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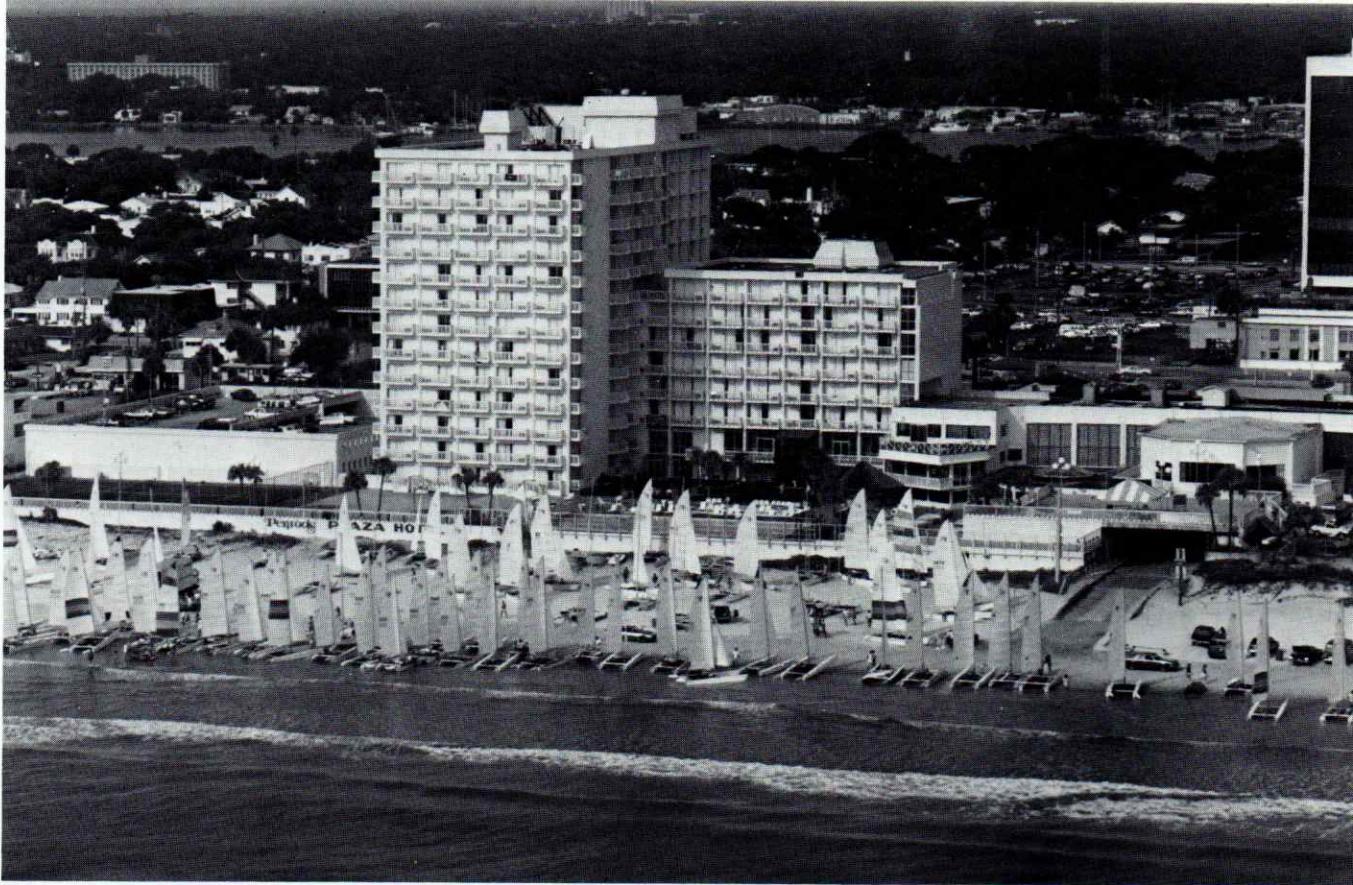
the official publication of the National High School Drill Team Championships





1988 NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DRILL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

The Clarendon Plaza
Headquarters Hotel



Welcome to Daytona Beach
The Clarendon Plaza 600 N. Atlantic Ave.
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800-532-3224

Crestwood — Winning It All



In any sport or competitive endeavor, there are Cinderella stories of underdogs who beat the odds. They come from out of nowhere and overwhelm the competition. Such is the case with Crestwood High School of Atlanta, Georgia. They came to the 1987 National High School Drill Team Championships virtually unknown, and left with the National Championship trophy. Made even more inconceivable by the fact that the 1987 Crestwood High School drill team was a first year drill unit from a first year Junior ROTC program, and no cadet on the championship squad had ever picked up a rifle before the 1986-87 school year.

The development of the Crestwood High School Junior ROTC program was put in the hands of Major Robert Holt. After 22 years service in the Army, Major Holt retired in November, 1983. He immediately became involved in the Army JROTC program, and headed up the drill team at Campbell High School (also located in the suburban Atlanta area) before 1986. In preparation for the 1986-87 school year, Major Holt was approached about forming a first year Army JROTC program at Crestwood High School. "I was requested to promote the program in the northern part of Fulton County (greater Atlanta)," said Holt. "It's an affluent neighborhood and the school really wanted this type of program."

The lengthy process of molding the drill unit into National Champions began where all champions begin; practice, practice, practice. "In the beginning, we would

practice drilling two hours every day," said team Commander, Cadet Colonel Alex Torre. "The preparation was very hard. We began from nothing whatsoever. We started by taking it in segments, and kept adding more and more." The inevitable mistakes along the way were handled solely by Major Holt. "No cadets, not anyone, is allowed to make criticisms of the team. Only I can correct or criticize them. All the cadets can say to each other when a mistake is made is, "it's okay, we'll get it." Otherwise, dissension will destroy a group," said Holt.

The drill unit doubles the effectiveness of their training by filming their practices. "Watching films is like any other major sport. We film ourselves, and can then critique the practice quite intensely," said Holt. "If you can show them on film, they'll see exactly what you're talking about. Then they can practice it right after that. You can also check to see that the rotation of the rifles is together (throughout the routine)." Crestwood obtained videotapes of drill meets so that films were also used to review the performances of other squads. Cadet Colonel Torre added, "The films helped a lot. Aside from watching ourselves, we would watch other drill teams, like North Georgia and the Air Force Academy."

As well as a means of measuring their own level of expertise, watching other superior drill squads enhanced the actual composition of Crestwood's routines. "We picked specific parts of other routines that we liked and worked them into our own. Like stopping the rotation of the rifle at a certain angle or in a certain

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way," continued Torre. "The cadets were responsible for a lot of the make up of the platoon routine. Usually it's 50/50 between Major Holt and us." This carefully combined mixture of Crestwood cadets' input, a movement here and there from other drill squads, and a strong measure of control from Major Holt produced a championship blend.

Early in their drill season, Crestwood attended East Tennessee State University's Southern Tournament where they won numerous first place event trophies. With the emphasis placed heavily on the upcoming Nationals, their next performance at Auburn University's War Eagle Tournament also produced several first place and an overall third place award. During the Auburn competition, they put in the final changes for the routine they would use at the National High School Drill Team Championships.

