



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
TULANE UNIVERSITY
NAVAL RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS
6823 SAINT CHARLES AVE BLDG 31
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70118

9 Oct 26

From: Tulane University Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps
To: Participating Units

Subj: LETTER OF INSTRUCTION (LOI) FOR THE 53RD ANNUAL MARDI GRAS
DRILL MEET

Encl: (1) [Tulane University Mardi Gras Drill Meet Orientation](#)
(2) [Parking Plan](#)
(3) [Timeline](#)
(4) [Registration Form](#)
(5) [Overall Scoring](#)
(6) [Platoon Inspection](#)
(7) [Platoon Armed Basic Drill](#)
(8) [Individual Armed Exhibition](#)
(9) [Color Guard](#)
(10) [Squad Armed Basic Drill](#)
(11) [Platoon Armed Exhibition](#)

1. **Situation:** On Friday, 05 February 2027, Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) units will participate in the 53rd Annual Tulane University Naval ROTC Mardi Gras Drill Meet (MGDM) throughout the Tulane University campus.

2. **Mission:** To engage participating ROTC units in a safe and competitive drill competition that fosters new relationships and a sense of community amongst units. Midshipmen/Cadets/MECEPs/OCs will have the option to compete in six (6) drill events: Platoon Inspection, Platoon Armed Basic Drill, Individual Armed Exhibition, Color Guard, Squad Armed Basic Drill, and Platoon Armed Exhibition.

3. **Execution:**

a. **Commander's Intent:**

(1) **Purpose:** Engage participating units in a safe and challenging drill environment that fosters new relationships and community amongst schools from across the country.

(2) **Method:** The Tulane NROTC Midshipmen Battalion will plan and execute the MGDM. The Active-Duty Staff will be made available for guidance and mentorship.

(3) **Endstate:** Participants depart New Orleans having smoothly completed event competitions and the awards ceremony.

b. **Concept of Operations:**

(1) **Scheme of Maneuver:**

(a) Thursday, 04 February 2027

1. Arrival to New Orleans
2. Opportunity for Drill Practice on Campus
3. Evening Social Event (Tulane Navy Building)

(b) Friday, 05 February 2027

1. Drill Meet Begins
2. Execute Drill Events
3. Awards Ceremony
4. Depart at unit's discretion.

c. **Tasks:** Participating units will:

(1) Submit the registration form and required payment per enclosure (4) NLT **15 January 2027**.

(2) Coordinate their own transportation to and from the Tulane University campus; refer to enclosure (2) for parking information.

Subj: LETTER OF INSTRUCTION (LOI) FOR THE 53RD ANNUAL MARDI GRAS DRILL MEET

(3) Muster with their assigned guide at Yulman Stadium no later than one hour before their first scheduled event on 05 February, 2027.

(4) Ensure competing Midshipmen/Cadets are in the correct uniform for each event per the standards listed in enclosures (6) through (11).

(5) Follow the direction of assigned guides throughout the day, including during any weather delay or emergency.

(6) Have a uniformed representative present at the Awards Ceremony to receive any awards earned.

(7) Direct any questions prior to the event to the point of contact listed at the end of this letter.

d. **Coordinating Instructions:**

(1) **Social Event (04 Feb)**: Tulane NROTC will host a social event at the Tulane University Navy Building on Thursday, February 4th, 2027, from 1700-1900. Tulane NROTC will provide New Orleans style culinary options and non-alcoholic beverages for all who attend.

(2) **Drill Practice (04 Feb)**: The Midshipmen of the Tulane NROTC Battalion will host a drill practice for competing units. Time and location can be found in enclosure (1) and (3).

(3) **Drill Field Measurements (05 Feb)**: The setup crew will mark all fields with cones. The following events will be set with the noted distances:

(a) Platoon Inspection – (2) 30yd x 30yd fields, Yulman Stadium.

(b) Platoon Armed Basic Drill – (1) 50yd x 50yd field, Yulman Stadium.

(c) Individual Armed Exhibition – (1) 10yd x 10yd field, Yulman Stadium.

