

2023 National High School Drill Team Championships

GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

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*Best attempts have been made to ensure all changes from the previous year SOP have been denoted in **YELLOW**. READ CAREFULLY – MANY CHANGES!*

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INTRODUCTION - POINTS OF EMPHASIS/CHANGES

1. **Challenge & Masters was TWO competition levels - now it is THREE DIFFERENT COMPETITION LEVELS in both Armed & Unarmed competition!** This will make everyone's experience at the NHSDTC a two-day event with solo & dual entries (if wanted) and one elaborate awards ceremony.
2. **The event will no longer maintain a "MIXED" division.** The same judges will see all cadets within the event judging specialty. Trophies will be awarded within each of the THREE competition Divisions (Basic, Advanced, Masters). This will allow more schools to compete against more more teams that look and compete more like themselves.
3. **Inspection competition will continue to have a major point of emphasis.** While we believe it is important the event continue to maintain a pressurized atmosphere, several items will be done to better standardize the event from team to team and even from year to year, to maintain more controls to reduce judges variability between teams, and to ensure the event maintains a focus on academic and thinking questions and not a majority of "gotcha" questions. Knowledge/thought provoking questions will be the focus. Specifics on this change can be found within the Armed & Unarmed SOPs.
4. **Color Guards will be REQUIRED to maintain a SERVICE, STATE or SCHOOL JROTC organizational color - any are fine. These items are provided to every unit from your Headquarters and will now be expected equipment at the NHSDTC.**
5. **The NHSDTC Virtual Competition will NOT be held this year or in the future most likely.** The greatly less impacting nature of COVID makes most teams yearn for attending in person and therefore, insufficient entries have made the event not worth pursuing at the moment.
6. **Top-rated schools will ONLY be bunched together within the Masters Level competition should sufficient entry justify this practice (generally more than 20 schools).** With less than this number, judges can easily remember & discern scores without this artificial manipulation of the blind draw process. All teams will maintain a spread of start times to include some early, some middle and some late start times. We continue to believe this provides the right balance for every team gaining a solid opportunity for top finishes.
7. **CADENCE CALLING will now be ALLOWED at all LEVELS!**
8. Teams are reminded that **scoresheet review immediately after the judges have scored takes place just outside the exit area of the drill area** (OUTSIDE the exit doors in the hallway of upstairs inspections). Please review the regs on this carefully herein and use this tool to make the meet better for your team and all teams. There is nobody in that building that will care more about the scoresheet than YOU!
9. **...BUT CAN WE STILL ENTER THE FITNESS CHAMPIONSHIPS with DRILL CADETS?** Sadly, cadets competing within the NHSDTC competition on day one CANNOT BE INVOLVED IN THE National JROTC Fitness Challenge Championships held this year on Saturday 06 May *unless they are not in any way competing cadets on that day*. It is simply too difficult to schedule around these two items. Please see the Fitness Nationals website for additional details: <http://fitness.thenationals.net>.
10. The NHSDTC competition maintains no realistic ability to stream the scores of events happening through the weekend. We STRONGLY recommend YOUR SCHOOL maintain an active Facebook page and inside that group, you are encouraged to post still pictures and FB Live your teams performances through the weekend.

2023 National High School Drill Team Championships

GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

RULES & REGULATIONS FOR ALL DIVISIONS

SOLO & DUAL COMPETITIONS

OPEN LEVEL COLOR GUARD COMPETITION

SECTION 1 - EVENT OVERVIEW

A. *The NHS DTC SOP*

1. This SOP will include all information that is pertinent to the competition and necessary for your team's preparation & attendance at the National High School Drill Team Championships (**NHS DTC**). Along with the rules and regulations of the meet, there will also be extensive information on the management of the event by Sports Network International, Inc. (SNI). The entire success or failure of your trip will depend on your ability to internalize all of the regulations of the Nationals. Please familiarize yourself with this SOP in detail.
2. Once you have read this SOP and understand all of its terms and conditions, **please contact SNI to ask any questions you may have**. After this, Register to attend the event on line on the official website for the event: <http://nhsdte.thenationals.net>. After that, you will have paperwork to complete. Most important is the Acceptance of Responsibility Form located on-line. As the form indicates, return it to SNI by the date on the form. No school or organization may compete at the **NHS DTC** without the proper submission of this form and other required forms listed on your myschool website.
3. All schools must utilize and become comfortable with registration and paperwork submission in the **MySchool Website** (<http://myschool.thenationals.net>) for all event matters. Schools should also look through the official NHS DTC website (<http://nhsdte.thenationals.net>) as a resource for valuable event/trip/competition information. SNI also posts photos, well wishes and late breaking fun information on the NHS DTC Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/NationalsDrill>). Schools are encouraged to distribute the Facebook Page and the NHS DTC page to their parents to give them a better experience following your efforts here at the NHS DTC.
3. All competitors, instructors, and team supporters are subject to comply with all of the rules & procedures of this SOP and of the **NHS DTC**. Any items not specifically covered by your service manual or by SNI regulation are at the sole discretion and determination of the Judging Director.

B. *Event Management & Sponsorship*

1. The NHS DTC (also referred to as the "Grand Nationals" or just "the Nationals") are managed & produced by Sports Network International, Inc.. As the Event Manager, SNI is responsible for organizing all aspects of the event, from setting up the rules and procedures, to securing all necessary judges, arenas, and hotel rooms.
2. The Nationals competition is sponsored by the **U.S. Army Cadet Command** and heavily supported by all service branches for decades. Input into the rules and regulations for the event are garnered largely by feedback from the attending schools and service headquarter input. It is always welcome and much appreciated when those who make the meet exceptional provide feedback to make it better in the future!
3. The Nationals remain the oldest and most highly respected drill & ceremony competition held in the world. For well over 40 years, the NHS DTC has been the only officially recognized all-service championship by the four service JROTCs. It remains an honor to serve as civilian contractors for the services for these many decades. **SNI has hosted over 165 military drill & ceremony competitions of national or regional status. We have the expertise and the trained staff to ensure your group has a fantastic experience, on and off the drill floor.** We constantly work hard to ensure fairness, transparency, safety and glorification of the hard working cadets and programs remain our top focus!
4. SNI is known for providing near 24/7 customer service for teams attending the NHS DTC. Please allow us to help you with any aspect of your staff in and out of the competition arena.

