



ROYAL HUTT RIVER ARMY



AFTER ACTION REPORT

UNIT:

1st North American Royal Guards
Royal Hutt River Military College

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UNIT REPRESENTATIVES PARTICIPATING:

Colonel William B. Speir, Jr.

ACTIVITY:

Artillery School January 2012.

ACTIVITY DATE:

28 January 2012

ACTIVITY DETAILS:

The Chief of the Royal Hutt River Artillery (and Commander of the Royal Hutt River Military College) conducted the Third 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 January 28, 2012, the third School of the Piece was taught at the Home of Greg Smith in Kissimmee, Florida with one cannon – the 12lb Mountain Howitzer of the Jacob Summerlin SCV Camp (an organization comprised of the descendants of veterans of the United States Civil War). Fourteen students registered and 10 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 Jacob Summerlin SCV Camp, which purchased the cannon for ceremonial and educational activities.

The school began at 9:00 AM. After the introductions, the history of the LTAC-USFAA and overview of the course was given. The proper way to roll powder charges was presented. 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. Artillery safety procedures were presented, including range safety zones and the three-minute rule. Next, the cannon and limber were inspected as part of the safety demonstration, which included demonstrating the effects of gun powder on clothing and the effects of firing a cannon when the safety range is not clear. This was the first time the cannon had ever been fired. The rest of the day was spent rotating the students through the Artillery Drill and the Misfire Drill until there was not enough daylight to continue.

The student's demonstrated proficiency in each crew position was evaluated as the students cleaned up the area and thoroughly washed the cannon tube and sponge head. The course Certificates of Completion and Qualification Cards were handed out to the participants. The students were dismissed at 6:30 PM.

The students attending, none 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, the instructors were very pleased with the student's performance and their commitment to learning how to operate their new cannon properly and safely.

ACTIVITY PURPOSE:

Conducting educational activities is a core function of the Royal Hutt River Artillery and the Royal School of Artillery. 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 pilot program for teaching individual units one at a time, rather than attempting to schedule and hold larger schools involving multiple units at the same time. The pilot was very successful and will be the model for the Florida Schools going forward. There are two more units looking to schedule schools for their units in 2012, and it is expected that they will both contract for individual schools before the end of the year.

REQUIRED/PLANNED FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY:

Begin planning for the subsequent 2012 schools and continue working with the Jacob Summerlin SCV Camp with follow-on training.