(d) Color Guard – (2) 30yd x 30yd fields, Brown Field.

(e) Squad Armed Basic Drill – (2) 30yd x 30yd fields, Berger Family Lawn (BFL).

(f) Platoon Armed Exhibition – (1) 40yd x 40yd field, BFL.

(4) **Judges**: Members of the United States Military with proficiency and experience in evaluating drill. Each will be equipped with (1) Midshipman runner to transport scores from event location to tabulation, and (2) clipboards with scoring cards.

(5) **Tabulations**: Tulane University Naval ROTC Midshipmen in tabulations will (1) gather physical score cards from the Midshipman runner after each drill event, (2) audit score cards for mathematical accuracy and ensuring all necessary information is included, and (3) apply scoring information onto a spreadsheet that automatically processes the data in ranking each school for each event.

(6) **Concessions**: Concessions will be available for purchase inside of Yulman Stadium. Preordering of lunches is encouraged as delineated in the registration form, along with the ability to purchase day of the drill meet. **Other than water, outside food and beverages are not permitted to be brought inside of Yulman Stadium.**

(7) **Check-In**: Participating teams are required to arrive no later than one hour before their first event on 05 February 2027. Check-in will take place at Yulman Stadium with assigned guides, who will provide event information and locations and serve as each team's point of contact for the day.

(8) **Awards Ceremony**: The Awards Ceremony will take place in Yulman Stadium. After all drill events and tabulations are complete, each school's guides will escort their unit to the ceremony. Awards will be presented for first, second, and third place in every event, followed then by first, second, and third place overall for the 53rd Annual MGDM. The Commanding Officer will open the ceremony with remarks and present awards with the assistance of the Midshipman Commanding Officer. Teams shall have a uniformed representative present to receive awards.

(9) **Safety**:

(a) Tulane University policy designates Tulane Emergency Medical Services (TEMS) as the EMS provider for Tulane students and guests; Acadian Ambulance Service will also be utilized. The TEMS phone number is 504-865-5911.

(b) Perform Check, Call, Care, and report any casualties to Midshipmen leadership and Active-Duty Staff.

(c) In the event of a casualty, self-aid is practiced first, followed by buddy-aid, then TEMS if necessary.

(d) In case of extreme emergency, TEMS or 911 will be called by an Active-Duty Staff officer.

(e) In the event of an active shooter, guides will lead their schools to safety – away from and out of the line of sight of the threat – and each unit will conduct a full accountability check.

(f) The Tulane University Police Department (TUPD) provides law enforcement presence, traffic and pedestrian control, and site security throughout the drill meet, and works directly with TEMS and Active-Duty Staff to respond to any medical emergency, active shooter, or other incident requiring a law enforcement response.

(10) **Weather Considerations:**

(a) Light rain:

1. Individual Exhibition will move to the Navy Building.

2. Platoon Armed Exhibition will continue until conditions become, or are expected to become, unsafe.

3. Teams electing not to participate will be refunded for any non-participated events.

(b) Heavy rain and/or lightning:

1. Color Guard will move to the Devlin Fieldhouse.

2. Platoon Inspection will move to the Qatar Ballroom or Kendall Cram Lecture Hall.

3. Platoon Basic and Squad Basic will continue until conditions become, or are expected to become, unsafe. The Midshipman Commanding Officer, in consultation with the Tulane NROTC Commanding Officer, will make the call to cancel events.

4. The Awards Ceremony will move to the Glazer Family Club, with one representative per school to receive awards.

5. Events will be delayed and/or canceled if schools are unable to transport across campus.

(c) If weather becomes too dangerous to continue, guides will move schools inside Yulman Stadium, the Lavin-Bernick Center, or Devlin Fieldhouse to wait it out. Updates will be passed through the guides. The drill meet will be modified based on weather reports received at the time.

(d) Scoring in all-weather scenarios will be based on which events all schools were able to complete.

(e) If rain falls the night before the MGDM, field setup may be delayed causing the drill meet to shift to later in the day.

