

Cape Field Artillery run out their guns

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– Photographs: Major D. Coetzee, Mr L. Steyn, Mr and Mrs Best, and Ms R Lord

In July 2010, specialised GV5 training was provided to Cape Field Artillery (CFA) at their regimental headquarters in Fort iKapa, Acacia Park near Goodwood. They regularly undergo refresher training and keep their physical fitness levels high, in view of the strength required to operate their guns. Members also receive training in computer literacy.

Lieutenant J. Farmer, Staff Sergeant Mokoto and Sergeant Moroko from the School of Artillery in Potchefstroom travelled down to Cape Town with three Samil 100 6x6 gun tractors and three GV5 Howitzer guns to train the members.

Presenting the training at Fort iKapa gave them an opportunity to train with their own unit at their



The members of the CFA GV5 Gun crew performing their required task to ensure that the gun is prepared for battle in record time



CFA GV5 gun successfully deployed and prepared for firing



own base. It was highly beneficial for the members to have been trained at home and group cohesion improved. This proved that the facilities available at Fort iKapa are suitable for training.

The practical aspects were dealt with first, followed by the theoretical instruction, ensuring that the gunners could identify their respective roles, as well as the technical aspects required. This approach to the training worked well with the learners, as they were able to gain hands-on practical experience, which significantly enhanced their understanding of the theoretical aspects. After three weeks of continuous specialised GV5 training, twenty six members qualified as gunners.

Lieutenant Farmer congratulated the learners on their high level of discipline and the practical hands-on component of the course.

Lieutenant Colonel J. K. Morake, the Staff Officer 1 Education, Training and Development from the SA Artillery Formation evaluated the progress and was very happy with the work done by the learners.

To commemorate this achievement and show off the newly acquired skills, the Officer Commanding CFA, Lieutenant Colonel Kees De Haan, hosted an event where a GV5 gun was deployed for action, including designating a target. The gunners demonstrated their acquired skills. He praised the newly qualified gunners for their tenacity, hard work and the fine display of their skills.

Major General K. Mokoape, Chief SA Army Reserves, the VIP guests, family and supporters of CFA attended the function to celebrate this achievement. Major General Mokoape indicated that he was very pleased that the decentralised training was so successful and encouraged the new gunners to maintain their skills and high level of training.

Congratulations to all those who attended and successfully completed the course. They now look forward to putting these new skills into practice when they have an opportunity to fire the GV5.



A smiling Maj Gen Mokoape with Lt Col De Haan, Lt Col Conradie, guests and proud GV5 gunners of the CFA