During the two weeks preceding the Nationals, the Crestwood drill team practiced three hours a day during the week and six hours on Saturdays. When they arrived in Daytona Beach for the competition, they went right into another long practice session, while their Color Guard continued to drill right up until the midnight curfew. "As well disciplined as they are speaks highly of their parents," said Holt. "They know there's a time to work hard and play hard. The practices worked well because they're goal-oriented kids. It (the Nationals) seemed like an almost unattainable goal — so they practiced that much harder, and they ended up much better than they thought they would." Crestwood High School's performance at the Nationals yielded them ten team event trophies and the six-foot With Arms National Championship trophy.

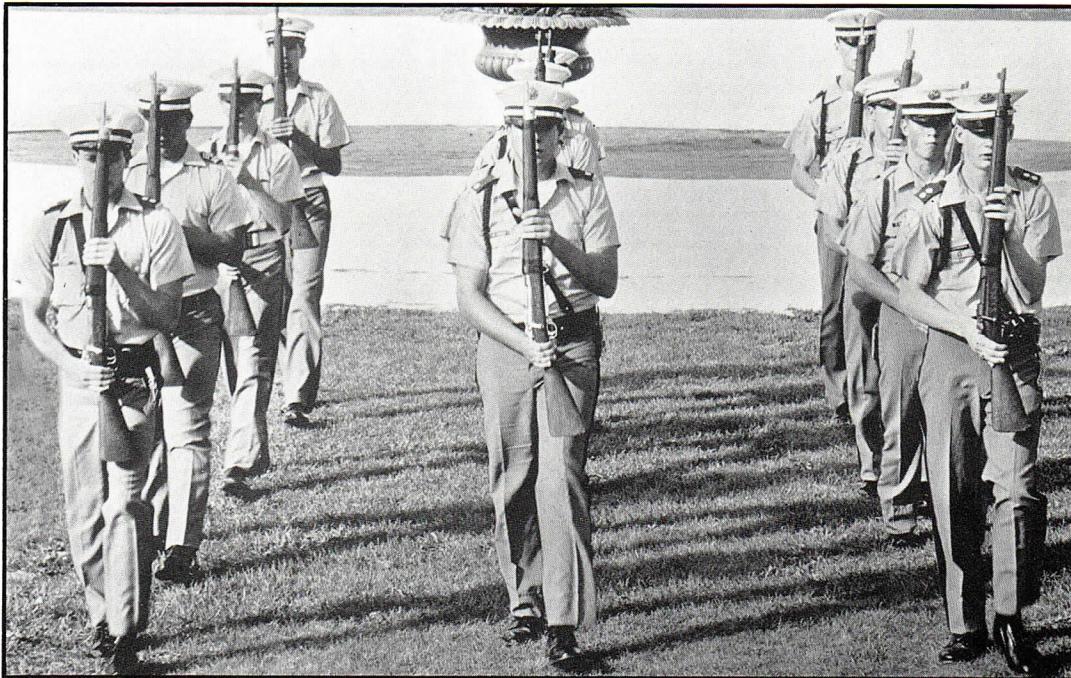
As the JROTC program's growth has been fully supported by Crestwood High School and the surrounding community, the drill team returned home to quite a warm reception. "The support from the community

and the school's staff and faculty couldn't be better. The (communication) between the athletes or other students and the cadets is great. It really is a textbook situation," said Holt. "The drill team is a source of pride to the school. It has increased the enrollment of kids into the program. And we're pleased that the drill team will be performing at the annual meeting of the Superintendents of the State of Georgia.

The pressure of Crestwood High School's drill team to top last year's record will be complicated because now their competitors will see them coming. No more surprise attacks. The other schools that Crestwood used to study now have had the benefit of watching them perform, perhaps picking up a movement here and there. All of which will make the 1988 National High School Drill Team Championships quite a showdown. "The Nationals are a strong competition and the best I've seen," said Holt, "because the teams there are the best from everywhere. If you watch and listen, you can learn a lot. To win there is the ultimate. And we hope to repeat our success."

Part of Crestwood's preparation for 1988 includes the firm philosophies of Major Holt. "Never underestimate your weakest opponent and give great respect to their chances, regardless of how they've done in the past. And if you beat someone, give them the respect that they're competing along with you deserves." For those schools trying to adapt to the ideas that produced Crestwood's championship form, it may seem like too much to expect from a novice squad that you could start from nothing and accomplish your greatest goals so quickly. But as Cadet Colonel Torre said, "It's hard but it can be done. Don't even try unless you're willing to put in a lot of practice." For in an event where the Champions can win by 20 points out of a possible 5200 total points, the difference between first and second place can be an extra hour or two of practice.

The Legacy of La Salle



At 17 years of age, could Louis de Thomasis ever have known what would come of his fascination with specialized drill teams? Certainly he was a strikingly motivated individual. "I was mesmerized by other teams that would perform complex maneuvers effortlessly," he says, "and I approached the Captain Adjutant about why La Salle Military Academy didn't have such a squad. He felt it was a good idea and told me that if I wanted one, why didn't I start it myself . . . so I did." And so it was conceived first in the mind and then through the actions of a 17-year-old cadet, the La Salle Rifles. He was impressed with the discipline and team work he had seen in other drill teams and knew that it was vital to the success of his drill team. Symbolic of that spirit, it was de Thomasis and the first squad of cadets who created their own emblem for the La Salle Rifles.

That was 1957. It's thirty years later and the La Salle Rifles still perform with that emblem on their uniform, but that is where the similarities end. "When I started the La Salle Rifles I realized it would take a long time for them to become as good as I knew they could be," says the founding cadet, Brother Louis de Thomasis, currently the president of St. Mary's College of Minnesota and formerly the headmaster president of his alma mater, La Salle Military Academy — during the period of 1976-1984. "But I knew eventually, that after a few years, they would." Occupying the position of headmaster president of the Academy, de Thomasis had a different perspective on the drill team. "It is a very emotionally nostalgic experience for me. I feel great loyalty to the La Salle Rifles. And I am extremely proud

of them." And do the La Salle Rifles now live up to the expectations of 1957? "I never dreamed they could go so far. I couldn't even believe how good they had become. And I never thought they would be No. 1 in the nation. Watching them perform blew my mind."

La Salle Military Academy is a Catholic military boarding school located on the Great South Bay of Long Island, New York. The school was founded in 1883 at Clason Point, New York and in 1926 was moved to its present site in Oakdale, Long Island. It is an institution steeped in tradition. There are family legacies throughout the history of the Academy. Generations of sons have all marched on the same parade grounds. It is this enrollment of exceptional cadets that has made La Salle Military Academy a place of strong foundations giving flight to great aspirations.

The challenge of these aspirations have been constantly met and mastered by the La Salle Rifles. The precision unit attends an average of five college drill meets annually along with the high school nationals in Florida. This past school year they attended Villanova University in Pennsylvania and placed first overall. Their last attendance at Georgetown University in Washington D.C. also placed them first. Other college drill meets that have ranked them outstandingly include Brooklyn Polytechnic University in New York, St. Peter's University, Rutgers University, and Seton Hall, all located in New Jersey.