4. **Administration and Logistics:**

a. **Administration:** Tulane NROTC is overall responsible for the event coordination and will communicate with Tulane Emergency Medical Services, Tulane Police Department, and the Tulane Events Management Team to ensure all requirements are met.

b. **Logistics:**

(1) **Transportation:** All ROTC units are responsible for their own travel to and from the drill meet. Refer to enclosure (2) for parking information.

(2) **Concessions:** Concession sales begin at 0800 in Yulman Stadium and end at 1500. Concession is encouraged, and pre-order forms are due NLT 15 January 2027. Additional food may be purchased the day of with a credit/debit card. **No cash will be accepted!**

(3) **Spectators:** Spectators may view drill events from the Yulman Stadium bleachers or around the Berger and Brown Field; spectators are not permitted directly on any drill field directly. A livestream of the event will be available on the 2027 MGDM website. Spectators are responsible for their own parking.

5. **Command and Signal:**

a. **Signal:**

(1) The Tulane NROTC Staff, Midshipmen Triad, and key MGDM staff personnel will have radios to coordinate drill meet executions.

(2) Tulane University Midshipmen that are not equipped with a radio for the drill meet will use personal cellphones to communicate with any needed Active-Duty Staff, OIC, and

Subj: LETTER OF INSTRUCTION (LOI) FOR THE 53RD ANNUAL MARDI GRAS DRILL MEET

Midshipmen if competing schools require assistance for any reason.

b. **Command:**

(1) Succession of Command:

- (a) Midshipman Commanding Officer
- (b) Midshipman Executive Officer
- (c) Midshipman Operations Officer
- (d) Midshipman Administration Officer
- (e) Midshipman Supply Officer

The point of contact for this letter is the Tulane University Naval ROTC Assistant Marine Officer Instructor, Gunnery Sergeant Laughlin, Tristan at tlaughlin@tulane.edu or 504-247-1602.



R. A. HEELY JR.

Tulane University Mardi Gras Drill Meet Orientation

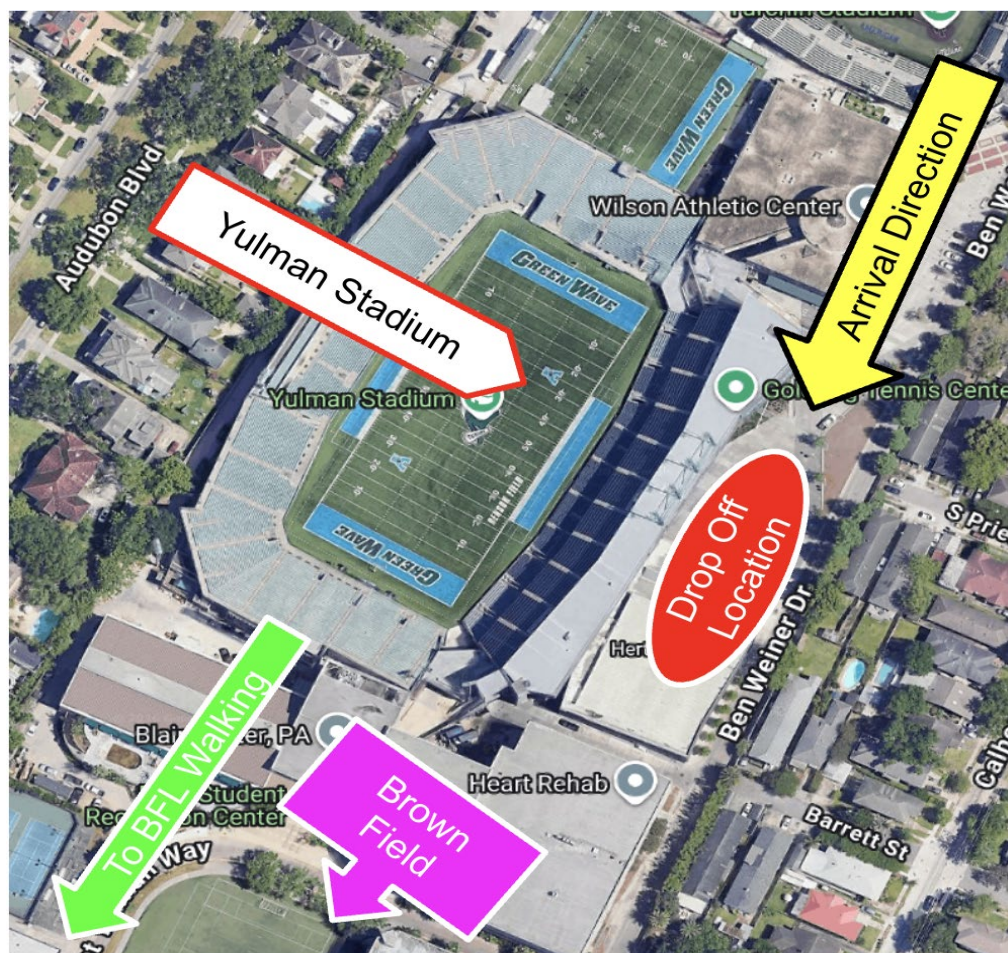
Summary:

