

Drill NATION

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formerly **IDR Magazine**

2009-2010 Edition



This publication contains your official school invitation to attend the all-service National High School Drill Team Championships in Daytona Beach, Florida. Come as a competitor or spectator and be a part of this drill celebration weekend!



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DrillNATION

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

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COVER

RDML Samuel Perez wowed the crowd as he invited Cadet Jaime Coburn from Flour Bluff High School to join him on stage during his keynote speech, making the point that every cadet in the audience should begin to envision themselves succeeding in their future lives and wearing their own proverbial Admiral's cover.

MAGAZINE DEDICATION

With troop deployments that stretch across the globe, the 2009-10 DrillNATION Magazine is dedicated to both the active duty and reserve components of our American Armed Forces, along with the National Guard. These brave and selfless individuals continue to provide the blanket of freedom that Americans enjoy every day. Thousands of cadets and instructors who have attended the Nationals in the past are currently serving around the globe in all branches of the armed forces, helping to protect the interests of the United States of America. SNI is honored by their commitment to duty and wish them all a safe and speedy return home when they complete their mission.

Sports Network International thanks the many exhibitors who help make the Nationals a special home for JROTC drill: Air Force Academy, U.S. Army Cadet Corps, Battlefield Relics, Brax, Country Meats, Daisy Outdoor Products, For the Art, Georgia Military College, Glendale Industries, Hampton University, Integrity Products, Marion Military Institute, Mary Baldwin College, The Packaging Team, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Texas A&M University Corps of Cadets, US Army Cadet Command ROTC, US Navy ROTC Recruiting Command, Virginia Military Institute and Virginia Technical Institute.

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- ❖ Cadets may attend individually or in groups
- ❖ JROTC instructors are encouraged to attend and learn as well. They will receive supplemental training and materials to better prepare and manage their program and their drill team.
- ❖ NDC instructors are drawn from the finest JROTC programs in the world, along with select Nationals judges, JROTC instructors, former cadets and world-class experts in drill & ceremonies. Planned 2010 NDC instructors include:
 - ❖ **CDR Armando Solis** (USN ret), Navy Nationals & NHSDTC multi-year Champion, Flour Bluff HS
 - ❖ **1SG Jim Tadayeski** (USA ret), Army Eastern Region Champion, Grant HS
 - ❖ **MSG Lawrence Badia** (USA ret), multi-year NHSDTC and Army Champions, Francis Lewis HS
 - ❖ **1stSgt. Christopher Borghese** (USMC ret), 2-tour Parris Island trainer and former National Head Judge
 - ❖ **MSgt. Ken Madden** (USAF ret), multiple NHSDTC and Air Force Champions, now with Brandeis HS
 - ❖ **Mr. Paul Naki & Mr. Donovan White**, Director & Drill Master of the King's Guard Drill Team from Honolulu, Hawaii
- ❖ Training will include basic & advanced classes within Inspection, Regulation Drill, Color Guard and Exhibition. Additional classes will be taught in exhibition routine creation, team dynamics and leadership, the pursuit of excellence, drill season mechanics and organization (practices, goal setting, build-up & peaking).

Quotes from past attendees...

No where else will you ever be able to spend one week gathering knowledge about a subject you're passionate about, DRILL, from people who share your same passion. From the moment you step on camp grounds, you become a family. And that's the reason for camp, to come together as a family and do something we all love. - Cadet Anabel Flores, Edcouch High School, Edcouch, Texas

This was a life-changing experience for me. It was the greatest thing I could have done with my summer. Meeting the greatest drillers like Mr. Naki and Mr. White with the King's Guard really changed me! - Cadet Lance Wernecke, Oak Harbor High School, Oak Harbor, Washington

Within one week I became 100 times the driller than I ever thought I would be. With the help of the NDC I made it to the finals round in my FIRST year of Nationals Solo Exhibition. I would encourage any cadet that wants to learn or improve their skills to attend this amazing camp; it will change your drill world forever! - Cadet Bradley Maestas, Rio Grande High School, Albuquerque, New Mexico

CADET TUITION PACKAGES

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While the Air Force as a whole is not known for their prowess in drill, quality teams are growing every year and the top Air Force drill programs can compete with anyone, anywhere. As scores of blue-coated drillers spread across the Nation and the talent pool continues to rise, both an Eastern & Western Air Force Nationals were begun to give every AF program a chance to compete among their peers in a first-class event. This undeniable show of strength is something attending cadets never forget, win or lose!

The Western Air Force Nationals yielded a sea of blue dominating the drill floor at the spectacular Alamodome. With San Antonio being the hometown of the majority of the best AFJROTC drill schools in the nation, judges were brought in and trained for impartiality, but it was going to be a tough competition for those looking to unseat the Texas big dogs.

ARMED DIVISION

With no intention of giving up their title as Armed Western National Champions, **John Jay HS** (San Antonio, Texas) stood their ground and held onto their title. Loaded with Senior Leadership, a dominating performance by the **Silver Eagles** (1st place Regulation, Color Guard, and Exhibition and a 2nd place Inspection) was made even more impressive with several judges deducting points for use

2009 Air Force Nationals The Wild Blue Yonder!



AFJROTC cadets were out in force at both the Eastern & Western Air Force Nationals.

Official Sponsor

AF Western Championships - San Antonio, Texas

of shoe taps! The Silver Eagles were disappointed to miss a complete event sweep with a 2nd place in Inspection by 1 single point! But despite the domination, the **Centurion Guard** from **Thomas C. Clark HS** (San Antonio, Texas) stayed tight in the Runner-up position with only 2 placement points between the schools in the end.

UNARMED DIVISION

Snap II from **John Jay HS** didn't dominate the field like their Armed counterparts, but they certainly were impressive. Competition was again extremely close as **Thomas C. Clark HS's Silver Valor** came extremely close to claiming the overall title. With only a single placement point between the two, Snap II re-claimed the Unarmed Division Western Championship. John Jay took home two 1st place (Inspection, Color Guard) and two 2nd place (Regulation, Exhibition) trophies. Silver Valor fell right behind them taking the other



AF Nationals Western Division Overall Champion and Runner-up team reps pictured with event sponsor Mr. Ed Garland, AFA Board Member (center left), Mr. Greg Winn, Deputy Director, AFJROTC (center) and Event Head Judge, MSgt. Jonathan Suthard presenting the event awards (center right).

two 1st (Regulation, Exhibition) but a 2nd place in Color Guard and a 3rd place in Inspection kept them just inches away from the overall title.

Though overall talent was concentrated at the top, awesome performance were also displayed by **Brandeis HS & Bellevue East HS** capturing 3rd & 4th place in both the Armed & Unarmed Divisions, respectively.

Next year, the Western AF Nationals will return to the Alamodome on March 12th, 2010. Hope you can be a part of the fun!

AF Eastern Championships - Upper Marlboro, Maryland



AF Nationals Eastern Division Overall Champion and Runner-up team reps pictured with event sponsors Mr. Joseph E. Sutter, Chairman of the Board, AFA (center left) and Colonel Richard J. Ragaller Director, AFJROTC (center right)

The Air Force Nationals Eastern Division Championships were held in the Washington, DC area at the Showplace Arena Equestrian Center. This year many schools were looking to de-throne the reigning champions in both divisions, but found that a harder task than they imagined.

ARMED DIVISION

Every school in the Armed Division had the **Falcons** from **Coventry HS** (Coventry, Rhode Island) in their sights but the Falcons were not ready to give up their title. They captured two 1st place (Inspection, Color Guard), one 2nd

place (Regulation), and one 4th place trophy (Exhibition) which gave them the standing they needed to take home the Armed Division Championship trophy.

The **Ruff Ryders** from **Lackey HS** (Indian Head, Maryland) almost knocked the Falcons off their perch falling short by only one placement point. The Ruff

Ryders also placed in all four team events (2nd in Inspection, Color Guard, Exhibition; 3rd in Regulation) and took home the Armed Division Runner Up trophy that they missed by one point last year. The 2008 runner up the **Black Knights** from **Franklin K. Lane HS** (Brooklyn, New York) tumbled hard with a 9th place finish in Inspection this year although they placed 1st in Exhibition and 4th in Regulation and Color Guard. **Spring Valley HS** (Columbia, SC) also fought hard with a 1st in Regulation and 3rd in Inspection and Exhibition but a disappointing 8th in Color Guard shattered their dreams of taking home a title.

For scoring results, photos & info:
<http://af.thenationals.net>

UNARMED DIVISION

Although the names of the winners stayed the same from 2008, it was far from a foregone conclusion. The **Devils Honor Guard** from **Tift County HS** (Tifton, Georgia) placed 2nd in Regulation & Exhibition but struggled with 8th place both in Inspection & Color Guard leaving the door wide open for last year's runner up. The **Ladies of Destruction** from **Lackey HS** were on their way to the Unarmed Championship with 1st place in Inspection & Regulation but a tough 6th in Color Guard and a disastrous and uncharacteristic 14th place in Exhibition threw them behind Tift County. The 1st through 5th place event trophies were spread out among 13 different schools this year, so no one school truly dominated the Unarmed Division. Good news for schools hoping to make a run for the title in 2010!

Next year, the Eastern Air Force Nationals are slated to be held at the expansive Macon Centreplex in Macon, Georgia on March 19th, 2010. Hope to see you all there!



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The drive and determination surrounding the Navy Nationals has long been synonymous with the desire to knock **Flour Bluff HS** off their pedestal. But for the first time in the event's history, the Corpus Christi powerhouse was absent, unable to travel to the prestigious event. Which school would take the crown in this changed 2009 landscape? Would **Boca Raton HS** do away with the Runner-up trophy and finally claim the Overall title, or was another school going to step up to the plate and claim victory?

The competition began and the cadets' focus was locked on as 25 of the finest Navy programs from across the nation put forth back-breaking efforts into Athletics, flawless ability into Drill, intense single-mindedness in Academics and months of preparation into Personnel Inspection.

The two-day military event tests inspection preparedness, athletic ability, academic aptitude in NJROTC knowledge and overall strength in five drill team events. The team that wins the coveted title has to be well-rounded and completely committed.

