

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
December 29, 2013 – January 4, 2014

This report is a broad sampling of events that have taken place in the past week, but does not include all actions taken by the Law Enforcement Division.



Region I- Calhoun (Northwest)

BARTOW COUNTY

On December 31st, at 12:30 p.m., Sgt. Mike Barr received a call from the City of White PD Police Chief David King in reference to a deer shot illegally off Hendricks Road. Cpl. Byron Young responded to the area and met a hunter that showed him an 8 point buck that was shot near the property line. The hunter suspected someone trespassing shot the deer and left. While in the woods the hunter heard an ATV and saw 2 men in orange vests through the hardwoods. The hunter stated the two men in the orange vests saw him and immediately left the area. Cpl. Young checked the area and located a tree that had been climbed and a spent 7 mm mag rifle casing. Cpl. Young also located the ATV trail with fresh tracks nearby. Cpl. Young decided to stay in the woods with the deer and see if someone returned to retrieve it. Sgt. Barr and RFC Zack Hardy set up a mile from the location to back up Cpl. Young. The Ranger waited for the illegal hunter to return. Cpl. Young watched the deer until 9:00 p.m. and no hunters were seen in the area. Cpl. Young and RFC Hardy back tracked the ATV tracks to a residence off Hendricks Road and directed Sgt. Barr to the location. It was New Year's Eve and the officers were unable to locate anyone at the residence. The officers returned New Year's Day and located a male at the residence. The hunter admitted to shooting a buck, but stated he had thought he had missed the deer. In fact, he had shot twice and hit the buck with both shots. The hunter stated he returned to the area to look, but saw another hunter and did not want to mess his hunt up so he left. The hunter stated he had permission to hunt on the adjacent property, but was unsure of the property lines. Sgt. Barr made contact with the landowner and quickly determined the man did not have permission to hunt the property. The hunter was warned for hunting on the property of others without permission. The deer was donated to a needy family for food.



RFC Zack Hardy and Cpl. Byron Young with a buck taken illegally while hunting without permission.

On January 1st, Sgt. Mike Barr received a call from a local Bartow County hunter on Pine Log WMA. While hunting during the open small game season the disabled hunter, his nephew, and friend had harvested 4 feral hogs. Feral hogs do a lot of damage to food plots and compete with other species for food. Controlling the feral hog population helps other game species to survive. Sgt. Barr assisted the hunters in retrieving their game. They planned on spending New Year's Day processing lots of tasty hog meat.



Robert Allen, Cody Allen, and Tanner Gilliland teamed up to reduce the feral hog population on Pine Log WMA.

On January 3rd, Sgt. Mike Barr received a call from RFC Zack Hardy at 4:00a.m. regarding a night hunting situation in Bartow County. Adairsville PD Officer Lemming was on stationary patrol in the industrial park off Trimble Hollow Road when he witnessed a white Ford Pick-up spotlighting for deer. He followed the vehicle up Trimble Hollow Road and stopped the vehicle. Inside the vehicle the officer located a loaded 30-06 rifle, a loaded .22 caliber rifle, and a loaded .380 pistol. Two lights were also located inside the vehicle. When RFC Hardy and Sgt. Barr arrived, the occupants denied spotlighting and stated that the officer must have seen the light of a flashlight inside the vehicle while the occupant put mustard on his sandwich. The DNR Rangers were familiar with the driver and passenger in the truck. One occupant had received multiple convictions for game and fish violations in the past few years. The driver and passenger were both charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a motor vehicle, and hunting from a public road. The case is pending in the Probate Court of Bartow County.



A loaded 30-06 rifle, .22 caliber rifle, .380 pistol, and two flashlights were documented during a night hunting stop in Adairsville in an area known for deer.

FANNIN COUNTY

On December 29th, RFC Cody Jones checked an area where earlier in the season he had charged an individual with hunting over bait. RFC Jones encountered that individual's brother who was hunting over corn and was not wearing the required fluorescent orange. RFC Jones issued a citation and warning for the violations.

On December 30th, Cpl. James Keener and RFC Cody Jones inspected four taxidermy businesses in Fannin County. Warnings and citations were issued for failure to keep accurate records and operating a taxidermy business without a license.