Events will take place in (3) separate locations within the grounds of Tulane University campus and within a half-mile radius.

For convenience, an interactive map showing the relevant locations is provided at the link [here](#).

Location 1: Yulman Stadium

Platoon Inspection, Platoon Armed Basic, Individual Armed Exhibition



Address:

Yulman Stadium

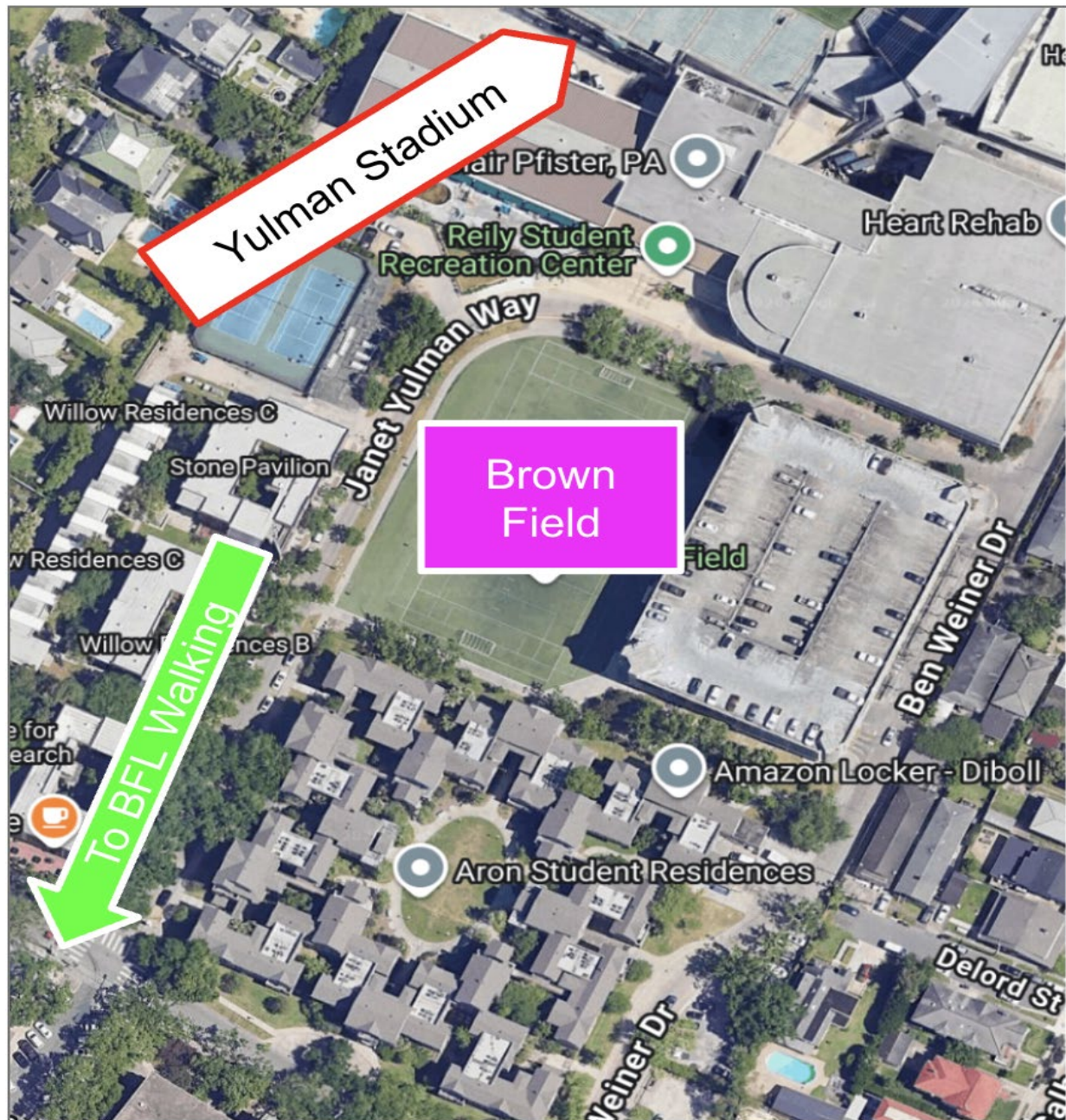
2900 Ben Weiner Drive

New Orleans, LA, 70118

Encl (1)

Location 2: Brown Field

Color Guard



Address:

Brown Field

31 Janet Yulman Way

New Orleans, LA, 70118

Encl (1)

Subj: LETTER OF INSTRUCTION (LOI) FOR THE 53RD ANNUAL MARDI GRAS DRILL MEET

Location 3: Berger Family Lawn

Squad Armed Basic, Platoon Armed Exhibition



Address:

Berger Family Lawn