At the National High School Drill Team Championships in Daytona Beach, Florida, La Salle Military

Academy placed first in numerous team and individual events in 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, and 1987. They were Runner Up National Champions in 1984, and National Champions in 1983, 1985, and 1986. It is easy to see why their reputation precedes them at any drill meet they attend. The La Salle Rifles have been invited to perform at the Conference of Senior Army Instructors to be held in Williamsburg, Virginia this December. Before an audience of the country's JROTC and ROTC Program Instructors, La Salle will perform an exhibition drill that will provide drill team directors there with many of the standards by which top drill units are judged.

The phenomenal success of the La Salle Rifles can be directly attributed to the structure from which it comes. La Salle Military Academy places its primary emphasis on the individual, while the group as a whole is supported by the unseen framework present in any military academy of its stature. "As a Catholic military school, La Salle provides spiritual guidance and deals with the cadets as individuals, not trying to mold them into the same," comments Ginny Witte, a La Salle spokesperson. Their direct approach to discipline and preparation for success is perhaps most clearly seen in the JROTC program. La Salle Military Academy is designated as an Honor School with Distinction by the Department of the Army — the highest rating attainable by a JROTC unit. "The La Salle Rifles program echoes and reinforces the military aspect of the Academy, with the focus on disciplining themselves," said Sgt. Major Hugh Bracken, a moderator of the drill unit. "Like any activity, they have to follow all the rules and regulations that are the policy of the school."

The La Salle Rifles are separated into two groups of cadets. The First Sixteen is made up of the more advanced cadets, mainly seniors and juniors. The Second Sixteen includes newly assigned cadets that are just learning the ropes. It may take one or two years of practicing basic drill maneuvers before a cadet is moved up to the First Sixteen. "To be chosen for the La Salle Rifles you must try out and be selected by the commander and executive officers of the First Sixteen," said Sgt. Major Bracken. "While the commander of the First Sixteen is appointed by the Commandant of Cadets. That selection is based on a combination of academics and drill performance."

Throughout the year, the La Salle Rifles will practice eight to 10 hours a week after their regular academic classes. "During the weeks preceding a major drill meet we might practice up to four hours a day," notes current Commander, Cadet Captain Michael LaVardera. Aside from the time spent perfecting Regulation Drills, the cadets are also involved in the make up of their exhibition (trick) drills. "The cadets contribute almost com-

pletely to the content of the routines in trick drill," says Sgt. Jack Emerson, supervisor of the drill team. "Mostly I will go with what they have to say." Lt. Col. Edward Brown, overseer of the JROTC program, adds, "Many of the trick movements are adaptations of classic routines, only modernized." All of the La Salle Rifles' drill sequences are performed with the 9.5-pound M-1903 Springfield rifle of World War I fame.

From the beginning of the National High School Drill Team Championships, La Salle Military Academy's record at the event has been remarkable. It includes three National Championships, one Runner Up National Championship and dozens of team and individual trophies. The drill team's first reaction after receiving their six-foot National trophy at the competition's Awards Ceremony is to get to the nearest phone and call the Academy's Headmaster President, Brother David Detje, F.S.C. "The reaction at the school is always very jubilant. They've performed many times before the school and La Salle is very proud of them," said Sgt. Bracken.

The noticeable gap in the La Salle Rifles' awards portfolio was their performance at the 1987 Nationals. While they did capture two first place team events, the coveted Championship trophy eluded them, as they finished the competition in fifth place overall. "It was upsetting for the gentlemen to lose, but they kept their composure," said Sgt. Emerson. "Losing does build character." "Losing made us open our eyes," said Cadet Captain LaVardera. The presence of their 1987 loss will take its strongest stand in shaping the practice drills for the 1988 event. The La Salle Rifles "see where they made their mistakes," continued Sgt. Emerson. "They're paying close attention to detail, and will be much more aware of just what they're trying to do."

The participation of the La Salle Rifles in the 1988 Nationals and their potential for a strong comeback is bound to put them under a microscope. Which is nothing unusual for a drill team that is becoming more and more comfortable in the spotlight. Last Spring, the La Salle Rifles were featured on the Network Good Morning Program on CBS-TV. Following an exhibition drill, members of the team were interviewed by Mariette Hartley. "We were very pleased to have had the opportunity. They performed very well although half was impromptu. They were scheduled for three minutes, but Mariette liked them and brought them back on to talk to them," said Sgt. Emerson. Cadet Captain LaVardera added, "It was definitely a first. I was just performing for the audience, and not paying attention to the cameras. I didn't get as much time to perform as I'd like. She (Mariette Hartley) spent the extra time talking to us about us helping (discipline) her kids."



On the surface of La Salle Military Academy it might appear that as a boarding school, direction and restraint is required 24 hours a day for situations varying from a midtown Manhattan television studio to dormitories housing hundreds of cadets. The factor missing from that equation is the individuality encouraged by the Academy. "The No. 1 goal of military training is to teach responsibility and leadership. But at other schools, I have never in the past seen cadets given the opportunity to practice leadership," comments Headmaster President Brother David Detje.

Sgt. Major Bracken continues, "In the teaching of leadership, we'll ask the commander — what does he think should be done? It's not always exactly right, but their decision is often what we go with. Even if it's wrong, it's a learning experience for them. We guide them and the exposure to leadership and authority helps them to do what they feel and what is best. Their maturity is part of that instruction." The teaching of La Salle Rifle cadets to take responsibility for themselves and their team is the basis of their training in military science. "The last group that wants war are the people who have to fight it. It's when systems fail, then war is the last resort. But military is **more** there to protect the country and preserve the peace. That's helping people to work things out. And responsibility helps," said Brother David Detje.

More than military and college-preparatory, La Salle Military Academy is life-preparatory. It doesn't avoid the realities of the outside world. In fact, it invites it closer, bringing the cadets face to face with what will greet them upon graduation. "La Salle gives you better preparation for succeeding. It provides a structure for life. And it makes you grow up faster," said Cadet Captain LaVardera. In the 1986 National High School Drill Team Championships, then Cadet Commander, Andrew Garcia, was performing during Individual Exhibition when the rifle landed askew, slamming into his hand and dislocating his thumb. His performance was ruined. Garcia's father, a doctor, was a spectator at the competition and quickly relocated his thumb back into its socket. Despite the pain, 45 minutes later Garcia had his hand taped and was competing in Dual Exhibition. (Editor's Note: Garcia and his partner, John Sheeran, finished in first place.)

"As seniors especially, they wouldn't have cared about **breaking** a finger. It has no bearing on their performance or on affecting them in any way," said Cadet Captain LaVardera. The La Salle Rifles' commitment to be the best has carried them beyond the obstacles of pressure and even pain, creating a legacy of success that has become its own tradition.