SECTION 2 - GENERAL EVENT SPECIFICATIONS

A. The Event

1. The Nationals are open to JROTC programs and select other quality drill groups after review by the competition committee of SNI. Under no circumstances may any attendee of the Nationals be older than a high school age and status to compete. Those older than this maximum age may only compete within the World Drill Championships event (details found on-line at: <http://wdc.thenationals.net>).
2. The Registration Fee for all schools of the NHS DTC is \$300.00. Schools entering an Open Level Color Guard unit, or individuals entering the Solo/Dual Competition (outside of competing schools who pay no extra fee) pay a \$50.00 Registration Fee per entry. This fee is due after registering on-line to maintain a valid entry into the NHS DTC competition.
3. Teams making the decision to attend the **NHS DTC** should reserve a competition slot by registering on-line by the annual December 10th deadline. **All units who register before this "Early Acceptance Deadline" are guaranteed acceptance into this event.** This is especially useful to the schools traveling from a great distance! Schools WILL register AFTER this date and most all will be accepted, but their entries will be reviewed and limited by space availability and other factors. However, with this fee being non-refundable, **teams wishing to enter the NHS DTC should do so only after making the irrevocable decision to attend!** Should an emergency preclude any registered team from attending, the team should immediately contact SNI. While the Registration Fee remains non-refundable, your prompt notification to SNI could allow another deserving team to attend -- thereby keeping your school in good standing at the NHS DTC.
4. **Schools may enter TWO COMPLETE TEAMS in the NHS DTC.** Only in rare circumstances will be allow a 3rd team to enter. Regardless of the number of teams entered, the school will still only pay just the single \$300.00 School Registration Fee. Teams who enter MORE THAN two teams (i.e., an Armed & Unarmed team and a Freshman JV team) will still pay just the \$300 entry fee. Should they wish to enter a separate group of cadets within the Open Level Color Guard event, they WOULD IN FACT pay the additional \$50 fee.
5. **Thanks to the generous financial support from the many exhibitors within the new Ocean Center Exhibit Hall Expansion and the sponsorship support of the U.S. Army Cadet Command, the NHS DTC will be open to the general public free of charge!** No pass or ticket of any kind will be needed to enter the building. Please remember that the Ocean Center is a county-run facility and as such, has a paid parking garage and surrounding parking lots in effect for all events. Schools may wish to have their bus drop them off and pick them up in the morning and ensure their spectators know this as well to avoid this charge. This is not controlled by Sports Network International.

B. Package Plan, Deadlines, & Refund Policy

1. **All participants (instructors & cadets) coming to the NHS DTC must participate in the NHS DTC through the NHS DTC Package Plan** (the only exception is for the few solo & dual cadets attending WITHOUT a competition team – they will pay the \$50 registration fee and a modified \$25 package that includes their shirt, a competition medallion and a competition patch). Through this plan, the event obtains the finest all-service judges, competes in a fantastic first-class indoor venue, uses quality oceanfront hotels, along with providing competition shirts, medallions, patches & team pictures to every competitor, all for an affordable price.
2. **Once your school has been accepted into the NHS DTC, School Registration Fees are completely non-refundable.** Any school sending in their 50% Package Fees deposit early can receive a complete refund of their Package Fees paid provided the request is made in writing on or before the deposit deadline outlined within this folder. Schools that do not submit the required paperwork and/or the 50% deposit by the required deadlines may be removed from the event with no refund of the school's registration fee.
3. **MOST IMPORTANT!:** After submitting the 50% deposit and the rooming list, this deposit payment is TOTALLY NON-REFUNDABLE! SNI must pay for these requested rooms, as well as purchase all of the other items provided to each attendee IN FULL. Rooms reserved cannot be canceled, dropped or otherwise "given back" in any manner. **Also, this deposit is a GUARANTEE TO COMPLETE THE TRANSACTION NO LATER THAN WHEN THE FINAL BALANCE PAYMENT IS DUE.** Therefore, it is crucial that each school understand that the payment of 50% of the package fees is a commitment for THE BALANCE OF THE FEES WHEN DUE. (This is why many schools choose to pay in full on the deposit deadline.) If it is necessary to cancel or "drop" anyone who has paid the 50% fee, the school should find someone else from the school to substitute for that person as they cannot be "dropped". If this is not done, the school will pay for & receive all of the package materials and rooms they requested in their initial rooming list and subsequent revisions.

Important Refund Exception Notes!

SNI understands that a blanket refund policy as outlined above may appear inflexible. Understand however that hundreds of thousands of dollars in non-refundable, up-front payments are made by SNI each year to ensure every team coming to the NHS DTC has affordable oceanfront hotels reserved, as well as event shirts, medallions, patches, team photos and dozens of other competition-related items. Teams simply deciding not to attend, albeit for valid reasons, would make the holding of this event impossible to accomplish.

It is our belief that a trip to the NHS DTC is just as safe as spending the weekend at home. Therefore, we do not foresee any problems in hosting the NHS DTC in Daytona Beach, Florida.

SNI has developed a corporate policy regarding exceptions to the refund policy that all attendees should know. Because of world events and the often over-reaction that can occur from decision makers, SNI has made several modifications to the refund policies noted above. These are:

- 1. Should any federal governmental body delay or ground flights, buses or other national or regional transportation due to any national security issue, and this delay will in turn keep a school from attending the event, SNI will work with the hotels and other event suppliers to attempt to gain a maximal refund possible of monies paid. This refund will be sent to schools as soon as possible after the completion of the event.*

Understand that SNI will not put anyone at risk through attending the NHS DTC. It is our belief that our small gathering of people in Daytona Beach, Florida (population 65,000) poses less of a target than hundreds of thousands of cities and locations across the country, including many cities where teams will be leaving. Thank you for your understanding on this serious matter.