29 McAlister Dr.

New Orleans, LA, 70118

Encl (1)

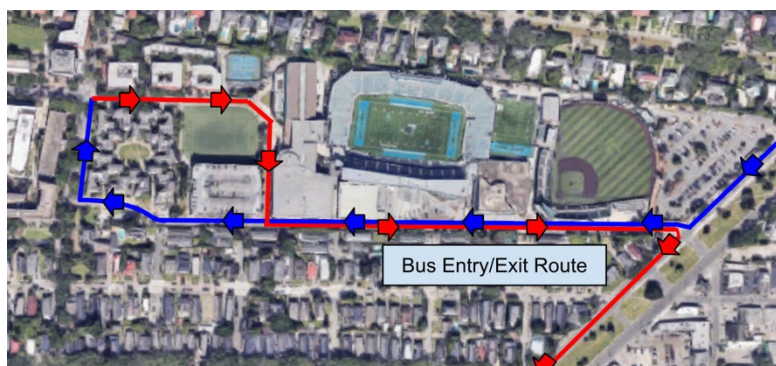
Parking Plan

Summary:

Tulane NROTC provides parking for participating schools and volunteer judges for Friday, 05 FEB 2027. Spectators are responsible for finding their own parking whether at a metered guest spot or on a side street close to the event.

Arrival:

For the 2027 Mardi Gras Drill Meet, all participants, judges, and equipment will arrive at Gate B of Yulman Stadium on Ben Weiner Drive. Midshipmen Guides will receive all arrivals at Gate B and process registration. After dropping off equipment and personnel, vehicles will move to their designated parking space (see below). The address to Gate B is 2950 Ben Weiner Dr, New Orleans, LA 70118.



