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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

ART TATE, Assistant Director, University Relations
Office: (217) 581-5983 - Home: (217) 348-7553

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DRILL TEAM PLACES FIRST

CHARLESTON, IL--Terri Taff, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. Terry Taff, live in Belleville, is a member of the United States Army Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) Drill Team at Eastern Illinois University.

The team recently captured first place in the "Exhibition Drill" category at the annual Illinois Invitational Drill Meet at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Taff, a 1988 graduate of Belleville East High School, is a sophomore at Eastern majoring in Physics.

Eastern's squad competed against 10 other Army, Navy, and Air Force ROTC teams, including squads from Notre Dame, Ohio State University, and Washington University. The meet is the largest of its kind in the Midwest.

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Each team had to perform an eight to ten minute routine. Teams were judged by two active Army and two active Marine judges on criteria such as the complexity of movement, difficulty and originality of routine.

"Being on the squad builds teamwork, which every part of the military needs, It's also an exercise in discipline and leadership. This is an extra-curricular activity; they do it on their own time," noted Captain Vance Chartier, Drill Team Admiral and ROTC Staff Member at Eastern, adding that the team practices an average of six hours a week.

Eastern's team competed in the Class B level, which is for less experienced teams, but will now advance to Class A.