GORDON COUNTY

On January 1st, RFC Roger McConkey and RFC Ben Cunningham worked a complaint area for hunting without permission, hunting over bait, and hunting deer at night. The rangers began surveillance around 5 pm. Several shots were heard on the property and three hunters were located after dark while searching for a wounded deer. As dark approached the rangers were standing at the field's edge wearing their fluorescent orange vests when one of the hunters shined a light into the field near the rangers and shot at a coyote within 20 to 25 yards from the rangers. The hunters were found to be hunting two

different properties and did not have permission for either. Citations were issued for with hunting without permission, hunting deer without the required fluorescent orange needed, and hunting big game over bait, and possession of illegally taken wildlife for a doe that had been shot. One of the hunters was warned for hunting without license and hunting without big game license. The doe was confiscated and donated to a needy family.

FLOYD COUNTY

On December 29th, RFC Ben Cunningham and Cpl. Tommy Gentry assisted the Game Management Section on a managed deer hunt on John's Mtn. WMA. There were only five deer checked in with 250 hunters.



RFC Cunningham weighs a deer at the John's Mountain check station as the successful hunter watches.

WALKER COUNTY

On January 4th, RFC Roger McConkey and Cpl. Tommy Gentry concluded an investigation on a hunter who harvested two deer with less than four points on one side. The hunter shot one deer on Nov. 27th and another on Dec. 28th. One citation was issued for the violation.

On January 2nd, RFC Roger McConkey and Sgt. Jeff Galloway responded to a call on Pigeon Mountain WMA in reference to a possible suicide call from Walker County 911.

The subject was located unharmed in his vehicle at the Lost Wall rock climbing area of the WMA. The subject was taken to the hospital by a Walker County Deputy for evaluation.

POLK COUNTY

On January 4th, Sgt. Ricky Dempsey, RFC Chad Cox, RFC Daniel Gray and Ranger Mark Puig were working a night hunting detail when RFC Cox received a call at 3:50am from Braswell PD in reference to a truck entering Paulding Forest WMA. All rangers responded and located two male subjects raccoon hunting. While speaking to them about driving in a closed area RFC Gray located a small bag containing a clear crystalized substance (suspected methamphetamine). One subject was issued a citation for driving in unauthorized area on WMA. The other subject was arrested for hunting without a license, hunting without WMA license, driving in unauthorized area on WMA and possession of controlled substance (felony).

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

BANKS COUNTY

On January 4th, RFC Eric Isom checked two different groups of waterfowl hunters hunting Commerce water shed lake. RFC Isom issued two warnings for operating a vessel without registration and hunting with an unplugged shotgun.

STEPHENS COUNTY

On December 30th, Cpl. Bill Bunch checked some raccoon hunters. One of the subjects was issued a citation for hunting without a license.

On January 3rd, Cpl. Bill Bunch checked Owls Swamp for duck hunters. He issued a citation for hunting without a license and a warning for hunting without a waterfowl license.

MADISON COUNTY

On December 29th, RFC Shane Sartor responded to hunting without permission call. Three male subjects had been confronted by the complainant and he had made the subjects give him their licenses. The subjects left the scene and also left a woodpecker that the complainant had seen them with. The subjects were located and three citations for hunting without permission, one citation for hunting without license and one citation for taking a totally protected species were issued.

On December 30th, RFC Shane Sartor was checking the Broad River WMA when he located a subject hunting deer. The WMA closed on Dec. 1 for deer hunting and the subject was issued a citation for hunting on closed WMA.

On December 31st, RFC Shane Sartor and Sgt. Stan Elrod Checked an Affidavit property and located a subject that had shot a deer on the property. The subject also had put out carrots and apples around his stand. The subject was issued a citation for hunting without permission and a warning for hunting big game over bait.

On January 3rd, RFC Shane Sartor was performing a routine patrol when he encountered some rabbit hunters. One subject was issued a citation for hunting without license.