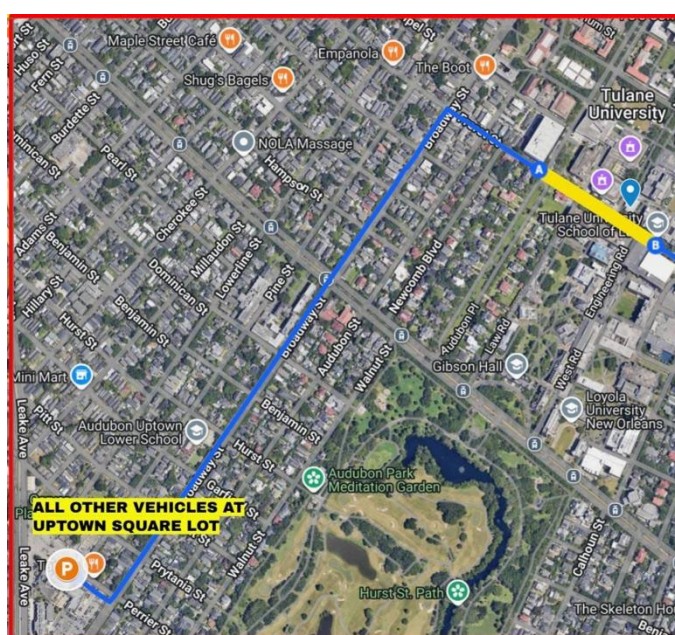
Encl (2)

Judges Parking:

Judge Parking is available in the Diboll Parking Garage located on Ben Weiner Drive. Follow signs posted and proceed just past the drop off area to the large parking structure. Please note this is by pre-registration only and not open to other vehicles due to permit and space constraints.

Bus, POV, Rental Van, and Govt. Vehicle Parking:

One bus, privately owned vehicle, rental van, or government vehicle per school may be parked along Freret St between the Tulane Law School and Library (see map, 6329 Freret St, NOLA). All other busses, privately owned vehicles, rental vans, and government vehicles will be parked at Tulane's University Square Campus (see map, 200 Broadway St, NOLA). There will be Midshipmen /Cadets at both locations to receive all vehicles.



Timeline

53RD ANNUAL MARDI GRAS DRILL MEET – TIMELINE			
<i>Tulane University NROTC, 05 February 2027, New Orleans, LA</i>			
Date	Time	Event	Location
NLT 15 Jan 2027	2359	Registration form, payment, and concession pre-orders due (Enclosure 4)	N/A
Thu, 04 Feb 2027	1400	Drill practice field opens	Berger Family Lawn
Thu, 04 Feb 2027	1645	Drill practice ends	Berger Family Lawn
Thu, 04 Feb 2027	1700	Social event begins	Tulane University Naval ROTC Building
Thu, 04 Feb 2027	1900	Social event ends	Tulane University Naval ROTC Building
Fri, 05 Feb 2027	NLT 1 hr before first event	Check-In	Yulman Stadium, with assigned guide
Fri, 05 Feb 2027	0645	Morning Colors Ceremony	Yulman Stadium
Fri, 05 Feb 2027	0700	Drill Meet begins	Yulman Stadium Brown Field Berger Family Lawn
Fri, 05 Feb 2027	0700	Concessions open for sale	Yulman Stadium
Fri, 05 Feb 2027	1500	Concessions close for sale	Yulman Stadium
Fri, 05 Feb 2027	1700	Awards Ceremony begins	Yulman Stadium
Fri, 05 Feb 2027	1800	Awards Ceremony ends; exfil	Yulman Stadium

The time matrix depicting each registered school's specific schedule for drill will be released once registration is finalized.

Encl (3)

Subj: LETTER OF INSTRUCTION (LOI) FOR THE 53RD ANNUAL MARDI GRAS DRILL MEET

Registration Form

Registration is now open for the 53rd Annual Mardi Gras Drill Meet! Join Tulane University Naval ROTC in New Orleans on Friday, 05 February 2027, for a day of competitive drill and Mardi Gras spirit. Register your team by 15 January 2027 [here](#)!

Encl (4)

Overall Scoring

Overall unit and individual placings for the 53rd Annual Mardi Gras Drill Meet will be determined as follows:

a. Drill evaluations will be graded under the reference of Marine Corps Order 5060.20.

b. Each of the six (6) drill events described in enclosures (6) through (11) will be scored independently using the criteria described in each respective enclosure.