Surrounded by the magnificent National Museum of Naval Aviation, over 1000 cadets eyed the display of trophies and anxiously awaited the presentation of the awards. The rousing speech given by **RADM Clifford S. Sharpe, USN, Commander, Naval Service Training Center** was inspirational to all in attendance. The atmosphere made the evening an unforgettable experience. As the trophies began to be dispersed, the cadets sat at the edge of their seats in the hopes that their school would be on the path to become the next Navy Nationals Champion!

The first events presented that evening were Athletics, starting with the Curl-Ups individual medals. It wasn't long before everyone was wondering just what they were feeding the cadets at **Shawnee Mission North HS**, as they captured 7 of the top 10 male curl-up finishes and easily garnered the Curl-Ups team trophy. But Push-Ups was just as overwhelmed by the dominance of **Centennial HS** which finished 1st by over 500 more push-ups than 2nd place **George Bush HS**. The Oval Relay was won by a fraction of a second by **Norview HS**, and the Shuttle Relay by once-again dominant **Centennial**, which handily won the Athletic Overall trophy leaving **Shawnee**

some hopeful schools. **Centennial** was on fire as they continued to soar high with taking the two most important trophies of the evening.

As the ultimate suspense of the final five trophies arrived, the instructors, cadets and spectators alike held their breath. Who would be the new Navy Champion? **Fleming Island** erupted with joy as they claimed their first overall placement by taking the 5th place trophy. The **Flanagan** cadets were also pleased with their 4th place overall standing. There was little doubt as to the schools still in the hunt. But who would rise to the top?

Shawnee Mission North was the next to take the stage for the 3rd place overall trophy, buoyed by their dominance in Drill and their tremendous strength in Athletics. But it was the **Boca Raton** supporters that were still holding their breath hoping their name wouldn't be next... but yet again, they received the National Runner Up title which was another tough blow to an incredible program that always seems just inches from that ultimate award. Their fight to win is boundless and they will no doubt keep that fierce competitive edge as they plan for their next run at the title.

When the dust settled, it was **Centennial High School's** night. Not just a win, but an overpowering triumph in the history of their participation, as they claimed the title of 2009 Navy National Champions! The inspiring program from Las Vegas, Nevada had dominated the competition capturing 1st place overall in Personnel Inspection, Academics, Athletics, and 2nd place in Drill.

With several school seemingly on the rise, there is renewed hope that anyone can win with the right amount of dedication, practice and a sprinkle of good fortune. The 2010 Navy Nationals will be a fight to the end as **Centennial**, **Boca Raton** and **Shawnee Mission North** all try to keep the legendary **Flour Bluff** far away from the winner's circle as the legendary Corpus Christi giants look to storm back with a vengeance to regain their crown!



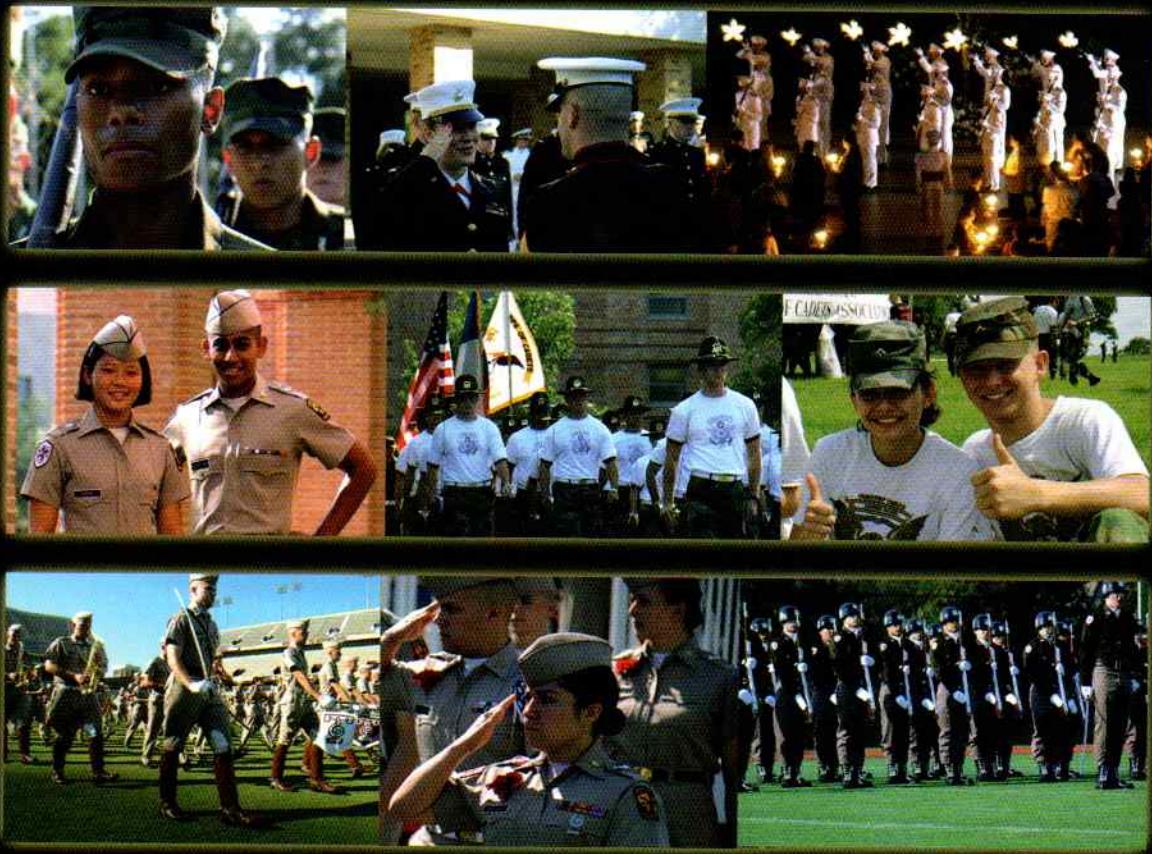
Centennial HS from Las Vegas, Nevada celebrate their first-ever Navy Nationals Championship. The school is pictured here immediately after the ceremony as their cadets were still buzzing with **RADM Clifford Sharpe** (far right) sharing in the moment.

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Western Championships

The immaculate Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas became the new home of the US Army Cadet Command JROTC Western Drill Championships in 2009. This prestigious competition brings together the powerhouses of drill, the support of parents, and the intense focus of instructors all aimed at one thing; to win the overall title of the Army Nationals Western Drill Championships!



San Antonio City Councilman Mr. Louis Rowe and CSM Marshall Huffman, Ft. Sam Houston are pictured above with Western Region cadets representing (L to R) Armed Division Runner-up Ronald Reagan HS, Armed Champion Douglas MacArthur HS, Unarmed Champion Douglas MacArthur HS, and Unarmed Runner-up Winston Churchill HS.

ARMED DIVISION

With two overall championships and two runner up titles in the past four years, all eyes were on the **Rattler Guard** from **Ronald Reagan HS**. Would they be able to hold on to their 2008 Overall Championship title? With nine different teams making their way to receive trophies, there were only three schools, all from San Antonio, that trophied in all four team events - but this year, it came down to total points. In the end, **Douglas MacArthur HS Blue Guard** would reign supreme separating themselves from the pack by over 200 points and taking home the Armed Overall Championship title for the first time. Ronald Reagan's **Rattler Guard** held on to the Runner Up title which was almost nabbed by **Winston Churchill HS's Black Watch** who trailed by a mere 18 overall points out of nearly 4,000 possible.

UNARMED DIVISION

After dominating the Unarmed division last year, **Douglas MacArthur HS's Blue Angels** came back ready to defend their title. Although they didn't trophy in every event (1st Exhibition, 3rd Inspection, 4th Color Guard) they proved to be a strong force to be reckoned with finishing 71 points away from the nearest competitor to keep their Unarmed Division Overall Championship. **Winston Churchill HS's Queen's Guard** came on strong with a 1st place Regulation and 2nd place finishes in both Inspection & Exhibition. Only a tough 10th place Color Guard kept them from the overall win, giving them the Runner Up title once again.

Due to the immensity of the Alamodome facility, a Challenge Level Division was hosted with **Claudia Taylor Johnson HS** and **Wichita HS South** both doing very well! Congratulations to all of the teams who attended the 2009 Western Championships.

2010 Army Western Championships
Saturday, March 13th - San Antonio, Texas

FOR ALL EVENT SCORING, PICTURES & INFORMATION, HIT THE ARMY NATIONALS WEBSITE: [HTTP://ARMY.THENATIONALS.NET](http://ARMY.THENATIONALS.NET)

Eastern Championships

Although the Eastern Championships were held at a new venue, the Showplace Arena in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, the competition was familiar with the scent of school and service pride mixed with fierce competitiveness. Every cadet in the building brought their A-game and was ready to prove it on the drill floor!

ARMED DIVISION

The **Patriot Guard** from **Francis Lewis HS** (Fresh Meadows, New York) proved yet again to be an unstoppable force. They have proven their capability to completely dominate the competition with a near sweep by taking three 1st places (Inspection, Color Guard, Exhibition) and one 2nd place (Regulation) capturing their 4th straight title as Armed Division Overall Champions. **Union High School's Maroon Guard** (Union, New Jersey) did not come close to stealing the Patriot Guard's title but they put forth an impressive showing being the only other team to trophy in all four team events (3rd Regulation and Exhibition; 4th Inspection and Color Guard). The Maroon Guard proudly claimed the Armed Runner Up title.

UNARMED DIVISION

Francis Lewis HS's Unarmed **Patriot Pride** once again came ready to defend their dynasty. For the fifth straight year, they took home the gold. It was not a clean sweep though. With two 1st places (Inspection and Color Guard) and a 3rd place (Exhibition), their Regulation placement (8th) left the door wide open for challengers. **McNair Academic HS** was ready to step up to that challenge as they captured 1st in Regulation, 4th in Color Guard, 5th in Inspection and 6th in Exhibition. However, they fell just three placement points short of dethroning the New Yorkers. Many schools made strong showings with nine schools making the trip to the trophy table to claim their accolades for a job well done.

