

SOP for AFJROTC 30-Step Virtual Challenge 2020

Produced 19 September 2020

1. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this document is to provide information, regulations and procedures for the 2020 AFJROTC 30-Step Virtual Drill Challenge.

SC-951 AFJROTC, Clover High School, Clover, SC., is responsible for the operation of this event. The Point of Contact (POC) for all matters concerning this drill meet is MSgt Brian Ghent; (School 803-810-8978) or (Cell 325-370-9245).

2. GENERAL EVENT OVERVIEW:

- A. This challenge is a very low threat event that is intended to provide competition opportunities for cadets as well as increase drill performance throughout the Air Force JROTC program. There are a few rules that we all need to adhere to so that there is an even playing field for everyone. We trust the SASIs and ASIs will compete in all fairness during this event. Overall, we want cadets to get out and do something given the high number of competitions cancelled due to COVID-19.
- B. The online competition meet will consist of only one (1) routine, the 30-step drill sequence.
- C. SASIs and ASIs should use the *Air Force Junior ROTC 30-Step Drill Sequence Instructors Booklet* that is on the [AFJROTC webpage](#) to prepare for this routine.
- D. The formation must have at least 13 cadets, including the commander. It is recommended that you have your flight sized up prior to filming.
- E. This event does not require using only drill team members. Units may use any active or reserve AFJROTC cadets regardless of grade level. Units are limited to entering only one team however are encouraged to have competitions at the unit-level as needed to determine team entry.
- F. Registration is open now. Registration will close at midnight (EST) on 1 October. Instructors will need to register using this link (<https://forms.gle/B8wRNJqsqd6rSwU67>)
- G. There will be no cost to register for this event.
- H. Uniforms are encouraged but not required. We would like to see all cadets in a uniform but understand that not every school district is the same. Bottom line is: Do what your school district will allow you to. Any combination authorized.
- I. **All video entries must be performed and submitted by midnight Thursday, 22 October.** Units should plan for weather and other unforeseen events to ensure their events are completed during this timeframe. Teams do not have to film this in the typical “one and done” but may film these multiple times and choose their best entry. Filming can take place during school hours or after school hours, whichever is the most convenient for you and your cadets.
- J. Teams in close proximity to each other may get together and just have their events filmed “together” for simplicity. Units must take into consideration on what their specific school districts will allow. **No cheering cadets or fancy graphics please. It should simply be your school marching the 30-step drill routine.**

- K. An online live stream awards ceremony is currently scheduled to be held on Friday 6 November at 11am EDT. Trophies will be awarded to the Top 3 units.

3. COMPETITION EVENT OVERVIEW:

- A. Hosting a meet of this caliber with great care in an online format can only be accomplished in an evenhanded and meaningful way with teams working hard to compete within the rules. ALL events will require videotaping and uploading of footage. Schools may film the routine several times and select their best one to upload for scoring. These and many other points of emphasis within the new format are specified within this document. Please read, understand, and act in accordance with the letter and the spirit of all rules written.
- B. SASIs and ASIs will need to follow the rules as close as possible to provide for a fair playing ground for all units participating. This is meant to be a fun outlet for cadets to get them out there doing something during these trying times.

4. COMPETITION EVENT SPECIFICS:

- A. The costs to attend is 0. Let me say that again. **The cost to participate is ZERO!**

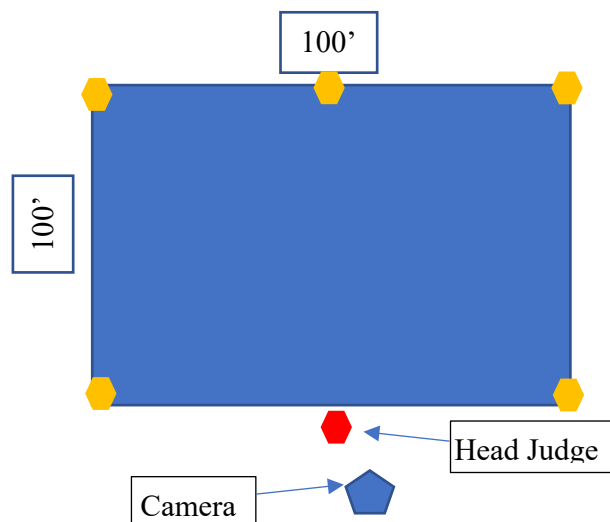
B. REGULATION:

- 1) The only routine that will be scored will be the official Air Force JROTC 30-Step Drill Sequence.
- 2) Sizing the flight and inspection will not be graded.
- 3) Flight Commanders will align each element during the Open Ranks portion.
- 4) Flight Commanders will be expected to remain on the outside of the formation at all times.
- 5) There will not be separate categories for freshman and upperclass cadets.
- 6) Your drill performance can be held EITHER INDOORS OR OUTDOORS – THIS IS YOUR CALL.
- 7) Drill pad size will be 100'X100'. SASIs/ASIs must ensure that they measure the drill pad properly.
- 8) Report In “Sir, (School Name, Unit Number), is prepared to execute the 30-Step drill sequence”
- 9) Report Out “Sir, (School Name, Unit Number) has completed the drill sequence”
- 10) The drill area boundary must be visibly marked in some manner that can be viewed on the video. The boundary marker needs to be a traffic cone or some type of raised item (not just a mark on pavement). Each corner and the center point on each side must be marked.
- 11) Obviously, no Head Judge will be in place for these events. The SASI, ASI, or additional cadet is recommended to return the salute during report in and report out. Just try to stay out of view from the camera during the performance.
- 12) Teams will utilize an orange traffic cone or similar to represent the Head Judge position for the team and for the judges when scoring. This will be critical as the teams will Report-in, Report-out, as well as perform Eyes, Right/Left to this position (where applicable).
- 13) Spectators, other team members, etc., must remain SILENT before, during and after ALL performances.

