1st Annual North Texas Police Honor Guard Competition
Hosted by: Grand Prairie Police Department

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS/RESTRICTIONS FOR COMPETITORS:

The Honor Guard Demonstration/Competition is a one (1) day team event consisting of four segments including: **Team Inspection, the Color Guard Posting of the Colors, Folding of the Flag and Exhibition Phase**. During each phase of the competition, teams and team members will be judged in uniformity and military bearing. The variations of marching styles will not be penalized, but rather judged for bearing, precision, straight lines, uniformity, etc. References/suggestions for proper protocol can be found in the U.S. Marine Corps Drill and Ceremonies Manual at this web site: http://navyrotc.berkeley.edu/docs/Drill%20Manual%201.pdf

All teams are responsible for bringing all of their own equipment, including flags, poles, bases, parade equipment, rifles, swords, etc. Teams bringing rifles and side arms must comply with all federal, state and local requirements concerning the transportation of such items. A casket and flag will be provided for the flag folding portion of the event by the Grand Prairie Police Department.

Teams should arrive at least 30 minutes prior to their start time. Team leaders will be notified of their start time prior to the day of the competition. Teams arriving late or not prepared may be disqualified. Please note there will be limited changing facilities on site.

TEAM PARTICIPANTS

Competitors shall be full time law enforcement officers from the same agency or organization. Each team shall have a minimum of four (4) and a maximum of eight (8) members for each event. One of those members shall be designated as a team leader; however, they will actively participate in the phases. Flag folding may be done by two (2) officers if that is how that agency operates. In order to allow the maximum number of officers to participate, each agency may have a different team (4-8 members) for each individual event.

COMPETITION/EVENT COORDINATOR

Sgt. David Rhodes, Grand Prairie Police Dept.
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REGISTRATION AND DEADLINE

There is no entry fee for this event, but there will be a maximum number of teams allowed to participate based on time constraints. Team registration will be accepted up to the maximum team cut off so early registration is important. Registration will be done by email to drhodes@gptx.org. Once you have emailed your intent to participate you will receive an acknowledgement reply within 48 hours. If you do not receive confirmation, contact Sgt. David Rhodes at (972)237-8597 or (469)275-6769.

JUDGES

Judging will be done by the Marines of Marine Air Group-41, United States Marine Corps.

VENUE

The competition will be held at South Grand Prairie High School located at 301 W. Warrior Trail Grand Prairie, TX 75052. Weather permitting, the competition will be held outdoors, but in case of inclement weather, activities will be moved indoors.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENTS AND GENERAL

RULES The Honor Guard Competition is composed of four

separate events.

1. The Team Inspection
2. The Posting of the Colors
3. The Folding of the Flag (casket and flag provided)
4. Exhibition Phase

Preparation: Prior to the designated time for teams to begin the Team Inspection, teams will have an opportunity to assemble on the "ready line" before moving to the inspection line. While on the ready line, members of the Honor Guard team may **silently** make one last inspection of their uniforms and equipment to remove any lint or dust and to straighten creases and gig lines, etc. At the appointed time, the Honor Guard unit in competition shall move up to the inspection line and follow the instructions for competition.

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1. Team Inspection: The team leader shall present the team for judging at the designated inspection location (the inspection line) at the proper time. The team shall fail-in on a single line at "Dress-Right-Dress" and at "Attention". The team shall remain at attention until dismissed or otherwise instructed by the Judge(s). When the team leader is satisfied that his team is ready, he shall take his position in front of the team and inform the judge(s) that the team is ready for inspection. The leader will then be inspected for neatness, cleanliness, and military bearing. The remaining team members will then be inspected for conformity to the leader's uniform. Members of the Honor Guard unit will be randomly inspected at the judge's discretion in the Team Inspection. **Equipment used in the "Posting of the Colors" or the Exhibition Phase does not have to be carried or worn during the inspection. However, all equipment worn or carried during the inspection will be subject to inspection, with the exception of side arms.** When the judge comes to a member carrying a piece of equipment (rifle, sword, etc.), that member shall bring the equipment to port arms or carry position. The equipment will also be judged; however, the equipment will **NOT** be taken from the Honor Guard member. The individual members are judged on neatness, cleanliness and military bearing-plus the team as a unit is judged for conformity, precision, straight lines, etc. The leader will be given instructions by the judge(s) whether to stand by or follow the judge during the inspection of the team. At the end of judging for the Team Inspection, the judge will inform the team leader that the judging is complete and to prepare his team for their next event.

