

Spreading their Wings to Conquer the Challenge

Challenge Level and Open Level Color Guard teams continue to raise the talent bar during the one-day drill spectacular that annually kicks off the Nationals

Judges, instructors, cadets and long-time Nationals spectators rarely come to a consensus on anything. This year however, they all agreed on one thing -- the Challenge Level competition is getting tougher and tougher! Competitors really put in the practice time and it showed. Thirty-six well-disciplined and well-trained schools bringing forty-seven competition teams burned up the drill deck at the Challenge Level competition at the 1999 Nationals.

The five team events within the Armed & Unarmed Divisions (Inspection, Regulation, Color Guard, Squad/Element Exhibition and Platoon/Flight Exhibition), as well as stand alone Color Guard competition gave these proud teams a chance to display what they have worked so hard to achieve throughout the year. The 1999 Challenge Level featured schools from across the United States who came to the Nationals with both barrels loaded!

Armed Division

The Marine Corps made an assault on the top in 1999. The *Panther Rifles* armed drill team from United South HS grabbed the overall championship by earning 1st place in three of five team events (Inspection, Squad & Platoon Exhibition). The tight-knit group from Laredo, Texas built on their impressive showing in 1998 both on and off the drill deck, displaying both a fierce competitive spirit and the will and desire of true champions.

The Deerfield Beach HS Marine Corps unit put together a super effort gaining the Armed Runner-up title. The *Scarlet Bucks* drill team gained a top

United South High School grabbed top honors in the 1999 Armed Challenge Level competition.

three finish in three of the five team events, paced by a 1st place Armed Regulation that was led by Armed Commander's Trophy champion C/Cdr Carvalho. Their first attendance at the Nationals was impressive as this Deerfield Beach, Florida program made the statement that they are a force to be reckoned with at the Nationals.

Other outstanding Armed Division performances included: Cedar Shoals HS (2nd-Platoon Ex, 5th-Squad Ex, Inspection & Regulation); Grove City HS (2nd-Inspection, 4th-Regulation & Platoon Ex); Winnsboro HS (1st-Color Guard); Topeka HS (2nd-Regulation & Commander's Trophy); Woodlawn HS (2nd-Color Guard); Clearwater HS (3rd-Inspection & Regulation); Perry County Central HS (3rd-Color Guard); Forest Park HS (3rd-Squad Ex) and North Augusta HS (4th-Inspection & Squad Ex, 5th-Platoon Ex).

Unarmed Division

Just as in the Armed Division, a returning team built on their strong 1998 finish to grab the overall title. Forest HS snuck up on everyone and grabbed the Unarmed Challenge Level Championship. The *Wildcats* drill team from Ocala, Florida won with solid performances in all five team events, despite winning just three trophies (3rd-Flight Exhibition, 4th-Color Guard, 5th-Inspection). The gritty Air Force JROTC program was inspired by C/Cdr Fritz winning the Unarmed Commander's Trophy. Every point counted as the high flying drill team nudged away several tough competitors nipping at their heels.

Just missing the top spot was the always-impressive ladies from Rahway HS. The hard charging *Lady Devil Pups* from Rahway, New Jersey excelled within the basic side of the competition capturing 1st place in Inspection and Regulation, and garnering a 3rd place finish within Color Guard competition. Only a tough 13th place finish in Element Exhibition cost them the title. These Marines represented themselves and their service well, missing the overall Unarmed title by just 44 points out of 6,000!

Other strong Unarmed Division performances were found throughout the event, highlighted by: Pine Ridge HS (1st-Color Guard); Denbigh HS (1st-Flight Ex); Forestville HS (1st-Element Ex); Winnsboro HS (2nd-Inspection, 3rd-Regulation & Element Ex); James F. Byrnes HS (2nd-Flight Ex, 3rd-Inspection); Jardines De Ponce HS (2nd-Regulation, 5th-Flight Ex); Rayville HS (2nd-Element Ex, 4th-Flight Ex); and Sandalwood HS (2nd-Color Guard).

Open Level Color Guard

Strong teams with exceptional Color Guard units came together within the Open Level Color Guard. The judges were staggered by the level of excellence on display at this prestigious event. Blowing away the competition was first-time attendee St. Cloud HS. Their near flawless routine left the judges' jaws on the floor. The *Bulldogs* color guard from St. Cloud, Florida earned a record 1,166 out of 1,200 possible points!

Other top-finishing schools earning Open Level Color Guard trophies were spread across the United States. These trophy winners were:

- 2nd place: MacArthur HS - Irving, TX
- 3rd place: Florida Air Academy - Melbourne, FL
- 4th place: Westover HS - Fayetteville, NC
- 5th place: Rayville HS - Rayville, LA

Knockout Drills and a spirited Awards Ceremony were held immediately following the conclusion of the team competition. The lively Awards Ceremony gave recognition to the individuals and the schools who excelled and made the 1999 Challenge Level competition another huge success.

We at Sports Network salute the Challenge level attendees at the Nationals. We were honored by their strong efforts. Win or lose, each of these schools made their mark and bettered their program through their attendance at the Nationals.