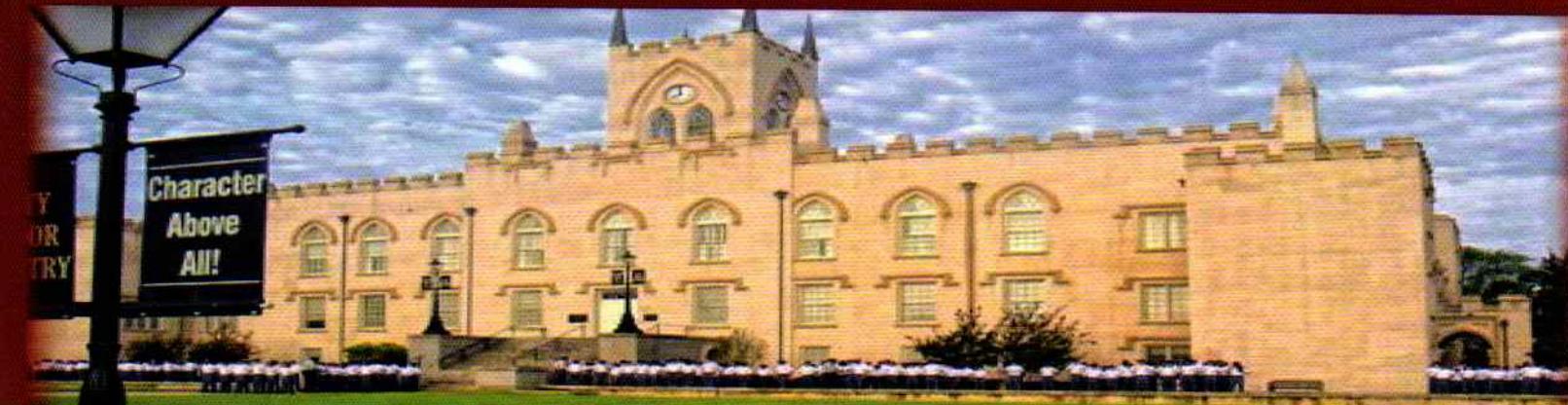


The big hardware is presented by COL John Vanderbleek, JROTC Director, USACC and CSM Charles Green Sr., Eastern Region CSM, USACC to the event top finishers (L to R) Union HS, Francis Lewis HS (armed), Francis Lewis (unarmed) and McNair Academic HS.

With cadets contributing an unsurpassed amount of unwavering dedication, this extravagant JROTC drill competition would be incomplete without awe inspiring speeches, such as that given by CSM Charles Green, Sr., Eastern Region Command Sergeant Major, USACC, giving all cadets a sense of accomplishment and pride regardless of the scores. Many programs have already begun revamping for the upcoming year! We all look forward to seeing what the 2010 Army JROTC Eastern Championships brings in Macon!

2010 Army Eastern Championships
Saturday, March 20th - Macon, Georgia

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For those who do not "Raider", the competition is patterned after the more well-known "Ranger" competitions held for college ROTC programs. Teams of cadets in either male, female or mixed groupings compete with ten entrants and two alternates in various outdoor skills that provide amazing tests of speed, skill, stamina, strength, strategy and almost every other physical and mental characteristic that can be measured. Junior ROTC Service Headquarters have mandated strict guidelines regarding obstacles and courses allowed to be a part of a high school Raider competition. The Raider Nationals meet these criteria and still provide a grueling but safe, day-long challenge to even the most prepared Raider team.

The 2008 Raider Nationals yielded an amazing collection of talent from Raider-crazed Georgia and 9 other states across the country. A beautiful, crisp autumn day greeted the teams as the competition kicked off with a shotgun start in five different team events at 0700! The members of the Georgia National Guard were everywhere, ensuring the rules of the competition were followed. The supportive leadership and positive encouragement they provide while handling their judging duties make both cadets and parents realize these heroes are on-hand to make this day special for everyone.

The best teams are always easy to spot with an aire of confidence that surrounds them without saying a word! It didn't take long to see a few of the better teams asserting their dominance right from the beginning.

In the Female Division, Grissom HS from Huntsville, Alabama stormed into the lead with amazing wins in the APFT (Personal Fitness - push-ups & curl-ups), Gauntlet (team runs carrying 4 heavy rucksacks over a rough, muddy, wet terrain for over 1.5 miles) and the Rope Bridge (building a rope bridge across a creek

and transporting the gear and the team across the creek). However, Francis Lewis HS from Fresh Meadows, New York showed that spinning a drill rifle is just one of their many talents as they captured both Female Division 5-Mile Run and the Cross-Country Rescue (team carries SIX heavy rucksacks and one 95lb. stretcher through a 1.5 mile-plus wooded course). Then national Raider powerhouse Smith-Cotton HS from Sedalia, Missouri quietly began compiling 2nd and 3rd place finishes in four of the five team events and almost without notice moved into strong contention for the championship as well. The division would simply come down to how the units finished in the other events that were not their strongest! By a single quality point (or by just 15 added push-ups & curl-ups out of 1,500 total), the Grissom Femurs grabbed an agonizingly tight Overall Female Division Championship over the Patriotes from Francis Lewis HS who settled for the Female Overall Runner-up crown.



Motivation and determination are both tested when you tote the rucksacks and the heavy stretcher the entire course during the rugged Cross-Country Relay event.

The Male Division was so deep with talent it was hard from the beginning to see who the dominant group was going to be. Smith-Cotton HS looked like they could do some damage but a disastrous 21st place finish in Rope Bridge left them to wonder what could have been. Cedar Shoals HS from nearby Athens, Georgia captured the rock-star Rope Bridge event in record time but knew their poor finishes in the Gauntlet and APFT competitions were going to make it tough to grab an overall championship. The hard workers from Francis Lewis HS jumped out tough with wins in both the APFT and the 5-Mile Run, and grabbed a well-earned 4th place finish in the Rope Bridge event, but failed to trophy in the other two events leaving their future in doubt. Paulding County HS from Paulding, Georgia showed their legendary stamina with 2nd place finishes in both the 5-Mile Run and the grueling Gauntlet event, along with a solid Rope Bridge time, but

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didn't know if their APFT totals would be enough to get them to the top spot. Stalwart Grissom HS pounded out three, 3rd place finishes and a 5th place trophy in the APFT setting up a solid showing but didn't know if their time in the Rope Bridge would be enough to pull out the win.

All in all, the Awards Ceremony brought forth unparalleled tension as each new Male Division team trophy left the stage! When the scores were tallied, the city-slicker Patriots from Francis Lewis HS had just enough to eke out a tight Male Division Overall Championship over the impressive Grissom HS group who easily distanced the field for the Runner-up Title.

The always popular Mixed Division had all the makings of the same type of tight competition that everyone was witnessing across the entire campsite. Seeing the young men and women working together as a team on such amazing physical challenges adds a special dynamic. Strategy becomes a bigger part of the game plan in this division. However, despite the wealth-sharing spread of an APFT win by Long Island City HS (Long Island, New York); a Gauntlet domination win by Cedar Shoals HS; and a solid CCR victory by Wayne Memorial HS (Wayne, Michigan), the division was wide open for any team who could show the consistency needed to grab that top prize. The group that did it was the Recon team from Paulding County HS. Their 1st place finishes in both the Rope Bridge and the 5-Mile Run, combined with 2nd place (APFT) and 3rd place (CCR) trophy finish smoked the competition by a convincing margin and gave these young men & women the Overall Mixed National Championship. Wayne Memorial HS squeaked by and nabbed the lofty National Runner-up crown.

People love the Raider Nationals for many reasons. It could be the unbelievable camping set-up that is provided by the Gerald Lawhorn Scouting Base with its top notch, comfortable, pre-set tents and first class bathroom facilities. It could be the beautiful natural acreage intertwined with well-groomed walking trails and ample vehicle parking for spectators. It could simply be the amazing depth and talent of the teams attending. Whatever the reason,



BG Arnold N. Gordon-Bray Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Cadet Command was on-hand as the keynote speaker and posed here with the event Champions as night began to fall (from L to R): Grissom HS Female Division Overall Champion; Paulding County HS Mixed Division Overall Champion; and Francis Lewis HS, Male Division Overall Champion.

every year the Raider Nationals remains something special that cadets, instructors and parents look back on with great fondness.

The 2009 event will have a few changes but much remains the same for the hearty cadets looking to make history at this nationally-publicized event. The 5-Mile Run has been reduced to a 5K Run (3.1 miles) so we expect the finish times to be tighter than ever. The competition events have been moved within closer proximity to one another, making travel to and from each event effortless for both competitors and spectators. Schools are now encouraged to walk the courses together the afternoon/evening prior to the competition to brainstorm strategies for safe and successful course completion. The Sunday morning addition of the "Ultimate Raider" competition just prior to the festive Awards Ceremony gives every team the ability to feature and cheer on their best cadets in an individual format in front of their peers. All in all, the stage is set for another high-pressure event. With many top-finishing teams from 2008 returning along with several new top regional players coming from as far away as Missouri, New Jersey, Virginia, Kansas and Michigan, along with a greater Marine Corps presence to challenge the green wave of an Army-centric competition field, the 2009 event looks like it could be the greatest collection of Raider talent ever assembled in one location. Good luck to all Raiders teams as they compete for pride and glory at the Raider Nationals!

The Amazing Rhino Garment Bag!

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Keep your uniforms and property clean, dry, and secure!

The Rhino Garment Bag Protects your uniform & property better than any other bag available for your JROTC Unit. The Rhino is made of tough 600 Denier Polyester with a weather proof PVC liner. Everything about the Rhino is TOUGH, from quality double stitching, to the heavy duty lockable zippers in front and on the back shoe & utility compartment. The Rhino lasts for years, and is surprisingly affordable! Let us print your unit name and logo on your Rhinos.

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2010 NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Introduction

Sports Network International is pleased to provide this invitation to all precision drill units to attend the 28th 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 drill & ceremony competition, referred to worldwide as simply "**The Nationals**." Schools will never experience a more spectacular event than this.

