



THE FORWARD EDGE OF FREEDOM

December 15, 2009



READY... AIM... FIRE! Shooting range? Nope-- Thanksgiving at my parents' 1,500 acre Broken Arrow deer ranch in South Texas. For Thanksgiving this year, we made the 1,500 mile trek to visit my folks. I haven't been to Texas in a couple of years, and our boys were dying to do some deer hunting. I killed my first buck at the age of five, and they were complaining that they were well past that age. My dad and I took them out to target practice that first day to see how they handled the .22 Hornet rifle. Both boys have good eye/hand coordination, and they were ready for the real McCoy. Grampy and I took Ben out first since he is the oldest. One shot to the head between the left eye and antler, and Benjamin was the proud owner of a 13 point buck. He rode to the camp house in the back of the truck with a grin that went from ear to ear. First thing he did after jumping off the back of the truck was run to my wife and say, "Are you proud of me, Mama? I got a big boy; he's bigger than Uncle Ryan's." Yes, his mama was proud and took pictures... she even took some while they were skinning the buck, and she helped with the meat processing.



Micah was antsy after that to have his turn with Dad and Grampy. We took him out the next day. Again the back of the truck held a proud little boy and his first buck. Micah brought down an eight point buck. He missed the first shot, but he nailed the buck on the second in the exact same place as his brother. Grampy instructs the young ones to aim for this part of the deer so if they miss, the deer isn't left in the wild injured. Micah said he missed the first shot because he was frustrated that he had to aim for such a small part of the deer. Guess he overcame the frustration and brought home the bacon... I mean venison.

Hannah wasn't really into hunting. She doesn't mind eating the meat, but she can't bring herself to shoot the beautiful creatures. I spent the days arrow hunting and taking pictures of the deer and landscape. The trip brought back a lot of fond memories from my growing up years, and it was wonderful getting to spend quality time with my folks, sister, brother, and their families. Of the eight grandchildren, five of them spent many hours out "hunting" with their BB guns.



We are so thankful for the time off and for the Lord giving us traveling mercies all the way there and back. We are looking forward to the Christmas season. The boys are in the Christmas program at church and we are looking forward to having my wife's side of the family for the holidays. We have also extended the invitation to Marines who may not be able to travel back to their homes for Christmas. As the New Year approaches, we are looking forward to what the Lord has in store for us.

Your Friend in the Fight for Truth,
LT Richard H. Wiese, CHC, USN, FMF

For God and Country

Ps. 149:6 "LET THE HIGH PRAISES OF GOD BE IN THEIR MOUTH, AND A TWO-EDGED SWORD IN THEIR HAND."

