

**2023** National High School Drill Team Championships  
**ARMED COMPETITION SOP**  
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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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## 2023 National High School Drill Team Championships

# ARMED COMPETITION SOP

## REGULATIONS FOR ALL ARMED DIVISIONS SOLO, DUAL & TEAM EXHIBITION COMPETITIONS & OPEN LEVEL COLOR GUARD COMPETITION

### SECTION 1 - THE ARMED COMPETITION

#### A. Competition Guidelines

1. The Armed Division competition score sheets and all levels of Color Guard have been written under the guidelines of the Army TC 3-21.5. However, as stated within the Overall Competition SOP, teams may use any one of the three major service manuals for competition at the NHSDTTC. The only exception to this is Color Guard where the MCO P5060.20 w/change 1 OR the Army TC 3-21.5 (most recent version available) can be used. Only the modifications contained within this SOP are allowed. Teams wishing to obtain a copy of any service manual can hit the Nationals website: <http://www.thenationals.net/judgeregs-MANUALS.htm>.
2. **The NHSDTTC allows all units to perform in accordance with the requirements outlined in their particular service manual with few exceptions.** However, portions of some events WILL REQUIRE the use of the Army manual (as in Uncase Colors procedure in Color Guard or all rifle movements for Air Force teams within Armed basic event drill). **Specifics on EXACTLY HOW THIS MUST BE DONE are listed in detail under specific event directions within this SOP.** This drill meet SOP has been studied by drill instructors from all services ensuring that it maintains the fairest all-service drill meet format possible.
3. The Armed Division competition maintains weapons of all weights and styles. There is no longer a "Mixed" Division **separating lightweight rifles**. Judges will be briefed to look at the routine as presented and judge the "difficulty" in relation to the weight and balance characteristics of the rifle as presented.
4. Teams should review the General Operating Procedures in its entirety and this smaller, more focused overview of your specific division entered before readying their unit for the NHSDTTC.

#### B. National Championship Events

1. The FOUR events counted towards the National Championship in the Armed Division are: **Unit Inspection, Platoon/Flight Regulation, Color Guard, and Team Exhibition**. Other events are held but are not a part of the Overall Championship scoring. Overall finish is determined by placement valuation in each event (see page 7-9 – 5-C-1 for details).

#### C. Drill Rifle Requirements & Regulations

1. To compete at the **NHSDTTC** within all armed events, the unit's drill rifle must fit a series of standards that qualify it to be "demilitarized". These criteria include the following:
  - A drill rifle must be rendered demilitarized by leading the barrel or removing firing pin
  - A drill rifle must contain both a trigger guard (if trigger is present) and an adjustable sling
  - The use of front/rear sights are **strongly discouraged** by SNI on any drill rifle used for a team's drill performances. They can cause severe injuries and serve little purpose on these drill rifles.
2. Should a drill rifle not meet any one or more of the above criteria, the team will be considered to be using an illegal drill rifle and will be penalized in an amount to be determined on-site by the judging director based on the severity of the drill rifle violation up to removal of the rifles from the competition.
3. **Unaltered Glendale and Daisy standard drill rifles meet all of the above criteria.**
4. In the Armed Division, drill rifle slings are required drill rifle equipment and may not be "taped down" or otherwise attached to the stocks during any phase of the competition **except during exhibition events**. Otherwise, all armed teams may apply tape, rubber bands or other materials to a drill rifle in any manner as they see fit. **Word to the wise, these are military judges – don't put fuzzy dice on a Ferrari. Regarding decoration on rifles, less is more!**

5. Although all team members must compete with the same style drill rifle during a given event, teams are allowed to use multiple sets of drill rifles for each team event should they desire (example: one set for Regulation Drill and a different set for Exhibition). This is left to the discretion of the teams.
6. Color Guard units competing within the Open Level Color Guard competition, as well as the Armed & Unarmed Divisions may use any style or weight drill rifle they choose, so long as the drill rifle has a sling which is required to execute all commands within the color guard sequence.
7. **Judges will be instructed that a DROPPED RIFLE will be penalized when the cadet UNINTENTIONALLY loses TOTAL rifle control and the rifle strikes the marching surface before gaining control.** This is critical during all armed exhibition drill events (both team and solo/dual). Drill rifle control is ESSENTIAL to a solid finish!
8. **AS PER DIRECTION FROM EACH SERVICE HQ, the drill rifle cannot be driven into the marching surface by the BARREL!** Judges generally do not LIKE IT, and therefore teams should NOT execute it. A subjective deduction can be maintained by the judges and/or the Competition Director if it is witnessed.
9. Drill rifles sometimes break in a way where its continued usage could become a danger to the cadet, nearby cadets and/or spectators. When this occurs, the cadet should carry the drill rifle but UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES should the drill rifle be spun or otherwise moved in a dangerous manner. See page 7-9 (4-F-11) for regulations on replacing a broken drill rifle during a routine.
10. ALL exhibition judges WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO take control of and visually inspect/hand-weigh any cadet's drill rifle at random in the event ready area before all solo, dual, & team exhibition performances in armed events. This should be done BEFORE watching the team perform to ensure the judge maintains a clear picture of the degree of difficulty the weapon presents during their routine. A judge MAY seek the rifle afterwards, but this is highly unlikely. In any case, the cadet MUST relinquish the rifle for inspection by the judge.

