



**2023 U.S. ARMY ROCKY MOUNTAIN DRILL CLASSIC
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES - RULES & REGULATIONS
GENERAL SOP - TABLE OF CONTENTS**

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SECTION 1 - EVENT OVERVIEW

A. The Rocky Mountain Drill Classic (RMDC) Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

1. This SOP includes all information that is pertinent to the competition and necessary for your team's preparation & attendance at the Rocky Mountain Drill Classic (RMDC). The success or failure of your trip depends on your ability to understand and execute in accordance with the regulations of the RMDC which mirror those at other national level competitions. Please familiarize yourself with this SOP in detail. If after reading the SOP you still have questions, please call or email questions to drill@thenationals.net / 800-327-9311 BEFORE entry if you are unclear about any aspect of the upcoming event.

2. **To register for the RMDC**, go to the NEW official home of the RMDC at <https://thenationals.net/RMDC>. Click the REGISTER NOW button and you will complete a fillable on-line PDF form. Save this form on your computer and email attach this file and send to the email address listed above. You will receive confirmation of receipt and your entry is confirmed generally within 48 hours. Teams will then provide payment for the School Registration Fee and the Cadet Package Fees (detailed in Section 2 on the following page). With this you will have prepared for your school to maintain your competition space and you are set. **PLEASE complete registration by Tuesday, 28 February 2023 or it may be very difficult for you to gain a competition space!** No school or organization may compete at the RMDC without the proper submission of this form and other required items!

3. All competitors, instructors, and team supporters must follow the rules & procedures of this SOP and of the RMDC.

B. Event Management & Sponsorship

1. The U.S. Army Rocky Mountain Drill Classic (RMDC) is run by the Denver Public Schools JROTC Director of Army Instruction (DAI) with management support led by Sports Network International, Inc. As a long-time civilian contractor for the USACC, Event Manager SNI is tasked to be responsible for organizing many aspects of the competition, from setting up the website, entry, rules and procedures, scoring, trophies, etc. to judges oversight & conduct in accordance with the wishes of the USACC and the Denver JROTC. For fairness, Denver JROTC has no authority over judging and scoring. Any items not specifically covered by your service manual or by this SOP are at the sole discretion and determination of the Judging Director of SNI.

2. The U.S. Army Rocky Mountain Drill Classic has been in existence for more than twenty years and is the highest altitude drill meet in the country! The meet is sponsored by the US Army Cadet Command and as such, maintains an Army-only Championship. However, an All-Service event is held concurrently and seamlessly. NO ARMY FUNDS may be used for the hosting of the all-service aspects of the event, therefore some aspects of the event you will read herein maintain that line of separation and slightly differences for Army JROTC versus all-service JROTC schools. **Be under no illusion, the RMDC is a joint drill meet supporting all five service branches!** Rules and regulations for the event are based on respective service component and mirror standards of national drill meets across the country. Both Denver DAI and Sports Network International stand by to assist competing teams to make the RMDC a fun and unforgettable experience for all Cadets.

3. At the conclusion of the competition, coaches' feedback will be sought to improve future meets. Constructive feedback is welcome and appreciated.

C. Who is Invited to Attend / Who is the Meet Structured For?

1. Great Question! It is an interesting mix of many team types. The meet has been expanded and organized to give Junior ROTC programs primarily in the Western United States a quality drill & ceremony event they can call their own. It is laid out in a way to ensure your cadets have a GREAT TIME ON AND OFF THE COMPETITION DRILL FLOOR! Therefore, we will have many newer programs as well as very well-established ones that maybe just want to make the famous mile high city a part of the closing drill calendar! Teams from all services will be attending. Teams from the far west will be attending. Mostly, CONSIDER ATTENDING!



SECTION 2 - GENERAL EVENT SPECIFICATIONS

A. The Event

1. The Rocky Mountain Drill Classic are open to all-service JROTC programs. All competitors must be current and active members of a JROTC program in order to compete.

2. The RMDC competition consists of an Army Championship (Army only) and an All-Service Championship (all other JROTC units). These events are held concurrently and seamlessly behind the scenes with separate scoring & trophies. The events are the following:

BOTH ARMY & ALL-SERVICE COMPETITIONS MAINTAIN THE FOLLOWING EVENTS COUNTING TOWARDS AN OVERALL TITLE:

- **Team Inspection** (score counts towards BOTH your armed & unarmed team if entering both)
- **4-person Color Guard** (score counts towards BOTH your armed & unarmed team if entering both)
- Both an **Armed Basic & Armed Exhibition** team or
- Both an **Unarmed Basic & Unarmed Exhibition** team

Therefore for example, a school wishing to be eligible for the ARMED Division Championship must enter **one color guard, one inspection team, one Armed Basic and one Armed Exhibition Team**. Competing in these four events would constitute a full entry in the ARMED Division, either Army or All-Service.

Should a school ALSO wish to compete within the UNARMED Division Championship AND therefore the Overall Grand Championship, they would need to enter ONLY an Unarmed Basic (Regulation) and Unarmed Team Exhibition entry (as each school receives duplicate scores in both Armed & Unarmed overall scoring for both their inspection & color guard entries). These two additional different entries **WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE UP OF EXCLUSIVELY DIFFERENT CADETS** than your **ARMED BASIC & EXHIBITION TEAMS**.