2. Posting the Colors: Each team will report to the ready line for this event with all equipment. The Team Leader shall notify the judge(s) that the team is ready to post the colors. Judging begins when the judge instructs the leader to begin. Each team will immediately begin the "Posting of the Colors". Each team will post a minimum of two colors (National, State, City, Agency, etc.)

   Beginning from the start location, the Team Leader shall lead the Color Guard team through the following:

   A. The Team Leader shall begin with: "Color Guard, Forward March", and then, with the use of either silent or audible commands, the team leader shall march the Color Guard to the designated posting area by following the pre-set path which may require turning movements. Colors will be posted facing W. Warrior Trail.

B. The Team Leader shall direct the Posting of the Colors in a manner which may be done as *elaborately* or as *simply* as the team wishes. The posting shall accomplish placing the National and (if applicable) the State, City, Agency or unit flags in fixed holders according to National tradition and facing in the pre-designated direction. **Bystanders are not considered audience to determine the direction of the colors; W. Warrior Trail is the proper direction to post.** The color bearers will then return to the rank. *(Personnel will be provided to hold the flags in place only after the flags are completely in their bases and released by the bearer. Teams will not be responsible for flags that are blown over as soon as the flag bearer has released the flag pole.)*

C. After Posting the Colors, the team *will* march to the designated end point in a disciplined and professional manner where the Team Leader shall audibly command "Color Guard, Halt".

D. The Color Guard may then "Fall Out" and move on to the next event, if applicable. Assisting, non-participating members may retrieve the colors and any other equipment as soon as the team has come to a halt after posting and exiting. Otherwise, the team must retrieve its own equipment after they are given the command to "Fall Out", or are otherwise dismissed.

3. **Folding the Flag:** This phase will consist of a Color Detail folding the flag as if at a graveside service. A casket and flag will be provided by the Grand Prairie Police Department so that all teams fold the same flag. This team may be composed of 2-8 members depending on the protocols used by each individual agency. All members of the team must participate in the actual folding/presenting of the flag. The Team Leader will move his team to the ready line and notify the judge(s) that the team is prepared for the Folding of the Flag. Judging begins when the judge(s) are notified that the team is ready.

A. From the starting position, the team will move to the casket in a disciplined and professional manner. Then, using either silent or audible commands, the team will fold the flag according to proper tradition.

B. Once the flag is folded, it will be presented to the Team Leader who will make his/her final inspection, and he/she may make any adjustments as necessary.

C. The Team Leader will then present the folded flag to the judge(s) in a manner consistent with proper tradition and protocol. Once the judge has

inspected the now-folded flag, he will instruct the Team Leader to dismiss his/her team. The Team Leader will then move the team away from the casket in a disciplined and professional manner where they will be given the command to "Fall Out", or are otherwise dismissed.

4. **Exhibition/Demonstration Phase:** This phase will consist of a performance that all team members must participate in. The team will consist of no more than eight (8) members, and the performance must not last more than eight (8) minutes. Teams that go over the time limit will be penalized; however, teams using less than 8 minutes will not be penalized. The event will begin once the team's leader has his/her team assembled and gives an audible command to the judge(s) that the team is ready within a reasonable amount of time, or when the judge(s) give a time warning to begin due to time constraints. Teams will be restricted to the exhibition area (approx. 75' x 50'). There will be no discharge of any firearm; however, the use of musical instruments will be accepted. Teams will need to provide any special equipment that will be used in this event. Operational support for sound controlling equipment will be allowed and not considered part of the team; however, any live musical or other instrumental support will be deemed a member of the team who must participate in the exhibition.

Teams should take into consideration the positive impact their performances will have on the image of law enforcement and its patriotism, honor and memorializing of this profession. While this phase is an opportunity for pomp and circumstance, snap and flare, etc. the performance can be as simple or as complex as each team desires. While the difficulty of a performance can earn extra points, it should also be noted that extremely difficult performances require many more movements and precision that can lead to loss of points if not done to perfection. Teams will be graded based solely on the judge's discretion taking into account the following:

- Team Uniformity
- Choreography
- Difficulty
- General Protocol
- Patriotism

Exceeding time limit=loss of points

Team Leaders must be prepared to give a quick overview of their routine to the judge(s) before the performance to notify them of special movements, formations and directions of most movements.

NOTE: Although each team will be able to arrive at the location just prior to their scheduled time and may leave upon completion of their events, we would hope that this can be an opportunity to "network" with other area Honor Guards. We are working on providing a location so that team members can change out of their uniforms into more comfortable attire and watch other agencies compete.