



United States  
Field Artillery  
Association

**United States Field Artillery Association**  
**Loyal Train of Artillery Chapter (LTAC-USFAA)**  
**Florida Artillery School**

## **AFTER ACTION REPORT**

### **DATE OF ACTION:**

28 January 2012

### **CONTACT OFFICER:**

Senior Safety Instructor/Commander:  
Colonel William B. Speir, Jr., RHRA  
Chief of the Royal Hutt River Artillery  
P. O. Box 781533  
Orlando, FL 32878-1533 USA

Instructor Trainee:  
Lt. Colonel Jim Wahl  
Commanding Officer, Kilcrease Artillery  
1932 South Old Mill Drive  
Deltona, FL 32725 USA

### **ACTIVITY:**

School of the Piece Taught in Kissimmee, Florida.

On January 28, 2012, the third LTAC-USFAA sanctioned 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. 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.

Following registration, the signing of the Hold Harmless agreement and handing out the manuals, the school began at 9:00 AM. After the introductions, the history of the LTAC-USFAA and overview of the course was given. Colonel Speir and Lt. Colonel Wahl then 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. Lt. Colonel Wahl presented the artillery safety procedures and Colonel Speir presented the range safety zones and the three-minute rule. Next, Colonel Speir and Lt. Colonel Wahl inspected the cannon and limber and completed the safety checklist as part of the safety demonstration, which included lighting a live round on the ground, the burn tray demonstration, and firing the cannon with the meat/glove over the vent and the scarecrows in front of the muzzle. This was the first time the cannon had ever been fired, and it was christened with a St. Barbara Challenge Coin that will be sealed into the cannon carriage. 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.

Colonel Speir and Lt. Colonel Wahl evaluated the student's demonstrated proficiency in each crew position 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.

**RESULTS:**

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, both Colonel Speir and Lt. Colonel Wahl were very pleased with their performance and their commitment to learning how to operate their new cannon properly and safely.

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.