Additionally, all cadets REGARDLESS OF THE DIVISION THEY COMPETED WITHIN THROUGHOUT THE DAY, are encouraged to enter the drill down (Knockout Drill) at no additional cost.

Entered schools may enter 2nd and 3rd etc. (and other schools) into the exciting **5280 Color Guard Event** (Open Level Color Guard) or the Armed Solo, Dual or 4-person Exhibition teams (Note: Teams entered competing for an overall Armed Division title are GIVEN two solo, two dual and one 4-person ex entry at no cost). Also remember, the same Cadets may not compete in both team Color Guard and 5280 Color Guard.

B. Costs to Attend, Deadlines, Entry Info & Refund Policy

1. Because the Army has contracted to host the event for Army teams, the registration fee to attend the RMDC is set at a discounted \$100 per school for Army JROTC units. This cost is still just \$200 per school for non-Army JROTC units. All schools pay just ONE school registration fee regardless of whether they enter one full team or two.
2. Costs to enter either the 5280 Color Guard (Open Level Color Guard) or to enter any combination of the solo, dual and 4-person Exhibition events, are \$50 per entry.
3. Additionally, all participating cadets at the RMDC MUST participate in the event through the Team Package Plan. All participating cadets are required to pay just a \$15.00 Team Package Fee. Instructors and other non-competing cadets in your program CAN receive this package if they CHOOSE to do so but it is NOT required. However, when you look at the value for what you receive, you may wish to add administrators, instructors and even parents as they will receive the competition shirt, competition patch & year arc, and a gorgeous 8" x 10" color team photo.
4. Once your school has registered into the RMDC, School Registration Fees are completely nonrefundable. The Refund Exception Policy is outlined below under "Important Refund Exception Note". Also, schools that do not submit the required paperwork and/or the Team Package Fees on-time may be removed from the event with no refund of the school's registration fee.
5. MOST IMPORTANT: After submitting the School Registration Fee and later the Team Package Fees, ***these monies are totally NON-REFUNDABLE***. SNI must pay for the many items involved within the Team Package Plan (shirts, patches, photography items, numerous competition related items). If it is necessary to cancel or "drop" anyone who has paid the Team Package Fees, the school should find someone else from the program to substitute for that person as they cannot be "dropped". If this is not done, the school will pay for & receive all of the package materials they requested. You are responsible for the total number of packages you have requested (including changes called in by telephone.) Again, the refund exception policy is outlined below.
6. To add any individuals to your paperwork after you have sent in the paperwork and money, this can be done yourself on your MySchool website until just weeks before the event. At this time, changes are locked out and a telephone call is the best method to assist. DO NOT fax, email or mail totally revised participant lists or other changes. Depending on the balance you owe for these individuals, SNI will either have you send a supplemental payment or pay any small balance due upon arrival. You should always verify any changes by checking your MY SCHOOL website.

Important Refund Exception Notes:

SNI understands that a blanket refund policy may appear inflexible. Understand however that over 10K dollars in non-refundable, up-front payments are made by SNI each year to ensure every team coming to the event has a fantastic, well-planned competition. Teams simply deciding not to attend, albeit for valid reasons, would make hosting this event impossible to accomplish. Because of world events and the often over-reaction that can occur from schools and school boards, SNI will refund any school registration fee should a school board, principal, or other governmental oversight body ban school travel (and therefore your attendance) PRIOR to the Team Package Fee deadline. (Note: all teams should find out their current school board policy regarding travel BEFORE registering to enter this event). IF FOR ANY REASON the event is cancelled, all schools will be given a full refund of school registration fees paid. SNI will ship at our expense all pre-paid event shirts and medallions to your unit. Understand that SNI will not put cadets or anyone else at risk through attending the Army Nationals. Thank you for your understanding on this matter.

7. Again, schools making the decision to attend RMDC should reserve a competition slot by registering on-line in January or February with a hard deadline of Tuesday, 28 February 2023. Space is limited at this event and registration is first-come, first-served. Registration Fees are due no later than 10-14 days after your registration form is submitted.

8. Parking immediately adjacent to the National Western Complex is limited and shared with other events using the venue. Schools should have their buses drop them off and pick them when the event is complete. There are nearby lots available. Both free and paid parking are available near the complex for spectators. Parking is not controlled by Denver DAI nor SNI.

C. Competition Discipline & Conduct.

1. Discipline problems are not expected at a drill meet of this caliber. Denver DAI and SNI reserve the right to remove any individual, group, or entire unit from the event for destructive, profane, or other conduct unbecoming JROTC Cadets or detrimental to the RMDC. This includes misconduct in or around the RMDC competition site, any hotels or common areas outside. **Supervision of Cadets is the responsibility of team coaches & JROTC cadre.**

2. While Cadets are waiting to compete or spectating, they must be either: #1) in the stadium concourse or stands, #2) at the concession or rest room areas, #3) in the dressing areas readying for competition, or #4) in their designated team area. Dressing areas are provided solely for the convenience of teams. These areas are unsecured. Teams using these areas should not leave personal belongings unattended. Any abuse of these facilities will not be tolerated. While at the National Western Complex, teams should only change in dressing rooms or restroom facilities. Do not allow Cadets to dress in the bleachers.