1988 NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DRILL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS



PACIFIC CONFERENCE



In the five years that National High School Drill Team Championships have been held in Daytona Beach, Florida, high school drill units from the Far West have been trying to find a way to attend the competition, only to be caught up in the financial problems of having the necessary money to travel back and forth to Florida. Knowing how hard they have tried to raise the funds to fly but always being stifled by an overwhelming airline bill, Sports Network has solved the problem. In 1988, they will take the western competition to California.

On April 22nd and 23rd, 1988, the first National High School Drill Team Championships — Pacific Conference will be held at the CAL Expo Arena in Sacramento, California. All four services' Junior ROTC Drill Teams, military academies, and other schools with specialized drill teams are eligible to enter this two-day competition. Like its eastern counterpart, the competition will feature separate With Arms and Without Arms events.

Competition events for With Arms will include Inspection, Squad IDR (Regulation), Squad Exhibition (Trick/Fancy), and Platoon Exhibition (Trick/Fancy). In Without Arms Competition, team events will include Inspection, Regulation, and Exhibition. Additionally, there will be one Color Guard event for the entire competition. Each team event will have trophies awarded in first through fifth place.

Individual events in With Arms will be Individual Exhibition, Dual Exhibition, Commanders Trophy, and IDR Knockout. In Without Arms, there will be a separate competition for Commanders Trophy and IDR Knockout. All individual events will award trophies for first through third place, and in With Arms IDR Knockout Drill, the top 30 finishers will receive cloissons medals, and Without Arms IDR Knockout Drill will award these medals to the top 15 finishers.

There will be a competition in both With and Without Arms for the Best Girls Drill Team, with each division awarded a Runner Up and a National Champion trophy. To qualify for this trophy, girls teams must enter in With Arms: Squad IDR, Squad Exhibition, and Platoon Exhibition; and in Without Arms: Regulation and Exhibition. To qualify for the National Championship trophies, your school must enter at least one team in each event in your division (that being either With or Without Arms), including an entry in Color Guard. If you choose to enter more than one team in any event, the highest scoring team's point total will apply to the tallies for the National Championship. In both With and Without Arms, a Runner Up and National Championship trophy will be awarded.

The competition will be based upon the latest revisions of Army Field Manual 22-5 for With Arms and Air Force Manual 50-14 for Without Arms. In both cases, slight modifications on the manuals may be made when making up the competition's S.O.P. in order to accommodate the needs of all four services. These S.O.P.'s will be sent to each competing school upon their registration into the event.

The competition will begin with most teams arriving by 7 PM on Thursday, April 21st. There will be a Commanders Call that evening at the Headquarters Hotel. The competition itself will begin the following morning and will continue throughout Friday and Saturday. The competition is expected to end at approximately 5 PM on Saturday. The event will conclude with the Awards Ceremony at the Headquarters Hotel at 9 PM Saturday evening.

Over the years that Sports Network has been presenting the National High School Drill Team Championships in Florida, it has become customary for all competing teams to attend the event through the team

package arranged through Sports Network. This requirement is based on the need to keep each school's costs at a minimum, cover all of the expenses incurred in an event of this magnitude (such as arena rental, insurance, judges expenses, and staff expenses), and maintain an organizing level of control over the participating schools that is crucial to the coordination of such an event.

At the the National High School Drill Team Championships — Pacific Conference all schools will be housed at the Headquarters Hotel, the Hotel El Rancho. This hotel is specially planned as a fitness/resort center. It features a racquet and fitness club, tennis courts, racquetball courts, heated swimming pool, whirlpool, sauna, and weight room. Sports Network feels that a hotel of this nature is best suited for our competition, as it is both vacation-oriented and athletically-equipped.

The Team Package Cost Plan for the competition includes the following:

- Three nights hotel accommodations at the Hotel El Rancho
- Competition T-shirt, ordered to size
- Bronze medallion on a gold necklace chain
- 4½" Swiss embroidered patch of the competition
- 8" x 10" color glossy photo of each drill team
- VIP Hospitality Suite for instructors, open throughout the event
- Discount fast-food tickets for local restaurants

The cost for this team package is \$92.00 per person, based on four-to-a-room occupancy. Other package prices are available for 3, 2, and 1 per room. Teams needing to arrive late may obtain a package for two nights (Friday and Saturday) instead and will be able to compete in the entire competition by compressing their schedules.

To enter the competition, complete the attached Registration Form and send it to Sports Network International, Inc. along with the registration fee of \$300.00 per school. \$150.00 of that fee will be applied to the first team package payment made in March. The following deadlines will apply to the competition:

January 15, 1988	Registration Deadline
March 15, 1988	25% of total Team Package Fees due
April 15, 1988	75% (balance) of Team Package Fees due

Please note that Sports Network will be moving its headquarters offices to Daytona Beach in December, 1987. Up until that time, you can contact SNI at the address and phone listed below. Also note Sports Network's toll-free number for use outside of Florida. That number is 1-800-327-9311. This number will remain with SNI even after the December move, and can be used to contact SNI throughout 1988, etc. Registrations sent after December can be sent to the address below and will be forwarded to the new offices in Daytona Beach, or you may call Sports Network on its toll-free lines and the new address will be given to you. Please feel free to contact Sports Network should you have any questions regarding the National High School Drill Team Championships — Pacific Conference.

SPORTS NETWORK INTERNATIONAL, INC.

4828 Fairview Drive
Cocoa Beach, Florida 32931

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SPORTS NETWORK INTERNATIONAL, INC.

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1988 National High School

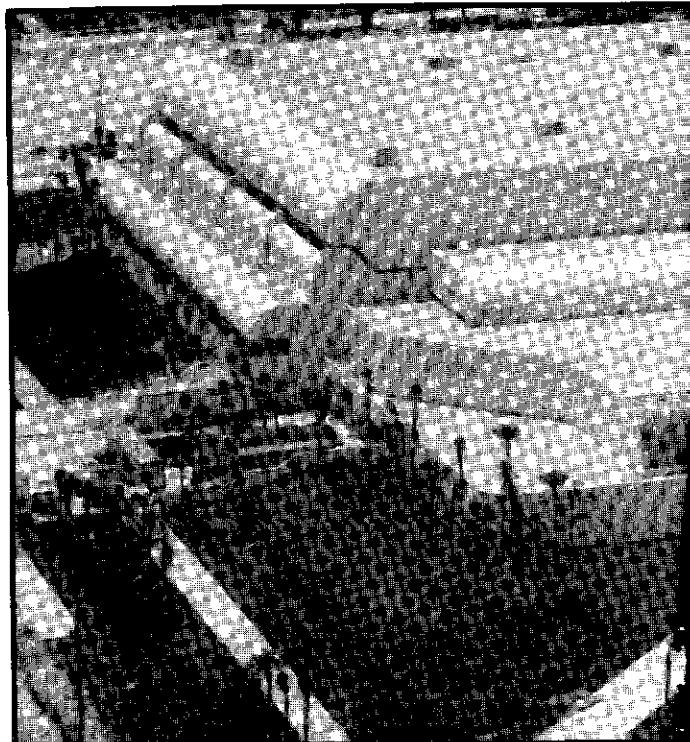
Sports Network International, Inc. is pleased to present this invitation to attend the Sixth Annual National High School Drill Team Championships. The Nationals will be held in Daytona Beach, Florida on April 28th, 29th and 30th, 1988. The competition is open to all precision drill units, performing both with and without arms, in all JROTC units and other specialized drill squads.

