



ROYAL HUTT RIVER DEFENCE FORCES

AFTER ACTION REPORT

**UNIT:**

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

CONTACT OFFICER:

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UNIT REPRESENTATIVES PARTICIPATING:

Major-General William B. Speir, Jr.

ACTIVITY:

Artillery School November 2014.

ACTIVITY DATE:

22 November 2014

ACTIVITY DETAILS:

The Commander of the Royal Hutt River Military College and Chief of the Royal Hutt River Artillery conducted the seventh 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). Major Charles Custer of the 2nd Florida Light Artillery Battalion assisted in teaching the school as a Provisional Instructor Candidate.

On 11 November 2014, the School of the Piece was taught at Museum of Military History in Kissimmee, Florida with one cannon: the 12lb Mountain Howitzer of the 2nd Florida Light Artillery Battery B. Five students registered and six students attended the one day class (in the rain), which covered artillery safety (lecture and demonstration), rolling proper artillery charges, as well as hands on drilling, including the misfire drill. The students represented the 2nd Florida Light Artillery Battalion, which purchased the cannon for historical, ceremonial and educational activities.

Following registration, the signing of the Hold Harmless agreement and handing out the manuals, the school began at 9:10 AM. After the introductions, Major-General Speir provided the history of the Field Artillery and discussed the common types of ordnance used during the War Between the States time period. Proper procedures for rolling powder charges was then demonstrated, followed by artillery safety procedures, the range safety zones, and the three-minute rule.

After breaking for lunch, 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. Major Custer then inspected the cannon and limber and completed the safety checklist as part of the safety demonstration. Due to the school location, the cannon could not be fired, so the vent safety and muzzle safety demonstrations could not be performed. The rest of the day was spent rotating the students through the Artillery Drill and the Misfire Drill until each student had reached a level of proficiency in each position.

THE PRINCIPALITY OF HUTT RIVER

Major-General Speir evaluated the student's demonstrated proficiency in each crew position as the students cleaned up the area and returned the cannon to its display position inside the museum. 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, 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.

REQUIRED/PLANNED FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY:

Begin planning for 2015 schools.