On January 4th, RFC Shane Sartor heard a roost shoot taking place and was able to locate five individuals hunting. Five citations for hunting waterfowl after hours were issued

GWINNETT COUNTY

On January 4th Cpl. Eric Sanders received a complaint in Gwinnett County that subjects were hunting deer with firearms. Cpl. Sanders went to the complaints house and there on the back porch he showed Cpl. Sanders where the shots came from and where he saw two hunters on the other side of the creek. While showing Cpl. Sanders the area, a vehicle was spotted in the same area where the hunters were hunting. Cpl. Sanders proceeded to the area where the truck was to come out onto another road. Cpl. Sanders arrived at the power line and observed a red truck in the general area. Cpl. Sanders also notice two subjects holding rifles in their hands standing beside the truck. Cpl. Sanders approached the hunters and found a dead buck deer in the back of the truck skinned out. Both subjects admitted to shooting the deer this morning. Both hunters were issued citation/warnings for hunting without license, hunting without big game license, hunting with an illegal weapon, and possession of illegal taken wildlife.

LUMPKIN COUNTY

On Jan 2nd Sgt. Lee Brown, RFC Mitchell Crump, RFC Eric Isom, and Ranger Shane Brown responded to an overdue hunter. RFC Crump received the called around 10:45 PM and called the other Rangers to assist. The temperature fell into the mid-teens with a wind-chill of 0 degrees. Lumpkin County Rescue completed a hasty search and contacted Department of Corrections (DOC) K9 units to assist with the search efforts. DOC K9's were unable to pick up any scents so the Rangers along with other personnel preformed a line search of the area where the subject's truck was located. No sign of the subject was found. The Rangers searched thru the night and had called a DNR CAT Team and Aviation to search at daylight. At approximately 6:45 AM the subject's wife called stating the missing unter was at home. RFC Crump and RFC Isom interviewed the man and found inconstancy with his story. The subject is believed to be a convicted felon and had no hunting license. The investigation is ongoing.

On Jan 4th Sgt. Lee Brown, RFC Barry, Britt and Ranger Shane Brown along with Lumpkin County Sheriff's Office hosted a skeet shoot for the youth of Lumpkin County. The youth hunters went squirrel hunting that morning and then met at Yahoola Creek Park for lunch and a friendly skeet shooting competition. The top male and female were presented prizes by the Sheriff's office.

ROCKDALE COUNTY

On December 29th Cpl. Sanders was working a complaint in Rockdale County about Hunting W/O Permission. Cpl. Sanders located the hunter in the stand found last week and the hunter was not wearing an orange vest. Upon talking with the hunter, Cpl. Sanders found out that there was another hunter on the property. That hunter was located and he also was not wearing an orange vest. He was also hunting Big Game (Deer) over bait. Both subjects were charged with Hunting W/O written permission and Hunting w/o Fluorescent Orange on person. One was also charged with Hunting Big Game over Bait.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

LINCOLN COUNTY

On January 4th, Cpl. Ryan Swain performed a concentrated patrol of both Soap Creek and Fishing Creek WMAs. Several waterfowl and boating violations were detected. Several subjects were given verbal warnings to correct their violations.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

On January 5th, RFC Robert Timmerman apprehended one subject for hunting waterfowl on Mistletoe State Park. The subject was written a citation and released.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

COWETA COUNTY

On Monday, December 30th, at 0500 hours RFC Kevin Godbee received a call from GSP Dispatch in reference to a night hunting complaint in Coweta County. RFC Godbee called the complainant who advised that around 0300 hours someone shot a deer from a vehicle off Tommy Lee Cook Road in north Coweta County. He said the deer was shot in his neighbor's yard and ran to another neighbor's yard and died in the driveway. The complainant was able to provide a description and tag number to the vehicle, which was an out of state tag, as well as a description of the two men in the vehicle. Using investigative techniques and his training and experience, RFC Godbee was able to determine that a possible suspect lived within a couple of miles of the site of the incident. RFC Godbee then met with Sgt. Brent Railey and they found a 9mm shell casing at the scene. They went to the address which was believed to belong to the violators. Upon arrival, the vehicle in the driveway matched the description the complainant gave. The tag number was also a match. Both officers then began interviewing two suspects at the location. After several minutes, both violators admitted to shining and shooting the deer from their vehicle with a 9mm pistol. The pistol was taken as evidence. Both subjects were charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a vehicle and hunting from a public roadway.

