline.

THE DIVISION HAD OTHER EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCES, INCLUDING: **EAST BOSTON HS** (1ST-COLOR GUARD); **MADISON PARK HS** (2ND-INSPECTION); **DR. PILA HS** (2ND-EXHIBITION); **HIALEAH-MIAMI LAKES HS** (3RD-REGULATION); **GULFPORT HS** (3RD-EXHIBITION); & **GLOUCESTER HS** (4TH-INSPECTION, 4TH-EXHIBITION).

THE CHALLENGE LEVEL DIVISIONS HAVE GROWN TO BECOME THE LARGEST EVENT FIELDS AT THE NHSDTC! ALL FOUR TEAM EVENTS IN BOTH DIVISIONS OF THE CHALLENGE LEVEL ARE INTENSELY COMPETITIVE AND REMAIN AN EXCITING "CARROT" FOR ANY SCHOOLS LOOKING TO END THEIR DRILL SEASON SURROUNDED BY OTHER OUTSTANDING JROTC UNITS. ANY PAST ATTENDEE WILL ATTEST THAT EVERY PROGRAM GOES HOME MUCH IMPROVED FROM THEIR EXPERIENCE AT THE CHALLENGE LEVEL COMPETITION AT THE NATIONALS. ALL SCHOOLS WHO PUT IT ON THE LINE IN THE CHALLENGE LEVEL COMPETITION DESERVE A HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS. WE HOPE THESE SCHOOLS ENJOYED THE EVENT AS MUCH AS EVERYONE ENJOYED WATCHING IT!!

2003 National High School Drill Team Championships

Challenge Level Attendees & Event Standings

Armed Division

Inspection

Lynn English HS	<i>Bulldogs</i>	649
Gulfport HS	<i>Commandant's Choice</i>	613
Abraham Clark HS	<i>The Few, The Proud!</i>	610
Baldwin HS	<i>Warrior Guard</i>	569
Kenwood HS	<i>Black Knights</i>	545

Regulation

Abraham Clark HS	<i>The Few, The Proud</i>	1023
Northeast HS	<i>Long Rifles</i>	1014
Clearwater HS	<i>Tornadoes</i>	1006
Perry Co. Central HS	<i>Commodores</i>	995
Colonel White HS	<i>Black Knights</i>	991

Color Guard

Colonel White HS	<i>Black Knights</i>	970
Wichita HS South	<i>The Olympians</i>	952
Jesuit HS	<i>Blue Jays</i>	951
Windsor Forest HS	<i>Knight Riders</i>	930
Irvington HS	<i>Red Crusaders</i>	915

Team Exhibition

Northeast HS	<i>Long Rifles</i>	1131
Clearwater HS	<i>Lady Tornadoes</i>	1093
Jesuit HS	<i>Blue Jays</i>	1069
Hubbard HS	<i>Greyhound Guard</i>	1046
Missouri MA	<i>Fusileers</i>	1039

Overall Armed Champion

Jesuit High School - *Blue Jays*

Overall Armed Runner-up

Clearwater High School - *Lady Tornadoes*

ABRAHAM CLARK HS
MARINE CORPS JROTC
ROSELLE, NEW JERSEY

BAINBRIDGE HS
AIR FORCE JROTC
BAINBRIDGE, GEORGIA

BALDWIN HS
NAVY JROTC
MILLEDGEVILLE, GEORGIA

BOGAUSA HS
ARMY JROTC
BOGAUSA, LOUISIANA

BRADWELL INSTITUTE
ARMY JROTC
HINESVILLE, GEORGIA

BRENTWOOD HS
AIR FORCE JROTC
BRENTWOOD, NEW YORK

BULLITT CENTRAL HS
ARMY JROTC
SHEPHERDSVILLE, KENTUCKY

C.E. MURRAY HS
ARMY JROTC
GEELEYVILLE, S. CAROLINA

CEDAR SHOALS HS
ARMY JROTC
ATHENS, GEORGIA

CENTRAL HS
ARMY JROTC
TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA

CENTRAL LAFOURCHE HS
ARMY JROTC
RACELAND, LOUISIANA

LA SALLE INSTITUTE
ARMY JROTC
TROY, NEW YORK

LAKWOOD HS
ARMY JROTC
LAKWOOD, NEW JERSEY

LANCASTER HS
ARMY JROTC
LANCASTER, TEXAS

LARGO HS
AIR FORCE JROTC
UPPER MARLBORO, MARYLAND

LEESVILLE HS
ARMY JROTC
LEESVILLE, LOUISIANA

LYNN ENGLISH HS
MARINE CORPS JROTC
LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS

MADISON PARK HS
MARINE CORPS JROTC
ROXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

CHESTER HS
ARMY JROTC
CHESTER, SOUTH CAROLINA

CLEARWATER HS
MARINE CORPS JROTC
CLEARWATER, FLORIDA

COLONEL WHITE HS
ARMY JROTC
DAYTON, OHIO

DR. PILA HS
AIR FORCE JROTC
PONCE, PUERTO RICO

EAST BOSTON HS
ARMY JROTC
EAST BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

EAST HENDERSON HS
AIR FORCE JROTC
EAST FLAT ROCK, N. CAROLINA

EAST RICHLAND HS
ARMY JROTC
OLNEY, ILLINOIS

ENGLEWOOD HS
ARMY JROTC
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

ESSEX HS
AIR FORCE JROTC
ESSEX JUNCTION, VERMONT

EVANS HS
ARMY JROTC
EVANS, GEORGIA

FAIRMONT HS
ARMY JROTC
FAIRMONT, N. CAROLINA

MISSOURI MA
ARMY JROTC
MEXICO, MISSOURI

MOUNT TABOR HS
ARMY JROTC
WINSTON-SALEM, N. CAROLINA

NORTHEAST HS
ARMY JROTC
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

OOLTEWAH HILL HS
ARMY JROTC
OOLTEWAH, TENNESSEE

PERRY CITY CENTRAL HS
ARMY JROTC
HAZARD, KENTUCKY

PLAINFIELD HS
AIR FORCE JROTC
PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY

