

Boca High Navy ROTC wins national championships

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Carline Jean, Sun Sentinel

Extra training sessions and new workouts paid off last weekend for the [Boca Raton](#) High School Navy ROTC battalion, which brought home its first national championship.

Cadets competed in 11 athletic, academic and drill events, and received the highest cumulative score among 25 teams, said Cmdr. Kenneth Bingham, who started the battalion in 1994.

"We've been chasing this for 15 years, and it's been 'always a bridesmaid, never a bride' until now," he said. "They worked very hard, and we're very excited."

The Bobcat battalion especially shone in the drill categories, where it took first overall, he said.

"Being a senior and getting so close these past three or four years, it kind of seemed like an impossible goal," said Austin Haynie, commanding officer of the battalion. "All the cadets put in an amazing effort, and the payoff is just incredible."

The ROTC victory marks the first time a team from [Boca Raton High School](#) has won a national title in any competition, he said.

"I don't know of a greater accomplishment by any student group in our school's 48-year history," Principal Geoff McKee said. "It's absolutely thrilling for everyone in our school community."

The school will hold a pep rally April 21 to honor the battalion, he said.

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