#### ***D. Cadet Commander Regulations***

1. **Armed competition cadet commanders MUST carry a rifle, saber or sword** (note-only a rifle in the Color Guard event). When a commander uses a saber or sword, it is not permitted to leave the commander's hand at any time. This prevents any attempt at flipping or tossing. Do not ask for an exception, it will not be granted.
2. When using a saber/sword, the commander should maintain EXTREME control, follow drill manual guidance, and use proper distancing around the Head Judge when reporting in and out. Violation of this rule will cause the Head Judge to retreat to a safe distance away from the commander. Although there is no specific deduction for this action, the result is reflected in the overall evaluation scoring from the event Head Judge, as well as the other event judges.
3. Allowing that each drill team is instructed differently, judges will evaluate the vocal projection of cadet commanders in the following manner. During Inspection and Regulation Drill events, an individual's voice projection, confidence, and tone will be the criteria upon which judges will base their evaluations.
4. **REMEMBER, CADET COMMANDERS WILL NOT MOVE TO REVIEW THE CADETS FOR PERFECT DRESS & COVER DURING ANY BASIC EVENT(S)!** Cadets at this level are expected to maintain adequate dress & cover without supplemental review from the Cadet Commander and judges will grade this as a part of the entry. Cadet Commanders who move to review the ranks will be graded down for their efforts - DON'T do it!

## **SECTION 2 - UNIT INSPECTION**

### ***A. General Information***

1. Teams will formulate their Unit Inspection team in the same way that they do every other team at the Nationals. The team selects the cadets who stand Unit Inspection, as well as select the Cadet Commander for the detail. The Cadet Commander **MUST** be armed with a rifle, sabre or sword. The team will maintain 8-12 cadets in "the block" with a single Cadet Commander as well. Cadets should be as evenly dispersed as possible into four RANKS.
2. Inspection at the Nationals is designed to be a relatively intense experience. The judges will be briefed, trained and monitored to ensure a common standard is displayed. Inspection questions will come from FIVE primary areas. **These will be military, governmental, historical, current events and first aid.** These questions will NOT be given to the teams in advance. There will be THOUSANDS of questions available to the judges for use and therefore they will likely not be many except the most basic that could be repeated throughout the day. Judges will also be encouraged to ask cadets thought provoking questions involving moral issues, likely ending with, "and WHY" where the cadet will be expected to explain their logic, reasoning or answer in detail to the judge.

3. The Head Judge will be centered in the room on the wall directly on a cone with a yellow "X". This is the report-in/out point for the team.
4. Judges will likely use more difficult questions in the DIV 1 Level than in the DIV 3 Level, however all cadets should be well trained in solid bearing and be well versed in areas of the target questions that all good citizens should know.
5. Judges will maintain a strong presence and cadets should be expected to have impeccable bearing. Judges will provide immediate feedback on deficiencies to the cadet during the review.
6. The scoresheet should be studied to see how your performance can receive the maximum score in each area.