5. SPECIFIC EVENT VIDEO INFORMATION:

- A. To make this meet as fair as possible, specific and often rigid guidelines will be in place for the filming of the drill portion of this event. This is done strictly for uniformity and to give every school an equal chance at success.
- B. Schools will upload their selected 30-Step routine to a Google drive link that will be provided after registration.
- C. The camera person needs much practice WITH THE TEAM so that he or she KNOWS what is happening BEFORE it happens. The camera should be an extension of the eye and not appear to be “reactive” but “proactive” like an eye is.
- D. All zooms and pans if used should be slow and smooth. Quick jerky movements make it impossible to have a critical eye on your performance.
- E. Specific video guidelines to follow:
 - 1) In all filmed events, the camera MUST be stable and stationary. The camera cannot move locations once filming has begun – it is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED** you video with a tripod to mount your camera to reduce shaking. For this reason, the monitor should walk in front of the camera to film their introductory statement and then step out of the field of view for the performance to begin.
 - 2) The height of your camera may be from 5’ to 8’ in the air. In general, the taller the setting, the more the judge will see. It is your call exactly what height you wish to have your camera. (Note: the exact position will be covered under event specifics below)
 - 3) Ensure that your camera in use can pick-up volume of the Cadet Commander **EVEN WHEN** they are in the most distant report corner of the drill area to receive a maximum available score.
 - 4) Judges can only score what they can see and hear...don’t make them guess...that said, we do not need nor expect to have a perfectly filmed routine in a “we got one shot at this” format. **DO NOT PANIC** if your videographer has a cadet left out of a formation for a short time. All of these reasons are **WHY** is it essential that the unit **PRACTICE** their performance with the camera person several times in advance to maximize success before the official filming occurs.

CAMERA PLACEMENT: The camera should be located at the location of the Head Judge, however the camera should be **roughly 10' back from the boundary tape at a 45-degree angle from the Head Judge position** to the JUDGE's RIGHT. Having the camera at an angle will allow the shooter to "look into the formation" a good bit during the stationary block commands. This distance should give the videographer the ability to keep the entire unit in the majority of the frame during all facets. Pay special attention to your subject to ensure that the ENTIRE Flight can be seen (as much as possible) when they march by close and execute "Eyes, Right / Ready, Front".



6. WORDS OF ADVICE:

- A. It goes without saying but the ability for your school to compete well in these events may lie in the ability for your team to practice not only their competition drill, but also the **FILMING** of their drill!
- B. Therefore, all schools are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to think about these factors:
 - 1) If you have multiple cameras that you have access to from your school/cadets to film your routines, **please try ALL of them** to see which one gives you the cleanest and best video to view. Which has the smoothest **ZOOMING** (in & out) and panning (left to right) capability?
 - 2) If you have multiple **TRIPODS** available to use, **PLEASE** try all of them. See which gives you the smoothest "panning". The most steady and shake-free look? Then, make sure the camera you like best can connect to the tripod you like best.
 - 3) Look at the light source... What time of day will work best for your camera to take the best pictures? Generally, for outdoor filming, the higher the sun is in the sky, the better the result. Please try several practice "takes" with the sun in the sky where you will be filming.
 - 4) Consider ambient background sound from highways, other students, wind, etc. – you want this video as clean as possible in all aspects.

7. EVENT JUDGING AND SCORING:

- A. Judging in **ALL AREAS** of the online meet will be undertaken in a manner to best produce accurate results and that best reflect the talent on display in all areas.
- B. Due to the amount of submissions that we expect, judging will be done using a tiered system.

- C. This tiered system will utilize SASIs and ASIs from all over the country to eliminate any type of bias.
- D. Judges may judge their own schools if applicable. Multiple judges have been selected and will reduce the perception of helping one school over another.
- E. SASIs and ASIs will “Rack and Stack” all submissions given and return to us an Order of Merit.
- F. Scores will be combined, and the top 10 schools will be rejudged by the professionals at Drill Team Dynamics, Inc.
- G. Drill Team Dynamics, Inc. will determine the final placement of schools and the overall winner.
- H. An online awards ceremony will take place on 6 November to announce the winners. The top 3 finishers will receive trophies for their hard work.

30-STEP DRILL SEQUENCE

Performance of the 30-Step Drill Sequence will be IAW AFMAN 36-2203 (Drill and Ceremonies), dated 20 Nov 2013 and is led and performed by second year cadets.

Cadet Commander will report in after the command fall-in is given.

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| 1. *Fall in
(Sizing of flight/count off is not required) | 16. To the rear march |
| 2. Open ranks march | 17. To the rear march |
| 3. Ready front | 18. Column right march |
| 4. Close ranks march | 19. Forward march |
| 5. Present arms | 20. Eyes right (<i>salute the evaluator</i>) |
| 6. Order arms | 21. Ready Front |
| 7. Parade rest | 22. Column right march |
| 8. Attention | 23. Forward march |
| 9. Left face | 24. Change step march |
| 10. About face | 25. Column right march |
| 11. Forward march | 26. Forward march |
| 12. Right flank march | 27. Flight halt |
| 13. Left flank march | 28. Left face |
| 14. Column right march | 29. Right step march |
| 15. Forward march | 30. Flight halt |

Cadet Commander will report out after the command flight halt is given.

**Per AFMAN 36-2203 the command "Fall In" requires proper sizing and count off to be performed. During HQ AFJROTC visits, sizing of the flight/count off is not required and the commander may call "Open Ranks" immediately after the command "Fall In".*