



ROYAL HUTT RIVER ARMY

AFTER ACTION REPORT

**UNIT:**

1st North American Royal Guards
Royal Hutt River Artillery
Royal School of Artillery

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UNIT REPRESENTATIVES PARTICIPATING:

Colonel William B. Speir, Jr.

ACTIVITY:

Artillery School 2008.

ACTIVITY DATE:

23 August 2008

ACTIVITY DETAILS:

The Chief of the Royal Hutt River Artillery (and Commander of the Royal School of Artillery) conducted the first School of the Piece (Muzzle-Loading Artillery Drills) Training Program as a joint activity between the Royal Hutt River Army and the United States Field Artillery Association (USFAA).

In the aftermath of Tropical Storm Fay, which impacted the central Florida weather far worse than anticipated, the first joint RHRA/USFAA School of the Piece was taught at Turkey Lake Park in Orlando, Florida with two cannons – the 6-pound gun of the Royal Hutt River Artillery and the 3-inch Ordinance Rifle of the Kilcrease Artillery. Nineteen students registered and 17 students attended the one day class, which covered artillery safety (lecture and demonstration), artillery structure and history, artillery ordinance, rolling proper artillery charges, as well as hands on drilling, including the misfire drill.

The school started at 8:30AM. The normal agenda was modified to take advantage of the first sunny day in several weeks. After the introductions and overview of the course was given in the indoor pavilion, the outside drilling commenced immediately so the students could have as much time on the guns before the afternoon rains arrived. During lunch, a round-table discussion was held. Topics included live fires, St. Barbara – the patron saint of artillerists, and other topics related to artillery in history. After lunch, the safety demonstration was conducted, which included a “burn tray” demonstration (the effect of gun powder on various uniform materials), lighting a live round on the ground, and firing the cannon with a simulated hand over the vent and scarecrows in front of the muzzle. Then, the drills resumed with emphasis on the misfire drill until the first roll of thunder could be heard approaching the park. The cannons were loaded on the trailers, and the remainder of the day was spent indoors completing the lectures. Critique sheets were filled out, and the course certificates and cards were handed out to the participants. The school ended at 5:30PM.

The students attending, which were a mix of experienced artillerists, as well as infantry soldiers wanting to know more about artillery, generally wished the course had been longer and many expressed interest in attending additional schools to get more hands-on practice with the guns and to learn more advanced topics of instruction. While there will be one “annual school” scheduled each year, the current plan is to

take smaller schools to local artillery units and provide personalized instruction to them throughout the year.

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:

The public recognition of the Royal School of Artillery's efforts in producing the Artillery Manuals used in the training program raised the awareness of many of the event participants about the Principality and the RHRA. The event also provided many opportunities to discuss the Principality and the RHRA and our mission in the United States. The good will generated by conducting the event has already secured an request to conduct future, more detailed training evens, where the RHRA can interact with even more students.

REQUIRED/PLANNED FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY:

Begin planning for the 2009 school.

The following are pictures from the event.



Colonel Speir giving the indoor lecture



Colonel Speir providing personal instruction



Inspecting the Cannons with Colonel Speir, RHRA and Colonel Street, USFAA.



Colonel Speir firing the RHRA cannon.

THE PRINCIPALITY OF HUTT RIVER