

# Boys, Their Toys, and Pigs

By Lt.Col. Robert K. Brown, USAR (Ret.)



Photo: Frankie Icenogle

Well, it sounded like a good idea, and it was time to get out of Dodge, or what passed for the People's Republic of Boulder. And who could turn down an invitation to cavort and pop caps with some of the finest in the tactical weapons community?

The man behind the event, Jim Hodge, told me, "I thought it would be a valuable experience to host a Texas Tactical Rifle Hunt to allow various individuals within the weapons community to meet and exchange ideas on the development of systems that would be of value to SpecOps operators and S.W.A.T operators that go in harm's way."

This was the third such event, held at the Double C Ranch, which specializes in exotic game hunting in South Texas near Crystal City. "The first year, we had seven participants, the second about 30 and this year about 40. And next year, we will host no more than 50," Hodge told me. By invitation

only, he emphasized. This is the first time an opportunity was provided for individuals from a variety of firms to get together face-to-face and exchange ideas, as well as kick back and relax. Surefire and Camelbak supported the event by passing out samples of their products to the attendees.

Jeff Meyers, owner of the Double C Ranch, was a suburb host and provided fine food along with a pleasant atmosphere as well as an opportunity to shoot skeet and hoist not a few brews. Special thanks go to former Marine Frankie Icenogle who volunteered to photograph the event. Everyone left the Double C Ranch ([www.huntingwithjeff.com](http://www.huntingwithjeff.com)) with an up-beat attitude and more knowledgeable than when they arrived. I'm looking forward to next year's event and might even learn a little bit about all the new fangled gadgets that our modern warriors use in their fight against terrorism. ☒

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Photo: Rich Lucibella



*RKB zapped the Dall ram within spitting distance, with a Springfield Armory .308 Scout with a 2 3/4 Burris Scout scope. 150 grains of lead courtesy of Hornady. RKB tromps around in his Danner boots and sports a pair of Walker's Ears, protecting what little remains of his hearing and Wiley X protective glasses. On the left is his guide, Jose Luna. Special thanks to former Marine Frankie "Ice" Icenogle for the photography and representatives from Camelbak, Surefire, SpecOps and Blade Tech who were generous in passing out samples of their gear.*

## 2005 Tactical Hog Hunt

I have been in the firearms industry for almost 25 years and one thing always bothered me, the lack of interaction within our own industry.

The Tactical Hog hunt has helped to change that, not in a big way but at a grass roots level.

In the past it seemed that everyone in the gun biz had the attitude that "If company A sells a gun, that's one I won't sell." Pretty closed minded! At the Hunt guys who are direct competitors get together, show each other their stuff, discuss their techniques (trade secrets) and give advice.

It is really not about the hunting; Yes we hunted, and some were very successful, but everyone really looked forward to hanging out at the lodge and socializing and tearing down some of those walls, the rest of the gun industry should consider doing it. Everyone wins, even the consumer

This is really something that could be done in other industries, set up a hunt for your company, invite others in the same industry and expand the horizons of everyone involved.

**Martin Bordson**  
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