C. Hotel Information

1. The hotels selected by Sports Network will be a mix of oceanfront properties with largely oceanview and street view rooms in use **AND other premium, gorgeous non-ocean front properties in the city.** All are within a 12 minute drive to the competition site. These hotels vary in size & location, as well as general quality or "Package Levels". These range from STANDARD to UPGRADE to HEADQUARTERS (the highest level). Headquarters level can be either the Hilton Resort (for drill programs) and the Plaza Resort & Spa (for Fitness Nationals programs). The Package Level of the hotel is an overall, arbitrary rating of quality/desirability based on many factors.
2. Schools should know that proximity to the Ocean Center CANNOT be GUARANTEED (EXCEPT by staying at the Headquarters for drill across the street). Therefore, all teams MUST maintain ground transport of some kind to make their trip function if they are NOT staying at the Headquarters Hotel.
3. Several schools often request hotels offering a "breakfast". Few hotels **on the beach** in Daytona offer this amenity and those that do are often just juice, milk and donuts that can better be presented by your team rather than counting on a hotel to meet your timing, quality and quantity needs. We can work with most any specific amenity request but know this limitation before planning anything definite.
4. Returning schools are given the first opportunity to go back to the same hotel they stayed in the previous year **if they register by the Early Acceptance Deadline.** Schools will be assigned to a hotel as soon as possible after the 1st deposit deadline in March. Hotel info will be sent to each school in the final advance package confirming their hotel placement and the placement will be listed on their myschool website as well.
5. **All programs looking to stay at the Hilton Headquarters Hotel should make that thought known to SNI in writing as soon as possible after registration.** The Hilton gets very full very early on and we like to get every team their desire whenever possible.
6. At each NHS DTC hotel, the hotel management has complete charge of all security matters and will look to the Instructors and Cadet Commanders to enforce discipline for their team. SNI and/or any hotel is fully within their rights to remove a person, room or entire team from the hotel should any school fail to maintain reasonable quiet and decorum 24 hours per day. Should this occur, NO REFUND of any fees will occur. Fortunately, school conduct is generally EXCELLENT. Schools must understand that proper hotel conduct is essential.

D. Competition Discipline & Conduct

1. Discipline problems are not expected at a drill meet of this caliber. SNI reserves the right to remove any individual, group or entire unit from the event as well as the hotel for destructive, profane or other conduct unbecoming JROTC cadets or conduct detrimental to the NHS DTC. This includes bad conduct in or around the NHS DTC competition site, any NHS DTC hotels or common areas outside. An 11pm curfew is in effect for each event evening. All schools be aware Daytona Beach has a city curfew for all minors not accompanied by an adult as well.
2. While cadets are waiting to compete at the competition site or just remaining as spectators, they must be either: #1) in the lobby area, #2) at the concession or rest room areas, #3) in the dressing areas readying for competition, or #4) in their seats watching the event. Dressing areas are provided solely for the convenience of teams. These areas are totally unsecured. Teams using these areas should not leave personal belongings unattended. Any abuse of these facilities will not be tolerated. While at the Ocean Center, teams should only dress in dressing rooms or restroom facilities. Do not allow your cadets to dress in the bleachers.
3. Teams should bring with them all needed equipment to clean & shine shoes, belts, buckles, uniforms etc. Hotel towels or other hotel items are NOT to be used to polish shoes or otherwise ready the uniform. This problem occurs the most frequently -- make sure your cadets do not engage in this activity!

E. Commander's Call

1. **New in 2023, a ZOOM CONFERENCE COMMANDER'S CALL will be held for all levels of the Nationals event.** Date and time for this will be provided to all registered school in advance. Expansive and detailed, this meeting will bring to life much of the manuals, as well as tangible attendance items for your school. **This on-line meeting will have the ability to take questions as well.** Please remember, **all event questions should be asked during, in advance via email or telephone either, or just after this meeting.** Last minute instructor's questions on-site in Daytona Beach should be avoided at all costs.

F. Awards Ceremony

1. With a unified two-day event, the NHS DTC Awards Ceremony for all drill events hosted during the NHS DTC will be held on the final night on a grand stage constructed on the main arena flooring of the Ocean Center. It is a spectacle of great pomp with amazing staging, lighting and video presentations.
2. No team placements will be announced in advance under any circumstances. The Awards Ceremony is as much a part of the NHS DTC as any team event. **Attendance is EXPECTED unless prior permission has been granted for true emergencies.** All teams are expected to attend in uniform.
3. Judges will come off the stage and interact with the cadets for a few minutes before departing for the night. We feel it is very important for both the judges and the cadets to have time to talk and "put a human face" on the interaction that has been done throughout the weekend. Respect and thanks for a job well done flows both ways.

SECTION 3 - COMPETITION AREA SPECIFICATIONS

A. The Ocean Center Arena & Conference Center

1. The Nationals competition takes place inside the Ocean Center Arena & Conference Center. The Ocean Center has full concession facilities, public and private dressing rooms, ample car/bus parking areas and much more. The Ocean Center has a main arena with carpeted competition areas as well as elevated seating for 6,000. It also maintains a conference center side three times as large where numerous events are hosted with chairs placed around the areas for the ease and comfort of spectators. The Ocean Center maintains BLACK ceilings in all of the open, large space competition areas.
2. Due to the high ceilings and ceremonial nature of the Nationals, OUTDOOR REGULATIONS are in effect throughout all facets of the Nationals. **Covers will be worn and salutes will be rendered while performing or receiving trophies.**
3. Drill areas and their corresponding ready areas are noted on the arena layout located in Section #6 of this School Folder. Separate drill area schematics have been provided for each competition day to include dimensions.
4. The Ocean Center does not provide advanced medical services on-site. However, emergency medical services can be summoned at any time for major medical trauma within minutes. It is HIGHLY recommended that all units maintain a basic first aid kit to attend to minor injuries sustained while in Daytona Beach or traveling. SNI will have a minimal first-aid kit available directly adjacent to the scoring table on the main floor. Should you require medical assistance while at the event, please get to the National PX or the First Aid Table.

5. At no time may schools block the flow of foot traffic with rifle crates, dressing racks or other large equipment in walkways. For those schools choosing to bring in this type of equipment storage units, there are open areas off to the side of the seating areas that are less trafficked and suitable for placement. The elevator is also available for handicap and big item egress to the upper deck. No other use of the elevator is allowed.
6. **LIMITED designated practice areas are available INSIDE the building.** Schools may utilize any open areas outside for practice. Meeting rooms on site are made available to rent to schools on an earliest requested basis. Returning schools receive first priority. Please contact SNI IMMEDIATELY if you would like one.
7. **Individuals/teams may not be in ANY competition drill area at any time other than their competition time** (no advance "walking off the routine" or practice before the event, during lunch, etc.).