3. Teams should bring all needed equipment to clean/shine shoes, belts, buckles, uniforms etc. Hotel towels or other hotel items are NOT to be used to polish shoes, etc.

D. Commander's Call. No formal Commander's Call or coaches' meeting will be held for RMDC so that teams competing late in the day do not have to be on site all-day. **Please submit any questions in advance via email or telephone.** A Zoom conference call will be slated one week out with schools to handle any last-minute items however, last minute instructor questions should be addressed either in advance whenever possible. An optional site orientation may be conducted either the day prior or the morning of the event for interested coaches/captains if the venue is able to accommodate it based on setup requirements and other events however no practice in the facility is available the day prior.

E. Awards Ceremony

1. The Awards Ceremony will immediately follow completion of all graded events and an optional individual Cadet Unarmed Drill Down. It will be held in the main arena. Fixed, raised seating will be maintained for teams and all trophies and awards will be distributed.

2. No team placements will be posted or announced in advance. The Awards Ceremony is as much a part of the RMDC as any team event. Attendance is EXPECTED unless prior permission has been granted for true emergencies.

3. All teams are expected to attend in uniform. Failure to attend the ceremony without prior coordination may preclude invitation of the school in the future. Should a true emergency keep a unit from attending the ceremony, arrangements will be made to ship trophies to your unit.

SECTION 3 - COMPETITION AREA SPECIFICATIONS

A. National Western Complex

1. The Rocky Mountain Drill Classic takes place at the National Western Complex Stadium Arena and Stadium Hall. The National Western Complex has full concession facilities, public dressing rooms, and ample car/bus parking areas, as well as elevated seating for 4,000 spectators for teams to view the performances of other drill units at the event.
2. Due to the high ceilings and ceremonial nature of the event, OUTDOOR REGULATIONS are in effect throughout all facets of the drill meet. Covers will be worn and salutes will be rendered while performing or receiving trophies.
3. Drill areas and their corresponding ready areas will be on the arena layout provided during check-in. Separate drill area schematics will be provided for each competition to include dimensions.
4. The National Western Complex does not provide advanced medical services on-site. However, emergency medical services can be summoned at any time for major medical trauma within minutes. A Denver Fire Department sub-station is located within 1/4 mile of the venue. All units should bring a basic first aid kit to attend to minor injuries sustained while on the drill floor, while practicing or traveling. Denver DAI will have a minimal first-aid kit available directly adjacent to the scoring table on the main floor. Should you require medical assistance while at the event, please get to the First Aid Table.
5. At no time may schools block the flow of foot traffic with rifle crates, dressing racks or other large equipment in walkways. Each school will be provided a designated unsecured area to store equipment. The elevator is available for handicap and big item egress to the upper deck. No other use of the elevator is allowed.
6. Designated practice areas are available INSIDE the building. Schools may utilize designated open areas outside for practice as well (weather dependent).
7. Individuals/teams may not be in ANY competition drill area at any time other than their competition time (no advance 'walking off the routine' or practice before the event, during lunch, etc.).

B. Drill Area Specifications

1. All drill areas are indoors at the National Western Complex. The general drill area dimensions and surroundings for each area are as follows:
 - *Inspection Area* (30' x 50'; Ceiling 13', concrete floor)
 - *Armed Drill (Exh. & Reg.)* (95' x 75'; Ceiling 50', concrete floor)
 - *Unarmed Drill (Exh. & Reg.)* (95' x 75'; Ceiling 50', concrete floor)
 - *Color Guard* (38' x 60'; Ceiling 13', concrete floor)
 - *Solo, Dual, & Quad Drill* (38' x 60'; Ceiling 13', concrete floor)
2. Drill areas use tape connected to traffic pylons set on the floor or fencing. All drill areas use designated entrance/exit point. This point will vary depending on the drill area (see maps) but all points are 20' across (with the exception of Inspection areas, Color Guard areas & Solo/Dual/Quad areas which are smaller and diagrammed specifically). These are the only points where a team may enter/exit – (please don't ask for an exception).

3. Head Judge placement is marked by an ORANGE cone to allow your marching commander to find this spot easier at a distance while in motion.
4. Boundary violations are penalized when a Cadet or his/her clothing comes in contact with any part of the boundary tape or the support cones when properly set. Should the boundary tape or cones become dislodged, a violation will occur when a Cadet crosses the point where the tape/cone should have been were it not displaced
5. Teams should be aware that each drill area maintains 4-6 judge's chairs placed against the boundary tape inside the drill area. If you believe they could hinder your team's performance, you may remove these chairs BUT you must replace these chairs immediately following your performance or face the wrath of the judges!