PORT RICHMOND HS
ARMY JROTC
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK

Unarmed Division

Inspection

Abraham Clark HS	<i>Lady Devil Dogs</i>	1011
Madison Park HS	<i>Fighting Cardinals</i>	997
Havelock HS	<i>Iron Brigade Regulators</i>	990
Gloucester HS	<i>Scarlet Thunder</i>	970
Gulfport HS	<i>Precision 'n Motion</i>	962

Regulation

Havelock HS	<i>Iron Brigade Regulators</i>	851
Abraham Clark HS	<i>Lady Devil Dogs</i>	842
Hialeah-Miami Lks. HS	<i>Royal Trojans</i>	840
Plainfield HS	<i>Red Cardinal Guard</i>	824
T.C. Williams HS	<i>Armageddon</i>	823

Color Guard

East Boston HS	<i>Clippers</i>	1004
Abraham Clark HS	<i>Lady Devil Dogs</i>	944
Northeast HS	<i>Taylor Elite</i>	943
East Henderson HS	<i>Strike Eagles</i>	940
Havelock HS	<i>Iron Brigade Regulators</i>	925

Team Exhibition

Ronald Reagan HS	<i>Diamondbacks</i>	1165
Dr. Pila HS	<i>Eagle Force</i>	1165
Gulfport HS	<i>Precision 'n Motion</i>	1163
Gloucester HS	<i>Scarlet Thunder</i>	1160
Irvington HS	<i>Blue Crusaders</i>	1155

Overall Unarmed Champion

Abraham Clark High School - *Lady Devil Dogs*

Overall Unarmed Runner-up

Havelock High School - *Iron Brigade Regula-*

FOREST PARK HS
AIR FORCE JROTC
FOREST PARK, GEORGIA

HIALEAH-MIAMI LAKES HS
ARMY JROTC
HIALEAH, FLORIDA

FORESTVILLE MA
ARMY JROTC
FORESTVILLE, MARYLAND

HUBBARD HS
ARMY JROTC
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

FRIENDLY HS
NAVY JROTC
FT. WASHINGTON, MARYLAND

IRVINGTON HS
ARMY JROTC
IRVINGTON, NEW JERSEY

GOUCESTER HS
MARINE CORPS JROTC
GOUCESTER,
MASSACHUSETTS

JARDINES DE PONCE HS
AIR FORCE JROTC
PONCE, PUERTO RICO

GULFPORT HS
MARINE CORPS JROTC
GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI

JESUIT HS
MARINE CORPS JROTC
NEW ORLEANS,
LOUISIANA

HARRISON HS
AIR FORCE JROTC
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

KEMPER COUNTY HS
ARMY JROTC
DEKALB, MISSISSIPPI

HAVELOCK HS
NAVY JROTC
HAVELOCK, N.CAROLINA

KENWOOD HS
ARMY JROTC
CLARKSVILLE, TENNESSEE

LAUREL HS
ARMY JROTC
LAUREL, MARYLAND

MADISON PARK HS
MARINE CORPS JROTC
ROXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

MASSACHUSETTS HS
ARMY JROTC
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

ROBERT E. LEE HS
NAVY JROTC
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

WAUKEGAN HS
ARMY JROTC
WAUKEGAN, ILLINOIS

RONALD REAGAN HS
ARMY JROTC
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

WESTOVER HS
ARMY JROTC
FAYETTEVILLE, N.CAROLINA

ROSSVIEW HS
ARMY JROTC
CLARKSVILLE, TENNESSEE

WHITEHAVEN HS
ARMY JROTC
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

SURRATTSVILLE HS
AIR FORCE JROTC
CLINTON, MARYLAND

WICHITA HS SOUTH
ARMY JROTC
WICHITA, KANSAS

T.C. WILLIAMS HS
ARMY JROTC
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

WINDSOR FOREST HS
ARMY JROTC
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

PORT RICHMOND HS
ARMY JROTC
McMINNVILLE,
TENNESSEE

WINGFIELD HS
ARMY JROTC
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

WASHINGTON HS
AIR FORCE JROTC
TACOMA, WASHINGTON

WOODLAWN HS
ARMY JROTC
BIRMINGHAM,
ALABAMA

★ 2003 Masters Level Participants ★
Schools of Excellence ★

Bethel Regional High School
Army JROTC
Bethel, Alaska

Boca Raton HS
Navy JROTC
Boca Raton, Florida

Carroll High School
Army JROTC
Ozark, Alabama

Cedar Shoals High School
Army JROTC
Athens, Georgia

Cranston High School East
Army JROTC
Cranston, Rhode Island

Crook County High School
Navy JROTC
Prineville, Oregon

Deerfield Beach High School
Marine Corps JROTC
Deerfield Beach, Florida

Douglas MacArthur HS
Army JROTC
San Antonio, Texas

Enterprise High School
Army JROTC
Enterprise, Alabama

Fern Creek High School
Marine Corps JROTC
Fern Creek, Kentucky

Flour Bluff High School
Navy JROTC
Corpus Christi, Texas

Fork Union Military Academy
Non-Affiliated
Fork Union, Virginia

Francis Lewis High School
Army JROTC
Fresh Meadows, New York

Hendersonville High School
Marine Corps JROTC
Hendersonville, Tennessee

Hialeah High School
Air Force JROTC
Hialeah, Florida

J.H. Reagan High School
Army JROTC
Houston, Texas

James Madison High School
Army JROTC
San Antonio, Texas

2003 ALL-SERVICE JUDGING CORPS



Judges listed from left to right, front row to back row:

Marine Corps: GySgt. Leonardo Stoll, SSgt. Laureano Perez, Jr., SSgt. William Bodette, GySgt. Robin Fortner, GySgt. Dallas Poole, SSgt. Jorge Aspiazu, SSgt. John Partin, 1stSgt. Christopher Borghese, 1stSgt. Sandra Torres-Pintos;

Air Force: SSgt. George Black, SrA Antoinette Harrow, SSgt. Allen Galbreath, TSgt. Michael Barnett, SSgt. Shawn Rivers, MSgt. Jim Kelly, MSgt. Robert Barnette, SSgt. Jeremy Zier, MSgt. Jerome Ross;

Army: SSG Dionysius Bright, SSG Kristover Fitzsimmons, SFC Kevin Krumnow, SSG Josef Morris, SSG Andrew Stembidge, SFC Juan Aponte, SFC Michael Willis, SSG Roy Trevino, 1SG James Williams;

Navy: ITCM Perry Wilson, IT2 Stacey Thinn, MMC Dave Philmon, YN3 Debbie Murphy, SKC Jackie Earlywine, SK1 Donny Cooks, ATC Bill Hidalgo, YN1 Melvin Isom, SHC James Owens, HMCM (FMF) Peter Verhoeven, ATC Chuck Guthrie. THANKS TO ALL!

Ronald Reagan High School
Army JROTC
San Antonio, Texas

Sandalwood High School
Air Force JROTC
Jacksonville, Florida

Seneca High School
Marine Corps JROTC
Louisville, Kentucky

Southeast High School
Army JROTC
Bradenton, Florida

Southern Regional High School
Air Force JROTC
Manahawkin, New Jersey

Spring Valley High School
Air Force JROTC
Columbia, South Carolina

Springfield High School
Army JROTC
Holland, Ohio

St. Louis High School
Army JROTC
Honolulu, Hawaii

Terry Sanford High School
Air Force JROTC
Fayetteville, North Carolina

Theodore Roosevelt HS
Army JROTC
San Antonio, Texas

Trevor Browne High School
Army JROTC
Phoenix, Arizona

United South High School
Marine Corps JROTC
Laredo, Texas

Walla Walla High School
Army JROTC
Walla Walla, Washington

Ware County High School
Army JROTC
Waycross, Georgia

Wetumpka High School
Army JROTC
Wetumpka, Alabama

Winston Churchill High School
Army JROTC
San Antonio, Texas

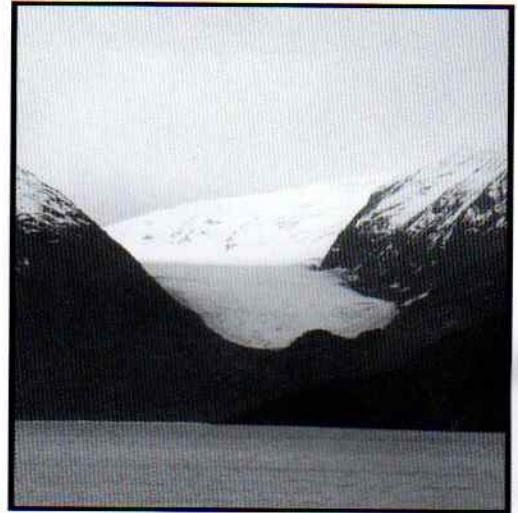
Winter Springs High School
Army JROTC
Winter Springs, Florida

See HUNDREDS of action pictures taken by SNI at every drill & ceremony competition we host at our professional photography home - EXPRESS DIGITAL! <http://drill.thenationals.net>



North to Alaska, the Rush to Excellence is ON!

It's an early winter day, December of 2000. The phones ring and moments later, a voice calls out, "There's a school on the phone that wants to come to Nationals from Alaska!" And so began the involvement of one of the most amazing programs that has ever graced the drill floor at the National High School Drill Team Championships. While more talented schools annually attend, smaller schools attend, richer & poorer schools attend, we have never had a school with a bigger heart overcome more obstacles on their way to Daytona Beach -- becoming the only native people to ever capture a National Championship at the NHSDTC.



We should have seen it coming. In the months leading up to the 2001 Nationals, our office received several phone calls from the Bethel H.S. drill unit. The questions we field often indicate the type of team that is planning to attend. These were not lazy questions whose answers jump out of the S.O.P. at first glance. These were the "between-the-lines" questions that just the mere asking, often indicate a detailed preparation and a complete determination and dedication to win.

Sure enough, the Warriors from tiny Bethel, Alaska came in and stunned the competition field by earning a third place overall Challenge Level Unarmed Division finish in 2001. Undaunted, the Warriors returned in 2002 and captured the Challenge Level Unarmed Division National Championship. This year, moving up to the Masters Level competition, the Warriors drill team not only won the Unarmed Inspection competition, but left the exhibition drill floor with thousands of gaping onlookers after a performance that has as many differing descriptions as there were onlookers. The only consensus was, "It was amazing!"

When I contacted the unit immediately after the 2002 event to congratulate them on their championship finish, I was asked if I would be interested in guest speaking at their "Dining Out Ceremony" the unit hosts each December. I have served as Master of Ceremonies or Guest Speaker at many functions over the years but none mean more to me than the JROTC functions I have attended. After discussing such a trip with my wife, I accepted their gracious offer.

I assumed Bethel would be small, rural and cold. But my expectations were dwarfed by the remarkable spirit and charming attributes that make up the hard-working cadets who choose to be a part of the Army JROTC program in this small southwestern Alaskan town.

Packing light for my three-day trip, I began a 17-hour airline odyssey in Orlando at 7am, going through Salt Lake City, on to Anchorage, and then taking a 90-minute hop to Bethel, finally arriving at 7:30pm (12:30am Florida time!). No roads lead in or out of town with the only access being through air or water. I was met at the airport by what appeared to be half of the JROTC, and was overwhelmed by the genuine nature of the people and the outpouring of hospitality they gave to this "outsider".

