

CO [signature]
1000

4500-6

14 Jul 72

3RD REGIMENT ROYAL CANADIAN HORSE ARTILLERY

POST EXERCISE REPORT

ARTY MILCON 72

1-8 JUL 72

3. (continued)

BATTERY	SUB-UNITS	MILITIA UNIT	3 RCHA PERS	COMD
Q	BHQ	10 Fd Regt	4	10 Fd Regt
		20 Fd Regt		
		20 Ind Bty		
	A Tp	10 Fd Regt	2	
	B Tp	20 Fd Regt	2	
		20 Indep Bty		
	Safety		11	
NOTE: 8 Gun Battery				
Total Militia Pers - 101				

R	BHQ	15 Fd Regt	7	15 Fd Regt
	A Tp	15 Fd Regt	3	
	B Tp	5 Indep Bty	3	
	Safety		11	
NOTE: 4 Gun Battery				
Total Militia Pers - 59				

4. The original organization was detailed as four batteries in Reference B, however the Militia strengths did not permit the manning of a fourth battery. A complete sub-unit must consist of at least 72 personnel of the appropriate trades if it is to conduct a live firing and movement exercise with any degree of safety. The decision to combine 10 Fd Regt, 20 Fd Regt and 20 Indep Bty was made on 1 Jul with the full concurrence of the units concerned. They fully realized that they could not man a safe battery. In order to avoid a last minute shuffle, it is recommended the appropriate Militia Area Headquarters recognize the problem and order the combined manning requirement and detail the Battery Commander as soon as it is recognized that a particular unit cannot reach 72 personnel. It is further recommended that a strong unit NOT be reduced but be permitted to remain a strong unit, thus enhancing unit integrity and pride. 3 RCHA will accept two pay level B gun numbers per detachment to help solve the manning problem.

5. The three battery organization cannot be supported by 3 RCHA without outside assistance. The equipment requested by this unit for a four battery organization did in fact arrive, however the net result was a fourth battery of very poor equipment. It is recommended that in the future only three batteries be formed from the outset, thus ensuring fully manned and safe batteries with good equipment and the opportunity to conduct realistic training.

TRAINING

6. The training plan was designed to permit the Battery Commander sufficient freedom to plan and conduct his own training while building towards a regimental exercise. Each Battery Commander was assigned a 3 RCHA Liaison Officer whose task was to advise and assist the Battery Commander throughout all training.

6. (continued)

The Training progression was refresher training, battery dry deployments, battery fire and movement and finally regimental fire and movement. Attached as Annex A is the Sub-Unit Block Syllabus.

7. Surplus officers were detailed to attend a Fire Planning Course in CFB SHILO. On completion of a short course, they proceeded to CFB WAINWRIGHT to act as Battery and Troop Commanders for the final all-arms exercise. The format was satisfactory and it is recommended that this course be conducted for ARTY MILCON 73. Attached as Annex B is the Fire Planning Course Syllabus.

8. Refresher Training. The refresher training period covered the basic arty skills on an individual basis. The major training weaknesses first became apparent during this period.

- a. OP Officers. The OP officers were instructed in fire planning procedures. The instruction was practical with very little theory. This instruction was essential to the success of the fire planning exercises held later in the week. All OPs were very weak in fire planning procedures and this aspect of training should be stressed throughout the winter months.
- b. CP Officers. All junior officers exhibited a glaring lack of knowledge of fire discipline, survey, recce and deployment procedures. The heart of any artillery unit is a good CP and this aspect must be stressed in unit training plans. The results of an officers test are shown graphically at Annex C. The results are shocking and show the need for vastly improved junior officer training. This unit will not attempt to interpret the results but many causes and solutions should be apparent to the units involved.
- c. CP Techs. The standard of CP tech ranged from very poor to good. In general the standard of aiming circle drill was poor while a better standard was evident on the plotter. Training emphasis should be placed on the aiming circle in an attempt to improve the overall standard of accuracy.
- d. Comms. The standard of comms was generally fair and throughout the week a vast improvement was evident. The comm ops generally understood arty voice procedure and only constant practice and supervision by a good control op will lead to any significant improvement.
- e. Gun Nos. The basic gun number was well trained on the gun but did not understand ammunition, fuzes and fuze settings. This aspect of training should be stressed on local gun number courses.
- f. Drivers. Only drivers with a valid DND 404 were permitted to drive during MILCON 72. No attempt was made, nor will be made in the future, to qualify drivers during the MILCON exercise.