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**.

Competition Guidelines

All units may use their own service regulations to compete at the NHSBTC. Armed Divisions where their manual is not specific, US Army FM 3-21.5 is used while the Unarmed Division uses US Air Force FM 36-2203 (1996). The variety of services that gain 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 specific questions regarding the event should contact SNI before applying for entry.

Event Judging

All judges at the NHSBTC maintain a strong background in military drill. Judges are fully qualified military personnel representing all four branches of the service. 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 NHSBTC maintains two competition levels. The **Challenge Level** event 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. All schools are also encouraged to consider entering "stand-alone" Color Guard units into the exciting Open Level Color Guard competition also held on Saturday during the Challenge Level event.

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

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)
- ★ Solo & Dual Exhibition Cadets (very select)

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 Exhibition Cadets

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 one entry (per team) in both Solo & Dual Exhibition. Unarmed Masters units can enter one pair in Unarmed Dual Ex. ***Select Challenge Level cadets may also be accepted into these events!** Teams can petition for a 2nd entry slot if desired. Also, **ALL CADETS** are urged to compete in their level's Armed & Unarmed Knockout Drills **NOTE**: no "knockout fee" is charged to participate in this event.

NHSBTC Event Specifics

The National High School Drill Team Championships are held at the impressive **Ocean Center 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 instructors and cadets who attend the Nationals will attest that the Ocean Center 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 **Hilton Oceanwalk Resort**. Located directly across the street from the Ocean Center, the Hilton 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 **NHSBTC 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 NHSBTC Competition Director, Justin Gates. The Challenge & Open Level events will be held on **Saturday, May 1st**, with the two-day Masters Level competition held on **Sunday & Monday, May 2nd & 3rd**. 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 features unparalleled 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-5th 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 t-shirt for cadets, both ordered to size
- ❖ Swiss-embroidered four-inch patch designed exclusively for the NHSDTC
- ❖ 8" X 10" color team photograph

The price of the Team Package Plan, based on staying four-to-a-room, is only **\$122.00 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 **\$107.00 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 Deluxe 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 plan, 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 event Registration Fee is completely refundable** if requested before **Friday, December 4th, 2009**. It is non-refundable once a school has been accepted for entry into the Nationals. This ensures that only those 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 4th, 2009. 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, gung-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 DrillNATION magazine and this invitation, a few schools wait. Historically, demand to enter the Nationals causes the event to be overwhelmingly full. Schools registering after the December 4th review deadline will have only a small chance of getting into the Nationals. The event will be full on December 4th, 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 Tuesday, December 8th. Any school not accepted will have their Entry Fee refunded within 10 business days.

All checks and correspondence should be made payable and sent to **Sports Network International** at the address listed below. Schools may contact SNI by email **BUT** all paperwork should be sent through the mail or submitted via our state-of-the-art website.

In Closing

We invite all teams, **especially those who have considered attending in the past**, to look at attending the 2010 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 is 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 is 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 this May at "The Nationals"!**

For additional information:

Event Manager
Sports Network International, Inc.
775 Festus Boulevard
Daytona Beach, Florida 32114
800/327-9211 or 386/274-1010
website: <http://drillnationals.net>
email: drillnationals.net

NHSITC Challenge Level Event - Flashes of Brilliance!



As the talent pool of all-service high school drill continues to rise everywhere, the competition at the Challenge Level just gets better and better ever year!

Congrats from Force Master Chief and Command Master Sergeant tell the Challenge Level schools their all-service efforts are worthy of praise.

seriously in the hunt for the Overall Title. This overall balance is unparalleled in any other drill event and a big factor in what makes the Challenge Level Awards Ceremony such an amazingly tense affair!

2009 saw a massive expansion in the competition format at the Nationals with the inclusion of the Nationals Village. This 225,000 square foot space addition gave the units indoor practice & performance areas in a new connected facility. The teams loved the new area and with a buzz from the increased traffic nearby, cadets seemed to feed off this energy and perform some of their best stuff "in the Village".

ARMED DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

With 13 different schools winning an event trophy, no one school managed to trophy in every team event. Only two schools were able to shine in three of the four events. **Aransas Pass HS** (Aransas Pass, Texas), though no stranger to competition at Navy Nationals, this was their first year at the all-service Nationals. They came on strong with a 1st place finish in Color Guard, 3rd in Exhibition, and 4th in Regulation. Although they didn't trophy in Inspection, their placement of 6th kept them solidly at the top of the leaderboard separating them 15 placement points away from the nearest competitor. The NJROTC **Fighting Panthers** leave victorious as the Challenge Armed Division National Champions! You will most certainly see them as a force within the Masters Level competition next year!

The Marines cadets from **Clearwater HS** (Clearwater, Florida) captured the Challenge Armed Runner-up title with a solid 5 placement point lead. The **Tornadoes** showed perfection with their 1st place finish in Regulation and showed good strength with their 4th place finishes in both Inspection and Exhibition. Their only major weakness was in Color Guard - if they had trophied in that event, they might have won the Overall Title. The Tornadoes look to strengthen to a Category 5 by next year!

Other notable finishes were: **Lakeside HS** from Evans, Georgia (1st-Exhibition and 3rd Overall); **Central Crossing HS** from Grove City, Ohio (2nd-Inspection and Regulation); **Evans HS** from Evans, Georgia (2nd-Exhibition and 5th Color Guard) and **Colts Neck HS** from Colts Neck, New Jersey (1st-Inspection).

UNARMED DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

Competition in the Unarmed Division was very tough with 38 schools competing for the overall title. Quite often a few schools dominate the field and you hear the same names called many times for trophies in different events. This year 15 schools heard their names at the Challenge Level awards ceremony, with twelve of those schools receiving only one trophy. Three schools trophied more than once but only two were



BG Arnold N. Gordon-Bray, Deputy CG, USACC (center left) and FORCM Charles Dassance, USN Network Warfare Command, (center right) congratulate the Overall Champions in both the Armed & Unarmed Division from Aransas Pass HS (inside) along with the Armed Runner-up Clearwater HS (far left) and the Unarmed Runner-up Lancaster HS (far right).

2009 OPEN LEVEL COLOR GUARD COMPETITION

The Open Level Color Guard competition is the only forum where both hardcore seasoned high-level teams and brand new programs meet face to face to battle it out on the drill deck. Some schools bring only a Color Guard while others have several teams in several other divisions. This blend allows for an exciting competition where everyone has a chance to shine.

This year's competition featured a very familiar school in the first place spot, **Alamo Heights HS** from San Antonio, Texas, however, unlike last year when their female color guard took the prize, this year the **Mules**, their male team, took home the gold and left everyone else in the dust as they separated themselves by a full 54 points from the rest of the pack. Last year's champion, the **Mulettes**, stayed strong and took home the 4th place trophy.

Proving that the strength of their program extends beyond just their Master's Level Drill Teams, **Ronald Reagan HS's Venom Guard** also from San Antonio, Texas captured the 2nd place finish with their exacting performance of the mandatory Color Guard sequence.

The 2006 championship school came back again with two teams placing in the top five this year. **Lancaster HS** from Lancaster, Texas fielded two color guards and proved that hard work and practice, practice, practice, can pay off. The **Tiger Guard** placed 3rd and the **Black Guard** placed 5th with only 8 points separated these two teams and showing the consistency of the overall program.

Sports Network International salutes the 42 teams that comprised the Open Level Color Guard field of competitors this year. To see top-to-bottom scoring in all events of the 2009 NHSITC, visit the official website and click on the "Scoring Results" link. Entry spaces are limited to roughly 45 units, so apply early to ensure your interested color guard unit can be a part of the 2010 event.

The **Pink Panthers** from **Aransas Pass HS** dominated the drill floor with their impressive Exhibition routine earning them the 1st place trophy. They were also very strong in the Inspection competition with their 2nd place finish, held on in Color Guard with a 4th place and just missed in Regulation with a 6th place finish. But when the placement points were tallied, they won the Challenge Level Unarmed Division Championship title by one placement point. **Aransas Pass** came to the Nationals for the first time not knowing what to expect and won two National Championships. They will have to test their strength in future years by flexing their muscles against the big boys on Sunday and Monday of next year's event.

Lancaster HS (Lancaster, Texas) came very close to keeping **Aransas Pass** from their dream of dual championships. The Army JROTC **Orange Crush** cadets showed off their basic drill skills by capturing 1st place in both the Regulation and Color Guard competitions. They received 4th in Exhibition and only a disappointing 8th place finish in Inspection kept them in the Runner-up position. However, they were a full 25 placement points ahead of the nearest competitor!

The only other school capturing more than one trophy was **West Orange HS** from Winter Garden, Florida. They took home the coveted 1st place trophy in Inspection and 5th in Color Guard placing them third in the overall standings.

Several other schools had respectable showings: **Claudia Taylor Johnson HS** (San Antonio, Texas) placed 2nd in Regulation, **Bainbridge HS** (Bainbridge, Georgia) placed 2nd in Color Guard and **OXON HILL HS** (Oxon Hill, Maryland) placed 2nd in Exhibition.

Although the Ocean Center arena has now doubled in size, the Challenge Level cadets were able to stay focused and show the spectators and dignitaries in attendance that they were ready to face the challenge of the Nationals.

Every year, deserving schools are "shut-out" from the Challenge competition field due to the limited competition spaces! Schools planning to attend the NHSITC should ensure they meet the early December deadline for entry submission to have the best chance of being a part of "The Nationals" competition field in 2010!