### ***B. Inspection Procedures***

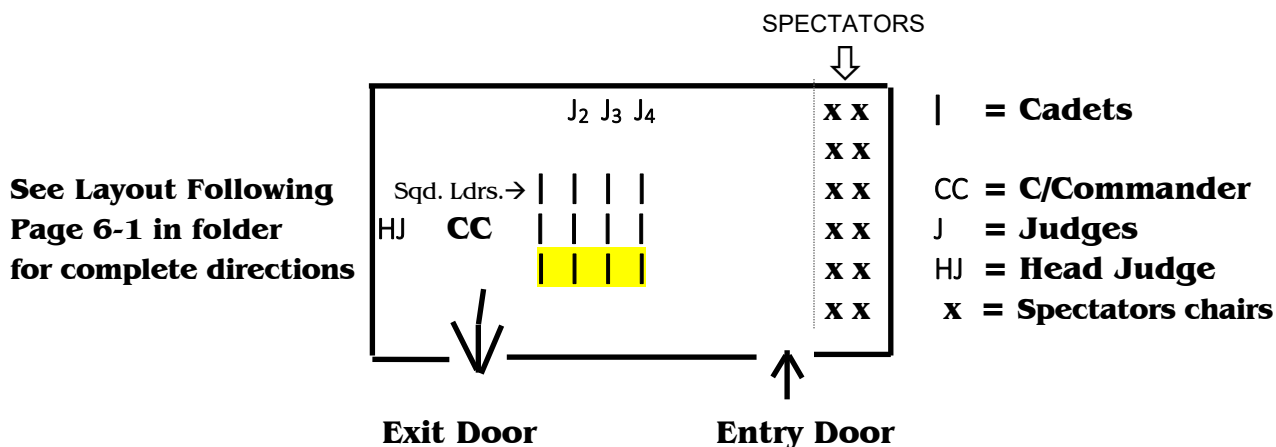
1. Just prior to the Inspection, spectators with the performing team will be asked to enter and sit inside the Inspection room in the spectator seating area. The unit forms outside the Inspection room in the hallway near the entrance door. Cadet Commander's with rifles must utilize the position of Sling Arms if using a rifle throughout the Inspection.
2. The Head Judge will approach the cadet commander in the hallway as the parents enter the room, impart a few words of wisdom, ensure the unit is ready, and then return back into the Unit Inspection room. The Head Judge will ensure the other judges are ready, and then command in a loud voice, "**XYZ High School, REPORT!**" The Cadet Commander will then verbally command the unit to enter the Inspection area through a 72" doorway (double doors – 36" each). An extra cadet, parent or team follower should open, hold and close the door(s) for this entry.
3. **The unit will be formed with 4 squads/elements of 2-3 cadets each and centered on the Head Judge in the formation as shown on the next page. Teams forming into three squads will be scored lower by the judges for using improper procedures!** Teams should NOT command "Fall In". Judges want to see a unit **commanded and marched** into the inspection room. How you choose to do this is up to your team.
4. Once inside the room, the Cadet Commander will command, "**Open Ranks, March**", "**Dress Right, Dress**" "**Ready Front**", execute an About Face, salute the Head Judge, and Report In to the Head Judge with the unit at attention. Due to the room size, units should not "crowd" the Head Judge when executing "Open Ranks". Done correctly, the C/CDR should be 2-3 paces away from the Head Judge.

### **Important Note!**

*Instructors, you control the Inspection Room! Only those spectators who are with your program ONLY should be inside your inspection.* An SNI staff member may enter the room to ensure the judges are following the correct procedures during their interaction with your cadets but these people are easily identified. If someone attempts to enter your inspection room and after speaking with them you do not wish to have them inside your inspection, tell the head judge to ask this person to be removed from the room. If this proves unsuccessful, radio for the Competition Director and that individual will be removed from the area immediately.

5. To Verbally report in correctly, the Cadet Commander should state: 1) school name & team name; 2) city & state you are from; 3) the drill manual you will perform in accordance with and 4) the military "reg" your uniform is inspected under (AR 670-1; MC Order P1020.34F; AFROTC 36-9, etc.). **NOTE: DO NOT have the entire formation salute the judge – this will likely be considered an exhibition movement!**
6. After Report-In, the Head Judge will inspect the commander briefly (commander remains at Sling Arms). The Head Judge will state to the commander, "**PRECEED ME through the Inspection**" or similar. **The head judge will step off and begin the inspection with the rank 1 squad/element leader.** Cadet Commander will simply about face and move in front of cadet #2 in rank #1. Doing this, the Cadet Commander will LEAD the Head Judge, staying one cadet slot ahead of the judge during the face to face inspection. The remaining three judges will concurrently step off and begin their Inspection of the other squads.
7. As an inspector halts in front of each cadet, the cadet should execute Inspection Arms. The inspector WILL LIKELY take your rifle. **Cadets in ranks should provide a very brief greeting to the Inspection judges when a judge halts in front of them** (BEFORE they move to "Inspection, Arms" in the Armed Division). An example would be, "Good morning Staff Sergeant, Cadet Phillips ready for your inspection" or similar. (NOTE: The name/rank of each judge listed by the squad they will be inspecting will be posted just outside the competition area entry door.
8. When the Head Judge inspects the final cadet of the 1<sup>st</sup> squad, the cadet commander is "in space" to the judges right. When completed with the final cadet inspection in their rank, the head judge then cuts in front of the cadet commander and moves to the rear of the 1<sup>st</sup> squad. At that point the cadet FOLLOWS the head judge. When the judge reaches the end of the rank, both the judge and the cadet move to their original positions at the front of the formation. The cadet **may** then execute About Face to see the formation to ensure ALL judges have completed their inspection.

