



Soldiers Treated to Local Deer Hunt

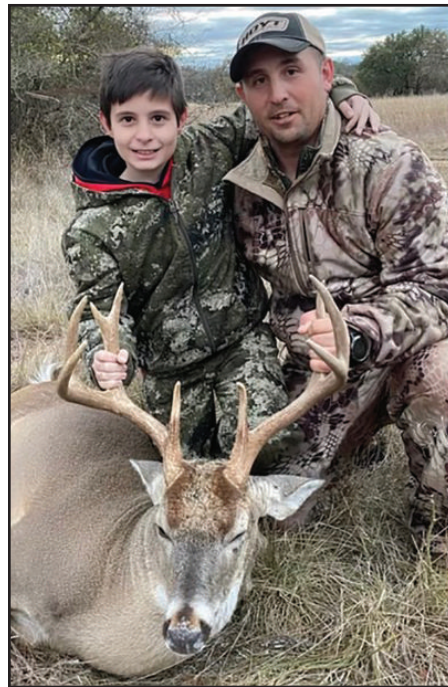
By Eagle Staff

(Editor's Note: Because the landowner doesn't want publicity for his generosity, he wanted to keep his name out of this article.)

While the Mills County Wounded Soldier Hunt is no longer held each January, many local landowners still allow members of the US Armed Forces to hunt on their land each deer season.

Many connections were made between active and retired military and Mills County landowners during the seven years the official hunt was held. Since the hunt ended, those connections are still being used to allow these fine men and women to harvest excess deer for free in Mills County.

Two active members of the United States Army, Nathan Teixeira and Christopher Hemsath, were hosted



Above left, Nathan Teixeira and his son Dillon are pictured with their 9-point buck that scored 130-7/8 taken with a Browning 6.5 Creedmoor rifle. At right, Christopher Hemsath is pictured with his ten point buck that scored 138-4/8 taken with a Savage 7MM Magnum rifle.



Nathan also shot a deer rifle owned by Hemsath's dad, a Browning 6.5 Creedmoor rifle.

"We originally planned on a Monday morning hunt," said Christopher. "But the landowner found out we were both in town the day before on Sunday evening. So he invited us out for an afternoon hunt. He let my dad, Robb, go with us and even let Nathan's son, Dillon, go on the hunt, too."

The landowner explained that he had two cull bucks that were running his other deer off and making nuisances of themselves.

"The landowner said he needed these two bucks taken off his place," said Christopher. "Nathan and I were more than happy to help."

The hunting party set up Sunday evening overlooking a field and a protein feeder.

"We saw some of the biggest bucks we had ever seen while watching that field and feeder," said Christopher. "After a while, our management bucks came into the field and headed to the protein feeder. Sure enough, the bucks started running the other deer off the feeder."

Nathan's buck came close enough to shoot first.

"Nathan gave his buck a warning shot at around 125 yards," said Christopher. "But then Nathan rallied and nailed the buck with his second shot."

"After about twenty minutes, I finally got a clear shot on my buck," said Christopher. "I had him 'dead to rights' at 80 yards and nailed him with my first shot."

Hemsath made a point to thank the landowner for allowing he and Nathan to harvest the two management bucks.

"Thank you for all you did for us and all you do for the military," said Christopher.

for free on a management buck high fence ranch in Mills County. The duo each bagged a management buck on the hunt. It was noted that these management bucks were the largest bucks either had taken in their lives.

Christopher is a drill sergeant in the US Army serving in Fort Jackson, Carolina. Nathan Teixeira also serves in the US Army as a drill sergeant stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas.

"Nathan was my drill sergeant years ago when I served at Fort Bliss," said Christopher. "Now I serve as a drill sergeant at Fort Jackson. I always kept in touch with Nathan and we stayed friends. When the opportunity to hunt in Mills County over the Thanksgiving holiday came up, Nathan was the first guy I called."

Christopher shot his father's Savage 7MM Magnum. "It was my father's first deer rifle," said Hemsath. "That rifle was also my first deer rifle. I wanted to hunt with a rifle that had sentimental memories for me."

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