SECTION 4 - COMPETITION RULES

A. Eligibility & Performance.

1. While the Armed/Unarmed Divisions use a service manual as a guideline (TC 3-21.5 & AFMAN36-2203, respectively), event judges are trained to score competing units in accordance with the performers' chosen service manual. This allows all units to compete at the RMDC on an even basis, be it Army, Marine, Navy or Air Force/Space Force. However, the big three manuals for the Army, Air Force, and Navy/Marines are the only ones authorized for use. The Cadet Field Manual nor any other manuals are known to the judges and are not approved.
2. A full team at RMDC is comprised of 10 Cadets minimum with no maximum limit. With these cadets numbers, teams may compete in all team events within your competition division.
3. SOP changes or clarifications will be covered in advance. As changes are made, they will be posted on the SOP Update section of the main RMDC website UNITS SHOULD CHECK THIS WEBSITE FOR ANY UPDATES up until the week prior to the competition.

B. Team Entries.

1. To qualify for any Rocky Mountain Drill Classic Armed or Unarmed Championship, a school must enter teams in all four team events counted towards the overall title - although the school only needs to field one Color Guard team and one Inspection team. That is, if a school enters teams in both Armed and Unarmed Divisions, they will actually compete in only six events since the school Color Guard and Inspection event will count in both divisions. In this case, the Color Guard and Inspection teams may be comprised of Cadets on either the Armed or Unarmed teams or a mix of both.
2. As the judges will be common between the Army and All service events, those schools entering both a complete ARMED and UNARMED division team are also competing for the VFW Cup (formerly known as the "Norwich Cup" Trophy. It is without parallel one of the most impressive awards ever presented within JROTC.
3. Cadets are NOT PERMITTED to compete in both Armed & Unarmed division Basic or Exhibition events due to the tight scheduling of events. **No exceptions can be granted.** Also, no individual cadet may compete in both team Color Guard and 5280 Color Guard). Any cadet violating this rule will render the 2nd team they competed for as a disqualification.

6. Schools wishing to enter a 'stand-alone' color guard (a color guard that maintains no attached drill team) must do so in the 5280 Color Guard competition only. This event is held throughout the day for teams of all skill levels. NOTE: Schools with Cadets who do NOT compete on their Color Guard unit may compete in the 5280 Color Guard.

7. Every team from a school MUST be denoted with a distinctive & descriptive team name (i.e., Acme High School-Eagle Battalion & Hawk Battalion cannot be named simply "A" Team and "B" Team). All names should obviously reflect good taste with military, historical and/or school nicknames preferred.

Entry Example 1:

Acme HS enters complete teams in both Armed and Unarmed Divisions and teams in Single and Dual Armed Exhibition. Entry fee is \$100 for Army JROTC units or \$200 for non-Army teams). Acme HS is eligible for trophies in 8 of the 10 event trophies, Overall Armed and Unarmed Division Trophies, and the VFW Cup (Event Grand Champion).

Armed Division		Unarmed Division		5280 Color Guard		Armed Exhibition	
X	Regulation	X	Regulation			2	Single
X	Exhibition	X	Exhibition			1	Dual
		X	Inspection				Quad
		X	Color Guard				

Entry Example 2:

Acme HS enters one complete team in the Unarmed Division and an additional team in the 5280 Color Guard event. Entry fee is \$100 for Army JROTC units or \$200 for non-Army teams). and \$50 for 5280 Color Guard (OLCG). Acme HS is eligible for trophies in 5 events and the Overall Unarmed Division Championship. They are NOT eligible for the VFW Cup.

Armed Division		Unarmed Division		5280 Color Guard		Armed Exhibition	
	Inspection	X	Inspection	X			Single
	Regulation	X	Regulation				Dual
		X	Inspection				Quad
		X	Color Guard				

Entry Example 3:

Acme HS enters two teams in the 5280 Color Guard event, two cadets in solo exhibition, two teams in Dual Armed Exhibition, and one team in Quad Armed Exhibition. Entry fee is \$50 for 5280 Color Guard and \$50 for Individual Cadet Exhibition entries for a total of \$90. Acme HS is eligible for trophies in 4 events. They are not eligible for the Overall Armed/Unarmed Division Trophies nor the VFW Cup.

Armed Division		Unarmed Division		5280 Color Guard		Armed Exhibition	
	Inspection		Inspection	X		2	Single
	Regulation		Regulation			2	Dual
			Inspection			1	Quad
			Color Guard				

C. Competition Schedules

1. Event start and projected finish times will be determined once all registrations have been received. However, the event is expected to start at 0800 and finish no later than 1600. Individual team start times will be given to each school at least one week in advance. Please don't ask for these in advance – they will not be available.

D. Commander's Regulations.

1. Within each non-exhibition team event, only one commander may lead the unit. This commander must be the person to verbally report in, report out, and maintain overall "control" of the performance. A 25-point penalty on the head judge's score sheet will be assessed if the commander does not lead the group during the routine or transfers this duty to someone else within the squad. Teams may highlight the talent of other Cadets, and are encouraged to do so, but this must NOT be done in the form of a transfer of leadership. It is NOT required that the same commander be used in all team events.

2. Report in/report out is required for all events and is done VERBALLY by the event CADET COMMANDER. The entire team may salute or also verbally report in WITH the Cadet Commander, but not in lieu of the Cadet Commander (NOTE: most judges feel this type of group report is an exhibition-only movement). In Color Guard, the Cadet Commander will be recognized and executed correctly as the National Color bearer. At no time may any commander perform using any form of cue card or other form of prompting.