B. Drill Area Specifications

1. All drill areas are indoors at the Ocean Center. These can best be seen on the DrillNATION.net website. The general drill area dimensions and surroundings for each area are as follows:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All Inspections (all levels & all divisions)..... ➤ Open Level Color Guard..... ➤ Armed Regulation Drill..... ➤ Unarmed Regulation Drill..... ➤ Armed Team Exhibition..... ➤ Unarmed Team Exhibition..... ➤ Armed Solo & Dual Exhibition..... ➤ Unarmed Dual Exhibition..... 	SEE FLOOR DIAGRAM FOR EXACT SIZES AND FLOOR TYPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">(standard height ceiling - low pile carpet)(ballroom low-pile carpet - high ceiling)(high ceiling - concrete floor)(high ceiling - concrete floor)(high ceiling - concrete floor)(high ceiling - concrete floor)(high ceiling - concrete floor)(high ceiling - concrete floor)
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2. Drill areas use blue fluorescent tape connected to 20" blue traffic pylons set on the floor **and the natural existing walls**. All drill areas use entrance/exit points clearly identified on the floor diagram online. This point will vary depending on the drill area (see maps) but all points are 25' across with the exception of Inspection, Color Guard areas & Solo/Dual areas which are smaller and diagrammed specifically. This is the only point where a team may enter/exit a drill area – (**don't ask for an exception**).
3. Head Judge placements are denoted by an ORANGE cone with a yellow "X" to allow your commander to find this spot easier at a distance. **These HJ cones are ALWAYS located at the EXACT half-way mark of the entire side measurement.**
3. Boundary violations are penalized when a cadet or his/her clothing comes in contact with any part of the boundary tape or the support cones when properly set. Should the boundary tape or cones become dislodged, a violation will occur when a cadet crosses the point where the tape/cone should have been were it not displaced. **These have been INCREASED beginning in 2023.**
4. Teams should be aware that each drill area maintains 4-6 judge's chairs placed against the boundary tape inside the drill area. If you believe they could hinder your team's performance, you may remove these chairs BUT you must replace these chairs immediately following your performance or face the wrath of the judges!

SECTION 4 - COMPETITION RULES

A. Eligibility & Performance

1. The Nationals will maintain JROTC units and other select drill groups. Because of the variety of academic / eligibility standards nationwide, SNI does not regulate the scholastic qualifications of attendees. Community based cadetting groups, middle school and other non-JROTC units may attend the NHS DTC, however these non-JROTC groups will likely only occupy a competition space in the lowest competition levels initially to prove their mettle.
2. **BEGINNING IN 2023, schools will have basic qualifications to attend the NHS DTC.** While it is not any form of "ladder" or any form of "play-in" system (as those can be very expensive and time consuming to maintain), it will ensure teams have a minimum work and accomplishment level to be a part of the upper divisions of the NHS DTC. These are outlined below:
 - a) Armed and/or Unarmed teams seeking to compete within the two UPPER LEVELS (Division 2-Advanced / Division 3-Masters) of the NHS DTC SHOULD compete in at least THREE local or other drill competitions during the 8 months prior to the start of the NHS DTC and;
 - b) The team SHOULD finish within the top half of the overall scoring within their Armed or Unarmed division for at least half of these appearances.
3. Schools entering the Division 3-Basic level will not maintain this requirement as they are often just starting out and are using this exposure to build their program. They are "strongly encouraged" to compete in at least three meets prior to attending, but their finish will not be relevant. These schools are accepted on a case by case basis.

4. SNI will also accept a limited number of solo & dual entries as stand along without attending schools. These cadets must contact SNI directly to both register AND we will outline the regulations to enter the competition.
5. While the Armed/Unarmed Divisions use a service manual as a guideline (TC 3-21.5 & AFMAN36-2203, respectively), **event judges are trained to score competing units in accordance with the performers' chosen service manual.** This allows all units to compete at the **NHSDTC** on an even basis, be it Army, Marine, Navy or Air Force. However, the big three manuals for the Army, Navy and Navy/Marines are the only ones authorized for use. The Navy Cadet Field Manual (though like the MCO) nor any other manuals are known to the judges and not approved.
- 6. In 2023 and beyond, these are the team size regulations in play at the NHSDTC.**
 - a) ALL DIVISIONS and ALL LEVELS shall be permitted to maintain 9-12 cadets plus a cadet commander to compete in both Inspection & Regulation (note: teams may compete with up to TWO cadets less with a 25 point per cadet penalty). Team Exhibition numbers remain 8 cadets minimum with no maximum.
7. SOP changes or clarifications will be covered in advance. As these changes are made, minor changes are posted on the SOP Update website (<http://www.thenationals.net/dt-SOPupdates.htm>). Units are responsible for **CHECKING THIS WEBSITE TO ENSURE THEY RECEIVE UPDATES** up until the week prior when the site is finalized.

B. What Teams Compete WHERE at the Nationals

1. Teams will register into the competition level they feel they belong (Basic / Advanced / Masters) upon entry. The THREE DIFFERENT DIVISIONS of the NHSDTC are fairly clear in their definitions and listed below:
 - a) *Division I / Masters Level: Highest competition division for those teams who are prepared and most fairly compete against the best units in the country. Some of these schools often have former cadets or outside trainers who assist in preparation. Regardless of limitations, these teams compete well in most all events and vie for numerous top finishes.*
 - b) *Division II / Advanced Level: Very competitive division for teams who have a solid history of winning the trophies in their local/area/region meets and can compete well against most events they compete in. Advanced Division Schools would have historically done very well in the Challenge Division and won several trophies there, or lower finishing Masters teams.*
 - c) *Division III / Basic Level: These teams will be somewhat inexperienced at competition or they do not have much competition experience against many teams. These schools are often from smaller towns/schools that have much smaller programs. They do not have a history of winning many/any trophies at regional or national competitions like their service qualifiers/championships or the NHSDTC.*
2. Teams will initially select their Division placement. However, final determination regarding competition level placement is the sole and subjective decision of Sports Network International and may not be finalized until just weeks before the event. INSTRUCTORS often play an outsized role in where teams ultimately will be assigned to compete as do past years finishes. Please do not call and cry about being "loaded with freshmen" and think that holds much sway. Good teams stay good because of the instructors, not the years of cadet experience.
3. Teams that drill without rifles enter within the Unarmed Division of the event. Teams that drill with rifles of any kind or weight enter the ARMED Division of the event. No "hybrid" or other combination teams utilizing both armed & unarmed cadets are allowed.
4. Schools wishing to enter a "stand-alone" color guard (a color guard that maintains no attached drill team) must do so in the **Open Level Color Guard** competition only. This event is held throughout the day on day one of the competition. The event is open to teams of all skill levels, it is not a part of the overall scoring of any entered NHSDTC team – it is simply a proud display and scored event for color guards often from all corners of the globe!