9. When the Cadet Commander is sure all judges have completed their inspection, the cadet commander will then face the judge and **FIRST** verbally report out to the Head Judge. Upon reply by the judge, the cadet commander will THEN execute "About Face", execute "Close Ranks, March" and then execute "Column of Files/Files from the Left" (squad/element leaders give appropriate supplemental commands) to exit through the exit doorway. On "Close Ranks, March", an extra cadet, parent or team follower moves quickly and quietly to open/hold the exit door for the team. The Cadet Commander should remain inside the room and follow the 4th squad out the door as they leave.
10. After exiting the room, the team should move away from the exit door and QUIETLY bring the unit to a halt, then quietly dismiss the unit. All parents and spectators leave immediately after the team. **It is requested that the unit instructors be the last ones out of the room and we encourage you to thank the four judges.** It is not a time to have any real discussion, but instructors should see the non-adversarial appearance of the judges and their team.
11. A single instructor or other designated team representative is encouraged to wait for the runner to execute the Scoresheet Review in the hallway area outside the exit door in the hallway.
12. A map is enclosed following page 6-1 in the school folder describing entrance, formation and exit of the Inspection drill areas (H & I). The formation of the unit must be done exactly as shown in the map and in this description. Please do not ask if you can use a similar formation, entry or execution method; all teams use the method outlined.



### C. Related Inspection Matters

1. Hair length and other grooming issues should correspond to the team's particular service regulations. General appearance should be well-groomed and uniforms should be impeccably clean.
2. Teams will be inspected using their own uniforms as "the standard". The way one looks, is the way they all should look. The difficulty any given uniform takes to ready itself for Unit Inspection (amount of brass and other peripheral items) will certainly be taken into consideration when judging the appearance of a cadet. Cadets ARE EXPECTED to wear THEIR uniform to include ALL authorized ribbons, etc. appropriate for that uniform – no exceptions!
3. Leather shoes or corfram shoes are appropriate wear for all portions of the **NHSDTC**. While corframs are comparatively easy to maintain, leather shoes require more effort to achieve the same appearance and must be so maintained. Should corfram shoes be worn, absolute perfection will be needed to achieve the same score as a well-maintained leather shoe due to the additional difficulty involved.

### D. Cadet Verbal Responses

1. **Unit Inspection will include roughly 3-4 questions for each cadet to determine a cadet's poise, confidence, and overall military/governmental/historical/first aid/current events knowledge.** Again, judges will be strident and possibly imposing to a high school cadet, however they will not be screaming, nor touching the cadet or anything on the cadet. Study, but know that a Nationals' Inspection will test knowledge, thinking on your feet and bearing!
2. If a cadet doesn't know the answer to a question posed to him/her, a confident, "MSgt., this cadet does not know at this time!" or similar is the best response.
3. If a judge incorrectly applies a regulation to your team's service branch or other type of mistake, do not belabor the point with the judge during Inspection! If the judge presses a point a cadet knows is incorrect, the correct response should be "Sir, this cadet has been instructed that "thus & so" is correct, sir". Do not lose military bearing! After ending the Inspection process, immediately reach the SNI judging director and the issue will be resolved.



## SECTION 3 - PLATOON REGULATION DRILL

### A. General Information

1. The required sequence movements must be done regardless of the team's service affiliation, in the order they are listed and from memory. This allows every team to perform in other languages & dialects, along with allowing service variations (i.e., "rear march" vs. "to the rear march", etc.). Obvious mis-statements by the commander may result in deductions.
2. **ALL UNITS MUST UTILIZE A STANDARD, FULL 30" STEP REGARDLESS OF SERVICE AFFILIATION.**
3. Team Commanders ***MUST*** be armed with either a rifle, saber or sword. **Unless directed otherwise in this document, the cadet commander should verbally report In & Out THREE PACES and centered on the Head Judge.**
4. Air Force units competing in ARMED Regulation may drill using their own Air Force 36-2203 manual. While drilling with rifles, **Air Force schools looking to compete under AF regs will execute all RIFLE movements as listed in the Army manual.** NOTE: You will still do double pivots on columns, open ranks without backwards march, call forward march coming out of columns, all marching regs etc. as required by your regs!) Again, ONLY the RIFLE items are the required MODs to use the Air Force regs while drilling under arms).