SEE COMPLETE EVENT SCORING BY JOINING THE ONLY INTERNET SOCIAL COMMUNITY DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO JROTC DRILL!

www.DrillNation.net

2009 National High School Drill Team Championships

Challenge Level Attendees & Event Standings

Armed Division

Inspection

Colts Neck HS	Colts Neck Guard	780
Central Crossing HS	Comets	698
Rutland HS	Middle Georgia Leathernecks	674
Clearwater HS	Tornadoes	672
Oak Ridge MA	Fighting Cadets	646

Regulation

Clearwater HS	Tornadoes	835
Central Crossing HS	Comets	795
Rio Grande HS	South Valley Leathernecks	750
Aransas Pass HS	Fighting Panthers	731
Rutland HS	Middle Georgia Leathernecks	730

Color Guard

Aransas Pass HS	Fighting Panthers	912
Campbell County HS	Cougar Strong	881
Passaic HS	Omega Red	861
Caddo Parish Magnet HS	Mustangs	857
Evans HS	Knights	853

Team Exhibition

Lakeside HS	Legion Drill Team	968
Evans HS	Knights	886
Aransas Pass HS	Fighting Panthers	875
Clearwater HS	Tornadoes	849
Hubbard HS	H-Squad	839

Overall Armed Champion

Aransas Pass HS - Fighting Panthers

Overall Armed Runner-up

Clearwater HS - Tornadoes

Air Academy HS

AIR FORCE JROTC
USAFA, Colorado

ARANSAS PASS HS

NAVY JROTC
ARANSAS PASS, TEXAS

BAINBRIDGE HS

AIR FORCE JROTC
BAINBRIDGE, GEORGIA

BLOOMINGDALE HS

AIR FORCE JROTC
VALRICO, FLORIDA

BURLINGTON-EDISON HS

NAVY JROTC
BURLINGTON, WASHINGTON

CADDY PARISH MAGNET HS

ARMY JROTC
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

CALLAWAY HS

ARMY JROTC
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

CAMPBELL COUNTY HS

ARMY JROTC
JACKSBORO, TENNESSEE

CAPTAIN SHREVE HS

ARMY JROTC
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

CENTRAL CROSSING HS

NAVY JROTC
GROVE CITY, OHIO

CLAUDIA TAYLOR JOHNSON HS

ARMY JROTC
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

CLEARWATER HS

MARINE CORPS JROTC
CLEARWATER, FLORIDA

COFFEE HS

NAVY JROTC
DOUGLAS, GEORGIA

COLTS NECK HS

NAVY JROTC
COLTS NECK, NEW JERSEY

CORAL GABLES HS

ARMY JROTC
CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

EAST COLUMBUS HS

ARMY JROTC
LAKE WACCAMAW, N. CAROLINA

EAST HENDERSON HS

AIR FORCE JROTC
E. FLAT ROCK, N. CAROLINA

ENGLEWOOD HS

ARMY JROTC
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

EVANS HS

ARMY JROTC
EVANS, GEORGIA

FOREST PARK HS

ARMY JROTC
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

FORESTVILLE MA

ARMY JROTC
FORESTVILLE, MARYLAND

GLoucester HS

MARINE CORPS JROTC
GLOUCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Unarmed Division

Inspection

West Orange HS	Warriors	*749
Aransas Pass HS	Pink Panthers	749
Bloomingdale HS	Rajun Bulls Red	679
United South HS	South Lady Panthers	675
Hopkins County Central HS	Raging Storm	653

Regulation

Lancaster HS	Orange Crush	916
Claudia Taylor Johnson HS	Johnson First Ladies	785
Prairie HS	Falcon Tigers	780
Smith-Cotton HS	Gold Tigers	773
Evans HS	Lady Knights	756

Color Guard

Lancaster HS	Orange Crush	995
Bainbridge HS	Wings of Blue	978
East Columbus HS	Ladies & Gentlemen of America	954
Aransas Pass HS	Pink Panthers	913
West Orange HS	Warriors	905

Team Exhibition

Aransas Pass HS	Pink Panthers	973
Onox Hill HS	Untouchables	*902
Hubbard HS	Black Sheep Squadron	902
Lancaster HS	Orange Crush	880
Zion-Benton Township HS	ZB Stingers	878

Overall Unarmed Champion

Aransas Pass HS - Pink Panthers

Overall Unarmed Runner-up

Lancaster HS - Orange Crush

GULFPORT HS

MARINE CORPS JROTC
GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI

LANCASTER HS

ARMY JROTC
LANCASTER, TEXAS

OAK RIDGE MILITARY ACADEMY

ARMY JROTC
OAK RIDGE, N. CAROLINA

PRairie HS

AIR FORCE JROTC
BATTLE GROUND, WASHINGTON

T.C. WILLIAMS HS

ARMY JROTC
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

WEST ORANGE HS

AIR FORCE JROTC
WINTER GARDEN, FLORIDA

HENDERSONVILLE HS

MARINE CORPS JROTC
HENDERSONVILLE, TENNESSEE

MACON COUNTY HS

NAVY JROTC
MONTEZUMA, GEORGIA

RIO GRANDE HS

MARINE CORPS JROTC
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

TAYLOR COUNTY HS

ARMY JROTC
PERRY, FLORIDA

HOPKINS COUNTY CENTRAL HS

AIR FORCE JROTC
MADISONVILLE, KENTUCKY

MISSOURI MILITARY ACADEMY

ARMY JROTC
MEXICO, MISSOURI

RUTLAND HS

MARINE CORPS JROTC
MACON, GEORGIA

TREVOR G. BROWNE HS

ARMY JROTC
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

HUBBARD HS

ARMY JROTC
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

MONTGOMERY CENTRAL HS

ARMY JROTC
CUNNINGHAM, TENNESSEE

SMITH-COTTON HS

ARMY JROTC
SEDALIA, MISSOURI

UNION HS

ARMY JROTC
UNION, NEW JERSEY

KENWOOD HS

ARMY JROTC
CLARKSVILLE, TENNESSEE

NEW MEXICO MILITARY INSTITUTE

ARMY JROTC
ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO

SOUTH MOUNTAIN HS

ARMY JROTC
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

UNITED SOUTH HS

AIR FORCE JROTC
LAREDO, TEXAS

LA SALLE INSTITUTE

ARMY JROTC
TROY, NEW YORK

NORTHVIEW HS

ARMY JROTC
DULUTH, GEORGIA

STOCKBRIDGE HS

NAVY JROTC
STOCKBRIDGE, GEORGIA

WEST CHARLOTTE HS

ARMY JROTC
CHARLOTTE, N. CAROLINA

LAKESIDE HS

ARMY JROTC
EVANS, GEORGIA

When the trophies were awarded the final night, excitement was everywhere when **Ronald Reagan HS** shot to their feet to congratulate **Rattler Guard Cadet Casillas** as he won the Demilitarized Solo Exhibition event over 82 other cadets. **John Jay HS** had a similar reaction when **Silver Eagles Cadets Solis & Ayala** won the Demilitarized Dual competition!

UNARMED DIVISION

It seems within the Unarmed Division that no one can touch the Navy JROTC program from **Flour Bluff HS**. Despite many great teams in attendance in 2009, the Navy JROTC bruisers from south Texas smothered the competition to claim their seventh straight National Championship. Grabbing three, 1st place trophies in Inspection, Regulation and Flight Exhibition, a 4th place in Color Guard and 5th in Squad Exhibition, the **Sea Hawks** drill team cruised their way to victory with a style that blends power, precision and military flair in a way that often leaves onlookers with head-shaking amazement.

With the top spot no longer on the auction block, the Runner-up trophy was the prize to fight for, and fight they did! Two Army JROTC units were in contention – **Francis Lewis HS Patriot Pride** drill team and **Douglas MacArthur HS Blue Angels** went back and forth like two weary prize fighters throughout the weekend. Although the **Blue Angels** placed in every event (2nd-Element Exhibition; 3rd-Regulation, Color Guard, and Flight Exhibition; 5th-Inspection) and **Patriot Pride** only placed in four of the five events (1st-Element Exhibition, 2nd-Regulation and Flight Exhibition; and 3rd-Inspection), the final placement point tally showed both teams with exactly 16 placement points each! The raw score tie-breaker showed **Patriot Pride** with 36 points more out of 5,000 points total - receiving the Runner-up title for the Unarmed Division.

Notable finishes in the Unarmed Division were many, including **Winston Churchill HS** with 2nd in Color Guard and 4th in Element Exhibition; **North Miami Beach Sr. HS** with 1st place in Color Guard and **Lynn English HS** with 2nd in Inspection.

At the Awards Ceremony the closing night, the dynamic duo of **Cadets Fernandez & Almeida** from the **Lady Devil Pups** of **Rahway HS** electrified their supporters when they won the competitive Unarmed Division Dual Exhibition championship.

ALTERNATIVE ARMS

Succeeding in dominating the Alternative Arms National Championship for a full decade, the Marine Corps JROTC **Lady Leathernecks** from **Fern Creek HS** (Fern Creek, Kentucky) consistently leave no room for serious challengers. With two 1st place finishes in Regulation & Color Guard and two 2nd place finishes in Inspection & Platoon Exhibition, even their uncharacteristic 9th place finish in Squad Exhibition didn't allow any other team to come close to damaging their perfect 10-year long dynasty.

The real race was between the three trailing schools for the Overall Runner-up title. When the scores were totaled, only two placement points separated three teams. The **Golden Bucks** of **Deerfield Beach HS** (Deerfield Beach, Florida) emerged victorious capturing the Runner-up title with four trophies (2nd-Squad Exhibition, 3rd-Color Guard & Platoon Exhibition, and 5th-Regulation). The **Lady Redhawks** from **Seneca HS** (Louisville, Kentucky) only received two trophies (1st-Platoon Exhibition and 2nd-Color Guard) but placed high enough in the other three events to be just one placement point higher than the always tough **Golden Bears** from **Winter Springs HS** (Winter Springs,

Florida) who captured four event trophies (1st-Squad Exhibition, 3rd-Regulation, 5th-Inspection & Color Guard).

Other teams placing included: **Leesburg HS** with a 1st in Inspection and 4th in Squad Exhibition, **J.H. Reagan HS** with a 2nd in Regulation and 4th in Color Guard, **Northeast HS** with a 3rd in Inspection, **Carroll HS** with a 3rd in Squad Exhibition and 5th in Platoon Exhibition, and **Bellevue West HS** with a 4th in Inspection and 5th in Squad Exhibition.