C. Qualifications for Multiple Team Entries & Multiple Level Entries

1. Each school may have ONE Armed entry and ONE Unarmed entry. Schools with very large programs may contact SNI and request to enter more teams between the competition divisions. Units not competing for the National Championship (those NOT entering every team event in their competition division) may have their ability to enter limited or delayed by SNI as this is an event designed to crown this type of program.
2. When entering two teams in a single competition division, each will compete on their own merits, with both teams eligible for all event trophies and Championship. Cadets may only compete in one DIVISION at the Nationals. Therefore, while a single cadet may compete in each EVENT within a competition level and division, he/she may not compete in events for **two separate teams**. Teams found in violation of this rule can be disqualified from the event. Ensure your team does not have cadets "crossing over", competing for two different teams.

- Every team from a school MUST be denoted with a distinctive & descriptive team name (i.e., Acme High School-Eagle Battalion & Hawk Battalion cannot be named simply "A" Team and "B" Team). All names should obviously reflect good taste with military, historical and/or school nicknames preferred.

D. Competition Schedules

- While the event times are posted in this team folder, individual team start times will be given to each school **roughly one week in advance**. Please don't ask for these in advance – they will not be available.

E. Commander's Regulations

- Within each non-exhibition team event, only one commander may lead the unit. This commander must be the person to verbally report in & out, and maintain overall "control" of the performance. A 25-point penalty on the head judge's score sheet will be assessed if the commander does not lead the group during the routine or transfers this duty to someone else. It is NOT required that the same commander be used in all team events.
- Report in/out is required for all events and is done VERBALLY by the CADET COMMANDER. The entire team may salute or also verbally report in WITH the Cadet Commander, but *not in lieu of* the Cadet Commander (NOTE: MOST judges feel this type of GROUP report is an exhibition-only movement). In Color Guard, the Cadet Commander will be recognized and executed correctly as the National Color bearer. At no time may any commander perform using any form of CUE CARD or other form of prompting.
- CADET COMMANDERS WILL NOT MOVE TO REVIEW THE CADETS FOR PERFECT DRESS & COVER DURING ANY BASIC EVENT!** Cadets at this level are expected to maintain adequate dress & cover without supplemental instruction from the Cadet Commander. Cadet Commanders who move to review the ranks will be graded down for their efforts - DON'T DO IT at the Nationals!

F. Uniform & Rank Regulations

- All teams competing at the NNSDTC during non-exhibition performances (Inspection, Regulation, & Color Guard) will wear a **MILITARY UNIFORM** of their choosing. This uniform may be dress or service issue. **THE UNIFORM MUST MAINTAIN A COVER!** The overriding requirement is that the uniform must be presented in accordance with a written regulation manual that can be clearly enumerated, defined and utilized by a judge to grade and review. Military academies, etc. MUST CALL IN ADVANCE to ensure the uniform they plan to wear will be approved! This information will be presented to the judges in advance to ensure schools who maintain deviations are not penalized. We believe this rule will allow the judges to better score each cadet.
- Sports Network International is looking for a military-style uniform. This means many popular uniforms worn here at the Nationals in the past are perfectly acceptable. These include:
 - Marine and Army Dress Blue Uniform / Air Force, Army & Navy Academy Uniforms
 - Standard Class "A" or "B" service uniforms. (NOTE: In many cases, ties are not required by the service manual and therefore, are not a required item here).
- Below are uniform items that have come up in discussion previously. THIS IS BY NO MEANS THE ENTIRE LIST OF ITEMS NOT ALLOWED. It is just a good starting point to give all attendees the concept of what we are looking for during all Standard Drill events --- and what we are NOT looking for. These regs apply to Color Guards as well as Regulation drill members (EXHIBITION TEAMS MAY STILL WEAR ANYTHING THEY WISH).
 - ◆ **No wristbands, headbands, ASCOTS or other related neckwear** (ascots, scarves, etc. are strictly exhibition wear). **No spatz, boot blouses, or related fancy legging items.** Frankly, leather shoes or corfams are what we are looking for here (straight leg pants). Boots are prohibited in regulation events. **A single cord** on each shoulder may be worn. DO NOT wear two cords on one shoulder. **Gloves of any type MAY be worn with ANY uniform.** No web belts, pistol belts, ceremonial belts or similar except when required to wear in Color Guard competition (note: *fanny packs are NOT authorized* – the military manuals direct where the casings are CORRECTLY placed. All Cadet Commanders opting to carry a sword in any division may wear the needed peripheral item to carry the sword without this being considered exhibition wear.
 - ◆ **Teams are expected to have a name tag and/or medals/ribbons on their uniform for Inspection depending on the uniform worn.** If your uniform calls for them and you do not have them, you will look out-of-place and judges may judge you harshly on that segment of the scoresheet!
- We are loose with the rules for specific regulation headgear because of service variations, however, no helmets (even in color guard!), plumes or other "exhibition" headgear is allowed in regulation events. Berets are common cover here at the Nationals and are allowed in all events. Most services have specific regs regarding what are acceptable colors for berets in JROTC cadets so check with them before deciding on uniform mods.

5. If your uniform presentation is "dressed-up" outside the letter and spirit of what is outlined on page 7-8, you run the risk of gaining a penalty! **If a judge believes you have intentionally worn something "stripped down" for Inspection, they may not like that as well.** If you have any question about a uniform, email or call ASAP. This is NOT a case where it is easier to beg forgiveness. Teams that wear prohibited reg item(s) (i.e., ASCOTS or other related neckwear, spatz, etc.) OR omit a required item will face a PER OCCURANCE penalty.
6. In choosing an exhibition event uniform, remember the event is judged by military personnel with many years of military experience. Dressing in a less-than-military fashion CAN/WILL negatively impact scores.
7. Finally, SNI works closely with all JROTC HQs and therefore support their directives fully. Please ensure your unit is meeting all service requirements for proper dress for both YOUR INSTRUCTORS and YOUR CADETS, **It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to confirm any regs in place regarding appropriate uniform usage.** Failure to maintain required waivers may result in a Major Uniform penalty (-50) in each event where this occurs.
8. SNI also suggests that all instructors in the absence of service HQ direction, at minimum wear collared shirt and slacks while at the Ocean Center. Teams should also be aware that during the Awards Ceremony, all judges and the official party are in full dress uniform.