### B. Judging & Scoring

1. The Regulation Drill sequence is composed of many individual scoring opportunities. Also, teams will receive point scores for their report in and report out, and points for the judge's overall impression of the routine.
2. Some of these movement combinations are relatively easy while a few are quite difficult. While the execution of many of these movements within the given drill area is challenging for any drill unit, it can be executed by any well-prepared team worthy of attending the Nationals at any competition level. The unit's ability to perform this sequence **without extra commands** or shortening steps is vital to the team's overall success at this meet.
3. The position of the Head Judge is fixed and denoted by a large "X" placed on the floor. Teams will report in & report out to this spot **and execute "Eyes, Right" (even if the judge fails to maintain the correct position!).** **See enclosed drill area layout for the exact position of the Head Judge.**
4. To report in correctly, the Cadet Commander should state: 1)school name & team name; 2)city & state you are from; 3)the drill manual you will perform in accordance with. NOTE: DO NOT have the entire formation salute the judge – this is an exhibition movement!
5. A single instructor or other designated team representative can wait for the runner to execute the Scoresheet Review in the hallway area by the exit.
6. The 15-Count Manual of Arms (14-count for Navy/Marines) should be executed at Quick Time (120 cadence).

### C. Regulation Drill Sequence Movements

1. The sequence is designed to be executed with THREE squads/elements. No other formation is possible to execute the drill correctly as **THREE SQUADS/ELEMENTS** are required. **ALL DIVISIONS of competition will require 9-12 cadets plus a Cadet Commander in Inspection & Regulation, as well as 8 total for Team Exhibition. Teams may use up to two fewer cadets and accept a penalty for each missing cadet.**
2. All of the prescribed movements in the Regulation Drill sequence are located on the event scoresheet.
3. All teams should carefully review the Regulation Sequence to ensure their entry and/or exit from the drill floor keeps the squad leaders in the correct position to execute the drill as written. Teams may find the need to execute SEVERAL column movements to properly enter and/or exit the drill floor.

#### Important Note!

Judges are encouraged to discuss matters of rule interpretation, boundary violations, and missed commands among themselves immediately after both Regulation and Color Guard sequences. With the all-service format of the event, this remains the best way to ensure a school is graded correctly. Judges DO NOT discuss matters of preference or opinions regarding a performance AT ANY TIME PRIOR TO THE AWARDS CEREMONY. This concluding conference is normal.