Over the past six years, the Nationals have moved drill sites to a variety of locations. In 1988, the National High School Drill Team Championships will take place in the suitably prestigious Ocean Center Arena. This complex will allow the competition to utilize two main drill areas of 125' x 125' each. In addition, there will be an area for Inspection Drill of approximately 40' x 55'. The Center also features a fully stocked concession stand, ample seating for all cadets and spectators, and two sets of male and female dressing rooms with shower facilities.

The National High School Drill Team Championships will include the following team events: With Arms — Inspection, Squad IDR (Regulation Drill), Squad Exhibition (Trick / Fancy), and Platoon Exhibition (Trick / Fancy); Without Arms — Inspection, Regulation Drill, and Exhibition Drill. Additionally, there will be one Color Guard event for the entire competition. Each team event will be awarded trophies in first through fifth place. A Champion and Runner-Up trophy will be awarded to the Best Girls' Team in With Arms (evaluated from the point totals in the Squad IDR, Squad Exhibition, and Platoon Exhibition events only), and in Without Arms (evaluated from the point totals in the Regulation and Exhibition Drills only).

To be eligible for National Championship and Runner-Up National Championship trophies, your school must enter at least one team in each event under your division (which is either With or Without Arms), including Color Guard. If your school enters more than one team in any event, the highest scoring team's point total will go towards the tallies for the National Championship trophy.

Individual events will include Individual and Dual Exhibition, which will receive first through third place trophies; With and Without Arms IDR Knockout Drill, which will award special medals to the top 30 finishers in With Arms, and to the top 15 finishers in Without Arms, as well as trophies for the first through third place cadets in both drills. Finally, there will be first through third place trophies awarded as the Commander's Trophy in both With and Without Arms.

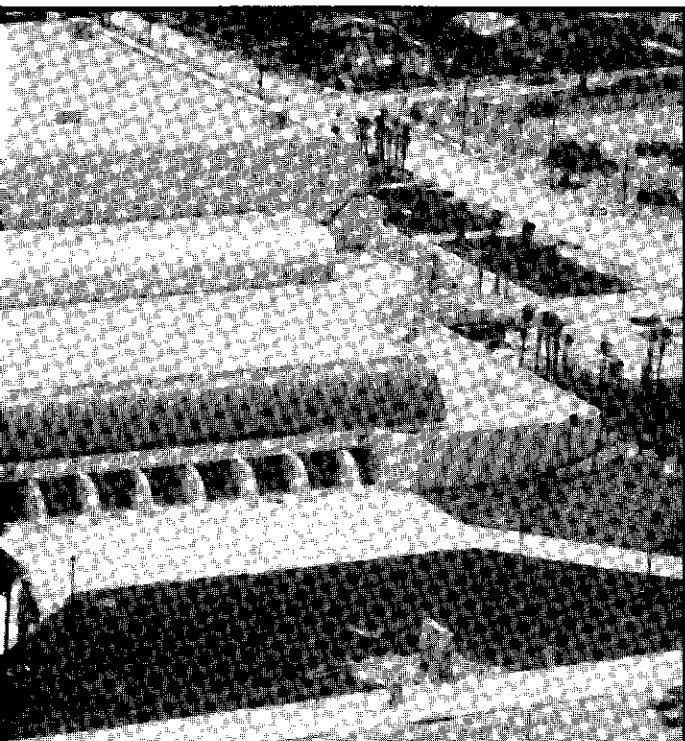


OCEAN CENTER, Daytona Beach, Florida: are the highlight of this newly completed civ

All competing drill teams will be housed at the Headquarters Hotel, the Clarendon Plaza. This is the highrise, luxury oceanfront hotel pictured on the inside cover of this magazine. The itinerary for the competition begins with most schools arriving by 7 PM on Thursday, April 28th. A Commanders Call will be held at 8 PM in the Ocean Room of the Plaza where teams will draw for starting positions and be briefed by the Head Judge. The competition itself will begin at 7 AM Friday morning. Friday morning/afternoon events will be With Arms — Inspection, Squad IDR, and Squad Exhibition. Friday afternoon will begin the Without Arms competition — Inspection, Regulation, and Exhibition, which will conclude at approximately 10 PM. Saturday With Arms events will begin at 7 AM with Platoon Exhibition, Color Guard, and Individual and Dual Exhibition. The Competition will conclude Saturday afternoon with the Without Arms IDR Knockout Drill, followed by the With Arms IDR Knockout Drill. The event will wrap up on Saturday evening with the Awards Ceremony which will be held in the Ballroom of the Clarendon Plaza at 9 PM. Negotiations are underway to televise the event on a major network.

The S.O.P. for the National High School Drill Team

Drill Team Championships



Spacious drill areas of over 31,000 square feet center that will be host to the 1988 Nationals.

Championships will be based on the latest revision of Army Field Manual 22-5 for With Arms and Air Force Manual 50-14 for Without Arms. In order to best comply with procedures used by all four services, slight modifications may be made on these manuals as a part of the event's S.O.P. These S.O.P.'s will be sent out to schools upon registration.

As is customary of Sports Network and the National High School Drill Team Championships, all schools will attend the competition using the team package cost system. The 1988 Nationals will have the following team package:

- Three nights accommodations at the Clarendon Plaza
- Bronze Medallion of the event on a gold necklace chain
- Competition T-shirt, ordered to size
- Swiss-embroidered 4 1/2" patch of the event
- 8" x 10" color glossy print of each drill team
- Open VIP Hospitality Suite for instructors throughout the event
- Food discount tickets for local fast food restaurants

The price of this team package, based on four-to-a-room accommodations, is \$82.00 per person for the three days. Prices are also available for 3, 2, and 1 per room team packages. The increased cost from 1987 is based on a slight increase in hotel cost and the newly-added Florida state service tax. Two-day team packages are also available for those few schools that will have to arrive later. These schools can still be entered into the competition by compressing their schedule.

The school registration fee will again be \$300.00 per school, with \$150.00 of that amount applied to the 25% package fees payment due in March. The Registration Fee has been made non-refundable so as to ensure that teams which do register, do so with a firm belief that they will be attending. There are no additional costs at the competition for entering Individual and Dual Exhibition or the IDR Knockout Drills.

Deadlines for the event are:

January 15, 1988 Registration Deadline
March 25, 1988 25% of all team package fees due
April 20, 1988 75% (balance) of all team package fees due

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They March to a Different Drummer—But Is Anyone Listening?

AN EDITORIAL

For the past five years, my position as Business Manager for Sports Network International, Inc. and Event Manager for the National High School Drill Team Championships has given me the opportunity to meet a remarkable class of people. In my opinion, the Junior ROTC drill team cadets that I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with have been tragically underestimated. Their peers have overlooked the depth of their commitment to excellence. And the armed services have dismissed them as inconsequential.

