



ROYAL HUTT RIVER ARMY



AFTER ACTION REPORT

UNIT:

1st North American Royal Guards
Royal Hutt River Military College

CONTACT OFFICER:

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UNIT REPRESENTATIVES PARTICIPATING:

Colonel William B. Speir, Jr.

ACTIVITY:

Artillery School August 2012.

ACTIVITY DATE:

18 August 2012

ACTIVITY DETAILS:

The Chief of the Royal Hutt River Artillery (and Commander of the Royal Hutt River Military College) conducted the Fourth 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 August 18, 2012, the fourth School of the Piece was taught in Jacksonville, Florida with one cannon – the 12lb Mountain Howitzer of the Kirby-Smith SCV Camp. Fifteen students registered and 15 students 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 Kirby-Smith SCV Camp, which purchased the cannon for ceremonial and educational activities.

Following registration, the signing of the Hold Harmless agreement and handing out the manuals, the school began at 8:30 AM. After the introductions, the history of the LTAC-USFAA, overview of the course, and a presentation on the history of field artillery and muzzle-loading ordnance was given. Colonel Speir then presented the artillery safety procedures, including the range safety zones and the three-minute rule.

Colonel Speir presented 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 afternoon during the artillery drill portion of the course. Colonel Speir then gave the first parts of the safety demonstration, which included lighting a live round on the ground to demonstrate the force generated by 6 oz. of black powder, and the burn tray demonstration to show the effect of fire on various fabrics to reinforce the need for members of the artillery crew to wear the proper protective clothing.

After lunch, Colonel Speir inspected the cannon and limber and completed the safety checklist as part of the safety demonstration. The final safety demonstration was then performed, which involved firing the cannon with a meat/glove over the vent and the scarecrows in front of the muzzle. The torn and burned

scarecrows were shown to each student, as was the charred meat and torn glove, to reinforce the need for safety around the muzzle and vent of a cannon. The rest of the day was spent rotating the students through the Artillery Drill and the Misfire Drill until each student had worked most of the positions on the artillery crew.

Colonel Speir evaluated the student's demonstrated proficiency in each crew position as the students cleaned up the area. The course Certificates of Completion and Qualification Cards were handed out to the participants. Four recognition coins were distributed to the Gunner and three additional members of the crew for their outstanding efforts in setting up the class and for helping the less experienced members of the crew learn the proper techniques of the drill. The students were dismissed at 5:00 PM.

The students attending, few of whom were experienced artillerists, did very well for their first time serving on a cannon. While more drilling will be necessary to ensure continued proficiency, Colonel 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 entirely positive.

ACTIVITY PURPOSE:

Conducting educational activities is a core function of the Royal Hutt River Artillery and 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 RHRA and the Principality.

ACTIVITY RESULTS:

This school was the second attempt at teaching individual units one at a time, rather than attempting to schedule and hold larger schools involving multiple units at the same time. This attempt, along with the pilot program in January 2012, proved to be very successful and will be the model for all Florida Schools going forward. Of the two additional units looking to schedule schools for their units in 2012, one has disbanded and sold their cannon, and the other is still looking for a date and location that is acceptable for their members.

REQUIRED/PLANNED FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY:

Begin planning for the 2013 schools.