## SECTION 4 - COLOR GUARD DRILL

### A. General Information

1. As in Regulation Drill, all of the required movements in this event must be done regardless of the team's service affiliation. However, the actual language used to accomplish these movements is at the discretion of each unit. Only extra movements required by your unit's service manual to complete any movement prescribed within this sequence will be allowed.
2. Non-Army units competing in Color Guard competition may use ONLY Army TC 3-21.5 OR MCO P5060.20 for their routine (NJROTC Cadet Field Manual, while nearly identical to the MCO is not an officially recognized manual as no judges have knowledge of this document). AFMAN 36-2203 is NOT authorized for use at this meet for color guard as it is "too loose" on reg structure.
3. **ALL UNITS will use the movements from the Army manual for uncase procedures.** Doing this is CERTAINLY easier for your team and the judges. However, for clarity, we wish to spell out for competitors and judges what is expected of NON-ARMY teams wishing to compete using either the Army manual or USMC manual.
  - a) Air Force or Navy schools using the Army manual to compete in Color Guard MUST state their desire during report-in. Schools doing this WILL NOT be required to change their method of stride. **However, all other functions of their routine MUST be done in strict accordance with the Army TC-3-21.5 manual** (including all USAF units which MUST use the Army TC 3-21.5 to complete the sequence).
  - b) Navy/Marine Corps unit wishing drilling in accordance with the MCO P5060.20 will do that for all items OUTSIDE standardized uncase procedures (rifles outboard, no armswing, etc.), HOWEVER, when the unit uncases, **judges and teams are instructed to have Marine units move the rifles to Right Shoulder Arms and then complete all items listed under uncase procedures as outlined within the Army manual.** Judges and teams are directed to allow the ability for the USMC/Navy units to march utilizing locked arms, 2" toe/4' heel and other Marine movements, **but all other items during uncase should be done as per the Army manual.** When the unit has COMPLETED the uncase procedure, the unit should move the rifles back to outboard and continue. This will signify to the judges that the unit is back in full-on MCO P5060.20 mode.
4. Unlike procedures outlined within Army TC 3-21.5, no SGM commands the unit - the Color Guard Commander (cadet carrying the National colors) will lead the team through the entire performance.
5. SNI is making the call that **ALL UNITS WILL EXECUTE SLING ARMS BY CRADLING THE RIFLE** as outlined for the 1903 replica Springfields (as opposed to some rifles correctly executing by GRASPING the rifle). This difference has been created by the current manual omitting the term "sling arms" from the listing of weapon movements to execute exactly as done with the Springfield. This was actually an omission on their part and will likely be corrected in future editions of the Training Circular.
6. The flagstuffs & flag casings may be made out of any material and may contain any personalized markings (school name, color, service, etc.) you so desire. This is not regulated by SNI and is left to your discretion.
7. **NEW IN 2023 AND BEYOND**, for uniformity the organizational color must be a state flag or service JROTC flag. No POW-MIA or other flags will be acceptable. Also, it is **recommended** that all teams utilize the finial on the end of the staff directed by your service manual. While judges are directed by pre-event brief that the finial used is not covered under the regs of this meet, it could be something that subconsciously (or consciously) they incorporate into their scoring. Therefore, while not regulated by SNI, it is our effort to ensure every school consider this when choosing this item.
8. Teams should be CENTERED on the head judge meaning the close interval maintained between the two color bearers should "split the colors" on the head judge OR the National Colors may be in front of the judge. Either will be considered fully correct. Teams must ENTER THE FLOOR to begin grading their routine. Do not execute any of your scored routine before entering the floor.
9. Several drill events across the country maintain "exhibition" or "special" color guard. These events often allow fancy foot movements, facing movements and other creative flag and rifle maneuvers. **THIS IS NOT A PART OF ANY FACET OF COLOR GUARD COMPETITION AT THE NATIONALS!** Every command, movement and procedure you undertake throughout your CG performance needs to be DIRECTLY and STRICTLY out of your competition manual and the Nationals SOP with the only exceptions detailed herein.

## ***B. Color Guard Inspection & Casing for Score (REMOVED FROM THE NHSDTC)***

1. Moving forward, the event will no longer maintain a color guard inspection component. Therefore teams will move directly to the ready area for the event just prior to their scheduled performance time. Additionally, all units will now enter, report, then uncase, then execute the drill, then depart. The team will then re-case their colors OUTSIDE the area quietly and without a score by judges.
2. All color guards are reminded that the color guard ready areas and casing areas are a low-noise zone. Please ensure spectators maintain no loud chants or other loud celebrations or outbursts that could disturb other color guard competitors just a few feet away during their color guard performances.

## ***C. Judging & Scoring***

1. The position of the Head Judge is fixed and denoted by a large "X" placed on the floor. Teams will report in and report out, as well as execute Eyes, Right to this spot. It is the responsibility of the Head Judge to ensure he or she is on this spot during both the report-in and report-out. **See enclosed map layout for the exact position of the Head Judge.**
2. The sequence for drill is comprised of many graded regulation movements and a Judge's Overall Impression in the Masters Level competition divisions. **Please review these scoresheets on-line to fully prepare your team.**

## ***D. Color Guard Regulations & Performance Issues***

1. As the sequence outlines, CG units should enter the Color Guard area, then uncase the colors (***WHERE*** this occurs is left up to the competing unit but MOST do so centered on the head judge. The team should **THEN** report in with uncased colors and complete the routine. A special area has been set-up adjacent to the Color Guard area for these schools to re-case the colors (ungraded) before proceeding back to their seats so as not to walk through the venue with uncased colors.
2. All units must contain FOUR cadets only. Two cadets will bear arms and two cadets will bear colors. The rifles used within the Unarmed Division Color Guard competition **can be any weight or style regardless of the gender of the person holding the drill rifle - however they must have a fully functional sling to execute the drill properly.** The National Colors will be the senior flag with the correct organizational color as dictated by your service regulations. While the Cadet Commander must be the National Color bearer, at the Nationals the Cadet Commander is not required to be the highest ranking member of the Color Guard unit.
3. Standard minimum flag dimension for color guard are **3'x5'** not including fringe. Judges will note teams utilizing a larger color and/or a longer staff (**primarily Marine and Navy units**) and will take this into consideration during event scoring, especially during uncase procedures.
4. Units should ensure their entire uniform in Color Guard is in full compliance with the NHSDTC uniform regulations on page 7-7 within the General SOP entitled, "**E. Uniform & Rank Regulations**".
5. **Nowhere in the drill universe is perfect synchronization more heavily under scrutiny. Practice these movements to uncase Colors until the two rifle bearers can be done in a mirror likeness of each other virtually with your eyes closed!**
6. **ALL UNITS MUST study the Army manual to be able to correctly perform each of the items listed below. Many nuances are maintained within EACH of the stated commands in relation to executing the movements correctly. CAREFULLY REVIEW THE MANUAL!**

