

NJROTC Nationals

Navy Junior ROTC excellence can be measured in many ways, but nothing provides a more well-rounded test of superiority than the two-day **Navy JROTC Nationals - Academic, Athletic and Drill Championships**. Warm Florida skies gave the twenty-four school competition field from across the United States a perfect backdrop for this hot competition which has come to be known as the "Navy Nationals."

The event opened on Friday morning with the intense **Unit Personnel Inspection** competition. Spit and polish were the watchwords as every cadet competing at the event stood before the nine judges that made up the U.P.I. judging corps. Despite numerous outstanding efforts, **Boca Raton HS** from Boca Raton, Florida powered their way to a convincing victory. Earning 1,427 out of a possible 1,500 points, Boca Raton outpaced the field and impressed the judges with their general knowledge, bearing and overall demeanor. 2000 U.P.I. and National Champion **Flour Bluff HS** finished with a strong second place finish and **Lake Howell HS** finished well in third place.

The event then moved outside for the athletic competition. Each school felt the need for speed and when the dust settled, **Vanguard HS** from Ocala, Florida eaked out a hard-fought victory with an amazing team performance. With max points in both Push-Ups & Curl-Ups, the hard-chargers did well in the Shuttle Relay and cinched it with their first-place Oval Relay finish. Placing second in Athletics was **Lake Howell HS** and just 8 points behind, finishing third, were the always-impressive cadets from **Green Run HS**.

Just when most cadets were ready to collapse, teams grabbed a quick bite of dinner and hustled across the street to the pressure-packed **Academic Exam**. Schools formed 15-cadet academic teams with each cadet taking a 100-question test on relevant Navy JROTC information. When the Scantron grading machine finally cooled off, **Flour Bluff HS** from Corpus Cristi, Texas blew away the field with a convincing 1,292 point total! This accomplishment was a herculean effort, *winning with the largest margin of victory in event history* finishing 123 points higher than the 2nd place unit.

Always tough and well disciplined **Cape Fear HS** grabbed second place in Academics with a solid 1169 team score and **Lake Howell HS** grabbed the third place slot with a 1121 team score. It should be noted that Lake Howell HS individual top finisher Cadet Stange repeated his 2000 victory as the event high scorer, answering 97 of the possible 100 questions correctly.

Cadets managed a quick night sleep and then jumped into their Summer Blue uniform to begin the drill competition portion of the event on Saturday morning in the massive A.D. Hangar at Pensacola NAS's Chevalier Hall.

Comprised of five team events totaling 1500 points, drill is the backbone of this event and really shows off the discipline and hard work that makes these top units the pride of their school and their service.

Thousands of practice hours helped **Lake Howell HS** from Winter Park, Florida grab the always brutal drill championship title. Winning both the Armed & Unarmed Exhibition Drill Competitions and gaining a second place in Color Guard, the fierce competitors beat strong finishing **Green Run HS** by just 39 points. No glaring weaknesses and three third place finishes in both Basic events and Armed Exhibition secured second place for this school. **Princess Anne HS** competed well overall to grab the third place overall drill event finish.

The Knockout Drills preceded a spectacular Awards Ceremony, held at the magnificent National Museum of Naval Aviation located on Pensacola NAS. Welcomed to the awesome setting by facility President **Vice Admiral John H. Fetterman** (ret.), the opening ceremony then proceeded with a poignant message from the event guest speaker **Rear**

Admiral David L. Brewer, III; Vice Chief of Naval Education & Training. His inspirational & dynamic speech was targeted to the cadets and left all standing on their feet in appreciation of the man and his message.

Presentation of trophies left everyone on edge as no single school wore a path to the stage. This left the championship wide open to the very end. After the scoring finalized, the NJROTC Nationals Overall Championship was crowned with returning Champion **Flour Bluff HS** taking the title. Overall event Runner-up was **Boca Raton HS** and just missing the runner-up position by two points out of 6,000 possible was event 3rd place finisher **Lake Howell HS**.

Pensacola NAS was an exceptional host, providing limitless logistical and personnel support -- it will again be the home of the 2002 NJROTC Nationals this Spring. Many of the Navy's finest are already working toward the **April 5th-6th, 2002** event. Sports Network remains honored to continue our association with this event and remains confident that the 2002 NJROTC Nationals will again present the most AWESOME display of Naval excellence found anywhere on the planet! All NJROTC units should be encouraged by the excellence on display at this flagship event - **GO NAVY!**



Flour Bluff HS (nearest lane), Green Run HS (2nd lane), and Reseda HS (3rd lane) ready for their hand offs during the spectator-laden 16 x 100 yd. shuttle relay.