Spin-crazy **Spring Valley HS** also grabbed a Solo Exhibition Championship in the Alternative Arms Division through the top efforts of **Vikings' Cadet Dickson**. The many fans from **Winter Springs HS** had a chance to hoot and holler when **Golden Bears' Cadets Pons & Argentine** strode to the stage to accept their Alternative Arms Dual Championship Awards.

The Masters Level Awards Gala Monday evening is difficult to describe to the uninitiated. Imagine the posh surroundings of the Academy Awards with the intensity of the NFL draft room! This event is always a memorable experience for the cadets, parents and spectators present, but this year included several moments not to be forgotten.

The Navy Ceremonial Drill Team performed on stage in front of the array of beautiful gold and black trophies leaving the audience in awe. However, the TWO amazing keynote speakers made the evening the most memorable. MG Arthur M. Bartell, Commanding General, United States Army Cadet Command, raised the roof with a motivating inspirational message from the heart that prompted a standing ovation upon conclusion. Then for the first time ever in the



history of the Nationals, Rear Admiral Samuel Perez spoke about the endless possibilities that lay ahead of all of the cadets. He asked them to imagine themselves achieving their greatest potential, bringing Cadet Jaime Coburn of Flour Bluff HS to the stage, such as going from being a Navy JROTC cadet to someday being a Rear Admiral. At this point, he removed his own cover and placed it on her head. This visual compliment to his speech was a moment in Nationals' lore that will never be forgotten.

As plans are finalized for the 2010 Nationals, schools throughout the land are starting to voice their opinions. Who will reign supreme when the dust settles? Can Flour Bluff & Fern Creek repeat yet again? And will the Demilitarized gods smile upon Francis Lewis once more or turn their favor to a new upstart that takes everyone by surprise? Be in Daytona Beach on May 2nd & 3rd, 2010 and find out!!

Masters Level Event Standings

All raw score totals are based on a maximum 1200 points per event

Demilitarized ArmsInspection

Fern Creek HS	Leathernecks	934
John Jay HS	Silver Eagles	926
Francis Lewis HS	Patriot Guard	898
Flour Bluff HS	Sea Devils	878
Rahway HS	Devil Pups	859

Regulation

Francis Lewis HS	Patriot Guard	945
John Jay HS	Silver Eagles	905
Rahway HS	Devil Pups	855
Douglas MacArthur HS	Blue Guard	850
Lynn English HS	Bulldogs	846

Color Guard

Francis Lewis HS	Patriot Guard	1064
Douglas MacArthur HS	Blue Guard	968
Grant HS	Maroon & Golden Knights	941
Union HS	Maroon Guard	929
Ronald Reagan HS	Rattler Guard	917

Squad Exhibition

Rahway HS	Devil Pups	1002
James Madison HS	Maverick Guard	982
Ronald Reagan HS	Rattler Guard	980
John Jay HS	Silver Eagles	979
Douglas MacArthur HS	Blue Guard	970

Platoon Exhibition

Francis Lewis HS	Patriot Guard	1051
John Jay HS	Silver Eagles	1044
Rahway HS	Devil Pups	1023
Douglas MacArthur HS	Blue Guard	995
Ronald Reagan HS	Rattler Guard	987

Demilitarized Arms Champions

Champion: Francis Lewis HS - Patriot Guard
Runner-up: Douglas MacArthur HS - Blue Guard

Solo Exhibition

1 st	Cadet Casillas - Ronald Reagan HS
2 nd	Cadet Richardson - Buchholz HS
3 rd	Cadet Bagley - Thomas C. Clark HS
4 th	Cadet Cook - Ronald Reagan HS
5 th	Cadet Gozo - Rahway HS

Dual Exhibition

1 st	Solis & Ayala - John Jay HS
2 nd	Kenney & Davis - Lakeside HS
3 rd	Nguyen & Kagehiro - McKinley HS
4 th	Goff & Zoeller - Seneca HS
5 th	Therot & Ehrke - Deerfield Beach HS

UnarmedInspection

Flour Bluff HS	Sea Hawks	969
Lynn English HS	Lady Bulldogs	968
Francis Lewis HS	Patriot Pride	932
Ronald Reagan HS	Diamondback	929
Douglas MacArthur HS	Blue Angels	922

Regulation

Flour Bluff HS	Sea Hawks	1024
Francis Lewis HS	Patriot Pride	999
Douglas MacArthur HS	Blue Angels	939
George Bush HS	The First Ladies	925
Thomas C. Clark HS	Silver Valor	913

Color Guard

North Miami Beach Sr. HS	Lady Chargers	970
Winston Churchill HS	Queen's Guard	940
Douglas MacArthur HS	Blue Angels	934
Flour Bluff HS	Sea Hawks	872
Thomas C. Clark HS	Silver Valor	869

Element Exhibition

Francis Lewis HS	Patriot Pride	1048
Douglas MacArthur HS	Blue Angels	1040
Theodore Roosevelt HS	Riderettes	994
Winston Churchill HS	Queen's Guard	988
Flour Bluff HS	Sea Hawks	973

Flight Exhibition

Flour Bluff HS	Sea Hawks	1115
Francis Lewis HS	Patriot Pride	1096
Douglas MacArthur HS	Blue Angels	1067
Bellevue West HS	T-Birds	1049
Theodore Roosevelt HS	Riderettes	1007

Alternative ArmsInspection

Leesburg HS	Silver Regiment	873
Fern Creek HS	Lady Leathernecks	864
Northeast HS	Lady Eagles	858
Bellevue West HS	Lady Thunderbirds	857
Winter Springs HS	Golden Bears	827

Regulation

Fern Creek HS	Lady Leathernecks	1018
J.H. Reagan HS	Reagan Riflettes	906
Winter Springs HS	Golden Bears	844
Montgomery Central HS	Chiefs Guard	842
Deerfield Beach HS	Golden Bucks	824

Color Guard

Fern Creek HS	Lady Leathernecks	910
Seneca HS	Lady Redhawks	833
Deerfield Beach HS	Golden Bucks	832
J.H. Reagan HS	Reagan Riflettes	756
Winter Springs HS	Golden Bears	754

Squad Exhibition

Winter Springs HS	Golden Bears	861
Deerfield Beach HS	Golden Bucks	857
Carroll HS	Golden Knights	837
Leesburg HS	Silver Regiment	821
Bellevue West HS	Lady Thunderbirds	748

Platoon Exhibition

Seneca HS	Lady Redhawks	901
Fern Creek HS	Lady Leathernecks	884
Deerfield Beach HS	Golden Bucks	832
Montgomery Central HS	Chiefs Guard	756
Carroll HS	Golden Knights	755

Alternative Arms Champions

Champion: Fern Creek HS - Lady Leathernecks
Runner-up: Deerfield Beach HS - Golden Bucks

Solo Exhibition

1 st	Cadet Dickson - Spring Valley HS
2 nd	Cadet Yurkin - Deerfield Beach HS
3 rd	Cadet Spencer - Southside HS
4 th	Cadet Cleveland - Southside HS
5 th	Cadet Godeke - Carroll HS

Dual Exhibition

1 st	Pons & Argentine - Winter Springs HS
2 nd	Spencer & Hill - Southside HS
3 rd	Brooks & Rogers - Carroll HS
4 th	Stevenson & McGrath - Seneca HS
5 th	Matute & Garcia - J.H. Reagan HS

2009 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSUnarmed Champions

Champion: Flour Bluff HS - Sea Hawks

Runner-up: Francis Lewis HS - Patriot Pride

Dual Exhibition

1 st	Fernandez & Almeida - Rahway HS
2 nd	Chan & Atkinson - Francis Lewis HS
3 rd	Encarnacion & Rodriguez - Lynn English HS
4 th	Welsh & Arnold - James Madison HS
5 th	Gomez & Sanchez - Thomas C. Clark HS