FAYETTE COUNTY

On the morning of January 4th, Cpl. Travis Sweat located several vehicles parked at a swamp on the Fayette/ Fulton County line. Shortly after this, RFC Kevin Godbee and Deputy Ranger Joe Sebo responded to Cpl. Sweat's location. The Rangers were able to locate four hunters. The hunters had fired several shots but had no ducks. Once the Rangers checked the hunters, they found several violations including hunting with an unplugged shotgun, hunting without a federal duck stamp, hunting without a Georgia waterfowl stamp, and hunting without an HIP permit.

HEARD COUNTY

On January 1st, Sgt. Jim Bradfield and Cpl. Jeremy Bolen were checking hunting activity, when they located a truck parked on a hunting property. The officers checked DNR's license database for any active license for the registered owner of the truck. No license was found therefore K-9 Rugar was utilized to track up two hunters. The first hunter was located sitting against a tree. After speaking with the hunter, the officers determined that the individual was a convicted felon in possession of a firearm. The hunter informed Cpl. Bolen that there was another hunter on the property as well. Rugar was utilized to locate the other hunter in a climbing stand. It was later determined that the hunter was also a convicted felon in possession of a firearm. Both of the hunters were arrested for the violations, as well as other hunting charges. A total of 3 firearms were seized as evidence.

JASPER COUNTY

On December 26th, RFC Freddie Hays received a call from the Jasper County 911 dispatch about a lost hunter on Oconee National Forest. RFC Hays responded to the location and met with the subjects hunting partner who stated the lost hunter was not in good health. RFC Hays attempted to locate the subject by blowing his truck horn and siren, and checking the other roads in the area without any success. RFC Hays then contacted Cpl. Tony Wynne and RFC Keith Page to assist him with the search. RFC Page deployed K-9 Drake and attempted to track the subject, but due the time that had elapsed and environmental conditions, no track could be found. The hunter was later found walking on the highway on the way back to his vehicle. The hunter said he had taken a bad compass reading and walked out in the opposite direction.

MERIWETHER COUNTY

Cpl. Keith Waddell checked a deer hunter on Monday, December 30th near Woodbury. The hunter was a non-resident and did not have current Georgia hunting licenses. His licenses had expired part of the way through the deer season. He was also hunting over bait and did not have on an orange vest. During an investigation, Cpl. Waddell discovered the hunter had killed four antlered bucks during the 2013 deer season and had not recorded any of them on his harvest record. On Friday, January 3rd, the hunter voluntarily met with Cpl. Waddell and produced the racks of the four bucks he had killed. The racks were seized as evidence. The hunter was cited for hunting big game over bait, hunting without fluorescent orange, non-resident hunting without a hunting license, non-resident hunting without a big game license, failure to record deer harvest and taking over the limit.

On Friday, January 3rd, Cpl. Keith Waddell received a call about an injured/stranded bald eagle on the Flint River. Cpl. Waddell went to the scene and took possession of the bald eagle and transported it to a rehabilitator.

UPSON COUNTY

On Friday, December 27th, RFC Keith Page responded to a hunting incident in Upson County. The incident occurred around 2 pm; however DNR was not notified until approximately 6 pm. RFC Page responded to Upson Regional Medical Center and met with the victim. The victim was a 70 year old female who had fallen 20 feet from the top step of her deer stand. Surprisingly, the victim was alive and conscience. She sustained multiple injuries including several broken vertebrates, a broken rib, lacerations on her adrenal gland and multiple bruises. The attending physician stated she would recover from her injuries, but it would take many months for her to heal.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

COLQUITT COUNTY

At daylight on January 3rd, Cpl. Greg Wade heard a volley of shots fired near his location. The officer soon located three subjects hunting ducks in a swamp and discovered the area they were hunting was baited. The subjects were charged for hunting ducks over bait and 12 ducks were seized.

MITCHELL COUNTY

On the morning of January 4th, Ranger Eric White checked several hunters participating in a dove shoot. During his inspection of the field, the officer checked a subject who had reached his daily bag limit of 15 doves. Later that afternoon, White happened to be passing through the same area and noticed the field was being hunted for a second time that day. Upon entering the field, White encountered the subject from the morning's hunt actively hunting again. Ranger White cited the subject for hunting after obtaining the daily bag limit.