c. The Mardi Gras Drill Meet evaluates competing units across five primary graded team events – Platoon Inspection, Platoon Armed Basic Drill, Platoon Armed Exhibition, Color Guard, and Squad Armed Basic Drill – while treating Individual Armed Exhibition as a separate event that does not contribute to the overall cumulative team score. To ensure a fair and balanced competition, each event is weighted and normalized using a standardized point system against set maximum benchmarks: Platoon Inspection is scaled out of a maximum of 724 points, Platoon Basic out of 356.5 points, Platoon Exhibition out of 270 points, Color Guard out of 340 points, and Squad Basic out of 229 points. These weighted scores are then aggregated to determine the final overall team standings and awards.

d. Participants that have more than one team competing in an event will only have the highest scoring team calculated into the overall placement score. Example: Tulane University Color Guard (A) team scores 300 points. Color Guard (B) team scores 323 points. Only team (B)'s score is calculated in the overall team score.

e. Participants that have more than one team competing in an event may have both teams place in the individual event placement. Example: School A has the two highest color guard scores. Both teams may place 1st and 2nd in the Color Guard event.

f. In the event of a tie, the winner is determined by comparing the tied schools' Platoon Inspection scores, with the higher inspection score securing the higher overall placement.

g. Individual event winners (1st, 2nd, and 3rd place) will be recognized for each of the six drill events as well.

h. Any scoring disputes are handled by the Tulane University Assistant Marine Officer Instructor (TU AMOI), GySgt Laughlin. All scoring decisions by the TU AMOI are final and are not subject to protest or appeal.

Encl (5)

Platoon Inspection

Platoon Inspection evaluates each platoon on manual of arms, command voice, and military bearing, as well as the condition, fit, and serviceability of weapons, covers, and uniforms. Points are deducted per discrepancy identified by the inspecting team. The platoon will consist of seventeen (17) members or more, including the unit leader and the platoon guide. The platoon will form into three squads. If a team has less than the minimum number of participants, they will suffer a 5-point penalty for each member missing. The minimum number of personnel needed to compete without disqualification is fourteen (14) members.

UOD: Each competing school's military dress uniform.

MUSTER LOCATION: Two (2) 30yd x 30yd fields, Yulman Stadium

The scoring criteria and judge score sheets for this event are available for review at the link below.

[Platoon Inspection Score Sheets - 2027 MGDM](#)

Encl (6)

Platoon Armed Basic Drill

Platoon Armed Basic Drill consists of a standardized sequence of platoon-level drill movements performed by a single platoon on one field. The platoon will consist of seventeen (17) or more members formed into three (3) squads. All members will be armed with a rifle, except for the unit leader who shall wear a sword, and the Guide who carries the guide-on. If a team has less than seventeen (17) participants, they will suffer a 5-point penalty for each member missing. The minimum number of personnel needed to compete without disqualification is fourteen (14) members.

The drill card for Platoon Armed Basic Drill is provided below.

#	Movement
1	FORM THE PLATOON
2	CLOSE ON LINE
3	EXTEND ON LINE
4	OPEN RANKS
5	PORT ARMS
6	RIGHT SHOULDER ARMS
7	PRESENT ARMS
8	LEFT SHOULDER ARMS
9	ORDER ARMS
10	SIDE STEP (LEFT/RIGHT)
11	ABOUT FACE (REPEAT)
12	COLUMN RIGHT (HALTED)
13	CLOSE WHILE MARCHING
14	RIGHT FLANK / RETURN TO COLUMN
15	COLUMN RIGHT
16	RIGHT OBLIQUE / PLATOON HALT
17	COLUMN HALF RIGHT (REPEAT)
18	COLUMN RIGHT
19	MARCH TO THE REAR (REPEAT)
20	EYES RIGHT
21	FALL OUT

UOD: Each competing school's military dress uniform.

MUSTER LOCATION: One (1) 40yd x 40yd field, Yulman Stadium

The scoring criteria and judge score sheets for this event are available for review at the link below.

[Platoon Armed Basic Drill - 2027 MGDM](#)

Encl (7)

Encl (8): Individual Armed Exhibition

Individual Armed Exhibition is a solo, unscripted rifle drill routine performed within a seven (7) to nine (9) minute window. Each performance is judged on precision, difficulty, military bearing, originality, variety, floor coverage, flow of routine, complexity, and overall impression. Penalties apply for routines under seven (7) or over nine (9) minutes, boundary breaks, dropped weapons, and unauthorized verbal commands.