★ 2009 MASTERS LEVEL PARTICIPANTS ★

★ Schools of Excellence ★

Airport High School
Army JROTC
West Columbia, S. Carolina

Asheville High School
Marine Corps JROTC
Asheville, North Carolina

Bellevue West High School
Air Force JROTC
Bellevue, Nebraska

Bowie High School
Police Explorers
Bowie, Maryland

Buchholz High School
Air Force JROTC
Gainesville, Florida

Carroll High School
Army JROTC
Ozark, Alabama

Chancellor High School
Army JROTC
Fredericksburg, Virginia

Claudia Taylor Johnson High School
Army JROTC
San Antonio, Texas

Cleveland Junior Naval Academy
Navy JROTC
St. Louis, Missouri

Coffee High School
Navy JROTC
Douglas, Georgia

Colts Neck High School
Navy JROTC
Colts Neck, New Jersey

Crook County High School
Navy JROTC
Prineville, Oregon

Deerfield Beach High School
Marine Corps JROTC
Deerfield Beach, Florida

Douglas MacArthur High School
Army JROTC
San Antonio, Texas

Fern Creek High School
Marine Corps JROTC
Louisville, Kentucky

Fishburne Military School
Army JROTC
Waynesboro, Virginia

Fleming Island High School
Navy JROTC
Orange Park, Florida

Flour Bluff High School
Navy JROTC
Corpus Christi, Texas

Forestville Military Academy
Army JROTC
Forestville, Maryland

Francis Lewis High School
Army JROTC
Fresh Meadows, New York

George Bush High School
Navy JROTC
Richmond, Texas

Robert E. Lee High School
Army JROTC
San Antonio, Texas

Ronald Reagan High School
Army JROTC
San Antonio, Texas

Rutland High School
Marine Corps JROTC
Macon, Georgia

Sandalwood High School
Air Force JROTC
Jacksonville, Florida

Seneca High School
Marine Corps JROTC
Louisville, Kentucky

Seneca Valley High School
Navy JROTC
Germantown, Maryland

Silver Bluff High School
Navy JROTC
Aiken, South Carolina

South Mountain High School
Army JROTC
Phoenix, Arizona

Southeast High School
Army JROTC
Bradenton, Florida

Southside High School
Air Force JROTC
Greenville, South Carolina

Spring Valley High School
Air Force JROTC
Columbia, South Carolina

Theodore Roosevelt High School
Army JROTC
San Antonio, Texas

Thomas C. Clark High School
Air Force JROTC
San Antonio, Texas

Union High School
Army JROTC
Union, New Jersey

Vero Beach High School
Air Force JROTC
Vero Beach, Florida

Ware County High School
Army JROTC
Waycross, Georgia

West Port High School
Army JROTC
Ocala, Florida

Winston Churchill High School
Army JROTC
San Antonio, Texas

Winter Springs High School
Army JROTC
Winter Springs, Florida

Xavier High School
Army JROTC
New York, New York

2009 ALL-SERVICE JUDGING CORPS



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

Marine Corps: 1stLt. Blake Jackson, MGySgt. Andrew Johnson, SSgt. Justin Gando-Saadein, Sgt. David Stelter, SSgt. Rodney Stanley, SSgt. Lee Pugh, SSgt. David Alexander, GySgt. Victor Marroquin, SSgt. Timothy Mooney, SSgt. Jessica Bruden; **Army:** SFC Amandio Santos, SFC Fred Hernandez, SFC Michael Broughton, SGT Jeffrey Johnson, SFC Adreall Ray, SFC Ken Griffing, SSG David Gilmer, SFC Jeffrey Marshall, SFC Leonard Hutton, MSG Blaine Huston, SFC Margaret Ray; **Navy:** CPO Laveda Basford, PO2 David Brannick, PO1 Donny Cooks, CPO Jeremy Farr, PO1 Michael Richardson, PO1 Ralph Godwin II, PO1 Robert Whiddon, CPO Joseph Obleton II, SCPO Ronald Rempert, PO1 Janelle Ireton, PO2 Karen Hudzinski; **Air Force:** SMSgt. Cedric Pinnock, SrA Brandon Martin, SRA Gene Sanford, TSgt. Anthony Key, MSgt. Herb Johnson, TSgt. Shane Peak, MSgt. Anthony Patterson, MSgt. Herman Ybarra, MSgt. Jacqueline Barfield, A1C Christina Kennedy

Gloucester High School
Marine Corp JROTC
Gloucester, Massachusetts

Lackey High School
Air Force JROTC
Indian Head, Maryland

Montgomery Central High School
Army JROTC
Cunningham, Tennessee

Grant High School
Army JROTC
Dry Prong, Louisiana

Lake Howell High School
Navy JROTC
Winter Park, Florida

Mount Vernon High School
Marine Corps JROTC
Alexandria, Virginia

Grants High School
Marine Corps JROTC
Grants, New Mexico

Lakeside High School
Army JROTC
Evans, Georgia

New Mexico Military Institute
Army JROTC
Roswell, New Mexico

Griffin High School
Army JROTC
Griffin, Georgia

Leesburg High School
Air Force JROTC
Leesburg, Florida

N. Miami Beach Sr. High School
Army JROTC
N. Miami Beach, Florida

Hendersonville High School
Marine Corps JROTC
Hendersonville, Tennessee

Liberty High School
Navy JROTC
Renton, Washington

Northeast High School
Army JROTC
Clarksville, Tennessee

Interlachen High School
Army JROTC
Interlachen, Florida

Long Island City High School
Army JROTC
Long Island City, New York

Palm Bay High School
Marine Corps JROTC
Melbourne, Florida

Fleming Island High School
Navy JROTC
Orange Park, Florida

Lynn English High School
Marine Corps JROTC
Lynn, Massachusetts

Papillion La Vista South High School
Navy JROTC
Papillion, Nebraska

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

McKinley High School
Army JROTC
Honolulu, Hawaii

Rahway High School
Marine Corps JROTC
Rahway, New Jersey

James Madison High School
Army JROTC
San Antonio, Texas

McLaurin High School
Army JROTC
Florence, Mississippi

Winston Churchill High School
Army JROTC
San Antonio, Texas

Jenks High School
Air Force JROTC
Jenks, Oklahoma

John Jay High School
Army JROTC
Jersey City, New Jersey

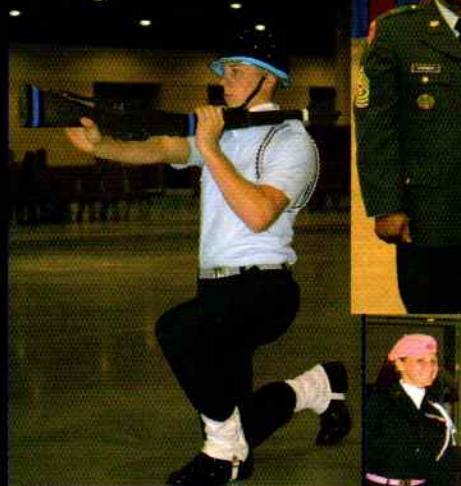
Reno High School
Army JROTC
Reno, Nevada

John Marshall High School
Navy JROTC
San Antonio, Texas

McNair Academic High School
Army JROTC
Mexico, Missouri

Rio Grande High School
Marine Corps JROTC
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Sports Network International extends our sincere appreciation to every JROTC instructor who goes the extra mile for their cadets. No other program 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.





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NATIONALS

SCRAPBOOK

A Look Around the Nationals and JROTC Universe

H1N1 Virus Shackles Marmion's Quest for National Title

The 2009 Nationals had a large competition field with scores of quality programs good to go. But in the days just prior to the event, the "Swine Flu" scare began to cause school districts

concern not only about the safety of their cadets, but the safety of other cadets at the event. SNI immediately contacted local health officials and the Centers for Disease Control to ensure the event should continue and what precautions we should take. All levels of government assured us that hosting cadets caused no more danger than keeping them home. That said, two of the 150-plus schools registered to attend were not allowed to participate; the most jarring drop was annual title chaser **Marmion Academy** from Aurora, Illinois. All schools better look out for this hungry bunch in 2010!



President Obama is looking to push through a major shift in how health care is paid for and delivered in this country. With both the Legislative and Executive Branches of government firmly controlled by Democrats, the decisions on this matter will come quickly. The implications of this change may be felt for a generation or more. Read up on the matter and make your voice heard!



ISIS DRILLERS WOW THE NATIONALS CROWD

ISIS World Drill Championships

annually brings together many of the best post-high school armed exhibition drillers for a single day of solo & dual exhibition drill. Held annually during the NHSDTC competition, these drillers come from everywhere to be a part of what one competitor called, "The Woodstock of Drill". Top finishers at the event receive cash prizes, amazing awards and international recognition. To read more about this unparalleled competition, go to the official ISIS website at: <http://www.i-w-d-c.com>.



Dual Drill Camps a Big Hit With Attendees!

After several years of hosting a single Nationals Drill Camp in Texas, Summer 2009 brought forth both an Eastern NDC (Kentucky) and a Western Camp (Texas) and the results were awesome! Over 175 campers worked hard in the Summer sun and enjoyed learning from the best of the best in the drill world! To gain the latest details camp details for 2010, go to the official NDC website at: <http://drillcamp.thenationals.net>.

Jean Weil Scholarship Amazes

Since the inception of the Jean Weil Scholarship in 2000, selecting the two top NHSDTC cadets as the most outstanding overall has been a daunting task. It proved just too difficult for JWSF Board Member Mr. Brian Done. Therefore, through generous contributions by Mr. Done and Mr. Abdul Al-Romaizan (pictured right), FIVE winners were selected for the \$1,000 scholarships in 2009 (four pictured here). See the list of winners and information on applying for the scholarship at: <http://jkw/thenationals.net>.



James Madison HS Takes Home Hardware and the Spirit Banner

The Spirit Award is annually presented to the single school that best befits the proud traditions or "spirit" of the finest schools that have ever graced the stage of The Nationals. In 2009, this award was captured by National powerhouse Army JROTC program **James Madison HS** from **San Antonio, Texas**. Just missing the award in 2008, this amazingly diverse program under the direction of long-time Senior Army Instructor **LTC Andy Cano** always presents their unit, their school, and their entire district in the best possible light. **Battalion Commander c/LTC Olivia Choate** is shown here accepting the 2009 Spirit Banner from SNI Competition Director **Mr. Justin Gates** (left) and NHSDTC benefactor and former NHSDTC competitor **Mr. Abdul Al-Romaizan** (right).



DRILLNATION

Membership Tops 3,000... 5,000 Members Sought By 2010 The JROTC community is flocking to **DrillNATION.net** big time! Discussion groups, study materials, real-time chat and more has made **DrillNATION.net** the on-line home for many die-hard drillers worldwide. The goal is to have 5,000 members by January 1st, 2010 - stay tuned for details!

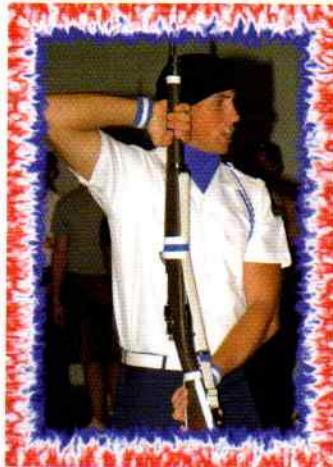
Trinidad & Tobago Headlines

New Programs Looking to Attend the 2010 Nationals!

It looks like another monster year at the upcoming Nationals with schools from Puerto Rico, Hawaii and even Trinidad & Tobago looking to make the NHSDTC a part of their drill calendar! Mr. Michael Massiah is the Director of the TTFC program and this summer, he brought Mr. Bill Owen from Sports Network to the small island nation to help train the

cadets in his upstart program. Bill has instructed at the Nationals Drill Camp, as well as helped to train Fleming Island HS when the unit made their initial run at the Navy Nationals a few years back. Hats off to Bill and the expansion of drill around the globe!





Sports Network International is once again pleased to offer the...