TIFT COUNTY

On January 4th, RFC Jon Penuel and RFC Chris Carlisle checked a dove shoot taking place on a peanut field. As the officers walked the field checking hunters, they discovered the field had been baited. The subjects participating in the hunt were each charged with hunting dove over bait.

While patrolling a different area of Tift County, Cpl. Robbie Griner also located a baited dove shoot and charged the subjects with hunting over bait.

WORTH COUNTY

On the evening of January 4th, Cpl. Robbie Griner heard shooting that began as darkness fell. He quickly located three subjects shooting ducks as they were flying into a roost pond. The three were charged for hunting waterfowl after legal hours.

QUITMAN COUNTY

Ranger Quinn Fogle was on patrol when he heard several shots in the area of a flooded clear cut. Ranger Fogle found a vehicle and located two subjects shooting ducks after sunset. Ranger Fogle issued citations for shooting waterfowl after hours and a warning for an unplugged shotgun.

STEWART COUNTY

Ranger Quinn Fogle was on patrol travel on US HWY 27 when he noticed three subjects walking through a field towards a SUV parked in the middle of a dirt road. Ranger Fogle got out with the subjects and they stated they had just seen a big buck walk across the road and they wanted to get a better look at it. Ranger Fogle allowed the subject to go and shortly thereafter realized that something was amiss. Ranger Fogle was able to catch up to the subjects and noticed a small amount of blood on the bumper of the SUV. Ranger Fogle got the subject out of the vehicle and asked if one of them would open the hatch on the vehicle. Inside were two doe deer and three rifle cases laid on top of them. One of the rifle cases had sand on it all over the outside. Ranger Fogle asked the subjects if they would follow him back to the area where he had originally seen them. Upon arrival Ranger Fogle noticed a fresh shell casing lying in the middle of the dirt road. The driver admitted that he did get out of the vehicle and fire a round down the field. The driver was charged with hunting from a public road, non-resident hunting without a license, non-resident hunting without a big game license, and hunting without permission. One of the passengers that admitted to shooting the two does found in the back of the SUV was charged with hunting without a license and failure to record. The two deer were confiscated and donated to a needy family.

CLAY COUNTY

While patrolling on Lake WF George, RFC Atchley issued two citations for hunting waterfowl on a state park and two warnings for hunting waterfowl within restricted distances of a structure. Along with these charges RFC Atchley confiscated 5 ducks.

RFC Atchley responded to a complaint on Lake George for possible killing of Cormorants. During his investigation RFC Atchley located and documented three Federal Waterfowl Stamp violations.

TURNER COUNTY

On January 14th, RFC Chad Hulsey was patrolling when he located two subjects hunting doves. The field was found to be baited and both subjects were cited for hunting over bait. Later in the patrol a second baited field was located and 5 subjects were cited for hunting over bait. One of the hunters was also cited for hunting without a license. A total of 21 doves were confiscated.

On January 1st, RFC Chad Hulseby received a call in reference to a deer that was found shot and left lying in a field. While investigating the scene, Hulseby noticed tire tracks and followed them to a nearby residence. During a subsequent interview of an individual at the residence it was revealed that the subject had shot the deer from his vehicle just before dark on the previous day. The subject was charged with hunting without a license, hunting without big game, and hunting big game from a motor vehicle.

On January 3rd, RFC Chad Hulseby and Cpl. Clint Martin were conducting a patrol when they checked several hunters on a dove field. Two of the hunters were found and cited for taking over the daily limit. A third hunter was cited for hunting without a license. A total of 41 doves were confiscated.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

WILCOX COUNTY

On Dec 31, Cpl. John A. Stokes was patrolling in the northwest end of Wilcox County and came across a quail trap in the woods. While Cpl. Stokes was looking at the trap a person came over to see who was on the property then turned around and went to a residence when he saw it was a Game Warden. Cpl. Stokes made contact with the individual and was told by the subject that the property was owned by his uncle. Cpl. Stokes confiscated the quail trap and was met by another subject who stated the property belonged to his father. Cpl. Stokes followed the second subject to the location of the property owner who admitted to placing the quail trap. Cpl. Stokes issued a citation to the property owner for illegal trapping of quail.

