

THE 7th ANNUAL AIR FORCE NATIONAL INVITATIONAL DRILL CLASSIC CONTINUED TO BRING TOGETHER THE FINEST AIR FORCE JROTC DRILLERS FROM ACROSS THE UNITED STATES FOR A SINGLE DAY OF AIR FORCE DRILL EXCELLENCE! FRESHLY SHAVEN FACES FOR THE MALE CADETS AND METICULOUSLY PREPARED HAIR FOR THE FEMALES WERE THE ORDER OF THE DAY AS ALL COMPETITORS WERE EAER TO DISPLAY WHAT THOUSANDS OF HOURS OF WORK CAN PRODUCE FOR THESE PREMIERE AIR FORCE DRILL UNITS.

Scores of high-flying blue-shirt drillers stormed the floor in 2007. Talented competition drillers from the JROTC MECCA of Texas came locked and loaded but several dozen of the strongest drill programs across the Eastern United States from Massachusetts to Florida were ready for them. Throw in a few additional programs looking to sneak up on the title from Michigan and Colorado and then add a dash of kick-butt color guard from the hard-chargers at Jenks HS in Oklahoma, and you have all the earmarks for an amazing competition. And of course, the 2007 event did not disappoint as talented, dedicated cadets were everywhere!



Inspection competition judges look for the smallest of details to allow them to separate the best teams for trophy placement.

The biggest story at the 2007 event revolved around complete Texas domination of the event on the Armed side of the house, along with Florida strength powering to the top of the Unarmed side.

Thomas C. Clark HS built on their strong finish in 2006 by grabbing trophies in every team event, to include three first place event finishes. The Centurion Guard drill team from San Antonio, Texas was unstoppable in grabbing their first overall Air Force Nationals title. Just behind in the Armed Runner-up slot, Oak Ridge HS from Conroe, Texas put together an extremely solid performance. The overall strength of the Mad Dogs drill team snagged three 2nd place event finishes to greatly distance themselves from the rest of the tough Armed competition field.



Fired-up Drill Cadets Aim Higher at the "Air Force Nationals"

The Air Force National Invitational Drill Classic gave the Nation's Capital a memorable clasp of talented Air Force Blue drill thunder.



THE UNARMED DIVISION CHAMPION REPEATED FROM 2006 AS SANDALWOOD HS AGAIN POWERED THEIR WAY TO THE PODIUM TO TAKE HOME THE BIGGEST HARDWARE. GRABBING TWO 1st PLACE TROPHIES AND A 2nd PLACE TROPHY, THE SILVER EAGLES FROM JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA WERE NOT SERIOUSLY CHALLENGED FOR THEIR TITLE, MAKING THEIR 700-MILE POST-EVENT BUS RIDE HOME FAR MORE RAUCOUS!

A TREMENDOUS BATTLE ENSUED FOR THE UNARMED RUNNER-UP TITLE. THE CENTURIONS FROM AIR ACADEMY HS IN THE SHADOWS OF THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY IN COLORADO WENT AFTER THE LONG-TIME UNARMED DRILL POWERHOUSE FROM HIALEAH HS IN HIALEAH, FLORIDA. IN THIS CROSS-COUNTRY SHOWDOWN, AIR ACADEMY HS PARLED THREE STRONG TROPHY FINISHES (2nd COLOR GUARD, 3rd REGULATION, 4th INSPECTION) AND A SOLID FINISH IN EXHIBITION TO BARELY EAK OUT A TIGHT VICTORY OVER THE STRONG FINISHING RAIDERS DRILL TEAM FROM HIALEAH HS (2nd INSPECTION, 3rd EXHIBITION).

AMAZING FINISHES WERE EVERYWHERE WITH EIGHT COMPETITION AREAS OCCURRING SIMULTANEOUSLY IN THIS COLOSSAL DRILL FACILITY. WITH EVERY HEAD TURN, A TEAM WAS DAZZLING A JUDGE SOMEWHERE IN THE BUILDING THROUGHOUT THE DAY!

HIGHLIGHTED TOP EVENT FINISHES WITHIN THE ARMED DIVISION INCLUDED SPRING VALLEY HS FROM COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA GRABBING TWO 3rd PLACE FINISHES (REGULATION & EXHIBITION); SALEM HS IN SALEM, NEW HAMPSHIRE TAKING HOME TWO 3rd PLACE FINISHES AS WELL (INSPECTION & COLOR GUARD); AND FRANKLIN K. LANE HS IN BROOKLYN, NEW YORK NABBING A 2nd PLACE FINISH IN REGULATION DRILL.

THE UNARMED DIVISION WAS JUST AS DEEP WITH TALENT AS FRANKLIN K. LANE HS (REGULATION), AND THOMAS C. CLARK HS (EXHIBITION) EACH GRABBED EYE-POPPING 1st PLACE EVENT FINISHES, ALONG WITH DEWITT CLINTON HS FROM BRONX, NEW YORK GRABBING BOTH A 3rd PLACE (COLOR GUARD) AND 4th PLACE (REGULATION) EVENT FINISH.

THIS YEAR, BASE RE-ALIGNMENT GREATLY EXPANDED THE SOLID ANDREWS AFB JUDGING SUPPORT TO ENCOMPASS THE ENTIRE 316th AIR WING IN THE GREATER WASHINGTON, DC AREA! THIS MASSIVE POOL OF COMMUNITY-MINDED JUDGES WITH SOLID BACKGROUNDS IN DRILL GAVE THE EVENT A HUGELY POSITIVE FEEL FROM THE BEGINNING.

The "Air Force Nationals" will undergo a massive revision in 2008 when Air Force JROTC HQ comes on board to support an Eastern & Western Championship in Georgia & Texas!

A FEW OF THE EVENT JUDGES WERE IMPRESSED THAT THESE HIGH SCHOOL CADETS COULD PRESENT THEMSELVES WITH BEARING & POISE RIVALING MANY YOUNG ACTIVE-DUTY AIRMEN! CONGRATULATIONS GO OUT TO ALL AIR FORCE NATIONALS COMPETITORS WHO MADE THE EVENT SO VERY MEMORABLE!

THE "AIR FORCE NATIONALS" WILL UNDERGO THE LARGEST REVISION IN ITS STELLAR HISTORY IN 2008 WHEN THE AIR FORCE JROTC HQ WILL COME ON BOARD AS AN OFFICIAL SUPPORTER. WITH THIS SUPPORT, SNI WILL BE EXPANDING THE COMPETITION TO MAINTAIN BOTH AN EASTERN (MACON, GEORGIA) & WESTERN (COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS) CHAMPIONSHIP CLOSELY PARALLELING THE SUCCESSFUL ARMY NATIONALS. SPECIFIC DATES, LOCATIONS, AND ALL INFORMATION AND ENTRY MATERIAL HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE ON THE OFFICIAL AIR FORCE NATIONALS WEBSITE.

SEE ALL THE EVENT SCORING DETAILS!

[HTTP://AF.THENATIONALS.NET](http://af.thenationals.net)



Event Keynote Speaker Col. Michael Phillips of AFJROTC HQ looks on as (L to R) Unarmed Division event Runner-up Air Academy HS, Unarmed Champion Sandalwood HS, Armed Champion Thomas C. Clark HS and Armed Runner-up Oak Ridge HS receive their awards.