UOD: Each competing school's military dress uniform.

MUSTER LOCATION: One (1) 10yd x 10yd field, Yulman Stadium

The scoring criteria and judge score sheets for this event are available for review at the link below.

[Individual Armed Exhibition Score Sheets - 2027 MGDM](#)

Encl (8)

Color Guard

Color Guard consists of a four (4) or five (5) member team executing a standardized ceremonial sequence with the national and unit colors. All NROTC unit color guards shall consist of five (5) team members: three (3) color bearers (National Colors, and Navy and Marine Corps Colors) and two (2) rifle bearers. Army and Air Force ROTC units shall consist of four (4) members: two (2) color bearers and two (2) rifle bearers. If a team has less than the minimum number of participants, they will be disqualified.

The drill card for Color Guard is provided below.

#	Movement
1	ATTENTION
2	CARRY COLORS
3	COUNTER MARCH
4	FORWARD MARCH
5	LEFT TURN X 2
6	FORWARD MARCH
7	EYES LEFT
8	COUNTER MARCH
9	FORWARD MARCH
10	EYES RIGHT
11	RIGHT TURN X 2
12	FORWARD MARCH
13	COLOR HALT
14	PRESENT COLORS
15	ORDER COLORS

UOD: Each competing school's military dress uniform.

MUSTER LOCATION: Two (2) 30yd x 30yd fields, Brown Field

The scoring criteria and judge score sheets for this event are available for review at the link below.

[Color Guard Score Sheets - 2027 MGDM](#)

Encl (9)

Squad Armed Basic Drill

Squad Armed Basic Drill consists of a standardized sequence of squad-level drill movements performed at close interval. The squad will consist of seven (7) and no more than nine (9) members. The unit leader shall wear a sword, and the squad members will be armed with a rifle. There is no guide-on for this event. If a team has less than seven (7) participants, they will suffer a 5-point penalty for each member missing. The minimum number of personnel needed to compete without disqualification is five (5) members.

The drill card for Squad Armed Basic Drill is provided below.

#	Movement
1	FORM THE PLATOON AT CLOSE INTERVAL
2	EXTEND ON LINE
3	LEFT/RIGHT FACE
4	PORT ARMS
5	LEFT SHOULDER ARMS
6	RIGHT SHOULDER ARMS
7	ORDER ARMS
8	ABOUT FACE (REPEAT)
9	PRESENT ARMS
10	PARADE REST
11	COLUMN RIGHT (HALTED)
12	LEFT FLANK / RETURN TO COLUMN
13	COLUMN RIGHT
14	RIGHT FLANK / RETURN TO COLUMN
15	LEFT OBLIQUE / HALF STEP
16	COLUMN RIGHT
17	MARCH TO THE REAR (REPEAT)
18	COLUMN RIGHT
19	CHANGE STEP
20	FALL OUT

UOD: Each competing school's military dress uniform.

MUSTER LOCATION: Two (2) 30yd x 30yd fields, Berger Family Lawn

The scoring criteria and judge score sheets for this event are available for review at the link below.

[Squad Armed Basic Drill - 2027 MGDM](#)

Encl (10)

Platoon Armed Exhibition

Platoon Armed Exhibition is a platoon-sized, unscripted rifle drill routine performed within a seven (7) to nine (9) minute window, judged on the same criteria as Individual Armed Exhibition (enclosure (8)). Platoons may be of any composition and will consist of eleven (11) or more members. All members will be armed. If a team has less than eleven (11) participants, they will suffer a 5-point penalty for each member missing. The minimum number of personnel needed to compete without disqualification is nine (9) members.

UOD: Each competing school's military dress uniform.

MUSTER LOCATION: One (1) 40yd x 40yd field, Berger Family Lawn

The scoring criteria and judge score sheets for this event are available for review at the link below.

[Platoon Armed Exhibition Score Sheets - 2027 MGDM](#)

Encl (11)