

UNITED STATES ARMY CADET

A massive reorganization of the U.S. Army Cadet Command provided the impetus to begin an exciting new success, bringing together thousands of incredible Army JROTC drillers. U.S. Army Cadet Command looks

Eastern Region Championships - Landover, Maryland

The day following the Air Force Invitational in Landover, Maryland, a standing room only crowd of 2,000 cadets, parents and instructors packed the house at the Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex to see the inaugural Eastern Region Army JROTC Drill Championships. Class "A" green uniforms filled the arena as nervous cadets and instructors put together last-minute preparations in the hopes of capturing the first-ever Eastern Region Championship!

With qualified judges coming from local area military installations, as well as hundreds of miles away, schools were prepared for unparalleled scrutiny. Army units from Maine to Florida and 17 other states, along with the District of Columbia were on-hand for an exciting, amazing day of competition drill. No feeling



Eastern Division Champions with Official Party (left to right): LTC Dallas Plumley, Chief, Army H.S. Eastern Division; Armed Div. Runner-up Oak Ridge MA; Armed Division Champion Francis Lewis HS; Col. Paul Willis, Army Eastern Region Commander; CSM Major Washington, Command Sergeant Major, Army Cadet Command; Unarmed Division Champion Forestville MA; Unarmed Div. Runner-up Francis Lewis HS; and Col. Carlos Glover, Director, Cadet Command.

compares with competing against your peers and the "Army Nationals" gave every cadet the experience of having each command and every movement scrutinized not only by the scoring judges, but by everyone in the building!

ARMED DIVISION

One must go back to the mid-80's dominance of LaSalle Military Academy to find a more amazing overall drill performance than the one seen within the 2004 Armed Division of the Army Nationals Eastern Division. **Francis Lewis HS** of **Fresh Meadows, New York** simply overpowered a strong competition field, capturing 1st place in three different events (Regulation, Color Guard, Exhibition) and grabbing a 3rd place (Inspection) on their way to an awe-inspiring display of drill excellence. The **Patriot Guard** drill team has never looked better or more prepared as their cadets slammed their way to the top, earning the Overall Armed Division Eastern Championship title.

In a VERY tight race for the Overall Runner-up title, **Oak Ridge MA** from **Oak Ridge, North Carolina** returned from several years of obscurity to contend with relative newcomer **Long**

Island City HS from **Astoria, New York**. With Oak Ridge grabbing three trophy placements (4th-Regulation/Exhibition; 5th-Inspection) and Long Island City also grabbing three (2nd-Color Guard, 4th-Inspection, 5th-Exhibition), the competition was incredibly tight and in fact, ended in a placement point tie. Using the first-level tie breaker of raw score, Oak Ridge MA just nudged out the hard-charging Long Island City HS cadets to grab the Armed Division Runner-Up title.

Other schools within the Armed Division who displayed impressive performances included: Xavier HS (1st-Inspection, 2nd-Regulation); Liberty HS (2nd-Inspection, 3rd-Regulation/Color Guard); Springfield HS (2nd-Exhibition); and Airport HS (3rd-Exhibition).

UNARMED DIVISION

Another dominant performance stole the spotlight in the Unarmed side of the house with local powerhouse **Forestville MA** from **Forestville, Maryland** using a well-balanced attack to grab the Eastern Region Unarmed Championship. As the only team to trophy in every event (1st-Exhibition, 2nd-Inspection, 4th-Regulation, 5th-Color Guard), the **Silver Knights** drill team once again proved that they are a dangerous team that on any given day can put forth the skill to win at any event they enter.

Francis Lewis HS had all the pieces in place to capture the daily double, grabbing two, 1st place finishes (Inspection, Regulation) and a single, 2nd place finish (Exhibition). An uncharacteristically weak finish in the Color Guard event left the **Patriot Pride** drill team out of first-place and fighting to hold on for second with hard-charging **McNair Academic HS** from Jersey City, New Jersey closing in. With three trophies for McNair Academic (2nd-Regulation, 4th-Color Guard/Exhibition), the event also ended in a placement point tie. Raw score awarded the Unarmed Runner-up title to Francis Lewis, with 3rd place overall going to the **Unarmed Cougars** from McNair Academic.

Other top finishes in the Unarmed Division included: T.C. Williams HS (1st-Color Guard, 5th-Regulation); Pleasantville HS (2nd-Color Guard); Dan River HS (3rd-Exhibition); East Boston HS (3rd-Color Guard, 5th-Exhibition); Miami Norland HS (3rd-Regulation); and Long Island City HS (3rd-Inspection).

The rigid, cadet formation on the drill floor, along with the packed house of onlookers generated an electricity that was only intensified by the inspiring keynote words of **Colonel Paul L. Willis**, Commander, Eastern Region, U.S. Army Cadet Command. By the close of the evening, everyone in attendance was physically and emotionally charged as the drama unfolded with each passing trophy presentation.

2005 Eastern Region Championships

Saturday, March 19th - Landover, Maryland

Complete invitation and registration form for both events are found at the official home of the Army Nationals: <http://army.thenationals.net>.

COMMAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

era to showcase Army JROTC excellence! The Army Region Drill Championships of 2004 were an amazing to ride this momentum to ensure the 2005 Championships are an even greater test of overall JROTC skill.