LAURENS COUNTY

On December 30th, RFC Rodney Horne investigated a hunting incident. A subject who was hunting from a tree stand fell from the stand while climbing down the ladder portion with a loaded firearm. Another subject who was hunting with the individual was approaching the deer stand and when the first subject fell, his firearm discharged and bullet fragments struck the subject on the ground in the heel. The subject who sustained wounds from the firearm was treated and released from the hospital. The individual who fell from the stand did not require medical treatment for any injuries.

On December 31st, RFC Rodney Horne was dispatched to an anonymous report of a subject in possession of live foxes. RFC Horne arrived at the scene and found a subject on the property of complaint location. The subject was in possession of two live foxes in cages. RFC Horne discovered the subject did not possess a trapping license and another subject who was trapping with the individual also did not possess a trapping license. Both subjects were cited for trapping without a license and instructed to release or dispatch the animals. The subjects were also instructed in the regulations pertaining to holding live foxes / coyotes.

EFFINGHAM COUNTY

On Thursday December 26th RFC Jamey O'Brien and SGT Don Dasher were patrolling for illegal deer dogging activity. During their patrol efforts, officers observed a truck parked on a dirt road in the roadway. After checking the deer dog hunter's licenses and equipment, a violation was documented for Hunting from a Public Road. Hunter was also given some guidance on other hunting regulation issues.

On Saturday December 14th, RFC Jamey O'Brien responded to a complaint of deer dogging on private property and hunting along a public roadway. Once in the area, RFC O'Brien located 5 deer dog hunters near the area of the complaint. Licenses and equipment was checked and violations were documented for 2 counts of Hunting without A License.

BULLOCH COUNTY

On the morning of December 28th, Cpl. Eddie Akins checked William's Landing on the Ogeechee River for boating, fishing and duck hunting activity. A total of three boats, two fishermen and three hunters were checked. One violation for operating a vessel with insufficient PFD's was documented as a result of Cpl. Akins' efforts.

On the afternoon of December 28th, Cpl. Eddie Akins responded to two calls about deer dogs running on unpermitted property. Investigation of these complaints resulted in three violations being documented for failure to keep dogs on permitted property.

On December 30th, Cpl. Eddie Akins responded to a complaint about deer dogging near Register. Investigation of the complaint resulted in three violations being documented. The violations were hunting without a license, hunting without a big game license and hunting without a deer dogging license.

On January 1st, Cpl. Eddie Akins and Sgt. Don Dasher patrolled in Bulloch County for hunting activity. Their efforts resulted in three duck hunters, three dove hunters and three deer hunters being checked. A verbal warning was given to one of the dove hunters for hunting with an unplugged gun.

BERRIEN COUNTY

On January 2, Cpl. Morty Wood was patrolling for evening duck roost shoots in the Enigma area. Cpl. Wood detected a roost shoot off of Ferry Lake Road in Tift County. Two illegal hunters were located and charged with hunting waterfowl after hours. One of the subjects also received a warning for hunting without a federal waterfowl stamp.

On January 3, Cpl. Morty Wood arrested an individual after a short investigation relating to night deer hunting on the night of January 2nd. The illegal hunting had occurred on Edgar Drew Dorminy Road outside of Enigma. The subject had shot a spike buck in a field and after attempting to retrieve it, he was run off by the landowner. Charges included hunting deer at night, hunting big game from a public road, hunting from a vehicle, and hunting without permission. This was the poachers 4TH arrest for hunting deer at night.

On January 4th, Cpl. Morty Wood was patrolling the Alapaha area and located a deer hunter hunting without a current hunting license, a big game license, and had no orange vest. The hunter received citations for the offenses.

ATKINSON COUNTY

On January 4th, Cpl. Morty Wood was patrolling the Willacoochee area. Cpl. Wood located a small group hunting doves off of Highway 90. One subject was found to not have a current hunting license and was hunting with an unplugged shotgun. Warnings were issued for the infractions.