After a great night sleep in my clean and comfortable cabin, I awoke at 0500 local time (internal clock still in need of adjustment!). God smiles on fools and small children as the outside temperature hovered around 32° (thankfully, as the normal winter temp is between -20° and 20°F with wind chills often delving into the -70°F range). It was dark outside and would stay so until about 10am. A brief four hours of dimmed daylight would yield to a 2pm twilight, then pitch dark again by 5pm. In the 15 minutes I was outside, not a single car was seen on the paved road that snakes through town. I could, however, hear the unmistakable sound of snowmobiles in the distance driving on the frozen river. Miles of flat, undisturbed plains and icy terrain in every direction gave way to tall, snowcapped mountains on the horizon, effecting an aura of isolation. The peacefulness and amazing natural beauty was so evident, yet I imagine it is easily dismissed by those who experience it every day.

I couldn't help wonder how a championship drill team practices with sub-zero temps and only four hours of pseudo-daylight!

As light began to creep into the sky, I walked the mile or so to Bethel Regional H.S. on the edge of the two lane paved road. The small, weathered, wooden homes that hugged the roadway were simple and exemplified the tough life so many of the locals endured. The town of Bethel is home to roughly 4,500 people and Bethel Regional H.S. maintains a total school population of around 400. The JROTC unit has roughly 65 cadets and therefore is a large percentage of the student body. Many of Bethel's residents are Yupik natives; indigenous Alaskans that have been on this land for centuries. The Yupik have a proud heritage that is honored by the JROTC unit, which incorporates elements of their native dance into their distinctive drill routines.

Throughout my trip to Bethel, I was the guest of SAI MAJ Carl Bailey and MSG Barbara Wright. The position these two leaders fill are vital in a populous of cadets often looking for adult role models. Major is the "face" of the program and MSG Wright is the "heart". Major Bailey is the self-effacing and self-titled "PR" department of the unit. His easy-going nature masks the well-deserved pride he takes in the accomplishments of his program.

Begun in the 1995-1996 school year, Bethel JROTC quickly rose to prominence. Not only through capturing several state exhibition drill championships, but through their community service work, and even more impressively, through their selection as a U.S. Army JROTC Honor Unit with Distinction for the 2002-2003 school year. But their greatest pride is mentoring and molding the cadets into productive citizens through the efforts of the program.

"Many people look down on our town. We have a high degree of drug usage, alcohol abuse, etc.," stated Bailey. "We have a lot of kids that like to stay here late into the evenings because they don't have a great home life. Some we almost kick out at night. We work with the kids and give them as many chances as it takes to keep them doing the right things and staying in the program."

As I walk the halls of the school with Major Bailey, I meet the school principal and many other administrators and educators. On the surface, Bethel High School is a modern campus with ample connections to the rest of the world through various media sources. Beyond outward appearances are the heartfelt smiles and genuine goodwill that lights up most every face I see, students and faculty alike. Their upbeat attitude is infectious.

While touring the JROTC program, Major Bailey takes a moment to point out the Bethel JROTC Wall of Fame. There are photos of past cadets who have gone on to great accomplishments. Academy appointments, active military service and other noteworthy items give these alumni special recognition -- encouraging even the newest freshman cadet to understand that greatness can lie ahead if you work for it!

When the bell rings we take the opportunity to visit the lunch room. It is a small area, with food served concession-like. Bailey explained that the school was losing a great deal of money running the cafeteria. So the Major offered to have his JROTC take over the lunch duties for the entire school! Not only did the school embrace the idea, they no longer lost money on the program AND the JROTC turns a tidy profit which helps to fund the significant cost of traveling to competitions throughout Alaska and to the Nationals.

Joining the cadets at lunch, I get the chance to ask them about the program. The kids have a genuine love for their program and their instructors. Their feedback is much like other units I have visited. "Master Sergeant is so hard on us! -- she expects us to be perfect." is the common theme. Not said with disdain, they are made with a smile that suggests the cadets understand that the tough exterior MSG Wright exudes is the outer shell of a love she maintains for every cadet who gives 100%.

After lunch, MSG Wright and I discuss the program as she gives me a quick tour of the town in a tough-looking pick-up truck that looks like it has survived many winters. "We have to work on the cadets all the time to look people in the eyes when they are speaking," stated Wright. "Also to speak up! These kids have it pretty tough but we accept no excuses. Some of these kids are ashamed of their heritage and try to do things to hide it. We have to drive it home to be proud of who they are and where they come from."

We pull up to a small non-descript National Guard building off-campus where the drill team practices. Visions of the dark boxing ring in the movie *Rocky* dance through my head. Upon exiting the truck and locking the passenger door, I get a smile from Wright, followed by, "No need to lock it -- where would anyone take the truck?" It's easy to forget that thirteen miles of paved roads in the entire town does not make for much of a getaway!

To see them practice is to see a transformation unlike anything I have ever witnessed. Somewhat quiet, soft-spoken cadets with typical teenage posture and mannerisms hear the SGM issue a command and BOOM! "Instant game face."

In the tropical warmth of Daytona Beach, the Bethel Warriors have made unique adjustments to fine-tune their experience at the Nationals. As the Judging Director, I rarely get to see daylight for several days, arriving at the Ocean Center at 0530 and leaving past 2200. Partly because of the intense daytime temperatures and partly because of the time zone change, on more than one occasion I have bumped into the Warrior drill team going to practice in the middle of pitch darkness while every other team is sound asleep. SGM Wright's intensity never lets up as she drills and drills the cadets to ensure they will produce their best performance. Seeing the look of confusion on my face, Major Bailey gives me the answer, "We're nocturnal - we perform better in the dark!"



