

NHSDTC CHALLENGE LEVEL COMPETITION RESULTS

Facing the "Challenge" at the Nationals

When you blaze a new trail, you have to find out who are the leaders and who are the followers. Twenty-six schools made the trip to Daytona Beach to "draw a line in the sand" in the inaugural Challenge Level competition at the 1997 Nationals. These highly motivated, up-and-coming programs put together a solid day of competition drill against their national peers.

The grit, determination and will-to-win was every bit as fierce at the Challenge Level event as it was at the Masters Level event that followed the next day. The Challenge Level competition at the Nationals brought together 26 schools looking to end their drill season against their peers in beautiful Daytona Beach, Florida at the National High School Drill Team Championships. The judges were highly impressed with the effort put forth by these newer, less experienced drill and ceremony units.

The five team events within each division (Inspection, Regulation, Color Guard, Squad/Element and Platoon/Flight Exhibition) gave these proud teams a chance to display what they have worked so hard to achieve. The nature of this event featured schools displaying strength in some events and weakness in others. The overall scoring was tight in many events. With schools attending from across the country, a wide diversity of drill styles were on display in every area of the Challenge Level Nationals competition.

Armed Division Highlights

Paced by 1st place exhibition performances, the *Lords of Discipline* armed drill team from Oxon Hill HS achieved the overall championship within the armed division. Earning a 2nd place Regulation finish and a 3rd place Inspection finish helped this Oxon Hill, Maryland Air Force unit earn a Championship title, with a total score of 4,117 out of 6,000.

Cedar Shoals HS from Athens, Georgia displayed solid overall strength in capturing the Armed Runner-up title. The *Silent Knights* Army drill team gained a top five finish in four of the five team events (only missing out in Regulation) with two 2nd and two 5th place finishes, maintaining a solid 3,863 total points.

Other outstanding performances were on display by numerous armed schools including: New York MA *Silent Death* (1st place in Inspection and Regulation); Pine Ridge HS *Ladies of Distinction* (1st place Color Guard); Valley Forge MA *Blue Trojans* (2nd place in Inspection & Platoon Exhibition); Port St. Lucie HS *Fighting Jaguars* (3rd place finishes in Squad and Platoon Exhibition); and Forest Park HS *X-Cel* (three top five finishes - Inspection, Squad & Platoon Exhibition).

The Commander's Trophy is awarded based only on scores garnered by cadet commanders during Platoon Regulation drill. Cadet Knox from New York MA captured 1st place in the always tough Armed Division with a strong 289 point total (out of 350). Cadet Owens from Oxon Hill HS earned 2nd place (258 points) and Cadet Duverglas from Colonel White HS grabbed 3rd place (249 points).

Unarmed Division Highlights

In a tremendously exciting, tight competition, first year Nationals attendee, Wilby HS, displayed the type of preparation required to win at Daytona at any level. The Marine Corps *Wildcats* drill team from Wilby, Connecticut displayed great balance, gaining a 1st place finish (Element Exhibition), two 2nd place finishes (Regulation, Flight Exhibition) and a 3rd place (Inspection). These top placements gave their hard-nosed cadets an overall score of 4,037 out of 6,000 points.

First-year attendee Pine Ridge HS from DeLand, Florida just missed in their bid to gain an overall championship. The *Esoteric Reality* drill team was fantastic, gaining a top five trophy finish in ALL FIVE EVENTS! The Air Force program garnered 3970 points overall with a 1st place finish (Color Guard), a 2nd place finish (Inspection), two 3rd place finishes (Regulation, Flight Exhibition) and a 4th place (Element Exhibition).

Other strong Armed performances were on display by: Winnsboro HS *LadyCats* (1st place Inspection and Flight Exhibition); Coventry HS *White Falcons* (1st place Regulation); East Boston HS *Jets* (2nd place Color Guard); Valley Forge MA *Gold Trojans* (2nd place Element Exhibition); James F. Byrnes HS *Nighthawks* (3rd place Color Guard); and Brentwood HS *Fighting Falcons* (3rd place Element Exhibition).

The Commander's Trophy competition was tough within the Unarmed Division. Cadet McKnight from Coventry HS captured 1st place with a strong 322 point total (out of 350). Cadet Vo from Wilby Hill HS earned 2nd place by one point (301 points) and Cadet Pittman from James F. Byrnes HS grabbed 3rd place (300 points).

A super Awards Ceremony was held immediately following the conclusion of the Armed and Unarmed knockout drills. This brief ceremony gave recognition to the individuals and the schools who helped to make the Challenge Level competition such a success in its inaugural year and a memorable part of their Junior ROTC program.

We at Sports Network salute the spirit, style and esprit-de-corps of the first-ever Challenge level attendees at the nationally-recognized National High School Drill Team Championships. We were honored by the sincere efforts and the total commitment put forth by so many instructors and cadets to prepare for and meet the "Challenge" at this truly unique and historic military drill competition.

Challenge Level trophies are spectacular at this novice-level, all-service drill spectacular.