During the precarious years of high school, when one's worth and self-esteem are tested time and time again, these young adults have chosen to move away from the mainstream. They have gone beyond the shallow nature of most high gloss teenage activities, to find a forum to display the mettle of their capabilities. At an age where irresponsibility is the norm, these cadets have gone out of their way to take on as much responsibility as they can find. And these duties have advanced their maturity far beyond their years.

The obvious intention of Junior ROTC programs is to teach discipline, drill maneuvers, and military science. But a more subtle benefit of the program is the balance it strikes between encouraging personal ego and evoking concern for esprit de corps. As competing members of precision drill teams, the cadets are told that they can be the best. And a brief glance at the drill teams and cadets saluted in this magazine will show that they have achieved just that: they are the best.

Society's interaction with its young today is formed around a nucleus of solving very real problems. Teenage depression and suicide has never been higher, and the whole country has rallied behind the "Just Say No" campaign to stop drug abuse. And while it is hard to imagine anything more important than these crisis situations, perhaps a broader field of vision will show a very desperate need. Teenage adults who are fortunate enough to not have serious problems, are unfortunate in that they are being swept aside to make way for the problem cases.

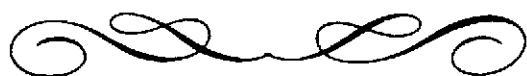
The support for these cadets is present within the JROTC program itself, but society on the whole does

not want to be bothered. And even inside the context of other branches of the military, the JROTC cadets are ignored. I have been told by advertising executives that the ROTC programs do not benefit from the JROTC cadets. While acknowledging that all available scholarships are easily filled by outstandingly qualified JROTC cadets, these executives seemed uninterested in considering that most all high school students are faced with college tuition requirements that are insurmountable. Instead, they have chosen to place, for instance, two ads in a high school sporting magazine for the ROTC programs at a cost of over \$30,000 to reach jocks whose interest is solely in athletics, not in the pursuit of military excellence.

What is even more incredulous is that the Armed Services with an annual advertising budget that would curl your hair (last year it was over \$68 million), have chosen to completely ignore the JROTC cadets and their drill team programs. Considering that over 85% of the over 400,000 JROTC cadets enter the military for at least four years, and in many cases, join as a career, their disregard is mind-boggling. Under the banners of "It's a Great Place to Start" and "We're Looking for a Few Good Men," not to mention "Be All You Can Be," I find it disturbing that they cannot see the intense brilliance and the fierce dedication right under their noses. And on the occasions that they are noticed, their uniqueness is dulled over and they are treated as rank and file.

The JROTC cadets that attend the National High School Drill Team Championships have immersed themselves in their dedication to be the best. And I'm sure that they will continue along that path, regardless of whether or not anyone notices them. But excellence deserves recognition. And their competition deserves coverage. There will be something very wrong with the television market if cheerleading and tractor pulls continue to be televised when this championship is not. They are marching in perfect synch to a drummer others choose not to hear — but it's time to start listening.

— Samantha Ste.Claire



Cadet



Cadet Commander Colonel Alex Torre

Several things become immediately apparent upon meeting Cadet Colonel Alex Torre, Team Commander of the 1987 National Champion Crestwood (Georgia) drill team. Aside from the obvious physical attributes awarded him through bodybuilding, it is equally clear

that this cadet possesses the maturity necessary for outstanding leadership. The story of Alex Torre is even more phenomenal when one realizes that before the beginning of the '86-'87 school year, he had never picked up a rifle.

He first became interested in the military and JROTC specifically in the 9th grade. But it wasn't until two years later that his school instituted the Army JROTC program at Crestwood. He feels that the program is unique among all school activities because "it teaches leadership along with intense discipline. I've learned to handle people, to be able to talk to them." This level of self-discipline carried Torre through the intricacies of learning to handle a 9.5-lb. Springfield rifle. "On top of team practices, I would prac-

tice by myself for several hours a week. And I would lie in bed at night thinking of new maneuvers, spinning rifles in my mind."

In the position of Team Commander, Torre used his acquired leadership skills to direct his team to the Nationals. "We were isolated and we practiced for hours. That yields winning. We were excited and ready for the Nationals. And hoping to win. The odds were incredible." As well as leading his team to win the Nationals, Torre also captured second place in Individual Exhibition.

Balancing camaraderie with command is another skill that seems to come easy to Torre. "The cadets that are new this year don't understand my authority — why I command the way I do. Sure, I like having the power, but I try not to abuse it. I try to be their friend. Having power just to use it is not the #1 thing. My objective is to try and keep last year's position."

Beyond his senior year's drill team plans (which naturally include repeating as National Champions) Torre plans to either enter the Navy to be trained as a RIO (Radar Intercept Officer) or possibly attend medical school. As a finalist for the Naval ROTC College Scholarship, and firmly in control of his future, the possibilities are endless.



Cadet Commander 2nd Lt. Lea Bozeman

It was after many attempts at trying to belong to a variety of high school activities that Cadet Commander Lea Bozeman finally found the place to shine. The Enterprise High School (Alabama) Girl's Drill Team had fate on its' side when

2nd Lieutenant Bozeman was not accepted into the cheerleading and band flag squads. For it was then that she turned to the Junior ROTC program that has one of the best girl's drill squads in the country. It was a perfect match.

As the Commander for Enterprise High School's drill team, Bozeman's main concern is for the team. "Everyone helps everyone. The older cadets will look out for the younger ones. The team has lots of pride and class." Her years in the JROTC program have produced quite an impressive record. To date she has accumulated four Military Excellence Awards, six Merit Awards, and countless others.

Being in a position of command, Bozeman acknowledges that some of the interplay between her and the team

is "power oriented, but I also give subordinates power, as well. So instead of my thinking only of myself, I think of the drill team first. And I don't let the power get to my head. If you use the power effectively — like just raising your voice a little, and you haven't abused that power, then the team will be affected by your reacting to them in a quiet, controlled way."

Cadet Commander Bozeman's control over the Enterprise drill team is clearly seen in their competitive presence. "We get real quiet and that helps us to psyche ourselves up. We don't talk to other teams at drill meets because it breaks the concentration of the team. And if we win, we'll generally wait until the team is together in private — like back on the bus — before we'll cheer and celebrate."

When reviewing and judging potential additions to the Enterprise team, Bozeman carefully examines all aspects of the candidate. "Once I had a single spot to fill and there were two girls that I had it narrowed down to. It was a tough decision. One was more technically proficient, but the other had a better attitude. Well, I decided on the girl with the better attitude, because technique is something you can teach, but a good attitude can't be taught — you just have to have it."

Salute



Cadet Commander 2nd Lt. Stefan Wisnoski

When you talk about the essence of command responsibility, you're talking about the drill team commander of the fabled Marine Military Academy of Harlingen, Texas. At 17, he has enough awards and commendations to fill a small notebook but what drives

him is the motivation he gets from what he calls "the competitive urge." The young man in the spotlight — Cadet 2nd Lieutenant Stefan Wisnoski.

