

THE 5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL CAPITAL INVITATIONAL DRILL CLASSIC BROUGHT TOGETHER ANOTHER OUTSTANDING GROUP OF AIR FORCE JUNIOR ROTC UNITS FROM ALL CORNERS OF THE UNITED STATES, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES FROM 15 STATES AS FAR AWAY AS COLORADO, MICHIGAN, TEXAS, FLORIDA & NEW HAMPSHIRE. THE TREMENDOUS DIVERSITY IN GEOGRAPHY WAS IN STARK CONTRAST TO THE AMAZING UNIFORMITY ON THE DRILL FLOOR AS CADETS DISPLAYED LASER-GUIDED FOCUS ON THE GOAL OF A STRONG FINISH AT THE EVENT THAT HAS GROWN TO BE KNOWN AS THE "AIR FORCE NATIONALS." FRESH FACES MARCHED INTO COMPETITION AREAS TO SHOW HOW THOUSANDS OF HOURS OF TRAINING HAVE TRANSFORMED THESE PREMIERE AFJROTC CADETS INTO LEAN, MEAN DRILLING MACHINES! WITHOUT QUESTION, THE NCIDC REMAINS THE LARGEST AND FINEST AFJROTC-ONLY NATIONAL DRILL COMPETITION HELD ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

Each March, the "Air Force Nationals" provides unparalleled memories for the competing cadets, both on and off the drill floor. The 89<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing from Andrews AFB provides much of the logistical support for the competition and the Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex in Landover, Maryland provides the first-class surroundings needed for an event of this stature. These two entities provide the one-two punch that helped to make the 2005 event very special for the attending cadets!

#### ARMED DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

Midwestern powerhouse **Bellevue West HS** from **Bellevue, Nebraska** displayed the type of flair and showmanship that had given them the reputation as the team to beat at the 2005 competition. As the scores came in, they did not fail to disappoint. The **Lady Silent Sentry** drill unit put up impressive finishes in all four team events, with an especially eye-popping 1<sup>st</sup> place finish in Exhibition drill which helped them to their Runner-Up finish. However, with near flawless precision on the Regulation side, **Coventry HS** from **Coventry, Rhode Island** powered their way to a third consecutive Armed Division crown. Brute strength was the deciding factor as the **Falcons** drill team garnered 1<sup>st</sup> place finishes in Inspection, Regulation & Color Guard events. A 4<sup>th</sup> place finish in Exhibition gave this Ocean State dynasty all the quality points they needed to wrap up their victory handily.

A log jam of schools vied for 3<sup>rd</sup> place with flashy **Spring Valley HS** from **Columbia, South Carolina** grabbing third. The **Vikings** drill team were paced by strong 3<sup>rd</sup> place showings in both Regulation & Exhibition events, allowing them to eke out the tight victory over 4<sup>th</sup> place overall finisher **Franklin K. Lane**

## A BLAZE OF GLORY AT THE "AIR FORCE NATIONALS"

*Both the Armed & Unarmed competitions were filled with impressive cadets all looking to make their mark at the largest Air Force only drill competition held anywhere in the world!*

HS from Brooklyn, New York (2<sup>nd</sup>-Regulation and 4<sup>th</sup>-Inspection). Just missing in 5<sup>th</sup> place overall was **E.E. Smith HS** from **Fayetteville, North Carolina** despite trophy placements within Inspection, Color Guard and Exhibition.

Other solid Armed Division finishes included: **Warren HS** (2<sup>nd</sup>-Inspection); **Springfield Central HS** (2<sup>nd</sup>-Exhibition); **Burncoat HS** (3<sup>rd</sup>-Color Guard); **North Quincy HS** (5<sup>th</sup>-Color Guard); **Oxon Hill HS** (5<sup>th</sup>-Regulation) and **Lackey HS** (5<sup>th</sup>-Inspection).

#### UNARMED DIVISION

The 2005 Unarmed Division competition is always a dogfight but this year, even more strong teams were part of the mix, making the final outcome truly up for grabs between a half-dozen impressive programs.

2003 Overall Unarmed Champion **Southern Regional HS** from **Manahawkin, New Jersey** vowed to return to excellence in 2005 and they did. Using their patented style of pounding the "basic" events for all they are worth and then hanging on in exhibition drill, the **Blue Knights** drill team grabbed 1<sup>st</sup> place finishes in both Inspection & Color Guard, a strong 3<sup>rd</sup> place Regulation finish, and then held on with an 8<sup>th</sup> place finish in Exhibition drill to bring home the title. With the recent departure of drill zen master MSgt. Lee Messina, Southern Regional HS will need to work extra hard to maintain the strong program they have created.

With an eerily similar quality to the 2004 competition, **Sandalwood HS** from **Jacksonville, Florida** gave it everything they had but again came up just short by capturing the Unarmed Overall Runner-up title. The **Silver Eagles** drill team earned three trophies with only an unusually soft 6<sup>th</sup> place Exhibition finish keeping the team from making up the single quality point they needed to close the gap and claim overall victory.

Another tight finisher was the always-tough **Oxon Hill HS** from just down the road in **Oxon Hill, Maryland**. With three awesome trophy finishes (2<sup>nd</sup>-Regulation, 3<sup>rd</sup>-Color Guard & Ex), only a hard luck 9<sup>th</sup> place in Inspection kept the **Blue Guard** drill team from gaining the title and forced them to settle for a 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall finish.

Flashy **Bellvue West HS** captivated the crowd as no team has ever done before with arguably the finest Unarmed Exhibition routine ever witnessed! This impressive 1<sup>st</sup> place finish in Exhibition drill paced an overall strong performance and gave this well-rounded program a 4<sup>th</sup> place overall finish. **Lackey HS** from **Indian Head, Maryland** also built on their strong 2<sup>nd</sup> place Exhibition to gain 5<sup>th</sup> place overall in the Unarmed Division.

Other Unarmed Division finishes included: **Springfield Central HS** (2<sup>nd</sup>-Color Guard); **East Henderson HS** (4<sup>th</sup>-Inspection, 5<sup>th</sup>-Exhibition); **Burncoat HS** (4<sup>th</sup>-Color Guard); **Plainfield HS** (4<sup>th</sup>-Exhibition); **Surrattsville HS** (4<sup>th</sup>-Regulation) and **E.E. Smith HS** (5<sup>th</sup>-Regulation).

The "Air Force Nationals" will take a one-year hiatus from the nation's capital in 2006 to move south, allowing AFJROTC schools in the southern portion of the United States the opportunity to participate in this amazing competition. Macon, Georgia will be the host city for the 2006 National Capital Invitational Drill Classic. This drill weekend will also coincide with Macon's **International Cherry Blossom Festival**! Schools from across the United States interested in attending the upcoming 2006 competition should check out the official event website at: [HTTP://AF.THENATIONALS.NET](http://af.thenationals.net). On the website, schools can download the event SOP, score sheets, official invitation & most important, schools can download the event registration form, complete it, and be considered for acceptance into the event.

We at SNI hope to see your unit in Macon, Georgia on Friday, March 24th, 2006 for a most exciting & memorable display of AFJROTC drill excellence!



The four schools capturing Overall Championship and Runner-up hardware had a great deal to smile about upon wrapping up an intense AFJROTC event!