



ROYAL HUTT RIVER DEFENCE FORCES

AFTER ACTION REPORT

**UNIT:**

Royal Hutt River Military College School of Artillery (RHRMC-SOA)

CONTACT OFFICER:

Major-General Sir William B. Speir, Jr.,
KCRO, KCOWL, RCH, SCM, RHRA
8172 Champions Circle, Apt 101
Champions Gate, FL 33896 USA
RHRA.Royal-Artillery@Principality-Hutt-River.com

UNIT REPRESENTATIVES PARTICIPATING:

Major-General William B. Speir, Jr.

ACTIVITY:

Artillery School September 2013.

ACTIVITY DATE:

7 September 2013

ACTIVITY DETAILS:

The Commander of the Royal Hutt River Military College and Chief of the Royal Hutt River Artillery conducted the sixth School of the Piece (Muzzle-Loading Artillery Drills) Training Program as a joint activity between the Royal Hutt River Military College and the Loyal Train of Artillery Chapter of the United States Field Artillery Association (LTAC-USFAA). The national flag of the Principality of Hutt River flew over the school for the entire day.

On 7 September 2013, the sixth LTAC-USFAA sanctioned School of the Piece was taught at the American Legion Post 347 in Lady Lake, Florida with one cannon – the 12lb Mountain Howitzer of the 1st US Light Artillery, Battery F. Five students registered and attended the one day class, which covered artillery safety (lecture and demonstration), hands-on rolling proper artillery charges, as well as hands on drilling, including the misfire drill. The students represented the 1st US Light Artillery, Battery F, which purchased the cannon for reenacting purposes.

Following registration and the signing of the Hold Harmless agreement, the school began at 8:35 AM. After the introductions, the history of the LTAC-USFAA and overview of the course was given. Major-General Speir then provided the history of the Field Artillery and the common types of ordnance used during the War Between the States time period.

After the artillery safety procedures, the range safety zones, and the three-minute rule were presented, Major-General Speir then demonstrated the proper way to roll powder charges. This was a hands-on learning activity as the students were given the opportunity to roll the powder charges that would be used that day.

Major-General Speir presented the gunpowder safety demonstration, which included lighting a live round on the ground to show the force of the gunpowder, and the burn tray demonstration to demonstrate the effects of fire on various uniform fabrics. After lunch, Major-General Speir inspected the cannon and limber and completed the safety checklist as part of the safety demonstration, which included firing the

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cannon with the meat/glove over the vent and the scarecrows in front of the muzzle. The rest of the day was spent working with the students on the Artillery Drill and the Misfire Drill until the approaching weather made it impractical to continue.

Major-General Speir evaluated the student's demonstrated proficiency on the crew position as the students cleaned up the area and returned the cannon to its trailer. The course Certificates of Completion and Qualification Cards were handed out to the participants. The students were dismissed at 4:00 PM.

The students attending, some of whom were inexperienced artillerists or had not served on a cannon crew for several years, picked up the information quickly and did very well learning the duties of the cannon crew positions. While more drilling will be necessary to ensure continued proficiency, Major-General Speir were very pleased with their performance and their commitment to learning how to operate their new cannon properly and safely. The feedback from the school was positive.

ACTIVITY PURPOSE:

Conducting educational activities is a core function of the Royal Hutt River Military College. By providing these training programs, we build closer ties with similar organizations and advance our goals of increasing the general knowledge of and the recognition of the RHRDF and the Principality.

ACTIVITY RESULTS:

This school followed the new instructional program model of teaching individual units one at a time, rather than attempting to schedule and hold larger schools involving multiple units at the same time. The pilots for this instructional program model were very successful, leading to the adoption of this method as the standard for the Florida Schools going forward.

REQUIRED/PLANNED FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY:

Begin planning for 2014 schools.