3. Cadet Commanders will not move to review their Cadets for perfect dress & cover during any basic event. Cadets at this level are expected to maintain adequate dress & cover without supplemental instruction from the Cadet Commander. Cadet Commanders who move to review the ranks will be graded down for their efforts - DON'T DO IT.

E. Uniform & Rank Regulations.

1. All teams competing at the RMDC during non-exhibition performances (Inspection, Regulation, & Color Guard) will wear a regulation military uniform of their choosing. This uniform may be dress or service issue and must include headgear. The uniform must be worn in accordance with a written regulation or manual that can be clearly enumerated, defined, and utilized by judges to grade and review. Military academies or schools must ensure in advance that their uniform will be approved! This information will be presented to the judges in advance to ensure schools are not penalized. We believe this rule will allow the judges to better score each Cadet.



2. Cadets must wear a military-style uniform. These include:

- Marine and Army Dress Blue Uniform / Air Force, Army & Navy Academy Uniforms
- Standard Class "A" or "B" service uniforms. (NOTE: In many cases, ties are not required by the service manual and therefore, are not a required item here).

3. Below are uniform issues seen previously during competitions. This is not a comprehensive list of items not allowed/disallowed. It is a starting point to give competitors the 'spirit of the law' for regulation drill events including Color Guards (Exhibition Teams may still wear anything they wish).

- No wristbands, headbands, ascots, or other related neckwear (ascots, scarves, etc. are strictly exhibition wear).
- No spatz, boot blouses, or related fancy legging items. Leather or high-gloss shoes are appropriate for regulation with straight leg pants. Boots are prohibited in regulation events. Shoe taps may be worn during any event of the RMDC competition.
- A single cord on each shoulder may be worn. DO NOT wear two cords on one shoulder.
- Gloves of any type MAY be worn with ANY uniform.
- No web belts, pistol belts, ceremonial belts or similar items may be worn except in accordance with service regulation or when required to wear in Color Guard competition (note: fanny packs are NOT authorized – the military manuals direct where the casings are CORRECTLY placed).
- All Cadet Commanders opting to carry a sword in any division may wear the needed peripheral item to carry the sword without this being considered exhibition wear.
- Teams are expected to have a name tag and/or medals/ribbons on their uniform for inspection depending on the uniform worn. If your uniform calls for them and you do not have them, you will look out-of-place and judges may judge you harshly on that segment of the scoresheet!

4. Due to service variations, differing headgear is acceptable. However, no helmets, plumes, or 'exhibition' headgear will be worn during regulation events – even for Color Guard. Berets are common cover in JROTC and are allowed in all events. Most services have specific regulations regarding acceptable beret colors for JROTC Cadets (i.e. colors authorized for regular military units are typically not authorized for JROTC).

5. Color casings MAY have personalization – any color casing is perfectly fine.

6. Teams with uniforms that are “dressed-up” outside the letter or spirit of what is outlined on page 7-7 run the risk of a penalty. Call or email in advance with any uniform questions. Teams that wear a prohibited item (i.e., ascots, spatz, multiple ropes, etc.) OR omit a required item will face a per occurrence penalty in regulation competition. Request a waiver.

7. SNI works closely with all JROTC HQs to support their directives fully. Please ensure your unit is meeting all service requirements for proper dress for both your instructors and your cadets. It is your responsibility to confirm any regulations in place regarding appropriate uniform usage. Failure to maintain required waivers will result in a Major Uniform penalty (-50) in each event where this occurs.

8. In choosing an exhibition event uniform, remember the event is judged by military personnel with many years of military experience. Dressing in a less-than-military fashion CAN/WILL negatively impact scores.

9. At minimum, instructors should wear collared shirt and slacks - but are encouraged to wear respective service uniform. All judges will be in a military uniform.

F. General Judging Items

1. Only three service manuals are recognized at the RMDC: 1) Army TC 3-21.5; 2) MCO P5060.20; and 3) AFMAN 36-2203. Navy units wishing to do NAVY/USMC drill **MUST USE** the MCO P5060.20 since no judges are familiar with the Navy JROTC Cadet Field Manual. It is YOUR responsibility to ensure your drill conforms with one of these three manuals only.

2. Judges are acquired through service training commands, base honor guards, etc. Judges are selected based on availability, knowledge, and experience. All RMDC judges are trained in advance and on-site to prepare them to implement both service and event regulations. Judges are placed into 3 to 5-person groups with various duties & responsibilities for each. In Solo/Dual/Quad Exhibition, judges may be assigned into 3-person groups with service backgrounds spread to ensure diversity of opinion.

