



## INVITATION TO THE MEDIA AIR DEFENCE ARTILLERY LIVE-FIRE SHOOT

**Venue:** PEMBROKE RANGES  
**Date:** Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2009  
**Time:** 0900 – 1300hrs hrs

The media is invited to 1 Regiment AFM's Air Defence & Support Company (ADSC) shoot for year 2009. This live-fire air defence artillery (ADA) training shoot is the culmination of a basic course of instruction, given on the ZPU 14.5mm anti-aircraft machine-gun (AAMG) system, to new soldiers stationed with the ADSC. The Unit's Emergency Volunteer Reserve Force members will also be participating during this training event.

The shoot will be held **tomorrow Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2009 at Pembroke Ranges at 09.00 hrs.**

A dedicated tour (photo/video opportunity) and interview/question time for press media representatives, between live firing practice runs will be held between 10.30hrs and 11.00hrs (please vide notes sheet attached).

**Entry to Pembroke Ranges will not be authorized after 0930 hrs.** For access control, safety and security reasons, members of the Press are required to present their DOI-issued press-cards, and to wear them conspicuously at all times in the performance of their duties. The below indicated delegated points-of-contact throughout the conduct of the above-mentioned event and any other further enquiries.

On location:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Bernardette Cachia -mob. tel. no. 99488850,

Pre-event enquiries:

- Lieutenant Christopher Vella - Office tel. no. 2249-1103/ 4  
- Captain Christopher Attard - mob. 99200300, or Office tel. no. 23695521/18

### **Note to newsroom editors/managers & webmasters**

There will be a pre-event photo/video and interview opportunity **TODAY Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October**, 2009 after 13.00hrs, should newsroom correspondents not be able to cover fully the event tomorrow, or be represented in some limited capacity during the actual event.

Should any correspondents and their respective cameramen/ photographers **wish to attend TODAY**, please contact any of the following:

Captain Christopher Attard - mob. 99200300, or Office tel. no. 23695521/18

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# Background information on ADSC, 1 Regt AFM's ADA Live-Fire Shoot

## Introduction

The ADSC is commanded by Officer-Commanding, Captain Chris Attard. At Pembroke Ranges, a Live Fire Exercise of the ZPU 14.5mm Anti-Aircraft Machine Gun (AAMG) is being held as the culmination exercise of seven weeks of intensive training on the ZPU gun for Regular personal and as phase one of the EVRF reservists' annual camp.

## Range orientation (Command post area)

The firing line down range will be made up of three ZPU guns, in a disposition that may be fired independently or all together as required, under the direction of a Firing Point Officer (FPO) who issues orders to the Master Gunners of each gun. The Director of Practice and the Chief Safety Officer will oversee all the aspects of the shoot and coordinate all the safety requirements through radio and other comms. These will inform the FPO when the range is OPEN (Safe to fire the guns) or CLOSED (Range unsafe – Cease firing).

## ADSC origins

In 2006, The ADSC was formerly called the Air Defence Battery, which formed part of (the now disbanded) 2<sup>nd</sup> Composite Regiment. When ADSC was absorbed in 1 Regt, it was amalgamated with the "D" Support Company.

Many changes have happened since then, the major one being the decision to decommission the Bofors L40/70 ordnance. Therefore, the only remaining Air Defence Artillery weapon currently in use in the AFM is the ZPU 14.5mm AAMG. There has been some discussion at higher level to introduce a SHORAD system (SHORAD standing for short range air defense) like the Stinger or Mistral surface to air missile (SAM) systems, but such discussion are at still at their very early stages.

## The ZPU AAMG

The ZPU 4 is a towed, **quadruple barreled anti-aircraft gun** based on the Soviet KPV 14.5mm gun. It has also a **ground optical sight** to fire on land/sea targets. It entered service with the Soviet Union in **1949** and is used by over **50 countries** worldwide. Our ZPU's are of **Korean manufacture** and were brought to Malta in **1987**.

**Composition of gun:** 4 gun bodies, gun frame, carriage, Sight units, & Accessory boxes

**Technical data:** Maximum range: 12400m / Effective range 2000m

Max rate of fire (each barrel): 600 rds/min limited 150 rds (size of Mag)

**Crew:** Master gunner (MG)/ No 1. gunner (Layer- Movement, aimer, firer)/ No2 gunner (Sight unit operator)/ No 3 & No 4 gunners (Loaders – loading, unloading, make safe) No5 gunner – helps the crew as required

## The Safety setup

The Chief Safety Officer through the command post will coordinate the range safety directing:

- a) The two Safety launches used to direct all vessels sailing across the designated danger area
- b) The two look-outs positioned at both ends of the arc of fire for early warning about any maritime vessels approaching
- c) The three gun safety officers supervising the safe operation of each gun detachment
- d) Direct contact with AFM OPS CENTRE that will monitor the area through coastal radars

## **Other instructions:**

- a. 4 Range wardens will monitor all range approaches and prevent any unauthorized entry to the firing area
- b. 1 Range safety officer ensuring that everyone and everything is in place at all times
- c. All persons on the range are to wear Kevlar/Steel helmet (depending on availability)
- d. VIP's, Press members and guests are to stay within the demarked areas (RANGE D Butts)
- e. Safe areas for free movement prior the shoot are demarked with the mine tape.
- f. Gun detachment members are to wear flak jackets

## **FOR MORE INFO:**

contact Captain Christopher Attard - mob. 99200300, or Office tel. no. 23695521/18