9. Individual Skills Competition. The individual skills competition emphasized basic arty skills and pinpointed the need for more training by arty techs on aiming circle drills. The competitions and winners were as follows:

- a. Plotter Drills. Won by Q Bty.
- b. Aiming Circle Drills. Won by P Bty.
- c. AFOs and Comm Drills. Won by Q Bty.

9. (continued)

- d. Best Combined Gun Scores. Won by R Bty.
- e. Best Det. Won by Sgt Allen, 15 Fd Regt.

The competition was very successful and it was recommended by all Battery Commanders that the competitions be held again for MILCON 73

10. OP Fire Planning. The collective training periods conducted by the Battery Commanders and the Commanding Officer stressed the importance of proper fire planning procedures. Each Troop Commander and each Battery Commander was given the opportunity to fire at least one fire plan. The Troop Commanders were expected to fire a three serial fire plan with two adjusted targets and one predicted target while the Battery Commanders fired a five serial fire plan with three or four adjusted targets and one or two predicted targets. The plans were simple, basic and with no scheduled H hour to meet. The OP officers now understand some of the problems that face a fire planner but they must receive further instruction and practical experience before achievement of a satisfactory standard will be possible.

11. CP Fire Planning. Fire planning at the CP requires experience and a thorough knowledge of fire discipline by the CP officers. The CP officers very definitely require training on fire planning procedures, fire discipline and target records. The CPs required detailed prompting by 3 RCHA personnel at all levels in order to ensure a successful plan. Junior Officer training at the unit level must cover the points mentioned.

LOCATION

12. An ARTY MILCON emphasizing fire and movement with live ammunition can best be conducted at CFB SHILO. Dry deployments and dry shoots as part of a major all-arms exercise in WAINWRIGHT are soul destroying for gun numbers. The arty input at an all-arms exercise can be limited to arty liaison/fire planners at the appropriate levels thus freeing the Batteries for realistic live training in CFB SHILO. Militia Gunners who come to camp and don't shoot do not stay in the Militia.

TRAINING PROGRESSION

13. ARTY MILCON 72 was only the first step in an attempt to improve the operational efficiency and skills of the arty units in Western Canada. The Militia units were pushed into fire planning in an attempt to raise the units' standards beyond the conduct of very basic fire missions. This improvement, however, is a long term project and can only be successful if follow-up training is conducted by RSS personnel and 3 RCHA. Militia Commanding Officers must also insist on higher standards from Junior Officers and conduct Troop Commanders fire plans during normal weekend firing practices. If these steps are followed, and if ARTY MILCON 73 is conducted in CFB SHILO, it is hoped that MILCON 73 will have an increased tempo in the number of serials, types of targets and timings during fire plans.

ADMINISTRATION

14. Ammunition. The ammunition allotted for MILCON 72 was sufficient to conduct daylight shoots and one major exercise. In order to increase the night training capability, it is requested that the ammunition allotment for MILCON 73 be increased in accordance with the following table:

14. (continued)

AMMUNITION	MILCON 72	FIRED	PROPOSED MILCON 73
HEPD	1300	1300	1800
HE PLUGGED	200	200	200
CVT FUZES	200	200	200
WP SMK	300	240	200
HE MTSQ	300	300	300
ILLUM	0	0	300

15. Reception. Militia units had read the Joining/Administration Instructions and were reasonably well prepared on arrival at CFB SHILO. The BC units arrived very late in the evening and were tired on arrival. It is recommended that these units be despatched to arrive in SHILO prior to 1900 hrs in order to facilitate the drawing of guns, vehicles and technical stores. If this is not possible, it is requested that the BCMS and two men be despatched one day prior to the main body by commercial air, if necessary.

16. Equipment. 3 RCHA required vehicles, guns, radios and technical instruments from outside sources in order to conduct MILCON 72. This requirement from outside sources will continue and the quantities of the equipment will depend on the number of batteries to be manned. In order to avoid excessive movement of guns, etc., Militia Areas must attempt to correctly forecast the attendance at MILCON. It is realized that this is a frustrating process, but past history should indicate that three batteries are all that can be expected at MILCON and initial planning should indicate three batteries.