G. General Judging Items

1. ONLY THREE SERVICE MANUALS are recognized at the NHS DTC: 1) Army TC 3-21.5; 2) MCO P5060.20; and 3) AFMAN 36-2203. Navy units wishing to do NAVY/USMC drill MUST USE the MCO P5060.20 as no judges are familiar with the Navy JROTC Cadet Field Manual. It is YOUR responsibility to ensure your drill conforms with one of these three manuals only.
2. Judges are acquired through service training commands, base honor guards, etc. Judges are selected based on availability, knowledge and background. All NHS DTC judges are trained both in advance and on-site to best prepare them to implement BOTH the event regulations and the service regs of the competing teams. Judges are placed into 4 or 5-person groups with various duties & responsibilities for each. In Solo/Dual Exhibition, judges may be assigned into 3-person groups with service backgrounds spread to ensure diversity of opinion.

H. General Performance Regulations

1. A single guide (guidon) is permitted during team exhibition only (**NOT ALLOWED in Inspection, Regulation or Color Guard**). His or her inclusion does not apply to the number of cadets allowed in the exhibition event.
2. Shoe taps **MAY BE WORN DURING ANY FACET** of the NHS DTC competition.
3. During report in, the commander must verbally announce the school and/or team name and service affiliation. In basic events they must also state "we will drill in accordance with XXX manual" or words to that effect. (Note: **This is critical -- don't make a judge guess.**) In Inspection, the CMDR should note the service manual used covering the Uniform and Appearance guidelines. Other items may be mentioned during report in but are not required. During report out, they should give their school name and make clear they are completed. It is customary to ask permission to enter and depart.
4. Given that a large portion of the skill in the Color Guard & Regulation Drill competition is marching in cadence (with appropriate penalty deductions for improper cadence), it should be noted that **teams are NOW FULLY PERMITTED call standard military cadence.** *THIS IS A MAJOR CHANGE – BE PREPARED!*
5. **Cadets will be considered "performing" if they enter & depart the floor with the unit and materially participate in the routine. Their level, scope or talent of their performance is not an issue.** While the team may receive diminished scores in several areas for having cadets not fully participating in the eyes of the judges, they will NOT receive any form of fixed penalty and will meet the regulations for correct number.
6. **The standard cadence for all basic drill for all schools is 116 to 124 steps per minute.** In all other facets of the event, cadence is left up to the discretion of the performing team. Also, a 30-inch step is mandatory during the bulk of basic events in all divisions (NOTE: including Air Force JROTC schools drilling in accordance with AFMAN 36-2203). **That said, a 30" is impractical for many cadets as the manual was written for grown men. Therefore, judges will seek a "FULL STEP" from cadets where a 30" is required. Teams should closely review their use of a full step as those who deviate from this will be marked down by the judges.**
7. Many stationary movements listed in Regulation and Color Guard Drill have been both **HIGHLIGHTED & CAPITALIZED IN BOLD PRINT**. These commands must be performed with a **5-SECOND PAUSE** - between *the completion of that movement* and the *command to begin the next movement*. Failure to perform the required pause will result in a 5-point per-occurrence penalty. **While not graded for time, teams should practice what FIVE SECONDS feels like to not make a judge wait too long or short.**

8. During Regulation and Color Guard Drill, the performance of extra movements not required by your service or the drill sequence (done primarily to avoid boundary violations), will result in a 5-point per-occurrence penalty. Special attention is also given to judges to ensure proper enforcement of regulation movements and recognizing improper actions (i.e., foot stomping, improper flashy movements, etc.).
9. No bayonets, handguns, special effects, props, music or musical instruments, (bugles, drums - ANY musical instrument), pyrotechnics or banners/flags (except those required to perform) are allowed to be used while performing. **Additionally, no horns, whistles, or any other artificial noise-making devices may be used inside the Ocean Center by spectators at any time.** Inside the Ocean Center sound travels easily.
10. It is common practice to have spectators deliver signals to let their unit know they are approaching their performance time limit. This is not prohibited by SNI so long as the guidelines described above on whistles and other artificial noise-making devices are followed. Teams/individuals may be removed from the event for violating this area.
11. Should a drill rifle break or become unusable during any performance at the NHS DTC, or if an additional rifle is to be added in exhibition drill, a back-up drill rifle may be ***handed*** to a performing cadet. This drill rifle hand-off will be made only by a performing cadet leaving the formation, moving to the boundary, and having a new rifle exchanged with someone just outside the competition area. He/she will then rejoin the formation and continue the performance. No added time will be allowed for such an occurrence. This can be done as many times as necessary during a performance.
12. No cadet may be lifted off the marching surface by any means. Therefore, all cadets must drill and perform ENTIRELY on the floor. Any cadet who is lifted or otherwise raised off the floor in any manner will cause the judge to immediately move to the team and direct the raised cadet to dismount. The team will then be disqualified from that event by subsequent review by the NHS DTC Competition Director.
13. Units should plan to be at the Ocean Center at least 30 minutes before their team's scheduled performance time as parking, unloading, can take time. Teams changing into Exhibition uniforms should do so immediately following their previous event. Teams will have no less than 30 minutes to change for exhibition competition so plan your time & uniform accordingly! Teams must be in the drill ready area immediately prior to the completion of the group just before them. Teams who delay an event due to tardiness **may be removed from that event.**
14. AFMAN 36-2203 is not allowed for use within the Color Guard competition. The regulations within 36-2203 are just not tight enough to fairly use as a standard. Air Force teams should use the latest edition of the Army TC 3-21.5.
15. **As per USMC HQ directive, all Marine Corps JROTC teams competing at the Nationals MUST utilize the equipment, marching style and movements outlined within the Marine Corps Order along with permitted JROTC competition drill exceptions. These largely pertain to movements designed to be more standardized to better allow USMC JROTC programs to compete on a more even playing field with the other services. A big one is executing "Uncase Colors". These procedures have been standardized for ALL units to execute the prescribed movements as per the instructions found on the Scoresheet & SOP section of the NHS DTC website to include Marines with the blessing of USMC JROTC HQ.**

SECTION 5 - NHSDTC SCORING, TIMING & TIE-BREAKING

A. Event Timing

- The penalty assessed for a performance not falling between these time periods is ONE (1) POINT PER SECOND OVER/UNDER THE TIME RANGE. Time limits are as follows:
 - Team Exhibition Drill -Min. 5 Minutes - Max. 9 Minutes
 - Solo & Dual Exhibition.....Min. 2 Minutes - Max. 3 Minutes

Important Note!

Only exhibition events maintain a time limit. Teams are reminded they should not prolong the report in/out process or the uncase movements in color guard, as a judge may score down in their overall unit evaluation.