Seated at the Dining Out Head Table are many of the fantastic leaders of the 2002-2003 Bethel Regional H.S. Army JROTC program. From left to right: C/CPT Yosselyn Lopez, C/CSM Mark Charlie Jr., C/CSM Jocelyn Tikiun, C/ MAJ Michael Glore, PreJROTC Krisda A. Kinigak, C/LTC Dexter Kairaiuak, C/MAJ Christina Smith and C/LTC Curtis.

rest of their lives. The cadets have worked harder than they thought they could, to achieve success and notoriety many felt could never be attained. The lessons they learned along the way will carry forward for the rest of their lives, as well as through the lives of their children. Breaking the cycle of mediocrity starts with reaching out to those who strive for something better. And the Army JROTC at Bethel H.S. has made an impact that reaches far beyond the little town in southwest Alaska.

- Justin Gates

It's a NAVMAC DOMINATION at the Top of the Masters Level!



Unarmed Division(left) and Demilitarized Arms Division(top) Nationals Champions from Flour Bluff HS of Corpus Christi, Texas as well as four-time Alternative Arms Division Champion Fern Creek HS from Fern Creek, Kentucky (right) took home the big hardware at the 2003 Nationals.

PEOPLE WERE BUZZING THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND AT THE LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE ON DISPLAY AT THE MASTERS LEVEL. IN A FIELD SURGING WITH INCREDIBLE DEPTH OF TALENT, THREE TEAMS DOMINATED TO ATTAIN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES. THE BREATHTAKING PRECISION AND BOLD, EXCITING EXHIBITION SEQUENCES HAVE BECOME TRADEMARKS OF THE MASTERS LEVEL COMPETITION. EVERY SCHOOL THAT COMPETES AT THIS LEVEL, REGARDLESS OF THEIR OVERALL FINISH, DESERVES HONOR AND RESPECT. THE YEAR-ROUND EFFORT THAT IS REQUIRED TO BE ACCEPTED INTO THE MASTERS LEVEL COMPETITION AT THE NATIONALS IS UNPARALLELED IN THE WORLD OF COMPETITION DRILL. SNI WOULD LIKE TO APPLAUD ALL OF THE CADETS WHO MAKE THE SACRIFICE TO BE THE BEST THEY CAN BE EACH YEAR AND PUT IT ON THE LINE AT THE NATIONALS.

ALTERNATIVE ARMS DIVISION

DESPITE A HARD-CHARGE FROM MANY TALENTED FLORIDA JROTC PROGRAMS, THE WELL-TRAINED LADIES FROM FERN CREEK HS IN FERN CREEK, KENTUCKY PUT TOGETHER THEIR FORTH CONSECUTIVE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE. AS THEY HAVE DONE EVERY YEAR, THE **LADY LEATHERNECKS'** DRILL TEAM GARNERED THEIR STRENGTH THROUGH OVERALL SUPERIORITY, CAPTURING TWO 1ST PLACE FINISHES AND THREE OTHER TOP FOUR PLACEMENTS. LED BY THE RETIRING DRILL MASTER MAJOR ALLEN BROUSSARD AND DRILL WIZARD MGySgt. DOUG DUNLAPP, THESE MARINES HAVE SET A HIGH BENCHMARK FOR EXCELLENCE THAT HAS HERETOFORE BEEN UNPARALLELED WITHIN THE ALTERNATIVE ARMS DIVISION AT THE NATIONALS.

BEATING A TIGHT PACK OF TOUGH RUNNER-UP UNITS, THE ARMY JROTC UNIT FROM WINTER SPRINGS HS IN WINTER SPRINGS, FLORIDA GRABBED 2ND PLACE IN BOTH INSPECTION AND COLOR GUARD. THESE SOLID FINISHES HELPED THE GOLDEN BEARS DEFEAT THE ALWAYS-TOUGH MIAMI CORAL PARK HS HURRICANES ARMY JROTC DRILL.

THE ALTERNATIVE ARMS DIVISION WAS FILLED WITH OTHER EXCITING, NOTEWORTHY FINISHES INCLUDING: DEERFIELD BEACH (1ST-INSPECTION); SPRING VALLEY (1ST-SQUAD EX.); SENECA (1ST-REGULATION); PALM BAY (2ND-REGULATION, 3RD-COLOR GUARD) AND J.H. REAGAN (2ND-SQUAD & PLATOON EX.).

UNARMED DIVISION

THE UNARMED COMPETITION STARTED OUT TIGHT BUT A SINGLE POOR FINISH BY THEIR CLOSEST COMPETITOR LEFT FLOUR BLUFF HS ALONE AT THE TOP. THE NJROTC UNIT FROM CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS DESTROYED THE COMPETITION WITH FIVE, 6TH PLACE OR BETTER FINISHES, INCLUDING TWO 1ST PLACE TROPHIES EARNED IN COLOR GUARD AND PLATOON (PLATOON) EXHIBITION. LED BY CDR ARMANDO SOLIS, HMCS LEE HOLLOWAY AND THE RETIRING HMCM BILL PETTIS, THE **SEA HAWKS** CLEARED ROOM IN THE TROPHY CASE FOR A 2003 NJROTC NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AS WELL AS AN ALL-SERVICE NHSDTC CHAMPIONSHIP!

GAINING STRENGTH EVERY YEAR THEY ATTEND, THE **LADY DEVIL PUPS** FROM RAHWAY HS IN RAHWAY, NEW JERSEY POWERED TO AN IMPRESSIVE NATIONAL RUNNER-UP TITLE. ONLY A TOUGH 15TH PLACE FINISH IN COLOR GUARD KEPT THESE DYNAMOS OUT OF THE PICTURE FOR AN OVERALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP. THEY NEEDED EVERY POINT AS THE **RIDERETTES** FROM THEODORE ROOSEVELT HS WERE RIGHT BEHIND IN THIRD PLACE, PACED BY A STRONG 2ND PLACE ELEMENT (SQUAD) EXHIBITION PERFORMANCE.