National High School Drill Team Championships

Masters Level Event Standings

All totals are based on a maximum 1200 points per event

Demilitarized Arms

Inspection

Douglas MacArthur HS - Blue Guard	1129
Winston Churchill HS - Black Watch	1104
Theodore Roosevelt HS-San Juan Guard	1099
Oak Ridge MA - Fighting Cadets	1097
John Marshall HS - Schreiber's Rifles	1070

Regulation

Theodore Roosevelt HS-San Juan Guard	767
T.C. Williams HS - Armageddon Blue	733
Palm Bay HS - Pirates	717
Colonel White HS - Black Knights	716
Enterprise HS - Blue Knights	714

Color Guard

Douglas MacArthur HS - Blue Guard	975
Winston Churchill HS - Black Watch	963
Theodore Roosevelt HS-San Juan Guard	914
Central Catholic HS - Chaminade Guard	893
Coventry HS - Red Falcons	888

Squad Exhibition

Winston Churchill HS - Black Watch	1117
Theodore Roosevelt HS-San Juan Guard	1103
Springfield HS - Emerald Guard	1087
John Jay HS - Silver Eagles	1079
Enterprise HS - Blue Knights	1073

Platoon Exhibition

Winston Churchill HS - Black Watch	1158
Theodore Roosevelt HS-San Juan Guard	1154
John Marshall HS - Schreiber's Rifles	1145
Douglas MacArthur HS - Blue Guard	1120
Fern Creek HS - Leathernecks	1108

Unarmed

Inspection

Douglas MacArthur HS - Blue Angels	932
Homer Hanna HS - Mighty Brown Eagles	810
Florida Air Academy - Blue Berets	803
John Marshall HS - Bandoleers	802
John Jay HS - Snap II	800

Regulation

Douglas MacArthur HS - Blue Angels	787
Flour Bluff HS - Sea Hawks	783
Theodore Roosevelt HS - Riderettes	775
Winston Churchill HS - Queen's Guard	771
John Jay HS - Snap II	761

Color Guard

Florida Air Academy - Blue Berets	968
Theodore Roosevelt HS - Riderettes	935
N.B. Forrest HS - White Lightning	927
Homer Hanna HS - Mighty Brown Eagles	910
T.C. Williams HS - Armageddon White	903

Element Exhibition

Theodore Roosevelt HS - Riderettes	1021
Walla Walla HS - Sponsors	1013
N.B. Forrest HS - White Lightning	1012
Winston Churchill HS - Queen's Guard	1011
N.B. Forrest HS - Blue Thunder	1008

Flight Exhibition

Theodore Roosevelt HS - Riderettes	901
John Jay HS - Snap II	866
John Marshall HS - Bandoleers	841
Douglas MacArthur HS - Blue Angels	820
Oxon Hill HS - Devastation	805

Alternative Arms

Inspection

Oak Ridge MA - Lady Cadets	825
Lyman HS - Lady Greys	817
Springfield HS - Grenadiers	785
Enterprise HS-Belles of the Blue Knights	774
Jeffersontown HS - Molly Marines	743

Regulation

Fern Creek HS - Lady Leathernecks	832
Palm Bay HS - Lady Pirates	829
Springfield HS - Grenadiers	806
Lyman HS - Lady Greys	791
Miami Coral Park HS - Hurricanes	788

Color Guard

Miami Coral Park HS - Hurricanes	975
Fern Creek HS - Lady Leathernecks	971
Enterprise HS-Belles of the Blue Knights	941
Lyman HS - Lady Greys	916
Leesburg HS - Yellow Jackets	880

Squad Exhibition

Oak Ridge MA - Lady Cadets	1096
Leesburg HS - Yellow Jackets	1067
Enterprise HS-Belles of the Blue Knights	1064
Miami Coral Park HS - Hurricanes	1042
Palm Bay HS - Lady Pirates	1036

Platoon Exhibition

Leesburg HS - Yellow Jackets	1011
Palm Bay HS - Lady Pirates	963
Fern Creek HS - Lady Leathernecks	949
Miami Coral Park HS - Hurricanes	920
Springfield HS - Grenadiers	903

Overall Champion Totals

Demilitarized Arms

Theodore Roosevelt HS-San Juan Guard	5037
Winston Churchill HS - Black Watch	4999

Solo Exhibition

1st Place: Cadet Kimura - St. Louis HS
2nd Place: Cadet DelPilar-Damien Memorial HS
3rd Place: Cadet Moses - Winston Churchill HS

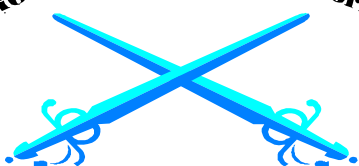
Dual Exhibition

1st: Cadets Akeroyd & Akeroyd - Winston Churchill HS
2nd: Cadets Gleason & Gleason - Cranston HS
3rd: Cadets Estomo & Hughes - Flour Bluff HS

Unarmed

Theodore Roosevelt HS - Riderettes	4426
Douglas MacArthur HS - Blue Angels	4267

*Congratulations to the Finest
JROTC Programs in the World*



Alternative Arms

Fern Creek HS - Lady Leathernecks	4456
Miami Coral Park HS - Hurricanes	4448

Solo Exhibition

1st Place: Cadet Embry - Oak Ridge MA
2nd Place: Cadet Knieriem - Leesburg HS
3rd Place: Cadet Hay - Oxon Hill HS

Dual Exhibition

1st: Cadets Davis & Rials - Enterprise HS
2nd: Cadets Lacourt & Tessier - Palm Bay HS
3rd: Cadets Ziegler & Douglas - Springfield HS