"I must admit that I like being out in front of the crowd. That makes me pretty much of a ham, I guess. But there's also the responsibility of command. At a boarding school like the Marine Military Academy, you are in a position of command whether it is in drill functions or academics. However, you never command out of your jurisdiction," he notes. Viewing this power as much like a double-edged sword, Wisnoski says he likes the function of command — but it's dangerous. It's nice to have but it has its setbacks, particularly if you let

it go to your head. If you step beyond your bounds, those around you will look at you as not being able to handle the pressure." But he notes that "I like things to run the way I run them. I feel I can make things work my way."

This kind of confidence which grows from this level of competitive drive toward excellence is a part of the career goals of Drill Commander Wisnoski. He has applied to the Air Force Academy where he hopes to major in military law. "I love the psychology of law. It intrigues me. And the debate — fighting for what I know is right. I also like distinguishing the differences between people. Which is well suited to me because I'm a good judge of character."

As increasing responsibility has been given to Wisnoski, he has adapted to handling it without letting his ego interfere. "If I make a mistake, I correct it. If I need guidance to make that correction, I listen to who I think is the most competent in that particular area and I can then pattern my corrections after that person. But if I am right, I will fight for what I believe in to the end." A fighting spirit that he hopes to take with him to the 1988 Nationals in Florida. "Good luck to everyone who makes the competition in Florida," said Wisnoski. "But yes, I think it will be hard to beat us."



Cadet Commander Captain Gary Borges

Beginning one's senior, and final year of prep school before college has a way of bringing the past into perspective and the future into focus. For Cadet Captain and Team Commander Gary Borges of Florida Air Academy in Melbourne, this has meant filing away the

legacy of his older brother, Gus, who preceded him as Team Commander at FAA and took the school to their first National Title in 1986. There are those who may feel that when Gary Borges, as a junior, took Florida Air Academy to the Nationals in 1987 that he was competing with the driving force to equal his brother's record. But not now.

Borges was drawn to the drill program at Florida Air Academy partly because of his brother but mostly because he felt it would be the best opportunity to excel at the school. "The cadets regard it as the elite unit in the school, and the faculty regards it as their showpiece." Borges was primarily chosen as the Team Commander for his single-minded determination regardless of the obstacles. "The first drill meet I attended, as a sophomore, I was marching on a grass drill area and stepped into a hole, badly twisting my knee. But I didn't miss a step and continued for a perfect performance. I guess that impressed them."

Cadet Captain Borges comes from the school of thought

that believes that winning is not everything . . . it's the only thing. "I tell my team that we are there (at a drill meet) to win. First place is the only place. There is no place for second best," says Borges. Despite the fact that his brother, Gus, was a great role model, Gary no longer measures himself against Gus' achievements. "When I review my performance now, I only look at it against what I know I can do, not what Gus would have done. While I listen to other's comments up to a point, I have trouble accepting compliments for my own work."

The potential "power-trip" of being team commander doesn't seem important to Borges. "I may have gotten the job (as team commander) because I took and gave orders well, but being a good commander works well only if you have earned the respect of your team. They know I don't feel superior to them, and they also know that I would do anything for the team."

The second place finish at the 1987 Nationals may have been the greatest motivator of all for putting the future into focus for Borges' senior year. He started soon after the '87 event concluded to put together the current team, getting a 1½-month head start over last year. The clearly focused path ahead of Borges includes his personal determination to win at the 1988 Nationals, while he never forgets that "it's always my team that comes first, with me second." Borges plans to pursue a career as a doctor in sports medicine, where his dedication to team spirit and resolution to be the best will guarantee him success.

1987 NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DRILL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

EVENT STANDINGS

WITHOUT ARMS INSPECTION

1st Holmes High School	1166
2nd Eau Gallie High School	1154
3rd Florida Air Academy	1151
4th Oxon Hill High School	1150
5th Palm Bay High School	1140

WITHOUT ARMS REGULATION

1st Florida Air Academy	1028
2nd Holmes High School	1027
3rd Eau Gallie High School	1001
4th Eau Gallie High School (Girls)	984
5th Gaithersburg High School	970

WITH ARMS INSPECTION

1st La Salle Military Academy	556
2nd Crestwood High School	543
3rd Palm Bay High School	537
4th Cedar Shoals High School	527
5th Fern Creek High School	522

WITHOUT ARMS EXHIBITION

1st Oxon Hill High School	1519
2nd Florida Air Academy	1389
3rd Eau Gallie High School	1279
4th Oxon Hill High School (Girls)	1253
5th Holmes High School	1124

WITH ARMS SQUAD EXHIBITION

1st Crestwood High School	1416
2nd Cedar Shoals High School	1398
3rd Midlothian High School	1380
4th Benedictine High School	1362
5th La Salle Military Academy	1354

WITH ARMS PLATOON EXHIBITION

1st La Salle Military Academy	872
2nd Cedar Shoals High School	862
3rd Fern Creek High School	847
4th Benedictine High School	800
5th Crestwood High School	773

WITH ARMS SQUAD IDR (REGULATION)

1st Cedar Shoals High School	1005
2nd Holmes High School	999
3rd Midlothian High School	998
4th Crestwood High School	972
5th Fern Creek High School	939

COLOR GUARD

1st Crestwood High School (Team A)	992
2nd Fern Creek High School (Team B)	938
3rd Fern Creek High School (Team A)	937
4th Crestwood High School (Team B)	921
5th Holmes High School	884

INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITION

1st Frank Cheely Cedar Shoals High School	1177
2nd Alex Torre Crestwood High School	1163
3rd Freddie Spears Camden High School	1135
4th Myste Quick Fern Creek High	1120
5th Michael LaVardera La Salle Military Academy	1104

DUAL EXHIBITION

1st Shiflett & Jezek Midlothian High School	1156
2nd Frith & Walker Crestwood High School	1134
3rd Cheely & Cook Cedar Shoals High School	1124
4th Asher & Reynolds Fern Creek High School	1120
5th Johnson & Fletcher Fern Creek High School	1108

WITHOUT ARMS COMMANDERS TROPHY

1st David Acosta Oxon Hill High School	
2nd Louis Blackmon Oxon Hill High School	
3rd Gary Borges Florida Air Academy	

WITH ARMS COMMANDERS TROPHY

1st Megan Ray Midlothian High School	
2nd Chris Harris Crestwood High School	
3rd John Smith Cedar Shoals High School	