THE UNARMED DIVISION ALSO PRODUCED: **JOHN JAY** (1ST-ELEMENT EX.); **MARMION** ADMY. (1ST-REGULATION); **BETHEL REGIONAL** (1ST-INSPECTION); **FRANCIS LEWIS** (2ND-PLATOON EX.); **PINE RIDGE** (2ND-COLOR GUARD); **JOHN MARSHALL** (3RD-PLATOON EX. & INSPECTION); **SANDALWOOD** (3RD-COLOR GUARD) AND **UNITED SOUTH** (3RD-REGULATION).

DEMILITARIZED ARMS DIVISION

LITERALLY A HALF DOZEN SCHOOLS WERE WITHIN SHOOTING DISTANCE AS THE TEAMS STEPPED ONTO THE FLOOR FOR THE FINAL COMPETITION SUNDAY MORNING. HOWEVER, FLOUR BLUFF HS SHOWED THEY WERE THE BEST OF THE BEST, CAPTURING THE DEMILITARIZED ARMS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WITH A NEAR FLAWLESS PLATOON EXHIBITION SEQUENCE. THE TEAM WAS STRONG ALL YEAR AND PERFORMANCES IN DAYTONA SHOWED THAT OVERALL STRENGTH, GARNERING A 1ST PLACE (INSPECTION) AND TWO 2ND PLACE (REGULATION, PLATOON EX) FINISHES. THE NJROTC **SEA DEVILS** PULLED OFF THE NEAR IMPOSSIBLE, GAINING A DOUBLE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (DEMILITARIZED ARMS & UNARMED, ONLY DONE BY TWO OTHER SCHOOLS IN THE HISTORY OF THE NATIONALS!)



From judges, instructors, and spectators, the general overview was without question; the 2003 brought together the finest collection of high school JROTC drill talent ever assembled in one location.

THE FIGHT FOR THE RUNNER-UP TITLE WAS A SQUEAKER! BY A SINGLE QUALITY POINT, **BLACK WATCH** FROM **WINSTON CHURCHILL HS** NARROWLY DEFEATED THE **BLUE GUARD** FROM **DOUGLAS MACARTHUR HS**. BOTH TEAMS GRABBED 1ST PLACE FINISHES (SQUAD EX. AND PLATOON EX., RESPECTIVELY) TO DISTANCE THEMSELVES FROM THE REST OF THE PACK.

OTHER TOP PERFORMANCES INCLUDED: **JOHN JAY** (1ST-REGULATION, 2ND SQUAD EX.); **FRANCIS LEWIS** (1ST-COLOR GUARD, 3RD-REGULATION); **WINTER SPRINGS** (2ND-INSPECTION); **RONALD REAGAN** (2ND-COLOR GUARD); **FERN CREEK** (3RD-INSPECTION, SQUAD EX.); **RAHWAY** (3RD-COLOR GUARD) AND **ENTERPRISE HS** (3RD-PLATOON EX.).

THE SELFLESS DEDICATION AND AMAZING ROUTINES THAT PUNCTUATED THE MASTERS LEVEL COMPETITION ARE A TESTAMENT TO THOSE THAT SACRIFICE FOR EXCELLENCE! SPORTS NETWORK SALUTES EVERY CADET WHO MADE THEMSELVES A PART OF THE MASTERS LEVEL COMPETITION AT THE 2003 NATIONALS!

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DRILL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Masters Level Event Standings

ALL TOTALS ARE BASED ON A MAXIMUM 1200 POINTS PER EVENT

Demilitarized Arms Inspection

Flour Bluff HS	Sea Devils	831
Winter Springs HS	Bears	771
Fern Creek HS	Leathernecks	764
James Madison HS	Maverick Guard	764
United South HS	So. Panther Rifles	759

Regulation

John Jay HS	Silver Eagles	1160
Flour Bluff HS	Sea Devils	1153
Francis Lewis HS	Patriot Guard	1143
Rahway HS	Devil Pups	1136
Ronald Reagan HS	Rattler Guard	1079

Color Guard

Francis Lewis HS	Patriot Guard	1111
Ronald Reagan HS	Rattler Guard	1086
Rahway HS	Devil Pups	1078
Douglas MacArthur HS	Blue Guard	1076
Winston Churchill HS	Black Watch	1067

Squad Exhibition

Winston Churchill HS	Black Watch	1086
John Jay HS	Silver Eagles	1083
Fern Creek HS	Leathernecks	1071
Douglas MacArthur HS	Blue Guard	1069
J.H. Reagan HS	Reagan Rifles	1056

Platoon Exhibition

Douglas MacArthur HS	Blue Guard	1049
Flour Bluff HS	Sea Devils	1029
Enterprise HS	Blue Knights	1022
Francis Lewis HS	Patriot Guard	1020
Winston Churchill HS	Black Watch	1016

Demilitarized Arms Champions

Champion: Flour Bluff HS - *Sea Devils*
Runner-up: Winston Churchill HS - *Black Watch*

Solo Exhibition

1st: Cadet Arce - J.H. Reagan HS
2nd: Cadet Tripp - Ronald Reagan HS
3rd: Cadet Nevarez - Terry Sanford HS

Dual Exhibition

1st: Fontess & Tam - St. Louis HS
2nd: Kay & Whitacre - Springfield HS
3rd: Logan & Gagnon - Nathan Hale HS

Unarmed Inspection

Bethel Regional HS	Warriors	1052
Rahway HS	Lady Devil Pups	1023
John Marshall HS	Bandoleers	1011
United South HS	So. Lady Panthers	1006
Flour Bluff HS	Sea Hawks	998

Regulation

Marmion Admy. Flannigan Blue Rifles	905	
Flour Bluff HS	Sea Hawks	898
United South HS	So. Lady Panthers	855
Rahway HS	Lady Devil Pups	855
John Jay HS	Snap II	850

Color Guard

Flour Bluff HS	Sea Hawks	1031
Pine Ridge HS	Golden Vengeance	1007
Sandalwood HS	Silver Eagles	1005
Francis Lewis HS	Patriot Pride	991
Douglas MacArthur HS	Blue Angels	973

