

THE 6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL **AIR FORCE NATIONAL INVITATIONAL Drill Classic** CONTINUES TO BRING TOGETHER THE FINEST AIR FORCE JROTC DRILLERS FROM ACROSS THE UNITED STATES FOR A SINGLE DAY OF AIR FORCE DRILL EXCELLENCE! 2006 WAS ANOTHER TREMENDOUS EVENT! NEW POWERHOUSE TEAMS COMBINED WITH LONG-TIME ATTENDEES TO MAKE THE EVENT ONE FOR THE AGES. WITHOUT ANY SERIOUS DEBATE, THE AFNIDC REMAINS THE LARGEST AND FINEST AFJROTC-ONLY DRILL COMPETITION HELD ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

THIS YEAR, THE 78<sup>th</sup> AIR BASE WING FROM ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE IN WARNER ROBINS, GEORGIA PROVIDED MUCH OF THE LOGISTICAL AND JUDGING SUPPORT FOR THE COMPETITION AND THE MACON CENTREPLEX IN MACON, GEORGIA PROVIDED THE BIG-TIME, 10,000 SEAT ARENA NEEDED FOR AN EVENT OF THIS STATURE. THESE TWO ENTITIES WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN MAKING THE 2006 EVENT VERY SPECIAL FOR ALL OF THE ATTENDING CADETS!

### ARMED DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE YEARS, **COVENTRY HS** FROM **COVENTRY, RHODE ISLAND** HAS RULED THE ARMED DIVISION AS UNDISPUTED AIR FORCE JROTC CHAMPIONS. THIS YEAR, TWO NATIONAL DRILL POWERS (JOHN JAY AND THOMAS C. CLARK) JOINED THE ALWAYS TOUGH COMPETITION FIELD FOR THE FIRST TIME TO MAKE THE 2006 ARMED DIVISION EVENT THE MOST COMPETITIVE FIELD IN THE HISTORY OF THE AIR FORCE NATIONALS COMPETITION! WOULD THE HIGH FLYERS FROM THE OCEAN STATE HAVE ENOUGH TO DEFEND THEIR TITLE...?

**Spring Valley HS** FROM **COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA** GRABBED THE ATTENTION OF ONLOOKERS EARLY ON, CAPTURING THREE TROPHIES (1<sup>st</sup>-Exhibition, 3<sup>rd</sup>-Inspection, 5<sup>th</sup>-Color Guard) IN THIS TOUGH DIVISION. HOWEVER, A POOR 11<sup>th</sup> PLACE FINISH IN REGULATION PUT THE VIKINGS DRILL TEAM OUT OF TOP CONTENTION.

**THOMAS C. CLARK HS** AND **JOHN JAY HS** BOTH CARRIED THE FLAG TO THE AIR FORCE NATIONALS FROM DRILL MECCA **SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**. WITH A NATIONAL REPUTATION FOR DRILL EXCELLENCE, THEY WERE BOTH PRIMED AND READY AND DID NOT DISAPPOINT! THE **CENTURION GUARD** FROM **THOMAS C. CLARK HS** POWERED TO THE FRONT EARLY, GRABBING A 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE IN REGULATION AND A 2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE IN INSPECTION. HOWEVER, TWO 6<sup>th</sup> PLACE FINISHES IN COLOR GUARD AND EXHIBITION LEFT THE DOOR OPEN.

ALWAYS IMPRESSIVE **JOHN JAY HS** MADE THEIR TRIP FROM THE LONE STAR STATE COUNT, GRABBING A 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE COLOR GUARD AND A 2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE FINISH IN BOTH REGULATION AND EXHIBITION. THESE STRONG EFFORTS HAD THEM WELL POSITIONED. THE **SILVER EAGLES** DRILL TEAM TOOK A HIT WITH A 9<sup>th</sup> PLACE INSPECTION FINISH, BUT THAT STILL GAVE THEM JUST ENOUGH TO EDGE OUT **THOMAS C. CLARK HS** BY A SINGLE QUALITY POINT. BUT WOULD IT BE ENOUGH TO HOLD OFF MULTI-YEAR CHAMPION **COVENTRY HS**?

**COVENTRY HS** STARTED STRONG AND STAYED STRONG ALL DAY LONG, GRABBING TROPHIES IN ALL FOUR

## OUT OF THE BLUE AT THE "AIR FORCE NATIONALS"

*Captivating drill performances were everywhere as the Air Force Nationals took a one year hiatus "South of the Border" at the largest Air Force-only drill competition held anywhere in the world!*

TEAM EVENTS! LED BY AN AMAZING 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE INSPECTION DISPLAY, THE **FALCONS** DRILL TEAM POWERED TO THE FRONT TO CAPTURE THE ARMED DIVISION OVERALL CHAMPIONSHIP BY A COMFORTABLE MARGIN.

CAN THIS COVENTRY AIR FORCE DYNASTY CONTINUE? WITH THE RECENT RETIREMENT OF DRILL GURU **MSgt. Dick LeBel**, THE UNTOUCHABLE DRILLERS WILL NEED A NEW SOURCE OF INSPIRATION AND KNOWLEDGE TO KEEP THEIR PROGRAM AT SUCH A HIGH COMPETITIVE LEVEL - AND WE AT SPORTS NETWORK WOULD NOT BET AGAINST THEM!

OTHER SOLID ARMED DIVISION FINISHES INCLUDED: **FRANKLIN K. LANE HS** (3<sup>rd</sup>-Color Guard 4<sup>th</sup>-Exhibition, 5<sup>th</sup>-Regulation); **Ridgeland HS** (4<sup>th</sup>-Inspection and Color Guard); **Shiloh HS** (3<sup>rd</sup>-Regulation) AND **E.E. Smith HS** (5<sup>th</sup>-Inspection).

