



Region 9 Continued

The Perfect Present

By Sr. Agent Joe Arnaud

It was Dec. 25, 2006, approximately 1530 hours, when I received a call from Sgt. Chad Hebert. I answered the call, and Sergeant Hebert advised that he had received a complaint from a confidential informant, in reference to unknown subjects possibly killing over the limit of deer in Schriever located in Terrebonne Parish.

I began to proceed to the location as fast as I could. I arrived at the

residence at 1557 hours. When I arrived at the possible residence of the perpetrators, I parked my patrol vehicle about a quarter of a mile away and walked. I remembered this from the Academy, when Major Broussard said, "Sometimes you have to put out the extra effort to catch a poacher". That statement was in my mind, as I walked through numerous backyards, hoping that I would not be seen by

anyone. After several minutes, I finally arrived at the residence. As I was creeping around the backyard, I found four dead deer, 3 does and a spike buck. I was looking at the deer, and then observed a 150 quart ice chest with fresh blood on the lid and sides. I opened the ice chest, and there was what appeared to be several deer in the ice chest that were processed. At this time, I backed off into a group of trees and waited for

the subjects to return. As everything would have it, the temperature was in the low 30's and it had begun to rain. I would have rather been doing anything, instead of waiting in this weather for someone to come to these deer.

I was watching for the subject to return home as much as I was watching the time on my watch. At 1720 hours, my luck began to

Continued on page 170

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The Perfect Present

Continued from page 169

change, I heard in a distance a four wheeler traveling down the road way. The sound of the engine began to become increasingly louder, and my heart began to race. This is what I always thought being a Game Warden was all about. The four wheeler stopped in the front yard of the residence and there were three hunters. All three subjects were wearing camouflage clothing and hunter's orange. All had left their firearms in the garage, and walked approximately 20 feet from where I had setup my surveillance.

After about an hour

another. They looked like a deer caught in the headlights. Again, I referred back to the training I received in the Academy and first thing that came to mind was to secure the firearms, and next was to separate the three subjects from one another.

I secured the three firearms, and then the games began. I advised all three subjects of their rights per Miranda. The first subject I questioned was the owner of the residence. When questioned in reference to the four deer in the rear of the residence, he advised that he had killed a doe and a spike

each person admitted to killing a doe and buck. He advised that there was only four deer. At this time, the three subjects' stories were literally not adding up. I advised all three subjects that their stories were not the truth. I advised them that it was time to come clean.

Ten minutes later, the subjects began to talk. The owner of the residence advised that he had killed the doe and spike. When questioned about the processed deer in the ice chest, he advised that his friend had gone hunting in Alabama, and he had given him the deer. I

asked if he had the friends' telephone number or name, so I could call him to confirm the story. Again, the owner advised that he did not have the friend's telephone number. He became very nervous again. By the end of the conversation, I advised him that the deer had to be tagged with the hunter's information, and sex identification had to accompany the processed deer.

After speaking with the first subject, the second subject began admitting to killing the two remaining does.

Continued on page 171



Sr. Agent Joe Arnaud with two seized deer and rifle.

and a half of waiting in the rain and cold waiting for the hunters to return to the deer, it was that time. I exited the tree line, and identified myself as a Louisiana Game Warden to the subjects. Instantly, I noticed that the subjects became very nervous, and began looking at one

buck on Dec. 25, 2006. The second and third subjects advised the same. The math I learned in school taught me that if you have three people and each killed two deer each, that is six deer. I returned to the first subject and asked him where the remaining deer where, because



Region 9 Continued

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David Acosta, President

The Perfect Present

Continued from page 170

I advised the second subject that Louisiana law only allows him to kill one antlerless deer a day.

With subjects one and two admitting to killing the deer, the third subject was off the hook.

Subject one and two were issued citations for over limit of deer, and subject one was also cited for no sex identification, and untagged deer meat. A Thompson encore 270

rifle, four deer and the ice chest of processed deer were seized.

Subjects one and two were also issued civil citations for eight deer. The eight deer were donated to 6 different needy families that reside in Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes.

The case was the perfect present for a Louisiana Game Warden that was working on Christmas Day.

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