Western Region Championships - College Station, Texas

Deep in the heart of Texas, 40 Army JROTC units traveled to Texas A&M University in March of 2004 to compete in the inaugural Army JROTC Western Region Drill championship. Without question, the 2004 Western Region event was the largest collection of single service drill talent ever assembled. Ft. Hood provided the motivated judging support and the TAMU Corps of Cadets provided tremendous logistical support for this massive undertaking, with both groups working hard to ensure that first-class treatment was the order of the day.

Texas JROTC drill competitions are widely recognized as some of the finest displays of drill excellence in the Nation. This occurs largely due to the extensive number of high caliber drill programs located just hours apart within the Lone Star state. When the U.S. Army Cadet Command decided to bring together these Army units along with a score of other exceptional drill units from throughout the Army Western Region, one amazing, memorable drill weekend was created!

ARMED DIVISION

Looking at the list of schools in this division was like reviewing a "Who's Who" of JROTC drill. The competition was fierce from the start and did not disappoint. Storming the event early was the always-tough unit from **Winston Churchill HS** in **San Antonio, Texas**. With three strong trophy placement finishes (1st-Color Guard, 3rd-Regulation, 4th-Inspection) and a solid exhibition routine, the Black Watch drill team had more than enough firepower to charge their way to the Western Region Armed Division Overall Championship.

The hunt for the Runner-up title was extremely tight between three schools. **Trevor Browne HS** from **Phoenix, Arizona** with only a 5th place finish in Color Guard, showed no weaknesses and finished very strong in 4th place Overall. Despite a disappointing finish in Regulation Drill, **Homer Hanna HS** from **Brownsville, Texas** used their impressive three trophy wins (2nd-Inspection, 3rd-Color Guard, 4th-Exhibition) to just pass the **Bruin Rifles** from Trevor Browne in garnering 3rd place Overall. The team everyone seemed to be watching, **Ronald Reagan HS** from **San Antonio, Texas**, grabbed three trophy wins as well (3rd-Inspection, 2nd-Color Guard, 3rd-Exhibition) setting themselves up for a run to the top. It was only a tough finish in Regulation Drill that kept the **Rattler Guard** from the championship, finishing instead with an impressive Armed Division Runner-up Title.

Other schools in the Armed Division whose star shown bright included: **Jefferson HS** (1st-Exhibition); **Gladys Porter HS** (1st-Regulation); **James Madison HS** (1st-Inspection, 5th-Regulation); **St. John's MS** (2nd-Exhibition); **Hubbard HS** (2nd-Regulation) and **Douglas MacArthur HS** (two trophy wins).

UNARMED DIVISION

The Army Nationals Unarmed Division started out close but but ended as a blow-out of epic proportions. National powerhouse and multi-year NHSDTC National Champion **Theodore Roosevelt HS** from **San Antonio, Texas** put forth a simply overwhelming, eye-catching effort to nail down the first-ever Western Region Unarmed Division Championship. Along with winning two of the four team events (Regulation, Exhibition), the **Riderette** drill team also was the only team to trophy in every team event, grabbing a 4th place in Inspection and Color Guard.

Douglas MacArthur HS from **San Antonio, Texas** clearly separated themselves from the pack earning the Unarmed Division Runner-Up crown. The **Blue Angels** drill team pulled three trophies (1st-Inspection, 2nd-Regulation, 3rd-Color Guard) but a poor placement in Exhibition drill cost the unit a run at the title. **Winston Churchill HS** also grabbed three trophies (5th-Inspection, 4th-Regulation, 2nd-Exhibition), but again, a single poor placement (Color Guard) left the Queen's Guard with a 3rd place Overall finish.

Other top finishes in the Unarmed Division included: **Henry Kaiser HS** (1st-Color Guard); **Ronald Reagan HS** (2nd-Inspection); **Alamo Heights HS** (2nd-Color Guard); **Homer Hanna HS** (3rd-Regulation/ Exhibition); **Skyline HS** (3rd-Inspection); and **Jefferson HS** (4th-Exhibition).

Tension was high as U.S. Army Western Region Commander **Colonel Steven R. Corbett** and Texas A&M University Commandant of Cadets **Lt.Gen. John VanAlstyn** provided stirring words to the throng assembled to kick off the closing-night Western Region Army Nationals Awards Ceremony. Emotional cadets, beaming parents and proud Army Instructors were everywhere as the trophies and individual awards were distributed to those judged as "the best." A "Mega-Hooah" goes out to all of those who attended and put it on the line at the first annual Army National Championships.



Western Division Overall Champions with the Official Party: (Left to right), LTC Greg Hightower, Chief, Army Western Region High School Division; Armed Division Runner-up Ronald Reagan HS; Armed Division Champion Winston Churchill HS; Lt.Gen. John VanAlstyn, Texas A&M Commandant of Cadets; Unarmed Division Champion Theodore Roosevelt HS; Unarmed Division Runner-up Douglas MacArthur HS; and Col. Steven R. Corbett, Army Western Region Commander.

2005 Western Region Championships

Saturday, March 5th - College Station, Texas

Initial school contact suggests both events will maintain very full competition fields. Interested Army JROTC schools are encouraged to register ASAP!