COFFEE COUNTY

On Jan. 4th, RFC Joe Hilton was on routine patrol for hunting activity in Coffee County. While on this patrol, RFC Hilton heard multiple gun shots coming from an area. While investigating the shots he came across six individuals hunting doves. RFC Hilton began checking licenses and while doing so, noticed the field was baited with sunflowers and wheat. Six citations for hunting doves over bait, three warnings for hunting without a license and three warnings for failure to participate in the migratory H.I.P. program were issued.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

CHATHAM COUNTY

January 4th Ranger First Class Buster Cooper and Ranger Jordan Crawford checked several groups of duck hunters on the Savannah River documenting 2 violations of unplugged shotguns and license violations.

Sergeant Cindy Miller checked duck hunters in West Chatham County. Two hunters were cited for not having the required licenses.

January 5- Ranger Jordan Crawford checked recreational fishing vessels in the area of Green Island Sound documenting one violation of fishing without a license.

BRYAN COUNTY

On Jan. 1st, Sgt. Phillip Scott responded to and met with a landowner who filed a complaint about hunting dogs in their yard. The dogs had already left the area and the landowner was not sure as to who was the dogs' owner. Sgt. Scott obtained more information and advised the landowner that the local rangers would patrol the area to check for future violations.

On Jan. 4th, Cpl. Morgan patrolled northern Bryan County checking deer hunters. One deer-dogging hunter was cited on I. G. Lanier Road for hunting big game from a public road.

On the evening of Jan. 4th, Cpl. Bill Bryson, Cpl. Jay Morgan, RFC Jack Thain, and Ranger Jason Miller conducted a night detail to detect illegal night hunting. Cpl. Morgan observed a truck passing by with the driver shining a field with a light. The rangers

stopped the truck and found a bright flashlight, a loaded .300 caliber rifle with the safety off, and an open beer bottle. Bryan County deputies assisted and the subject was arrested by the deputies for driving under the influence and open container violation. The subject was transported to the jail where he blew a reading of .114 on the Intoxilyser. He was also charged with hunting deer at night, hunting under the influence, hunting big game from a public road, and hunting from a vehicle. While setting up to continue their detail, RFC Thain found a truck pulled off a road and checked four men who stated that they were looking for their raccoon dogs. An investigation is underway to determine if the men had permission to be on the property.

Later that evening, as Cpl. Morgan was at the jail with the night hunter that had been arrested earlier, Cpl. Bryson observed a car pass his location with a light being shined on a clear-cut. The car continued on down the road and shined a rye field at Ranger Miller's location. The rangers stopped the car and found two men with a mag-light flashlight, a shotgun loaded with buckshot, a loaded .243 caliber rifle, and a .22 caliber rifle. The two men were cited for hunting deer at night, hunting big game from a public road, and hunting from a vehicle.



Rangers & second group of night hunting suspects

LIBERTY COUNTY

On Dec. 29th, Cpl. Jay Morgan received a call from Dorchester Quail Preserve about someone hunting without permission. Cpl. Morgan contacted RFC Jack Thain who responded with Ranger Jason Miller. The rangers found a black jeep parked on a woods-trail road and while RFC Thain was walking down the road, he heard a shot close to his location. He found a deer hunter who was not wearing fluorescent orange and had just shot a spike buck. It was determined that the hunter was on the Liberty County Development Authority property at the Tradeport East Industrial Park. The hunter was cited for hunting without permission and hunting without wearing fluorescent orange clothing. The spike buck was confiscated and donated to the "Hunters for the Hungry" program. After dropping off the deer, the rangers received a call about a hunting incident that had occurred on Ft. Stewart Military Base in which a deer hunter had fallen 30 feet out of a tree stand. The rangers went to Memorial Hospital in Savannah to interview the victim. The victim had been adjusting his safety strap when the metal stand collapsed and he fell backwards, hanging by his feet until his shoes came off. He suffered two broken ankles and bruises on his torso.

On Jan. 1st, Cpl. Morgan received two calls about deer-dogging hunters on side of the Hwy. 17 near Midway, GA. After calling Cpl. Chris Moore to assist, the two rangers checked the area but did not find any hunters on the road. They checked several members of the local deer-dogging club gathered up on another road. Two hunters were cited for failure to properly record deer harvest. A gray fox was that had been illegally shot with buckshot was found on the ground near the hunters' truck. The fox was confiscated.