**CASING AND UPCASING THE COLORS:** To case and uncase the Colors, the Color guard forms in a line formation with the cased Colors at the Carry Position. The National Color bearer (NCB) commands "**Sling, ARMS**". The Color guards immediately adjust their slings and assume Sling Arms. The NCB commands "**POST**". The Color guards face to the Half Left (Right) in marching, take four steps, halt, and execute About Face. The NCB then directs "**UNCASE THE COLORS**". The Color bearers lower the Colors (same as Present Guidon-**NOTE LOOK THIS UP!**). The two guards then move forward and uncase the Colors. The Color bearers unfurl and immediately return the Colors to the Carry (Order) Position. While the Colors are being unfurled, the guards fold the cases and secure them in their left hand. When the Colors are in the Carry Position, the NCB commands "**Present, ARMS**". The Color guards and the organizational Color Salute. The NCB then commands "**Order, ARMS**", and then commands "**POST**". On the command of execution POST, the Color guards move to the rear of the formation and place the folded canvas cases inside the cartridge belts (center rear of the back) of the Color bearers. The Color guards then move back to assume their original positions, adjust their slings, and return to Right Shoulder Arms.



## **SECTION 5 - SOLO, DUAL, & TEAM ARMED EXHIBITION**

### **A. General Information**

1. A single Team Exhibition event is offered to all schools at the Nationals.
2. Armed Solo & Dual Exhibition events are offered to all armed teams at the NHS DTC. No additional fees are imposed for schools entering their armed solo and/or dual cadets into this competition.
3. Each team is allowed to enter up to ONE solo and ONE dual entry. Therefore, schools entering two teams will get ONE entry PER TEAM (total of TWO entries per event). Schools who feel they have a 2nd entry that is worthy of this lofty competition may petition for gaining a 2nd entry slot into either or both of the Solo or Dual competitions via email or phone. These are routinely accepted, especially if the school has a history of solid exhibition finishes.
4. All Solo & Dual entries may be male, female or mixed (dual) teams. Gender is not a determining factor. Schools entered within the Demilitarized Division that maintain either a female solo and/or a female dual team with full weight rifles may choose to compete their solo/dual entries in the Mixed Division competition versus staying in the Demilitarized Division.
5. If there are at minimum TEN female solo entries (of the 70-90 expected), SNI will produce trophies in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> exclusively for female Solo Exhibition entrants.
6. All exhibition routines consist of stationary/marching drill movements as well as trick rifle maneuvers that are limited by the imagination & creativity of the drill unit, and the rules of the Nationals. Please keep in mind however that this is a military competition with military judges. Cadets may not use a thrown or flip dismount, basket catch/basket toss or other "cheerleading-style" maneuvers during any facet of exhibition drill.
7. Teams should design their routine to ensure any dangerous or very long rifle tosses DO NOT have the rifle travel in a manner that places anyone except the receiver at risk of being hit with the rifle. This prohibition is due exclusively to safety concerns where rifles are sent soaring through the air and placing non-involved team members in physical danger. If undertaken, this may result in your unit being subjectively disqualified from this Exhibition event.
8. The unit commander for Team Exhibition MUST BE armed with a rifle, sword or saber. During all facets of exhibition drill, cadets MAY utilize blindfolds, hoods and/or up to one additional drill rifle per person during routines. These are the only "props" allowed to be used. Cadets may also utilize a replacement drill rifle if theirs gets broken (see General SOP page 7-8 for rules on this allowance).
9. 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 tell the raised cadet to dismount and the team to leave the floor. The team will also be disqualified from that event at that point.
10. The Head Judge IS NOT FIXED ON THE FLOOR DIAGRAM. Teams will dictate where they wish for the judge to stand for BOTH Report In and Report Out in all exhibition competitions.
11. Along with the standard Report-in/Report-Out procedures used during all NHS DTC events, Solo and/or Dual Exhibition competitors **ARE REQUIRED** to state their last name(s) **during BOTH the Report-in & Report-out**.
12. AS PER DIRECTION FROM EACH SERVICE HQ, at no time may any drill rifle be driven into the marching surface by the BARREL! Judges generally do not LIKE IT, and therefore teams should NOT execute it. A subjective deduction can be maintained by the judges and/or the Competition Director if it is witnessed.
13. **VERY IMPORTANT:** Exhibition performances have in the past maintained team/individuals motivation displays prior to the actual unit moving onto the drill area but after the judge has verbalized for the team to enter and therefore before event timing began. Teams performing any synchronized, team display of any kind just prior to entering the drill floor (after the judges are ready for you to begin) may have the clock start and judging will begin to include this exhibition display. Please ensure your performance does not go over the maximum time limit if you plan to include this in your routine. Post-event displays (done outside the drill area) are not regulated as judges have their head down and are scoring at this point.