17. Visitors' Day. It is recommended that a Visitors' Day continue to be the only authorized time for VIP visitors.

18. Accommodation. Permanent accommodation available in SHILO facilitated the conduct of ARTY MILCON 72.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

19. The following are the major recommendations arising from ARTY MILCON 72:

- a. Emphasis during unit training should be:
 - (1) Junior officer training.
 - (2) Arty technician training on the aiming circle and plotter.
 - (3) Communication training.
 - (4) Fire planning at the OP and CP.
- b. 3 RCHA should despatch a team to conduct OP/fire planning training at each major unit prior to MILCON 73.
- c. ARTY MILCON 73 should be conducted at CFB SHILO.
- d. Initial planning should be for three batteries.
- e. Ammunition for ARTY MILCON 73 should include illumination rounds.

3RD REGIMENT ROYAL CANADIAN HORSE ARTILLERYPOST EXERCISE REPORTARTY MILCOM 72

- References: A. 3 RCHA 4500-6 Training Instruction 3/72 of 14 Apr 72
- B. 3 RCHA 4500-6 Joining/Administration Instruction of 9 May 72

AIM

1. The aim of ARTY MILCOM 72 was to confirm and practice Militia units in the knowledge and application of skills at the battery level.

SCOPE

2. The scope of the exercise included the following:
- Individual skills and new techniques;
 - Drills and deployment procedure up to battery level;
 - The conduct of live fire missions;
 - Fire and movement; and
 - Preparation of simple fire plans by the Troop Commanders and Battery Commanders.

ORGANIZATION

3. The Militia units were formed into three batteries with 3 RCHA drivers manning critical vehicles. 3 RCHA manned all the regimental headquarters positions and all safety/liason positions.

BATTERY	SUB-UNITS	MILITIA UNIT	3 RCHA PERS	COND
P	BHQ	26 Fd Regt	4	26 Fd Regt
		116 Indep Bty		
	A Tp	26 Fd Regt	3	
	B Tp	26 Fd Regt	3	
		116 Indep Bty		
	Safety		11	

NOTE: 8 Gun Battery

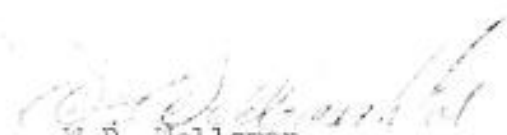
Total Militia Pers - 82

19. (continued)

- f. Units arriving late should despatch a small advance party to arrive one day prior to the main body.
- g. When units are combined into one battery the Commander should be clearly designated by the appropriate Militia Area Headquarters.
- h. 3 RCHA might usefully be asked to review and comment on Militia Artillery training plans for 1972-73.

CONCLUSION

20. ARTY MILCON 72 was a very successful camp which exposed the Militia units to Regimental Fireplans for the first time. The enthusiasm of all ranks and the willingness to learn was heartening. There is no doubt that the level of training has now progressed beyond the engagement of simple fire missions.


W.D. Wellsman
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer 3 RCHA

DISTRIBUTION

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>COPIES</u>
10 Fd Regt RCA	5
15 Fd Regt RCA	5
20 Fd Regt RCA	5
26 Fd Regt RCA	5
5 (BC) Indep Bty RCA	3
20 Indep Bty RCA	3
116 Indep Bty RCA	3
HQ 1 Cbt Gp	4 (to include copies for CFHQ Attn: D Arty and FMC Attn: SO Arty)
HQ Militia Area Prairie	10 (to include distribution to Dist. HQs)
HQ Militia Area Pacific	10 (to include distribution to Dist. HQs)
CFB Shilo	2
File	1

ANNEX A
 to POST EXERCISE REPORT
 3 RCHA ARTY MILCON 72
 dated Jul 72

ARTY MILCON 72
SUB-UNIT BLOCK SYLLABUS

PERIODS	SUN 2 JUL	MON 3 JUL	TUE 4 JUL	WED 5 JUL	THURS 6 JUL	FRI 7 JUL
0800-1030	Org & Adm	Refresher Training Building up to Bty Deployment	BCs dry de- ployment	BCs Trg Battery Fire and Movement		EX POWDER KEG III
1030-1200	Refresher				Ex POWDER KEG III	
1300-1645	Training		BCs tech- nical shooting			BAFT CLEAN- UP
1630-2100		Individual skills competition	BCs trg. Night Occ- upation Completed by 0100. Dry deploy- ment	Ex POWDER KEG III 60 2400 hrs		to 2400 hrs