### UNARMED DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

BEING A PRIMARILY UNARMED SERVICE, THE UNARMED COMPETITION AT THE AIR FORCE NATIONALS IS ALWAYS AN INTENSE DOGFIGHT. THIS YEAR, NEW TALENTED TEAMS WERE ADDED TO AN ALREADY STRONG COMPETITION FIELD TO MAKE EXCITING PERFORMANCES AS EASY TO FIND AS A SIMPLE TURN OF THE HEAD! EVERY TEAM IN THE HUNT EACH HAD A SINGLE EVENT WHICH WOULD PROVE THEIR DOWNFALL, BUT WHICH COULD PREVAIL DESPITE THEIR ACHILLES' HEEL?

2003 & 2005 OVERALL UNARMED CHAMPION **SOUTHERN REGIONAL HS** FROM **MANAHAWKIN, NEW JERSEY** LOOKED TO RECAPTURE THEIR TITLE AND THEY WERE CERTAINLY IN THE MIX UNTIL THE END. THEIR COMPETITION STYLE REMAINED UNCHANGED AS THEY GENERALLY NAIL THE "BASIC" EVENTS AND THEN HANG ON IN EXHIBITION DRILL TO WIN. THE **BLUE KNIGHTS** DRILL TEAM GRABBED 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE FINISH IN INSPECTION, 2<sup>nd</sup> IN REGULATION AND 5<sup>th</sup> IN COLOR GUARD. HOWEVER, A 15<sup>th</sup> PLACE FINISH IN EXHIBITION WAS NOT ENOUGH TO REPEAT AS CHAMPIONS IN 2006, LEAVING THESE TOUGH CADETS WITH A SOLID BUT UNSPECTACULAR 23 PLACEMENT POINTS.

**JOHN JAY HS** COPIED THEIR STRONG ARMED DIVISION PERFORMANCE, TOUTING A 3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE EXHIBITION AND TWO 4<sup>th</sup> PLACE FINISHES IN INSPECTION & REGULATION. HOWEVER, AN UNEXPECTEDLY LOW 12<sup>th</sup> PLACE FINISH IN COLOR GUARD LEFT THE **Snap II** DRILL TEAM TIED WITH SOUTHERN REGIONAL HS. THEIR RAW POINT TOTAL BROKE THE TIE, EARNING THEM THE 3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE OVERALL UNARMED FINISH.

LOCAL POWER **HOUSTON COUNTY HS** (PRONOUNCED "HOW-STUN") FROM **WARNER ROBINS, GEORGIA** STORMED THE FLOOR WITH GUSTO, GRABBING



*Cadets throughout both the Armed and Unarmed competition divisions were fully prepped and ready for excellence as eye-popping performances proved to be the norm not the exception at the famous 2006 Air Force Nationals.*

THREE TROPHIES LED BY A 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE FINISH WITHIN EXHIBITION DRILL. SADLY, A DISMAL 14<sup>th</sup> PLACE FINISH IN REGULATION DRILL CLIPPED THEIR WINGS BUT COULDN'T DAMPEN THEIR LOFTY SPIRITS IN CAPTURING THE OVERALL UNARMED DIVISION RUNNER-UP TITLE BY A SINGLE PLACEMENT POINT OVER BOTH JOHN JAY AND SOUTHERN REGIONAL.

AFTER MANY YEARS OF BEING THE BRIDESMAID, **SANDALWOOD HS** FROM **JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA** PUT EVERYTHING TOGETHER WITH JUST THE RIGHT FORMULA TO CAPTURE THE 2006 UNARMED OVERALL CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE! THE **SILVER EAGLES** DRILL TEAM EARNED THREE TROPHIES (1<sup>st</sup>-Color Guard, 2<sup>nd</sup> Exhibition, 5<sup>th</sup>-Regulation) AND A SOFT 9<sup>th</sup> PLACE INSPECTION FINISH COULDN'T KEEP THESE DETERMINED CADETS OUT OF THE FINAL CHAMPIONS PHOTO. THEIR MARGIN OF VICTORY WAS CONVINCING IN THIS ALWAYS TIGHT COMPETITION.

OTHER TOP UNARMED DIVISION FINISHES INCLUDED: **THOMAS C. CLARK HS** (2<sup>nd</sup>-Inspection, 4<sup>th</sup>-Exhibition); **E.E. Smith HS** (1<sup>st</sup>-Regulation); **PINE RIDGE HS** (2<sup>nd</sup>-Color Guard); **PLAINFIELD HS** (3<sup>rd</sup>-Color Guard); AND **FRANKLIN K. LANE HS** (3<sup>rd</sup>-Regulation).

THE "AIR FORCE NATIONALS" ENJOYED THE PEACH STATE BUT LOOK FORWARD TO A MOVE BACK TO THE NATION'S CAPITAL IN LATE MARCH, 2007! SCHOOLS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THE 2007 EVENT SHOULD CHECK THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE AT: <http://af.thenationals.net>. ON THE WEB, SCHOOLS CAN DOWNLOAD THE EVENT SOP, SCORE SHEETS, INVITATION AND DOWNLOAD THE EVENT REGISTRATION FORM TO GAIN A COMPETITION SPACE.

WE AT SNI HOPE TO SEE YOUR AIR FORCE JROTC DRILL UNIT IN LANDOVER, MARYLAND ON FRIDAY, MARCH 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007 FOR THE SINGLE FINEST GATHERING OF AFJROTC DRILL EXCELLENCE EVER!