



Region 5 Continued

Second Road to the Right

By Sgt. Keith Aucoin

It all started on Jan. 5, 2007 when Sr. Agent Ray Thomas got a phone call from a man stating he had a complaint to report on his brother. The complaint was that his brother and some friends had been doing a lot of night hunting and were selling the deer they were killing. The complainant told agent Thomas of the location this was all taking place and even the time frame that they hunted.

On the 6th agent

Thomas received another call from the complainant stating that his brother had hunted the night before and was going to hunt again tonight. The complainant went on to say that his brother would be at this certain camp, would be finished hunting by 10:30 p.m. and was using the second road to the right to hunt.


Agent Thomas then called agents Aucoin, Liles, Savoie and Vidrine letting them know what was going on. We all then

gathered up and got our game plan together and tried to figure out what we were going to do. We were told that these guys were using night vision to do their deer hunting. From what we could gather these guys had night vision on their firearms and possibly some other type of night vision equipment. This was going to make our job a little tough. If anyone has used night vision they know the view you get is almost like daylight but with a greenish tint to it. So sneaking up on these guys was going to be a problem when they were able to see so well in the dark. Also they were supposed to be sitting in box stands using this equipment so again walking down a lane to a box stand without being seen was going to present another problem.

So with all this information we gathered up that evening and prepared to enter the woods to look for these subjects hunting. We entered the camp area around 7:00 p.m. under the cover of darkness utilizing night vision. There was no one at the camp when we entered the area but we did find a truck parked hidden behind the camp just as the complainant had said it would be. We then found a road behind the camp that went into the woods. Agent Vidrine stayed behind to watch the truck and camp in case they came out by some other route.

We started walking down the road into the woods little knowing of how much walking we would be doing this evening. The com-

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Weapons seized with night scope.

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plainant told us they would be hunting on the second road to the right once we got into the woods. The second road to the right was as we found out to be a good distance into the woods. As we searched for the second road to the right we came across several trails that went to stands that we had to check just in case these guys changed the area they were going to hunt.

Agent Liles and I checked the first trail we came upon and started down it to check for a box stand. We were using night vision and could see the trail clearly as well as the box stand in the distance. This gave us an eerie feeling knowing these guys had night vision also and could easily see us if they were in the box stand. As it turned out there was no one in this box stand and we spent several hours walking trails searching for these night hunters.

At about 10:30 p.m. Lt. Savoie and I took off down another trail into the woods and agents Liles and Thomas stayed behind to keep watch on the intersection. Lt. Savoie and I had gotten about a mile down the road when we heard voices and ATV's in the distance back towards where agents Liles and Thomas were positioned. We had very limited radio contact so we made our way back towards them when finally we heard over the

radio, "We have them here, come meet us."

I have to say it's been awhile since I have ran a good distance, but we wasted no horsepower in getting back to agents Liles and Thomas. When Lt. Savoie and I reached agents Liles and Thomas they had three subjects stopped and handcuffed. I only saw one ATV when I walked up and I asked, "Where is the other ATV?" Agent Liles told me they had tried to run from him and crashed into a briar patch just up the trail. From looking at agent Liles who was muddy from head to foot it must have been quite a chase. From what agents Liles and Thomas told me that before we got there the ATV's were observed coming down the trail only using a red light. When the ATV's got close Agents Liles and Thomas went for the lead ATV and had to force the guy to stop by shouting commands and grabbing onto the ATV. While they were doing this the second ATV stopped and started backing up. Agent Liles saw this and started after the second ATV.

The second ATV got turned around but in their hurry to get away went into the woods, which turned out to be a huge patch of briars and vines. With Agent Liles hot on their heels he was able to grab the passenger and pull him from the ATV. At the same time the operator of the ATV crashed

into the mass of vines and briars bringing the ATV to an abrupt stop causing the operator to go over the handlebars into the briars.

We then started examining the equipment these guys had and found some high tech stuff. Mounted on the rifle a 17 caliber was a night vision scope, on a 22 caliber rifle with a scope and a large light attached with a battery, the light having a red lens on it. We also found night vision binoculars and a monocular night vision. I can tell you I know what these guys were up to but they insisted they were coon hunting. I know there are some die-hard coon

hunters out there but I do not know any who use several thousand dollars worth of night vision to coon hunt.

We arrested the three men and booked them into the parish jail. We cited them for hunt take deer illegal hours using artificial light, hunt take deer with illegal weapon, use firearm with electric sights and two of the men were cited for flight from an officer. The information we received on this complaint all fell into place. The subjects were parked where we were told they would be, they came out of the woods at the time that was told to us, and they were on the second road to the right.



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