G. General Performance Regulations.

1. Teams must contain the following prescribed numbers of Cadets:

Armed Division / Unarmed Division – Army or All-Service

- **Unit Inspection** – 8-12 Cadets plus a Cadet commander ONLY
- **Color Guard** - 4 Cadets, two rifles/two flags (ONLY - no exceptions)
- **Flight/Platoon Basic/Regulation** – 9-12 Cadets plus a commander ONLY!
- **Team Exhibition** - Minimum of 8 Cadets plus a commander; no maximum number

2. During report in, the commander must verbally announce the school and/or team name and service affiliation. In basic events they must also state "we will drill in accordance with XXX manual" or words to that effect (Note: This is critical -- don't make a judge guess). In Inspection, the CDR should note the service manual used covering the Uniform and Appearance guidelines. Other items may be mentioned during report in, but are not required. During report out, they should give their school name and make clear they are completed. It is customary to ask permission to enter and depart.

3. New for this year and beyond, teams are **PERMITTED** to call cadence or otherwise generate sounds as recommended within their drill manual.

4. Teams missing a Cadet incur a 25-point penalty per missing Cadet. Teams may not take the floor with more than two Cadets missing. Color Guard units may only take the floor with a full, four-person color guard. Cadets will be considered missing if they do not enter & depart the floor with the unit.

5. The standard cadence for regulation drill and color guard for all schools is 116 to 124 steps per minute. In all other events, cadence is left up to the discretion of the performing team. A 30-inch step is mandatory during the regulation events in all divisions (NOTE: including Air Force JROTC schools drilling in accordance with AFMAN 36-2203). Teams should closely review their use of a 30" step to avoid being marked down by judges.

6. Many stationary movements listed in Basic/Regulation and Color Guard Drill have been **CAPITALIZED IN BOLD PRINT**. These commands must be performed with a 5-SECOND PAUSE - between *the completion of the first movement* and *the command to begin the next movement*. Failure to perform the movements with the required pause will result in a 5-point per-occurrence penalty.

7. During Regulation and Color Guard Drill, the performance of extra movements not required by your service or the drill sequence (done primarily to avoid boundary violations), will result in a 5-point per-occurrence penalty. Special attention is also given to judges to ensure proper enforcement of regulation movements and recognizing improper actions (i.e., foot stomping, improper flashy movements, etc.).

8. No bayonets, handguns, special effects, props, music, or musical instruments, (bugles, drums - ANY musical instrument), pyrotechnics or banners/flags (except those required to perform) are allowed to be used while performing. Additionally, no horns, whistles, or any other artificial noise-making devices may be used by spectators at any time.

9. It is common practice to have spectators deliver signals to let their unit know they are approaching their performance time limit. This is not prohibited as long as the guidelines described above on whistles and other artificial noise-making devices are followed. Teams/individuals may be removed from the event for violating this rule.

10. If a drill rifle breaks or becomes unusable during any performance at the RMDC, or if an additional rifle is to be added in exhibition drill, a back-up drill rifle may be handed to a performing Cadet. This drill rifle hand-off will be made only by a performing Cadet leaving the formation, moving to the boundary, and having a new rifle exchanged with someone just outside the competition area. He/she will then rejoin the formation and continue the performance. No added time will be allowed for such an occurrence. This can be done as many times as necessary during a performance.

11. No Cadet may be lifted off the marching surface by any means. Therefore, all Cadets must drill and perform entirely on the floor. Any Cadet that is lifted or otherwise raised off the floor in any manner will cause the judge to immediately move to the team and direct the raised Cadet to be lowered. The team will then be disqualified from that event by RMDC Judging Director.

12. Units should plan to be at the National Western Complex at least 30 minutes before their team's scheduled performance time as parking, unloading, can take time. Teams changing into Exhibition uniforms should do so immediately following their previous event. Teams will have very limited time to change for exhibition competition so plan your time & uniform accordingly. Teams must be in the drill ready area immediately prior to the completion of the group ahead of them. Teams who delay an event due to tardiness may be removed from that event.

13. AFMAN 36-2203 is not allowed for use within the Color Guard competition. The regulations within 36-2203 are not strict enough to be fairly use as a standard. Air Force teams should use the latest edition of the Army TC 3-21.5. As per USMC HQ directive, all Marine Corps JROTC teams competing at the Nationals MUST utilize the equipment, marching style and movements outlined within the Marine Corps Order. Case and uncase procedures have been standardized for ALL units to execute the prescribed movements as per the instructions found on the Scoresheet & SOP section of the RMDC website to include Marines.

14. A single guide (flag bearer) is permitted during team exhibition only (NOT ALLOWED in Inspection, Regulation or Color Guard). His or her inclusion does not apply to the number of Cadets allowed in the exhibition event.

SECTION 5 - RMDC SCORING, TIMING, & TIE-BREAKING

A. Event Timing.

1. The penalty assessed for a performance not falling between these time periods is ONE (1) POINT PER SECOND OVER/UNDER THE TIME RANGE. Time limits are as follows:
 - Exhibition Drill - **Minimum 5 Minutes - Maximum 8 Minutes**
 - Solo, Dual, & Quad Armed Exhibition - **Minimum 2 Minutes - Maximum 3 Minutes**

Important Note!

Only exhibition events maintain a time limit. SEVEN MINUTES is the targeted time goal for the judges for most other events. DO NOT prolong the report in/out process or the uncase movements, as a judge may score down in their overall unit evaluation.