Masters Level Event Standings

All totals are based on a maximum 1200 points per event

*won by tie-breaker

Demilitarized Arms

Inspection

Winston Churchill HS-Black Watch	1047
Enterprise HS-Blue Knights	899
Douglas MacArthur HS-Blue Guard	897
Lyman HS-Imperial Hounds	883
Fern Creek HS-Leathernecks	853

Regulation

Theodore Roosevelt HS-San Juan Guard	924
Enterprise HS-Blue Knights	864
Winston Churchill HS-Black Watch	857
Fern Creek HS-Leathernecks	822
Lyman HS-Imperial Hounds	813

Color Guard

Theodore Roosevelt HS-San Juan Guard	1116
Hialeah HS-Vipers	1109
T.C. Williams HS-Armageddon Red	1060
Coventry HS-Red Falcons	1059
Douglas MacArthur HS-Blue Guard	1058

Squad Exhibition

Winston Churchill HS-Black Watch	1148
Douglas MacArthur HS-Blue Guard	1145
Mattoon HS-Gladiators	1142
Springfield HS-Emerald Guard	1114
Theodore Roosevelt HS-San Juan Guard	1093

Platoon Exhibition

Winston Churchill HS-Black Watch	1154
Douglas MacArthur HS-Blue Guard	1103
Mattoon HS-Gladiators	1078
Springfield HS-Emerald Guard	1074
John Jay HS-Silver Eagles	1067

Demilitarized Arms

Winston Churchill HS-Black Watch	5209
Theodore Roosevelt HS-San Juan Guard	4973

Solo Exhibition

1st Place: Cadet Akeroyd-W. Churchill HS
 2nd Place: Cadet Phillips-Nathan Hale HS
 3rd Place: Cadet Purdy-Mattoon HS

Dual Exhibition

1st: Koanui & Koanui-Roosevelt HS
 2nd: Purdy & Purdy-Mattoon HS
 3rd: Gordon & Bennett-New York MA

Unarmed

Inspection

Boca Raton HS-Bobcat Battalion	991
Douglas MacArthur HS-Blue Angels	973
Theodore Roosevelt HS-Riderettes	*971
T.C. Williams HS-Armageddon Blue	971
Walla Walla HS-Sponsors	958

Regulation

Theodore Roosevelt HS-Riderettes	853
T.C. Williams HS-Armageddon Blue	837
Boca Raton HS-Bobcat Battalion	812
Hillside HS-Hornets	779
Douglas MacArthur HS-Blue Angels	778

Color Guard

Theodore Roosevelt HS-Riderettes	1116
Pine Ridge HS-Esoteric Reality	1093
T.C. Williams HS-Armageddon Blue	1090
Douglas MacArthur HS-Blue Angels	1075
Hialeah HS-Sinisters	1072

Element Exhibition

Theodore Roosevelt HS-Riderettes	1172
Winston Churchill HS-Queen's Guard	1167
Douglas MacArthur HS-Blue Angels	1072
Oxon Hill HS-Devastation	*1066
Oxon Hill HS-Blue Guard	1066

Flight Exhibition

Theodore Roosevelt HS-Riderettes	1104
Walla Walla HS-Sponsors	1002
Winston Churchill HS-Queen's Guard	987
Douglas MacArthur HS-Blue Angels	960
New York MA-Knights	952

Unarmed

Theodore Roosevelt HS-Riderettes	5216
Winston Churchill HS-Queen's Guard	4914

Dual Exhibition

1st: Johnson & Bartlett-NB Forrest HS	
2nd: Tanner & Cabiness-Heritage HS	
3rd: Santiago & Henderson-TC Williams HS	

Alternative Arms

Enterprise HS-Belles of the Blue Knights	973
Palm Bay HS-Lady Pirates	934
Springfield HS-Grenadiers	912
Millersburg MA-Fighting Cadets	904
Miami Coral Park HS-Hurricanes	898

Regulation

Clarksville HS-Ladycats	*836
Jeffersontown HS-Leatherettes	836
Palm Bay HS-Lady Pirates	830
Millersburg MA-Fighting Cadets	798
Lyman HS-Lady Greys	771

Color Guard

Springfield HS-Grenadiers	1036
Miami Coral Park HS-Hurricanes	1010
Clarksville HS-Ladycats	998
Lyman HS-Lady Greys	980
Palm Bay HS-Lady Pirates	969

Squad Exhibition

Springfield HS-Grenadiers	1042
Miami Coral Park HS-Hurricanes	1024
Enterprise HS-Belles of the Blue Knights	970
Lyman HS-Lady Greys	958
Jeffersontown HS-Leatherettes	933

Platoon Exhibition

Millersburg MA-Fighting Cadets	990
Palm Bay HS-Lady Pirates	959
Leesburg HS-Straight Jackets	947
Jeffersontown HS-Leatherettes	944
Miami Coral Park HS-Hurricanes	926

Alternative Arms

Miami Coral Park HS-Hurricanes	4627
Palm Bay HS-Lady Pirates	4589

Solo Exhibition

1st Place: Cadet Garcia-Lyman HS
 2nd Place: Cadet Harman-Lyman HS
 3rd Place: Cadet Hall-Springfield HS

Dual Exhibition

1st: Garcia & Harman-Lyman HS
 2nd: Kendall & Akridge-Clarksville HS
 3rd: Cook & Trevathan-Millerburb MA*