Element Exhibition

John Jay HS	Snap II	1157
Theodore Roosevelt HS	Riderettes	1140
Rahway HS	Lady Devil Pups	1134
Winston Churchill HS	Queen's Guard	1132
Hialeah HS	Sinisters	1130

Flight Exhibition

Flour Bluff HS	Sea Hawks	1053
Francis Lewis HS	Patriot Pride	1003
John Marshall HS	Bandoleers	975
Boca Raton HS	Urgent Fury	941
Douglas MacArthur HS	Blue Angels	940

Alternative Arms Inspection

Deerfield Beach HS	Golden Bucks	985
Winter Springs HS	Golden Bears	948
Fern Creek HS	Lady Leathernecks	945
Lyman HS	Lady Greys	937
Miami Coral Park HS	Hurricanes	917

Regulation

Seneca HS	Lady Red Hawks	723
Palm Bay HS	Lady Pirates	715
Fern Creek HS	Lady Leathernecks	711
Miami Coral Park HS	Hurricanes	700
Enterprise HS	Belles of the Blue Knights	699

Color Guard

Fern Creek HS	Lady Leathernecks	942
Winter Springs HS	Golden Bears	924
Palm Bay HS	Lady Pirates	917
Miami Coral Park HS	Hurricanes	850
Southeast HS	Lady Noles	843

Squad Exhibition

Spring Valley HS	Viking One	1036
J.H. Reagan HS	Reagan Riflettes	1022
Southeast HS	Lady Noles	1008
Fern Creek HS	Lady Leathernecks	991
Deerfield Beach HS	Golden Bucks	984

Platoon Exhibition

Fern Creek HS	Lady Leathernecks	999
J.H. Reagan HS	Reagan Riflettes	998
Enterprise HS	Belles of the Blue Knights	962
Deerfield Beach HS	Golden Bucks	940
Cedar Shoals HS	Lady Knights	910

Demilitarized Arms Champions

Champion: Flour Bluff HS - *Sea Devils*
Runner-up: Winston Churchill HS - *Black Watch*

2003 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Unarmed Champions

Champion: Flour Bluff HS - *Sea Hawks*
Runner-up: Rahway HS - *Lady Devil Pups*

Dual Exhibition

1st: Saucedo & Woodmancy - T.Roosevelt HS
2nd: Gallardo & Montano - United South HS
3rd: Bench & Custer - John Jay HS

Alternative Arms Champions

Champion: Fern Creek HS - *Lady Leathernecks*
Runner-up: Winter Springs HS - *Golden Bears*

Solo Exhibition

1st: Cadet Guilfoyle - Southeast HS
2nd: Cadet Hall - Leesburg HS
3rd: Cadet Menendez - Miami Coral Park HS

Dual Exhibition

1st: Brown & Guthrey - Wetumpka HS
2nd: Harrison & Rice - Palm Bay HS
3rd: Brewer & Jackson - Leesburg HS

**2004 U.S. ARMY JROTC
EASTERN & WESTERN
DRILL CHAMPIONSHIPS
MARCH 13TH
COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS
MARCH 20TH
WASHINGTON, DC
(TWO EVENTS - ARMY ONLY)**



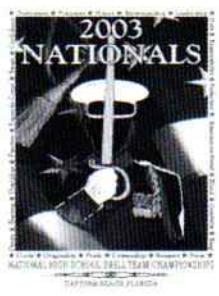
**2004
NAVY NATIONALS
ACADEMICS, ATHLETICS & DRILL
CHAMPIONSHIPS
APRIL 2ND-3RD
NAS PENSACOLA, FLORIDA
(NAVY ONLY EVENT)**



**2004
NATIONAL CAPITAL
INVITATIONAL DRILL CLASSIC
MARCH 19TH
WASHINGTON, DC
(AIR FORCE ONLY EVENT)**



**2004
NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
DRILL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS
APRIL 30TH - MAY 2ND
DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA
(ALL-SERVICE EVENT)**



ART CONTEST

LET YOUR CREATIVITY SHOW!

Sports Network International (SNI) is constantly looking for ways to increase the involvement of cadets with the drill competitions we produce. Last year, a group of cadets suggested that we should allow JROTC students to submit artwork that could be used for the Nationals' t-shirt design. We felt so strongly about this idea that we have decided to expand this idea to include all of our events in a contest to show off the best and the brightest....and to reward your efforts!

If your design is selected to be the inspiration for one of the 2004 JROTC drill competition t-shirts, along with notoriety & fame...

YOU WILL RECEIVE A \$500 SAVINGS BOND!

All art submissions should maintain the following:
The design may be submitted either via email (preferred, *.jpg / *.gif / *.bmp are fine) or hand-drawn/printed/mailed. For best consideration, mailed art should be sent in an oversized envelope and not folded!

The shirt art design **MUST** contain the name of the event, with the year and the location (all listed on the left column). Other Items to Consider when creating your design: The minimum design size is 8-1/2" x 11" with a maximum size of 13" x 17". You MAY wish to include the date of the competition (not required, your choice!). Cadets are encouraged to design their shirt with a military or patriotic theme that evokes the spirit of our events. Army, Air Force and Navy cadets may choose to submit a design that highlights just their service for those service-specific drill meets. Cadets wishing to submit a design for consideration at the Nationals should remember that the NHSDTC is an all-service drill meet and cannot emphasize a particular service.