National High School Drill Team Championships 2009 Best of Series DVDs



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YES, PLEASE RUSH ME THE FOLLOWING VIDEOS -

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DEVOTED - 1995-2004 10-year retrospective - 2-disc set....(\$40) \$ _____

ECHO - TRIBUTE TO THE 25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONALS - 6-disc set. (\$129) \$ _____

ARCHIVE VIDEO PURCHASE (for older videos still available on-line)

Archive video availability/pricing is found only on-line

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Shipping/Handling (per order) = \$5.00

Total Order = \$ _____

IN ORDER TO SATISFY THE EVER-INCREASING DEMAND FOR DRILL PERFORMANCE DVDs, SPORTS NETWORK INTERNATIONAL (SNI) HAS AGAIN PRODUCED THE FINEST COMPETITION VIDEOS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD. THESE TWO-HOUR DVDs ARE FILMED EXCLUSIVELY AT THE FAMOUS NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DRILL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS IN DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA. THREE SEPARATE DISKS ARE MADE AVAILABLE IN VARIOUS DRILL PHASES. EACH CAN BE PURCHASED INDIVIDUALLY OR TOGETHER FOR GREATER SAVINGS.

All DVDs focus on routine segments featuring a variety of armed & unarmed drill styles. All videos are timeless, all-service examples of what solid instruction, hard work and dedication can accomplish on the drill deck.

PLEASE MAIL, EMAIL OR FAX THIS COMPLETED ORDER FORM TO SNI WITH THE CORRECT PAYMENT AMOUNT. CHECKS AND SCHOOL PURCHASE ORDERS WILL USE THIS FORM. PLEASE ALLOW 7-10 BUSINESS DAYS FROM RECEIPT BY SNI TO RECEIVE YOUR VIDEOS. TO FAX THIS FORM AND HAVE IMMEDIATE SHIPMENT OF YOUR ORDER, PLEASE CALL WITH A CREDIT CARD FOR PAYMENT. THE FASTEST AND OFTEN LEAST EXPENSIVE METHOD TO BUY THE BEST OF SERIES IS TO PLACE THE ORDER ON-LINE AND PAY WITH A CREDIT CARD.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE AMAZING BEST OF SERIES DVDs, INCLUDING A LIST OF ALL FEATURED SCHOOLS, PLEASE GO TO THE ON-LINE HOME OF THE NHSDTC BEST OF DVD SERIES.

NOTE: WE'RE SORRY, BUT VHS VIDEOTAPES ARE NO LONGER OFFERED WITHIN THE 2009 BEST OF SERIES.

Mail/Fax to:
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OR EMAIL/FAX THIS FORM TO:
EMAIL: VIDEOS@THENATIONALS.NET ☆ FAX 386/274-1255
[HTTP://VIDEOS.THENATIONALS.NET](http://VIDEOS.THENATIONALS.NET)



*An Idea, A Discussion and Then Action
Nearly One Year Later, What is the State of...*

Drill NATION.net

Several years ago, Sports Network International received a heartfelt email by a cadet from a small JROTC program. The cadet opened his soul about how much he loved JROTC and drill in particular from the first day he entered the program the year prior as a freshman. He explained that his instructor didn't particularly like drill and the drill team itself received very little support from the senior leadership. But the point of the email that caught our attention was when he stated that there was currently no website available that he felt comfortable going to because he was not a talented driller (albeit highly motivated) and the sites that were available did not seem to welcome anyone who was not an exceptional driller.

The Driving Force Behind DrillNATION.net

His email struck the strongest chord with Sports Network President, Samantha Ste. Claire. With newer and more modestly skilled cadets vastly outnumbering those few elite drillers across the globe, she took it upon herself to spearhead the efforts to produce **DrillNATION.net** as a place for ALL drillers to meet, relax, learn and have fun! She wanted to give cadets a place where they could be amongst their peers - regardless of skill level.

Expectations for the site were quite modest initially but they have wildly exceeded our lofty expectations. SNI had very limited goals for the site when the initial "build" was put in place. We wanted an on-line home where both armed & unarmed drill cadets of every skill level could feel comfortable talking with peers. SNI also wanted to ensure that drill was the focus of the website, but cadets who were interested in Raider, Marksmanship, Athletics, Academics, etc. would have a home around other like-minded individuals. DrillNATION would also be a place where instructors could network and ask questions in an open setting with other coaches on a range of topics. SNI wanted the site to be supported by minimal advertising and moderated to ensure that forum discussions remained on point without name-calling or other intimidating behavior. And most importantly, the site would be sleek, with an easy to navigate interface that would not be intimidating for even those with modest computer skills.

Then came the "Birth of a Dream" when **DrillNATION.net** went live on January 1, 2009. Instead of singing Auld Lang Syne, Samantha, Justin and website developer, Keith Warren, all cheered as the site went live at the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve. From that moment, JROTC cadets had their own online social community!

What began with around 50 members that were pre-registered, has now blossomed to over 3000 dedicated souls in just nine months. The forum has entertained spirited debates concerning topics ranging from whether or not drill should ever contain music to the best loved military-themed movie.

One of the greatest features of the site is the ability for each JROTC unit to not only have their own school page on **DrillNATION.net**, but to control the content of that page however they like. The instructor merely has to request access and they are off and running with the ability to post pictures, stories, accolades, cadet accomplishments, drill meet results, etc.

The feedback from cadets and instructors has been and continues to be the most important item the site maintains. With tens of thousands of people "in the trenches" everyday in JROTC, Sports Network International understands the importance of listening to the users of **DrillNATION.net** and giving them what they want AND what they need whenever possible.

"I wish there was a single place where we could learn about upcoming drill competitions." (it's on the site); "What about a place where our program could post information about things we've won on and off the drill floor?" (included many months ago); "What about being able to email each other or even message each other while online like Facebook?" (added a while ago); "Is there a place to go for study materials and other military information to get questions answered or to prep for drill meet inspections?" (the site is loaded with resources for this). These are all items that have been added AFTER requests came in from cadets. **DrillNATION.net** is your site, Junior ROTC, your influence and feedback is what makes it grow and thrive. You ask, we listen!

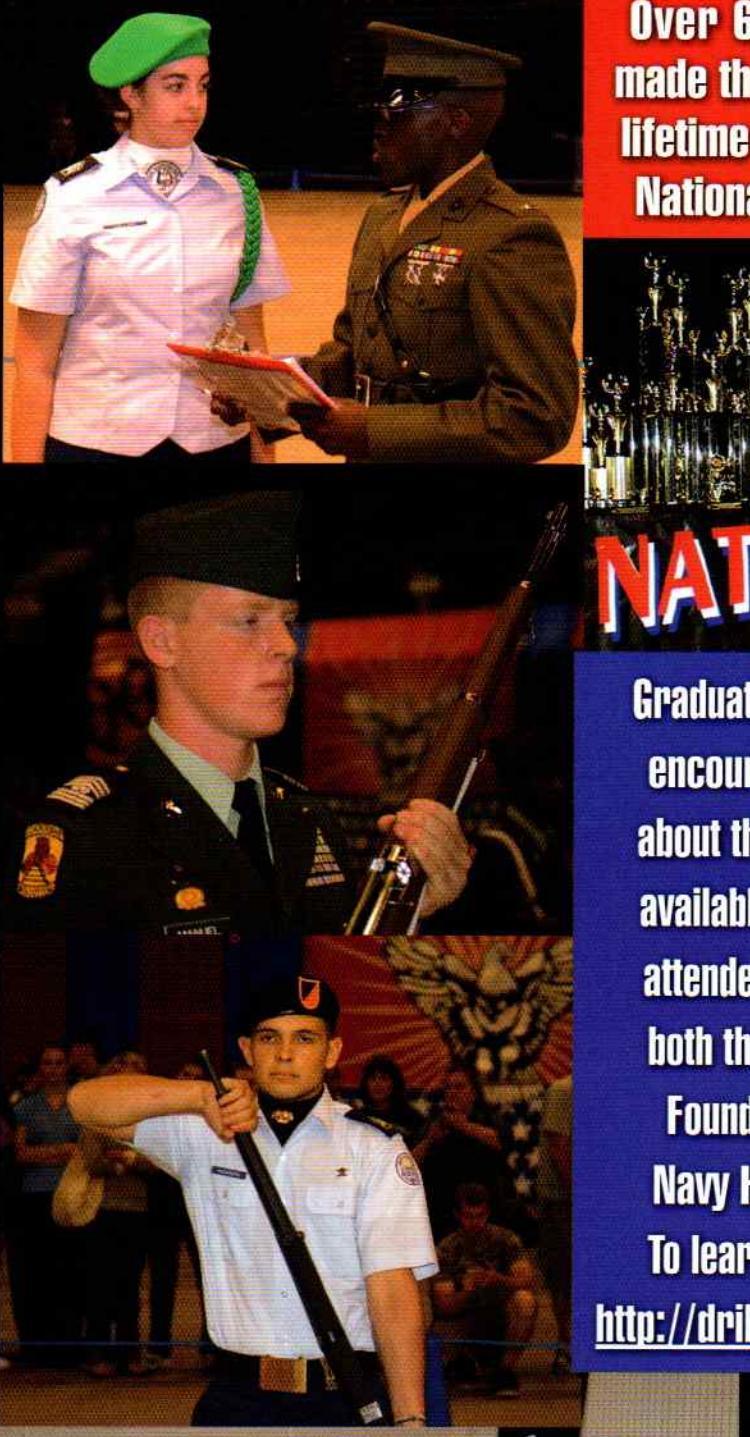
So What Does the Future Bring?

The most exciting issue regarding **DrillNATION.net** remains the future! What has been done so far is simply the ground work for something even bigger as we move forward.

When looking at the future, one must only look at the evolution of non-drill parallel communities like Facebook and Myspace for example. What makes these communities so much fun to be a part of? The various methods of interaction that each person can get from the site and the ability to stay connected with friends and others with the simplicity of a few keystrokes. We are well on our way!

We envision giving the user even more control for not only the direction of **DrillNATION.net**, but to come up with new ideas for small applications that work inside the site; to think of new directions for information and entertainment that will be of interest to every member. There really is no limit to what we can come up with together as a nation!

Please visit **DrillNATION.net** and join for free. Make sure your instructor takes control of your school's page and advertise your upcoming drill meets for all to see. We look forward to your feedback as you navigate the site and let us know what changes you would like to see included.



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