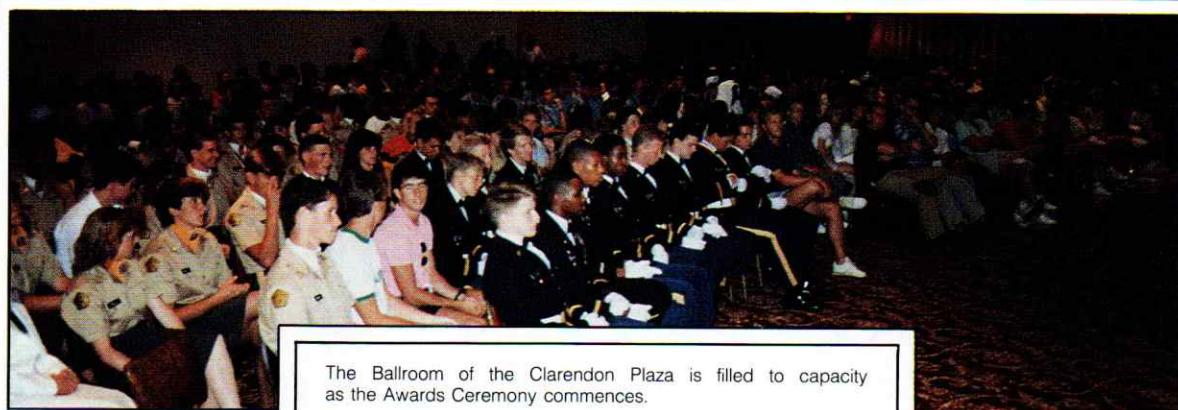
WITHOUT ARMS IDR KNOCKOUT DRILL

1st Phillip Gastilo Oxon Hill High School	
2nd Tony Turner Oxon Hill High School	
3rd Gary Borges Florida Air Academy	

WITH ARMS IDR KNOCKOUT DRILL

1st Megan Ray Midlothian High School	
2nd Michelle Moreaux Holmes High School	
3rd Greg Wright Camden High School	

COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS



The Ballroom of the Clarendon Plaza is filled to capacity as the Awards Ceremony commences.



Cadet Commander Louis Blackmon of Oxon Hill High School displays the 2nd place Commanders Trophy.

Grand Totals *National Championship With Arms*

Crestwood High School	4696
Ferncreek High School	4578
Cedar Shoals High School	4565
Holmes High School	4449
La Salle Military Academy	4433

National Championship Without Arms

Oxon Hill High School	4429
Florida Air Academy	4341
Eau Gallie High School	4307
Holmes High School	4201
Gaithersburg High School	3831

Best Girls Team With Arms

Ft. Knox High School	2920
Fern Creek High School	2754

Best Girls Team Without Arms

Holmes High School	2151
Oxon Hill High School	2086



Cadet Commander Megan Ray of Midlothian High School marched away with 1st place awards in both IDR Knockout & Commanders Trophy.



The 6-foot tall Championship trophies take center stage before Head Judge Sr. Chief Joseph Draper & Sports Network Staff Jean Horton, Samantha Ste. Claire, & Kip Horton.

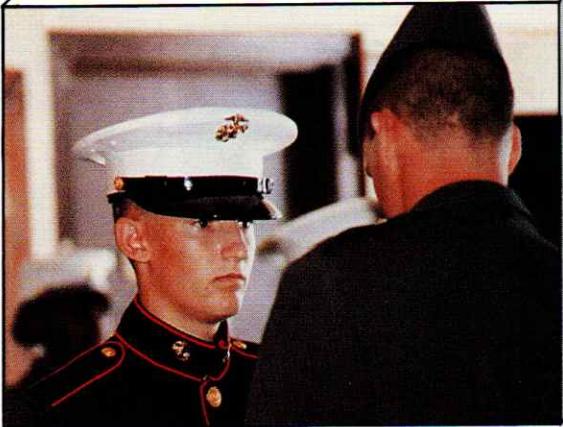
Benedictine High School
Richmond, Virginia
Camden High School
Camden, South Carolina
Campbell High School
Atlanta, Georgia
Cedar Shoals High School
Athens, Georgia
Crestwood High School
Atlanta, Georgia
Eau Gallie High School
Eau Gallie, Florida

Roster of Competing Schools

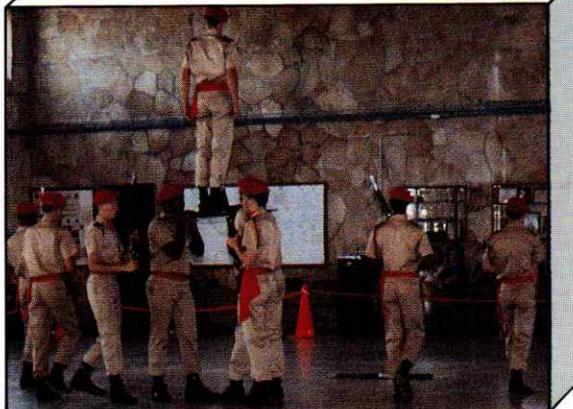
Fern Creek High School
Louisville, Kentucky
Florida Air Academy
Melbourne, Florida
Ft. Knox High School
Ft. Knox, Kentucky
Gaithersburg High School
Gaithersburg, Maryland
Holmes High School
Covington, Kentucky

La Salle Military Academy
Oakdale, New York
Midlothian High School
Midlothian, Virginia
Oxon Hill High School
Oxon Hill, Maryland
Palm Bay High School
Palm Bay, Florida
Science Hill High School
Johnson City, Tennessee
Xavier High School
New York, New York

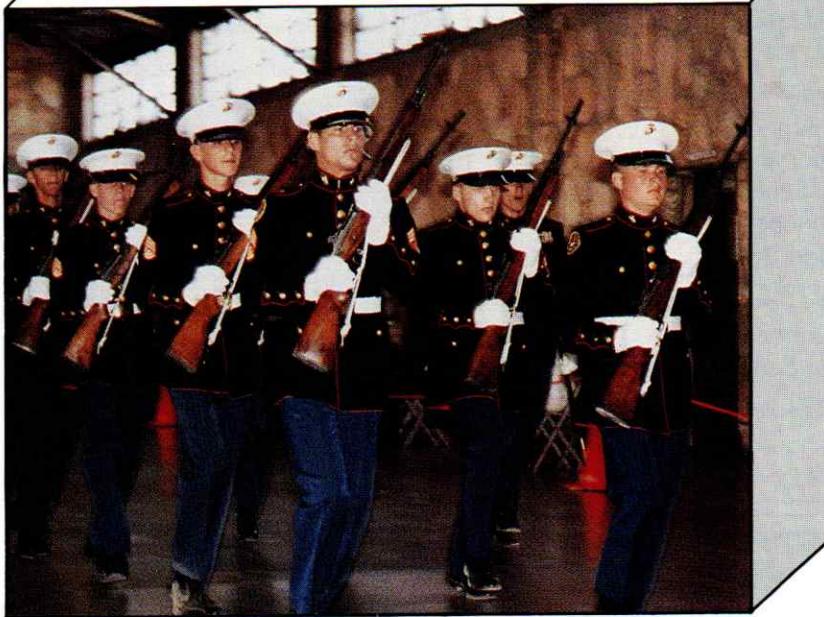
A Marine Corps Cadet stands at attention while being questioned by an Army Judge during Inspection.



Camden High School's Commander stands balanced upon a rifle during this daring Exhibition performance.



All of the qualities of the Nationals' competitors are seen on the faces of this Marine Corps unit: dedication, precision, determination and excellence.



La Salle Military Academy marches in perfect sync during this Squad IDR drill.



Rifles are tossed behind the backs of these Cedar Shoals High School cadets during their Exhibition routine.



The tension can be cut with a knife in the last moments of knockout that will decide who is the best.



The IDR Knockout begins with over 350 cadets. Here a Naval Judge examines the precise rifle placement of the final 11 cadets.





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