

BlackJacks

Part of The Pershing Rifles Group, the National Society of Blackjacks, is a leadership program based on the philosophy that General of the Armies, John J. Pershing, developed while he was the Professor of Military Science at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. It is an overlay, self-contained program that provides opportunities for the young leaders to train in teamwork and to achieve immediate results through the use of precision drill and ceremony. Every year, on November 11, a ceremony is held at the Gravesite of General John Joseph "Black Jack" Pershing, Commander of the Allied Forces in Europe during World War I. This event is attended by representatives of 19 nations. During this ceremony, each nation presents a wreath of flowers in honor of his service to the world. For the first time in the history of Arlington National Cemetery an ROTC unit was chosen to lay the wreath for the United States honoring General Pershing. The team chosen was our own Camden Military Cadets. This unit of "Blackjacks" of JROTC Pershing Rifles (shown below) was also "sworn in" by the officer in charge of this event, Major General Jeffrey S. Buchanan. This drill team is also the first high school Blackjacks Drill Team in the state of South Carolina.



"After months of devoted practice, The Blackjacks Drill Team made their way to the National Convention of Persian Rifles which was located in Richmond, Virginia. Honestly, I was not expecting a lot of success but surprisingly, we won first place in the Duet Exhibition, Individual Exhibition, and overall performance. Additionally, our team was awarded 6 other trophies. I am very grateful to SFC Brown and CSM Terrell for their dedication as coaches and Tac Officers." Griffin Bach-Davis of Parker, Colorado.

"Our trip to Richmond, Virginia was a very exciting experience. We competed in our first competition for the National Blackjacks/Pershing Rifles. To my surprise not only did we win 1st Place, but we were awarded multiple trophies." Thomas Azrelyant of Hartsdale, New York.

"Being a part of the Blackjacks Drill team at Camden Military Academy has been an amazing experience for me. The Exhibition Drill is a very exciting sport to watch and participate in." Jack McAdams of Greenville, North Carolina.



"It was amazing. Never have I seen anything like it. All the different teams that had been working together for probably years and years. I'm blessed to be a part of it." Kevin Phillips of Mooresville, North Carolina.