ANNEX B to
 POST EXERCISE REPORT
 3 RCHA ARTY MILCON 72
 dated Jul 72

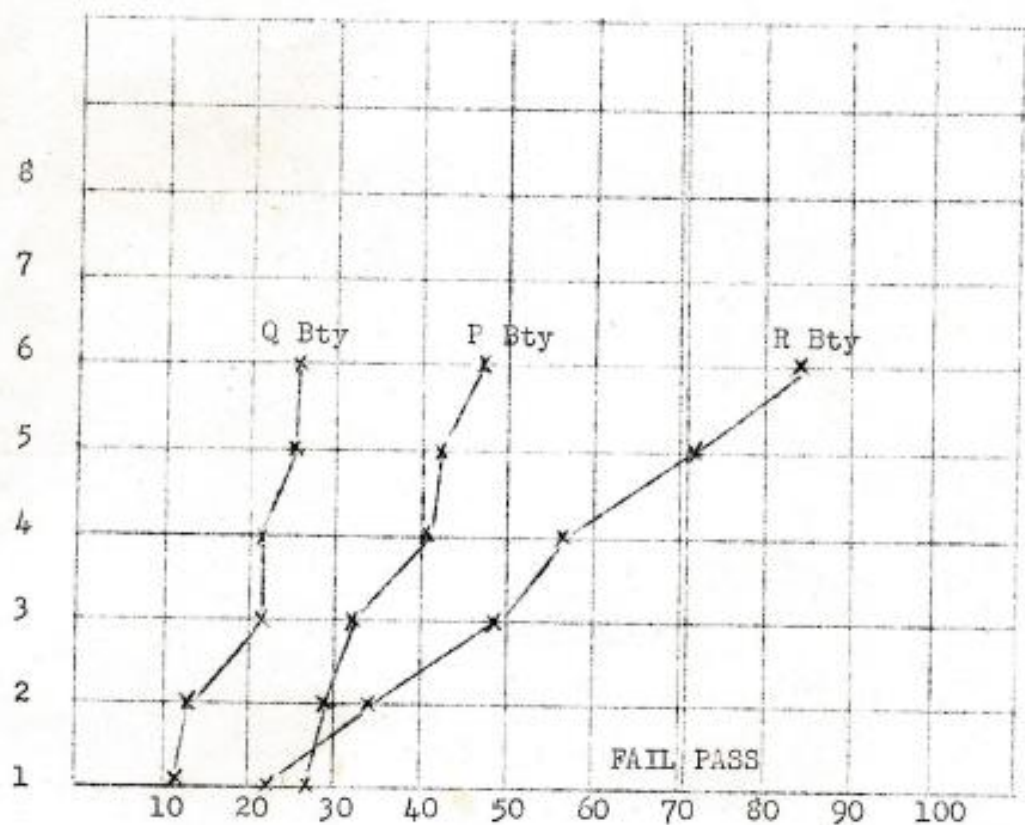
FIRE PLANNING COURSE

	SUN	MON	TUES
0800-0850		Defensive Fire Planning - Conf Rm L102	Attack Fire Planning
0900-0950	Draw Eqpt & Stores	Tgt Lists - Registration - FSCC L102	VP and AFO's
1000-1050		Coffee	Coffee
1100-1150	Duties at the OP Conf Rm - L102	Area D	Prepare for Ex PRAIRIE STORM II
LUNCM	MESS	BOX LUNCH	MESS
1300-1350	CO 3 RCHA Address - Q Parade Square		Dep for Winnipeg
1400-1450	Deployment Area A	Area D	
1500-1550			
1600-1650			
DINNER			
1830-2100		Area D	

ANNEX C to
POST EXERCISE REPORT
3 RCHA ARTY MILCON 72
dated Jul 72

COMMAND POST OFFICERS' TEST RESULTS

CANDIDATE



MARK OBTAINED %

P Bty - 26 Fd Regt, 116 Indep Bty

Q Bty - 10 Fd Regt, 20 Fd Regt, 20 Indep Bty

R Bty - 15 Fd Regt, 5 Indep Bty