



NJROTC CADETS STEAMING All Ahead Full AT THE "NAVY NATIONALS"

The Navy Nationals Academic, Athletic & Drill Championship puts a shot across the bow of every cadet at this grueling, two-day event.



BEING

AT THE Navy Nationals Academic, Athletic and Drill Championships is always an amazing, yet surreal experience. So many dedicated cadets from all walks of life gather together competing in so many diverse events in such a short timeframe that the weekend can become a blur. Cadets from across the United States looked to become the overall NJROTC champion; to be the team that knocked the big dog off the porch – and that big dog named Flour Bluff HS wasn't going to roll over for anybody in 2007!

As the competition pushed forward, it was obvious that the field of 23 schools would quickly be separated with a solid group of five long-time attendees all vying to take home the big hardware and even bigger bragging rights. Leading the pack was the odds-on favorite **Flour Bluff HS** from **Corpus Christi, Texas**. Sporting an unprecedented, decade-plus run of consecutive Navy Nationals Championships and several concurrent all-service drill-only championships, Flour Bluff was primed to add another notch on their belt in 2007.



Precision and adherence to the many event regulations are paramount for success in the Navy Nationals competition.

Shawnee Mission HS posted their flag early, with an extremely strong finish in Color Guard. The cadets from **Overland Park, Kansas** knew they were set-up well for an overall championship run.

Always-tough **Union Grove HS** made a brute force statement early as well, as they nearly swept the 1,000 point athletic competition. The **McDonough, Georgia** cadets grabbed 1st place in three different athletic events.

Boca Raton HS from **Boca Raton, Florida** looked to add to their overfilled trophy case with an overall victory after 2005 & 2006 near-misses. Using their trademark strength in all areas, Boca trophied in multiple events – but would they have enough this year?

Like a circling pack of hungry wolves, many schools began to sense that a change at the top could be at hand.

Flanagan HS from **Pembroke Pines, Florida** is a relatively young program and had been hanging around the top end of the leader board at the Navy Nationals every year since they first attended. Getting good quickly is a testament to the overall strength of this unit.

When the competition sweating finally ended, the Awards Ceremony at the **National Museum of Naval Aviation** began as it had so many times before. The overfilled capacity of proud parents, the nervous tension from excited cadets hanging in the air, the Navy band playing the National Anthem, and the stirring speech by **RADM Gary R. Jones, USN Commander, NSTC/Navy Region Midwest** all combined to give the evening its unique flair. And when the Navy League of the United States trophies began flying off the tables, the ceremony took on an aura of hope for every school dreaming of a Navy Championship.

Centennial HS from **Las Vegas, Nevada** took the coveted Unit Personnel Inspection championship trophy to kick off the event. Then the schools in the hunt began stockpiling hardware. Trophy after trophy fell and schools could see who still had visions of grandeur! Then a buzz began to emanate from the crowd that Flour Bluff may not have the numbers to repeat in 2007.

Like a circling pack of hungry wolves, many schools began to sense that a change at the top could be at hand for the first time since some of these cadets were in pre-school!

Calling out the 5th place overall trophy, **Shawnee Mission HS** erupted with joy gaining their first top five finish in their history, paced by an Overall Drill Championship trophy. In 4th place, **Flour Bluff HS** put on a brave face taking home their solid trophy as the crowd was electrified knowing that a new king would rule the Navy kingdom for at least one year. In 3rd place, **Union Grove HS** powered their way to their highest finish ever. Maintaining the Navy Nationals Runner-up trophy was **Boca Raton HS** (for the third year in a row!). And sealing the overall Navy Nationals title were the new kids in town from **Flanagan HS**.

Flanagan won the event with strength in many areas, but sealing the victory was the never-before-seen academic team scores the unit comprised. The hard chargers beat their nearest competitor by a staggering 158 points. With a more difficult test in use for 2007, this was hard for many to believe! And with the top four schools all finishing within just 211 total points away, every point was crucial. Flanagan ripped through the test placing nine cadets of its 15-member team in the top ten individual placements.

To quote a famous phrase, "Life hits you hard; but it isn't about how hard you get hit, but how hard you get hit and keep going forward." Know that Flour Bluff was dealt a body blow in 2007 but they will be re-loaded in 2008. Flanagan will be a fortress and looking to hold onto the title. A score of other Navy Area top finishers will not be satisfied with the crumbs – they will want the whole pie – at the 2008 Navy National Championships!

SEE ALL THE EVENT SCORING DETAILS!

<http://NAVY.THENATIONALS.NET>



Flanagan HS posed for this impromptu team photo at the National Museum of Naval Aviation immediately after learning they had shocked the world by capturing the Navy Nationals Overall Championship in an outstanding field of 23 NJROTC units from throughout the United States.