



U.S. ARMY CADET COMMAND

Army Green proved to be Good as Gold in this Army Eastern Championships

Eastern Championships - Washington, DC

Just a few miles north of the often referred to "Shining City on the Hill," over 40 Army Junior ROTC programs descended on Landover, Maryland to participate in the largest single-day, Army-only championship competition in the world. Schools from Rhode Island to Florida and all points in between put months of training



Members of the Stratford Knights drill team from Stratford HS in Goose Creek, South Carolina scope out the the Armed Exhibition drill area before they dazzled the judges and took home a well-deserved 3rd place trophy.

and preparation on the line to gain bragging rights for a year and positive memories to last a lifetime! The schools all looked to capture the U.S. Army Cadet Command Eastern Academic & Drill Championship.

With the dominance in recent years in both the Armed & Unarmed divisions coming from the New York/New Jersey area, dozens of other schools

headed to the Nation's Capital with the hopes of telling these high flying drillers to "fugget-about-it!"

ARMED DIVISION

In the rich history of the Eastern Championships, no school has so thoroughly dominated a competition division as **Francis Lewis HS** from **Fresh Meadows, New York** did in 2007. Their intense, unyielding preparation style and their overall commitment to excellence left no doubt as to who the most powerful Army drill team in the Eastern United States was going to be on this day. Only a 2-point defeat in Exhibition Drill kept the **Patriot Guard** drill team from sweeping 1st place finishes in all FIVE team events. Their amazing domination against a field of tough drill programs put the world on notice that Francis Lewis was MORE THAN ready to carry the Army flag in the all-service championship in Daytona just a few weeks away (complete story page, page 23).

Left in the wake of the champion's juggernaut, two schools fought hard to take home the Armed Runner-up title. **McNair Academic HS** from **Jersey City, New Jersey** came out very strong to defend their Runner-up title from 2006, nailing three, 2nd place finishes (Inspection, Regulation and Academics) but the **Brothers-in-Arms** drill team left the door open a hair too much with a 20th place Exhibition drill finish. **Carver HS** from **Winston-Salem, North Carolina** finished immediately behind McNair in both Inspection & Regulation, and they added a 3rd place finish within the brutally tough Color Guard event. But the **Carver Blue** drill team had slightly better placements in their two remaining events to nudge ahead in the Armed Division Runner-up title race.

With the bulk of the trophies taken home by the three schools above, other noteworthy trophy performances were from **Xavier HS** (1st-Exhibition); **South Rowan HS** (2nd-Color Guard); **Stratford HS** (3rd-Exhibition); **Long Island City HS** (3rd-Academics); **Cranston East HS** (4th-Inspection & Color Guard, 5th-Regulation) and **Washingtonville HS** (4th-Regulation & Academics).

UNARMED DIVISION

As solid as the domination was in the Armed Division, the Unarmed Division was the exclamation mark on the weekend for the Empire State powerhouse. Sweeping every team event with convincing totals, the overwhelming performance from the **Patriot Pride** drill team of **Francis Lewis HS** gave the weekend a dream-like quality. Several staff members have now been a part of over 75 drill meets and none had ever seen a beat-down of this caliber. The finish this team produced is a testament to the amazing cadets and the dedicated instructors who give these cadets the focus to shine year after year.

The battle for Division Runner-up honors was a three horse race that came down to the wire. **McNair Academic HS** from **Jersey City, New Jersey** looked very strong. When the dust settled, the **Tanko-Woosas** drill team experienced a deja vu finish by repeating their 2006 Division Runner-up placement by AGAIN gaining four trophy finishes with a single 6th place finish (this time in Exhibition) just as they had done the previous year! They needed every point as both **T.C. Williams HS** from **Alexandria, Virginia** and **Long Island City HS** from **Long Island City, New York** were in hot pursuit, with both teams earning four team trophies in their own right to clean up virtually all of the top finishing trophies between them!



U.S. Army Cadet Command Eastern Division Armed & Unarmed Champion Francis Lewis HS from Fresh Meadows, New York stand behind the fortress of trophies earned at the event. Their margin of victory was unprecedented with so many good schools attending.

After two floor-filling, Armed & Unarmed Knockout events, cadets assembled on the floor with spectators on the edges of their seats in the massive Sports & Learning Complex as the trophy hardware was brought center stage. A memorable message was delivered by the long-time event supporter, **Colonel Robert J. Frusha, Commander, Eastern Region, U.S. Army Cadet Command**. His support means a great deal to all of the families on hand.

With a handful of schools hoarding the vast majority of the hardware, many schools who watched the trophy parade are re-evaluating, re-loading and looking forward to a rematch in 2008! The upcoming event will be moving South of the Border to Macon, Georgia so look for a new crop of hungry drill masters to put pressure on the historic standard bearers for drill excellence. Can the Francis Lewis freight train continue to roll? Only time will tell...

**2008 Eastern Region Championships
Saturday, March 29th - Macon, Georgia**

Heading to the Peach State in 2008 will make for a very full competition field - lock up your event space today!

JROTC CHAMPIONSHIPS

These Stars were BRIGHT Deep in the Heart of the Army Western Championships

Western Championships - College Station, Texas



One of the most impressive college campuses in the United States (Texas A&M University), and one of the most impressive indoor drill facilities on the planet (the 15,000-seat Reed Arena) plays host to the most top-to-bottom talent-laden, single-service drill competition held anywhere in the United States. The **U.S. Army Cadet Command Western Championships** annually brings together over half of the finest competition drill teams in the country all under one roof. This amazing concentration of nationally-recognized drill units make this Lone Star State drill off a head turning extravaganza for parents, instructors & cadets alike.

