

# DRILL TEAM DEFENDING HOME TURF

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COVENTRY— The second drill competition of the year will be held today at 8:30 a.m. and Coventry's Air Force Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (AFJROTC) will be competing at Coventry High School. There will be nearly 10 schools going to the high school to participate in the competition.

To prepare for the competition, Coventry's Drill Team, comprised of 16 JROTC cadets, competed at New Britain High School where they took home trophies in three events: Color Guard, Inspection and Team Drill Regulations.

Coventry's Drill Team has won several championships in the past and is determined to continue their legacy. The cadets practice three times a week, 12 hours total, to perfect their skills. Each gun weighs roughly 9 pounds, in which they twirl and catch them during each event.

"It is extremely difficult to do what they do," said Dorothy Jackvony, a JROTC mother.

The coach of the drill team is Melissa Cole, while the inspection is the responsibility of Chase Repose and Danny McBride, the Commander of Team Drill Regulations. McBride also acts as Commander who oversees the entire drill team. Gina Studley has also guided them in their practices and competitions.

"They have helped mold and guided this team into becoming champions," Jackvony said.

The AFJROTC Unit was saved from being cut at Coventry High School and has become the first Regional Vocational-Technical Program allowing students in neighboring towns eligible to attend the program.

"The Drill Team, as well as the entire



Submitted photos

ABOVE: The AFJROTC Drill Team from Coventry's Regional Career Center competes at New Britain (Conn.) High, where they won four trophies. The team (right) will compete today at Coventry High.

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# Drill team competing

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unit, is determined to give back to those who helped to save the unit and make the town of Coventry proud every step of the way," Jackvony said.

The drill competition is open to the public and begins at 8:30 a.m. at Coventry High School. Each event will take place in different areas of the school and will be directed by cadets in the unit.