- When event timing (exhibition only), the time starts when the FIRST cadet enters a drill floor and ends when the LAST cadet exits. **If space is limited for entry/exit**, time starts when the first cadet begins marching into the area and ends when the unit is halted upon departure due to obstruction (even if cadets are still in the area such as with a long column formation).
- Many units after being requested to enter the floor by a judge, conduct team/individual motivation displays just prior to the unit entering the drill area causing a judge to wait. Therefore, these displays ARE defacto a part of your exhibition display. Teams performing any choreographed team display just prior to entering the drill floor after being asked to enter by a judge *MAY have the clock start and judging begin to include this display*. We are not discouraging this action, we are simply ensuring this display is judged as a part of the performance time as you are "performing". Please ensure your performance does not go over the max time if you do this.

B. Scoresheets

- Complete scoring packages are given to each school immediately following each Awards Ceremony. Schools will also receive a scoring report for their Division in this package. Also all team pictures are intended to be in this event wrap-up package. Questions or issues regarding any of these items can be best addressed following the event by telephone or in writing when we have the computers re-connected and can better answer specific questions intelligibly.
- Every scoresheet is triple-checked by SNI personnel, as well as inputted & totaled on a computer system and program designed for the **NHSDTC** by SNI. The scoresheets to be used at the **NHSDTC** are located on-line on the PaperworkHQ segment of the NHSDTC website.

C. Overall Scoring

- Scoring in all divisions at all levels of the event is fairly straight-forward and standard. In no division will the number of males or females on a team be a consideration for judges when evaluating teams for scores. The teams are comprised of the genders they chose to perform with without bonus or deduction.
- Judges can and do look at many other items when it comes to degree of difficulty of a team performance (largely in exhibition drill) that have nothing to do with the actual marching and/or rifle maneuvers and this is expected. These items can include the total number of competitors performing on the floor, type of covers/jackets worn, rifle weight, and other related items.
- Judges have always been monitored throughout the day and reminded about the boundaries and consistencies needed to provide fair judging for schools regardless of when they compete during the day.

D. Tie-Breaking Information

- The fundamental scoring system in use for the NHSDTC is known as a "Proportional Event Scoring System". In short, scoring in this manner will ensure all facets of the competition receive the exact percentage of points available, while taking into account the level of excellence each school displays in their raw score total compared to their competitors (which the previous system did not).
- All team events are worth exactly 1,200 points each. The school who is the winner of any particular event receives the maximum points available within that event. For example, the school with the highest raw point total earned in Inspection will receive 1,200 points (regardless of the actual points awarded by the judges) The team finishing in 2nd place will receive a percentage of the 1,200 points identical to the percentage they finished behind the first place team. 3rd, 4th, etc. to the final team will all receive points in the same manner.

3. A practical example of this application is shown in the shortened table below. The judges raw points earned is listed, along with the percentage each team finished behind the winner. These percentages then multiply into the total max points available to generate a Scoring Points total for each school within that event.

Event Finish	Judge Raw Score Earned	Actual Score/ % of Winning Score	Proportional Scoring Points Earned
1st place team	1080 pts.	100% (1080 of 1080)	1,200 pts. awarded (100% of 1,200 pts)
2nd place team	990 pts.	91.7% (990 of 1080)	1,100 pts. awarded (91.7% of 1,200 pts)
3rd place team	888 pts.	82.2% (788 of 1080)	986 pts. awarded (82.2% of 1,200 pts)
4th place team	733 pts.	67.9% (733 of 1080)	815 pts. awarded (67.9% of 1,200 pts)
5th place team	680 pts.	62.9% (680 of 1080)	755 pts. awarded (62.9% of 1,200 pts)
6th place team	540 pts.	50.0% (540 of 1080)	600 pts. awarded (50% pf 1,200 pts)

4. For all Solo & Dual competitions, if the number of entrants warrant, SNI reserves the right to implement "pool competition" to determine a champion. In this situation, cadets will be split into two groups and the top finishers in each (usually the top 10% in each group) will compete against one another in the "medal round" where the top finishers will be crowned. Judges scoring in the initial pool competition will be tossed out and cadets will random draw for their performance times in the final medal round event. In any case, the medal round event would immediately follow the pool competition and be judged by those judging the pool events.
5. All efforts are made to prevent scoring ties at the **NHSDTC**. All event and Overall Championship scoring ties will be broken by re-totaling scoresheets utilizing the applicable tie-breaker in the following order:

For Team Events/Individual Events:

- Level #1 - total only Head Judge's scores
- Level #2 - total only overall evaluation scores
- Level #3 - total only Judge #2, then #3, etc.
- Level #4 - team w/least total penalty points

FIRST Level for Cadet Commander ties:

- Highest finishing Regulation Drill team

For Event Championship Totals:

- Level #1 - highest total raw points earned
- Level #2 – most 1st place trophies earned
- Level #3 - most team trophies earned total

6. **SNI will allow scoresheets to be reviewed by a single team official immediately after the team has left the drill floor.** After the event runner collects the score sheets for each judge, the runner will MOVE off the drill area. In inspection, this will happen just outside the exit doors. In all other areas, this will happen just off the drill area near the entry/exit point, The team may then have a single person designated to glance through the sheets to see if they feel there has been an error in any one of the following areas ONLY: 1)A judge has omitted a score entirely; 2)A judge has provided a score which may be "out of norm" and the team wishes to seek a review (i.e., the judge has provided successive scores of 27, 26 24, 25 and then gives a "2" without explanation) or 3)A judge has likely applied either an NHSDTC SOP RULE incorrectly OR a SERVICE SPECIFIC RULE incorrectly.
7. Should a team after looking wish to initiate an official review under one of the allowed items listed above, the team official should accompany the event runner DIRECTLY to the scoring table and ask to file an official review as the sheets are being turned in. In turn, the scoring head will contact the Judging Director, and in a timely fashion the Judging Director will speak to the team to gain a full understand of what they are seeking to have reviewed, and then the Judging Director will review this with the judge between teams. No discussion or interaction of any kind should happen between team officials and judges at any time.
8. In NO CASE can a review be requested to ASK why a low score was given or similar, nor any other subjective reason not based in a rule based mistake catch. This review is not designed to be used as a training session or a complete top-to-bottom review of "the why" for every number on the sheet. It will not be timed but should in no case last more than a minute or two.
9. This review is designed to catch glaring errors, and will give the team a chance for a quick double check to ensure something wrong can be caught on the spot. History shows from the tens of thousands of score sheets, it will be the rare sheet affected, but teams should know they have this right. Obviously, judges will NOT wait for this process as it will happens while they will push on without any delay by the team.