ARMED DIVISION

At the Western Army Nationals, most of the watchful eyes looking for teams migrating to the top of the leaderboard throughout the day tend to follow the steely-eyed units from San Antonio, Texas. Winning every event championship since the inception of the competition, these teams were left wondering, "who are they?" when **Grant HS** from **Dry Prong, Louisiana** walked to the podium amid shocked peer expressions to collect their Armed Division Championship trophy.

Winning the Inspection & Regulation events were no great surprise as the unit performed well in these basic events in 2006. But upgrading their exhibition routine and grabbing a 3rd place finish in the tough Academic competition brought the **Maroon & Golden Knights** their amazing victory.

The 2005 and 2006 Armed Division champions from **Ronald Reagan HS** in **San Antonio, Texas** just missed in their bid to repeat for an unprecedented 3rd consecutive championship. The **Rattler Guard** drill team powered ahead with a typical 1st place Exhibition finish combined with a strong 2nd place Regulation finish. However two uncharacteristically soft placements in both Inspection & Academics pushed the hard chargers just out of reach for a repeat championship.

Three more premiere San Antonio drill teams followed in the overall standings with **Douglas MacArthur** (1st-Color Guard, 5th-Regulation) nabbing 3rd place overall solidly over resurgent **Central Catholic HS** (2nd-Academic). **James Madison HS** just missed leapfrogging into the mix by a single quality point by finishing in 5th place overall, led by three trophy finishes (Inspection, Regulation, & Exhibition).

UNARMED DIVISION

A talented field of weaponless warriors took to the arena floor to battle for top honors. So many talented drill teams soon dwindled to a two-horse championship match race. Looking to place a 2007 championship trophy next to the 2005 model in their bulging trophy case, **Theodore Roosevelt HS** from **San Antonio, Texas** powered to the top by grabbing trophies in every team event. The **Riderettes** drill team was flat out amazing, led by 1st place finishes in both the Inspection and Regulation competitions.

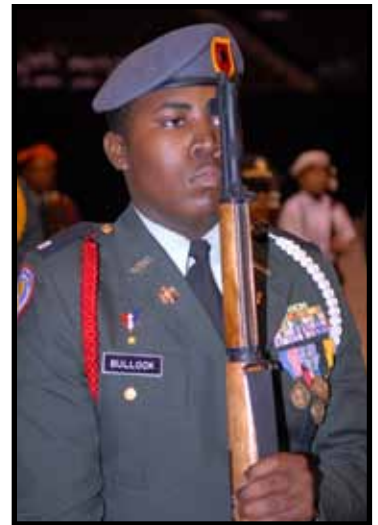
Five other San Antonio legends chased the Unarmed champs, but just like in the Armed Division, sneaking out of nowhere came a little known spoiler to rain on the parade of their better-known bretheren. **Lancaster HS** from **Lancaster, Texas** in suburban Dallas backed down to no one as they too trophied in every single team event paced by winning the exciting Exhibition event. However the **Orange Crush** drill team's 5th place finishes in both Regulation and Color Guard left them just short of the Championship, yielding an impressive Overall Unarmed Runner-up finish.

Three familiar Alamo foes faced each other in the pack and as usual, it came down to the final events to determine a winner. The **Queen's Guard** drill team from venerable **Winston Churchill HS** put together well-earned 2nd place finishes in both Exhibition and Academics to just nudge the **Mighty Blue Angels** from **Douglas MacArthur HS**, despite their three trophy finishes (3rd-Inspection, Color Guard and 4th-Regulation). Grabbing 5th place overall were the **Diamondbacks** drillers from **Ronald Reagan HS**.

The awards ceremony was tremendous with the last minute inclusion of TAMU grad **Brigadier General Joe E. Ramirez, Deputy Commander, US Army Training & Doctrine Command**. As a former member of JROTC, BG Ramirez provided a profound personal message to the assembled cadets, instructors and family members that hit home and set a great tone for this event's concluding ceremony.

The involvement of the U.S. Army 12th Brigade under the leadership of **Colonel James House** gave the event the fantastic judges and overall support structure that continues to make the Western Championships so special. With nearly three dozen "hats" judging, the tension among the competitors was high and that always plays well at an event of this caliber.

Work continues on next year's event, which should be another showing of many of the nation's best drill teams. US Army Cadet Command's work on this valuable event continues and the 2008 event may have a big surprises in store - Stay tuned!



Cadet Joshua Bullock from Caddo Parish Magnet HS in Shreveport, Louisiana stands tall along with 500 other cadets performing during the tense Armed Division Knockout Drill competition.



Western overall top division finishers included (left to right): Ronald Reagan HS (Armed Runner-up); Grant HS (Armed Champion); Army Brigadier General Joe E. Ramirez, Deputy Commander, Combined Arms Center for Training; Theodore Roosevelt HS (Unarmed Champion); and Lancaster HS (Unarmed Runner-up).

2008 Western Region Championships
Saturday, March 15th - College Station, Texas

For complete event invitation & registration forms:
Army Nationals: <http://army.thenationals.net>.