2. The time starts when the FIRST Cadet enters a drill floor and ends when the LAST Cadet exits. If space is limited for entry/exit, time starts when the first Cadet begins marching into the area and ends when the unit is halted upon departure (even if Cadets are still in the area such as with a long column formation).
3. Exhibition teams sometimes include team/individual motivation displays just prior to the unit entering the drill area causing a judge to wait. Those displays are part of your exhibition routine. Teams performing any choreographed team display just prior to entering the drill floor MAY have the clock start and judging begin to include this display. These displays are not discouraged but teams should plan that the time MAY BE included in their routine performance. Please ensure your performance does not go over max time by doing this.

B. Scoresheets.

1. Scoresheets for the meet are found on the event website on the Paperwork HQ.
2. Complete scoring packages are given to each school immediately following the Awards Ceremony. Schools will receive their score sheets Saturday evening. Schools will also receive a scoring report for their Division in this package. Questions regarding any of these items can be best addressed following the event by telephone or in writing.
3. Every score sheet completed by a judge during the meet are triple-checked by SNI, as well as inputted & totaled on a computer program designed for the RMDC by SNI.

C. Overall Scoring.

1. Scoring in all divisions is straight-forward and standard. The number of males or females on a team is not a consideration for judges when evaluating teams for scores. There are not bonus or penalties based on gender of team members.
2. Judges are monitored throughout the day and reminded about the standard and consistency needed to provide fair judging for schools regardless of when they compete during the day.
3. Judges look to determine the degree of difficulty of a team performance (largely in exhibition drill) that have nothing to do with the actual marching and/or rifle maneuvers. These items can include the total number of competitors performing on the floor, type of covers/jackets worn, rifle weight, and other related items.

D. Tie-Breaking Information

1. The fundamental scoring system in use for the RMDC is known as a Proportional Event Scoring System. In short, scoring in this manner ensures all events of the competition receive the exact percentage of points available, while taking into account the level of excellence each school displays in their raw score total compared to their competitors.



2. All team events are worth exactly 1,200 points each. The school that wins any particular event receives the maximum points available within that event. For example, the school with the highest raw point total earned in Inspection will receive 1,200 points (regardless of the actual points awarded by the judges). The 2nd place finisher receives a percentage of the 1,200 points identical to the percentage they finished behind the first-place team. Third, fourth, and subsequent teams will all receive points in the same manner.

3. A practical example of this application is shown in the shortened table below. The judges' raw points awarded are listed, along with the percentage each team finished behind the winner. These percentages then multiply into the total max points available to generate Scoring Points total for each school within that event.

Event Finish	Judge Raw Score Earned	Actual Score/ % of Winning Score	Proportional Scoring Points Earned
1st place team	1080 pts.	100% (1080 of 1080)	1,200 pts. awarded (100% of 1,200 pts)
2nd place team	990 pts.	91.7% (990 of 1080)	1,100 pts. awarded (91.7% of 1,200 pts)
3rd place team	888 pts.	82.2% (788 of 1080)	986 pts. awarded (82.2% of 1,200 pts)
4th place team	733 pts.	67.9% (733 of 1080)	815 pts. awarded (67.9% of 1,200 pts)
5th place team	680 pts.	62.9% (680 of 1080)	755 pts. awarded (62.9% of 1,200 pts)
6th place team	540 pts.	50.0% (540 of 1080)	600 pts. awarded (50% pf 1,200 pts)

4. All efforts are made to prevent scoring ties at the RMDC. All team and individual event and Overall Championship scoring ties will be broken by re-totaling scoresheets utilizing the applicable tie-breaker in the following order:

For Team Events/Individual Events:

- ◆ Level #1 - total only Head Judge's scores
- ◆ Level #2 - total only overall evaluation scores
- ◆ Level #3 - total only Judge #2, then #3, etc.
- ◆ Level #4 - team w/least total penalty points
- ◆ Level #5 – team that competed EARLIEST

FIRST Level for Cadet Commander ties:

- ◆ Highest finishing Regulation Drill team

Overall or Event Championship Totals:

- ◆ Level #1 - highest total raw points earned
- ◆ Level #2 – most 1st place trophies earned
- ◆ Level #3 - most team trophies earned total

5. SNI allows scoresheets to be reviewed by a single team representative immediately after the team has left the drill floor (with the exception of the Color Guard Inspection). After the event runner collects the score sheets from the judges, the runner will MOVE off the drill area. In inspection, this will happen just outside the exit doors. In all other events, this will happen just off the drill area near the entry/exit point.



The team may then have a single person designated to review the scoresheets for obvious errors in any of the following areas ONLY: 1) A judge has omitted a score entirely; 2) A judge has provided a score which may be out of normal and the team wishes to seek a review (i.e., the judge has provided successive scores of 27, 26, 24, 25 and then gives a "2" without explanation), or 3) a judge has applied either an RMDC SOP rule incorrectly or a service specific rule incorrectly.

6. If a team requests an official review under one of the allowed items above, the team representative should accompany the event runner directly to the scoring table and ask to file an official review as the sheets are being turned in. The scoring head will contact the Judging Director who will speak to the team to gain a full understanding of what they are seeking to have reviewed. The Judging Director will then review this with the judge between teams. The event judges and team representative should not have a discussion of any kind without the Judging Director to speed up resolution of the process and avoid unnecessary conflict.