TEN BASIC CONTEST RULES

- 1) The artwork must be original and cannot contain other copyrighted works within it!
- 2) Shirt art is generally done with 5 colors plus white showing through where needed. Designs with more than five colors will be modified by SNI to suit our needs.
- 3) Keep a copy of your artwork. We can't return the designs that you submit to us.
- 4) Limit of ONE entry per person, per event (*FOUR total entries if you submit art for each SNI drill event*)
- 5) Artwork becomes the sole property of Sports Network International, Inc.
- 6) Sports Network International, Inc. reserves the right to edit artwork to our specifications. We may shrink or expand your work or edit elements to make the image work for our event needs.
- 7) Sports Network International, Inc. is not responsible for lost or misdirected mail, nor any other misfortune that could keep your design from getting into our hands.
- 8) Odds of winning totally depend on the number of eligible entries received and the subjective evaluation of the judges.
- 9) Winners will be notified by mail in advance of the event and will be posted on our website. A Savings Bond will be awarded either on-site during the competition the shirt was designed for, or after the competition if the cadet is not present.
- 10) All entries must be received by SNI no later than February 1st, 2004.

Sports Network International

Attn: Art Contest

775 Fentress Blvd.

Daytona Beach, FL 32114

or email to: drill@thenationals.net

(and put in the subject line,

ART CONTEST)

NATIONALS

S C R A P B O O K

A Quick Look at the News & Events of the 2003 Nationals



Sports Network Int'l Doubly Honored

SNI was bestowed the honor of receiving two prestigious awards at the conclusion of the recent 2003 Nationals. The Air Force Superior Performance Award, as well as the Air Force Recruiting Award both represent years of excellence in

improving America's Youth and support of the goals and ideals of the U.S. Air Force. Both awards were presented during the Masters Level Awards Ceremony by Head Judge MSgt. Robert Barnette. These awards are one of the proudest achievements SNI has attained in our 20+ years of producing events. The entire staff of SNI annually looks forward to ensuring the four branches of the Armed Forces "look good"!

Pace High School Dominates the World!

Hearty congratulations go out to Pace High School NJROTC in Pace, Florida. This unit was named the **Most Outstanding NJROTC unit** in the world for the 2002-2003 school year. This evaluation was based on numerous criteria, but the overall excellence and emphasis on community service played a large part in their selection. This selection placed them above 580 other Navy JROTC programs worldwide....GREAT JOB cadets, instructors and parents!

Drill Photographs Now Featured Exclusively on PhotoExpress Studio

For several years, SNI has looked for a cost-effective means to make available to our schools the HUNDREDS of professional event photos that are taken during all SNI drill competitions. Finally, a solid company has stepped forward to handle this task professionally and at a reasonable cost. The high resolution competition photos are all available to view and purchase on the web roughly one week after the competition. These pictures have become a big hit with the overwhelming response of, "it's about time!" To see these action pictures, hit the NHSDTC website and click on **Digital Express**.



COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS SLATED TO RISE TO \$1,000 PER CADET AT THE 2004 NATIONALS

The Jean Weil Foundation once again selected two outstanding college-bound seniors as recipients for the **2003 Jean Weil Scholarship**. Hilary Orillion

of North Augusta High School (North Augusta, S. Carolina) and Andrew Peloquin of Pine Ridge High School (Deltona, Florida) topped an amazing field of qualified NHSDTC attendees. Senior cadets planning to attend the 2004 NHSDTC should press NOW to be nominated for this prestigious award! The award has been increased to \$1,000 per cadet for 2004 and beyond thanks to the generous support of our scholarship sponsors. Anyone wishing to learn more or donate to this tax-deductible foundation should visit the SNI website.



A LONG TIME FRIEND OF THE NATIONALS PASSES

Just days after the Springfield H.S. Army JROTC unit returned to Holland, Ohio from their trip to the Nationals, they learned the terrible news that their long-time SAI Major John Gardiner had lost his battle with cancer. Major Gardiner was one of the finest and most well-liked instructors ever to grace the drill floor at the NHSDTC (shown here with his lovely wife Maria). His easy smile and Irish brogue belied a tough work ethic, relentless drive and infectious spirit that touched all who knew the man. Major Gardiner is gone but he will never be forgotten. His spirit and lofty accomplishments will live on forever at the NHSDTC.



JROTC Remains an Unstoppable Force!

Currently, close to 500,000 cadets are enrolled in over 3,000 active JROTC programs around the world. Begun in 1916, JROTC continues to have a positive effect on high school students; reducing dropout rates, increasing school attendance, producing higher GPA's, and building an awareness and appreciation of the role and function of the military.

Chicago JROTC Band Together to put their Best Foot Forward

In preparing for the NHSDTC Inspection event, Hubbard H.S. of Chicago, Illinois was faced with their own challenge. Hubbard JROTC didn't have enough money to equip both their armed & unarmed inspection teams with new shoes. So Gage Park, Lake View, Calumet, Morgan Park and Bowen H.S. provided

additional shoes for the Hubbard inspection teams to use in Daytona. Additionally, extra rifles for practice and competition in the armed exhibition event were provided by Carl Schurz H.S. "The instructors and leaders of the JROTC programs and the Chicago Public School System understand what success in this event means to the reputation of the Chicago JROTC Program and the Chicago School System overall," stated LTC John Wargo, the Hubbard H.S. SAI. "We compete against each other in the city for pride in our schools, but we work together. This event meant pride not for one school, but for ALL the schools - because it represented Chicago."

WEBSITE MARCHES ON WITH TECHNOLOGY

As any visitor to <http://drill.thenationals.net> attest, the Nationals webpage has undergone more major improvements. Along with posting official event invitations, registration forms and other commonly needed paperwork, SNI will begin to allow schools to input their rooming lists and other required event paperwork directly into forms on the website!



Schools are also encouraged to post their own photos taken during SNI drill competitions to the **Yahoo! Groups Webspace**. Become a free member of these Yahoo Groups from any event homepage and increase your drill IQ!

Over 35,000 cadets from all walks of life have made themselves a part of the fun, excitement, & lifetime memories that are an annual part of the National High School Drill Team Championships



Graduating seniors are encouraged to learn about the scholarships available for Nationals attendees through the Jean Weil Scholarship Foundation .

**To learn more, go to:
<http://drill.thenationals.net>**



Make your school a part of the 22nd annual Nationals in 2004!