SECTION 6 - KNOCKOUT DRILLS

A. General Information

1. All cadets competing in any event at the Nationals may enter both the Armed Knockout Drill and the Unarmed Knockout Drill. ONE knockout drill will be held for the event. It will be open to **all Nationals cadets**. The exact time will be listed on the final event schedule posted one week prior to the event. To enter the armed knockout drill you must have a demilitarized or facsimile drill rifle. **There is no separate fee to enter Knockout.**
2. Uniforms (standard or exhibition are acceptable) and grooming should be presented appropriately. **Covers are required to be worn and worn properly.** Those not in compliance may be "knocked out" at any time.
3. Cadets will be called to the floor and will be arranged at double arm interval by the event officials. Cadets will be eliminated one by one until only one remains as the respective knockout champion.
4. No swords or sabers are allowed in the Armed or Unarmed Knockout competition.

B. Judging & Scoring

1. Knockout is judged by up to 30 judges and is a single elimination event. All judges' decisions are considered final. Mistakes can be made but good or bad decisions are FINAL! Cadence for the event is rhythmic but NOT 120 counts-per-minute. These movements will not be published in advance and will be known only to the Head Judge.
2. Cadets will receive a quick briefing to fully explain the procedures in use for the knockout while assembled on the floor. The event will begin with pauses in the action to re-form as needed as cadet numbers decline. Upon being knocked out, cadets will quietly leave the floor. Cadets are expected to maintain their military bearing while leaving the drill floor. Cadets and spectators in the audience are expected to be quiet during knockouts, keeping noise and commentary to an absolute minimum so that the knockout may be conducted without distractions.
3. Teams should understand that the knockout drill is highly subjective. Oftentimes, winners are crowned as much by good fortune as by talent. Individuals wishing to discuss specific knockout cases are encouraged to do so AFTER the event is completed to be fair to the cadets remaining on the drill floor. No discussion will take place during the knockout drill about anything relating to the competition itself.

SECTION 7 - NHS DTC TROPHIES & AWARDS

A. Team Events & National Championship Trophies

1. All teams are eligible to win team trophies within each event entered, regardless of how many total events the team enters. Every team event scored toward the overall championships will maintain 1st through 5th place team trophies. Only in a case where a division maintains 8 or less schools would trophy numbers be reduced. A national championship and runner-up trophy will be presented in each of the three competition levels at the Nationals in both the Armed & Unarmed Divisions).

B. Determining the Overall & Runner-up Champions for each Division

1. Overall division placement is determined by a team's finish within each of the four team events, not simply by the raw score earned. The scoring system in use for the NHS DTC is known as a "Proportional Event Scoring System". In short, scoring in this manner will ensure all events of the competition receive the exact percentage of points available, while taking into account the level of excellence each school displays in their raw score total compared to their competitors. Full scoring and tie breaking procedures are found under Section 5c, "Overall Scoring & Tie-Breaking Information".

C. Solo and Dual Exhibition Events

1. Every school is allowed to enter up to ONE Solo entry and ONE Dual entry into the competition division they have entered at the Nationals (or just dual entry for Unarmed teams). Therefore an Unarmed Team can enter dual competition in the Unarmed Division (nowhere else). **Teams that feel they have two very strong drillers may petition to enter a 2nd solo cadet and/or a 2nd dual cadet.** This should be done via email well in advance of the competition to secure this slot and is generally approved.
2. There is no additional cost for any school to enter either solo and/or dual events as the team registration fee already covers these costs.

3. There IS an additional cost for Open Level Color Guard teams and those cadets attending the Nationals just for the solo and/or dual competitions without an attending team. The standard entry fee for these cadets is set at \$50 and this will allow up to TWO SOLO cadet entries, as well as ONE DUAL entry maximum per \$50 entry (as well as entry into both the Armed & Unarmed Knockout drill should they desire). **These "stand-alone" solo & dual entries with then also maintain a \$25 package cost where they will receive all of the package items received by the other attending cadets.** Cadets seeking this type of entry can gain far more information and can get more detailed entry information on the NHSDTC Homepage (here is the direct link: <http://www.thenationals.net/dt-solo-dual-main.htm>)
4. There is only one level of competition within all solo & dual events and the competition should be quite high. Historically, upwards of 70 to 90 solo armed cadets and 50 unarmed dual cadets will be a part of the competition. Being a part of that is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. In events where over 40 cadets are entered, two "pools" of cadets may be created with the top 5 finishers in each moving on to a final round performance to compete for awards.
5. Although these events don't count towards a team's National Championship total, cadets are eligible for awards in each as well as the national notoriety that comes with a top finish. 1st through 3rd place individual awards will be awarded for these events unless a pool/medal round is used, then 1st-5th place awards are provided.

D. Commander's Trophy

1. The Commander's Trophy will be derived from commander's evaluation scoring judged during the Nationals' Regulation Drills. The overall unit scoring during Regulation Drill has no *direct impact* on the scoring used in evaluation of the Commander's Trophy. First, second & third place awards are presented in each division.

E. Knockout Drill Awards

1. Special red, white and blue medallions will be awarded to the **top 10** finalists in both Armed and Unarmed Knockout Drills. These awards are presented immediately following this exciting competition, along with a receiving line of hand shakes from all of the judges involved in the event.

F. Certificate of Achievement Plaques & Cadet Certificates

1. All schools competing for an overall championship(s) (teams entering a competition unit in **every** event counted towards the overall championship will receive a personalized plaque for the school to commemorate their quest for a championship. One per school is awarded, regardless of how many TEAMS you have competing for a title.
2. Schools eligible to receive this plaque will have an announcement made prior to the start of their awards ceremony. The school will then send a cadet representative to the main lobby of the Ocean Center after your school has found their seats. SNI personnel will align these cadets in school alphabetical order. Cadets will be directed in column formation into the arena, where they will be present for the start of the Awards Ceremony. Once the ceremony has begun (colors posted, etc.) the cadets will proceed past the podium where they will be announced and have their plaque presented.
3. All competing cadets who participate in the Nationals will receive a personalized Certificate of Excellence. These certificates will congratulate each competitor for their hard work and strong performance at the Nationals. These certificates will be generated from the rooming lists required from each school. It will become VITALLY IMPORTANT that these lists are ACCURATE regarding both the names of the competing cadets appearing on the lists and that they are SPELLED CORRECTLY. Additional certificates WILL NOT BE SUPPLIED to schools who do not check their lists to ensure the correct people and the correct spelling is maintained.

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