7. A review cannot be requested for reasons that are not based on the event rules. The review must be based on a rule-based error, not subjective aspects of the competition. This review is not designed to be used as a training session or a complete top-to-bottom review of the 'why' for every number on the scoresheet. It will not be timed but it should not last more than a few minutes.

8. This review is designed to catch glaring errors and will give the team a chance for a quick, double-check to ensure that errors are corrected on the spot. Errors are rare, but teams should know they have this right. Judges will NOT wait for this process as it happens since they must keep the competition moving.



SECTION 6 – DRILL DOWN / KNOCKOUT DRILLS

A. General Information.

1. All Cadets competing in any event at the Nationals may enter the Unarmed Knockout Drill. There will be just one knockout held. It will be open to all Cadets. It will take place after completion of all events and prior to the awards ceremony. There is no separate entry fee for the Drill Down/ Knockout Drill. There is also no ability to “re-enter” if knocked out.



2. Uniforms (standard or exhibition are acceptable) and grooming should be presented appropriately. Covers are required to be worn and worn properly. Those not in compliance may be "knocked out" at any time.

3. Cadets will be called to the floor and will be arranged at double-arm interval by the event officials. Cadets will be eliminated one by one until only one remains as the respective knockout champion.

4. No swords or sabers are allowed in the Knockout competition.

B. Judging & Scoring.

1. Knockout is judged by upwards of 30 judges and is a single elimination event. All judges' decisions are considered final. Cadence for the event is rhythmic but NOT 120 counts-per-minute. It will be slow with large time gaps between commands near the beginning when 500-600 cadets are on the floor. These movements will not be published in advance and will be known only to the Head Judge.

2. Cadets will receive a 5-minute briefing to fully explain the procedures in use for the knockout while assembled on the floor. The event begins with pauses in the action to re-form as needed as Cadets are eliminated.

3. Upon being knocked out, Cadets will quietly leave the floor. Cadets are expected to maintain their military bearing while leaving the drill floor. Cadets and spectators in the audience are expected to be quiet during knockouts, keeping noise and commentary to an absolute minimum so that the knockout may be conducted without distractions.

4. Teams should understand that the knockout drill is highly subjective. Winners are often crowned as much by good fortune as talent. Individuals wishing to discuss specific knockout cases are encouraged to do so AFTER the event is completed to be fair to the Cadets remaining on the drill floor. No discussion will take place during the knockout drill about anything relating to the competition itself, not can any appeal be made to replace cadets on the floor for a perceived judge error, etc.

SECTION 7 - RMDC TROPHIES & AWARDS

A. Team Events & RMDC Trophies

1. All teams are eligible to win team trophies within each event entered, regardless of how many total events the team enters.
2. The RMDC is actually TWO EVENTS – an ARMY-ONLY Western Champion and an All-Service Western Championship. Overall meet trophies are awarded for Champion and Runner Up in both of these overall competitions.
3. Every team event is scored with 1st thru 3rd place trophies awarded in BOTH Army and All-Service. Drill Down (Knockout).
4. 5280 Color Guard (OLCG) and all armed individual Exhibition cadets are NOT part of this split and will be treated as ONLY part of the All-Service event. Because these are all scored together, 1st thru 5th place trophies will be awarded in the 5280 Color Guard, the Armed Ex Solo and the Armed Ex Dual. Due to more limited numbers, the 4-Person Quad exhibition will maintain only 1st thru 3rd event trophies.

B. Determining the Overall & Champions for each Division.

1. Overall division placement is determined by a team's finish within each of the four team events (Inspection, Regulation, Exhibition, and Color Guard) - not simply by the raw score earned. The scoring system in use for the RMDC is known as a Proportional Event Scoring System. This method ensures all events of the competition receive the exact percentage of points available while taking into account the level of excellence each school displays in their raw score total compared to their competitors. Full scoring and tie breaking procedures are found under Section 5, Overall Scoring & Tie-Breaking Information. Obviously, raw scores will be used within non-overall scoring areas.

C. Solo, Dual, and Quad Armed Exhibition Events.

1. Top Finishers in the Solo & Dual Armed Exhibition events will be awarded individual medallions for 1st thru 5th place. Quad Armed Exhibition event top finishers (due to more modest entry numbers) will maintain 1st thru 3rd awards. Medals are presented to EVERY member of the performing team.

D. The VFW Cup (formerly the Norwich Cup).

1. The VFW Cup will be derived from combined scores of schools that enter both Armed and Unarmed Divisions in a total of six events (Armed Regulation, Unarmed Regulation, Armed Exhibition, Unarmed Exhibition, Color Guard (only one) & Inspection (only one)). First, second & third place overall awards are presented in this Grand Champion Arena.

E. Drill Down /Knockout Drill) Awards.

1. Special medallions will be awarded to the top 10 finalists in the Unarmed Knockout Drills. These awards are presented immediately following this exciting competition, along with a receiving line of handshakes from all of the judges involved in the event.

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