## B. Judging & Scoring

1. Judging during any exhibition event is obviously quite subjective. However, all judges are asked to look primarily at the mechanics of the routine as well as the togetherness and "snap" the unit presents -- while also reviewing with equal intensity the overall style and flow of the performance. The scoresheet maintains points for many disparate areas of the routine and judges are trained to look in ALL OF THESE AREAS ONLY to provide scores.
2. While the degree of difficulty a unit displays is also a strong consideration in judging, flawless perfection cannot be overlooked. These are the two basic components in play in all exhibition drill.
3. Nobody receives bonus points for large groups of competing cadets, however judges are told when computing scores they MUST take into consideration the size and complexity of the routines when scoring several areas on the scoresheet. Certainly more cadets maintains far more difficulty.
4. The scoresheets for Team, Dual & Solo Exhibition are all virtually identical. **These scoresheets should be studied to learn how your performances may be tailored to have the best chance of receiving the maximum points available in these events.**
5. Space limitations just outside the entrance to the armed exhibition areas may force a team utilizing correct formation spacing to either start their performance with cadets just inside the entrance boundary, or complete their performance with halted cadets still just inside the drill area exit. **If this should occur, the team will not be penalized for boundary** or time related issues related to insufficient space to enter exit the drill area with a correctly spaced formation.
6. A 5-point penalty will be assessed for a first drop of a rifle. All subsequent drops during a routine of that or other rifles in the performance will maintain a 25-point penalty assessed on the Head Judge's scoresheet. This change has been made because a dropped rifle realistically generates a far higher overall score drop than just the penalty. Handling of the Weapon, Precision and even Overall Impression can lose points. While rifle control is of huge importance, one drop is something we wish to make less of a "death sentence". See Section 1-C-7 on page 8-3 of this document for definition of a dropped rifle.
7. The ARMED Team Exhibition event does allow flexibility in rifle usage by cadets simply by its historical nature and function. Cadets can use multiple rifles, one rifle or even no rifles for a portion of their routine. With this, teams may execute sections of their routine with many avenues of creativity. However the following rules are in play at all times:
  - a) **All cadets MUST Report In & Report Out holding a rifle in a standard, military fashion.** Rifles may be stacked, laid down or otherwise intentionally placed on the floor when not in use OR picked up later and used without penalty.
  - b) Rifles used during the team routine **MUST remain in the drill area throughout** (obvious exception for a broken rifle replacement) Also, no individual NOT inside the competition area may materially participate within the routine in any manner.
  - c) The routine MUST maintain at least EIGHT cadets (the minimum number allowed in this event) **functionally manipulating the rifle during the bulk of the sequence.** Therefore, teams with larger numbers can have additional team members doing other exhibition movements (either armed or unarmed) but at least eight must move rifles during the bulk of the routine.
  - d) In addition to the Report-in & Report Out, every cadet must at some point handle a rifle as a part of the armed flow within the exhibition routine.
  - e) Those teams seeking to have an exhibition drill with extended period(s) of time with many team members standing without rifle movements OR members standing still for extended stretches will likely NOT be happy with their performance scoring. Your job is to impress the judges as a team in the areas covered on the scoresheet. **This CANNOT happen by standing and doing nothing for long stretches.**
  - f) Within these rules, hybrid routines ARE ALLOWED. That said, this is an ARMED EXHIBITION DIVISION. Much of your routine will be scored against the routines of other teams who will likely be using all cadets drilling with rifles the entire time. This is standard and easily understood by military judges. Therefore, any team looking to undertake any form of "hybrid" or other non-standard ARMED exhibition display with extensive unarmed exhibition movements, **you do so at your own risk.** You accept the very real risk that WHILE PERMITTED, the judges MAY score the routine LOW in several areas (especially in areas relating to: Handling of the Weapon, Aerial Difficulty and even Military Flavor). **YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!**

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