



2015 ALL BIRDDOG UNIT REUNION



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT



Date: June 3, 2015

To: REUNION ATTENDEES, UNITS & ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

Subj: CHANGE IN THE REUNION SCHEDULE & LOCATION

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, the 2015 All Birddog Unit Reunion is no longer being held in Panama City Beach, Florida this October 6-11 but has moved to the Ft Rucker/Dothan Alabama area for October 9-10. (The Wyndham Bay Point Resort can no longer handle our reunion event due to planned renovations and there is a lack of acceptable alternatives in the Panama City or Gulf Coast areas.) **If you made a reservation at the Wyndham and/or completed the Reunion Reservation with Armed Forces Reunions (AFRI) read below. If you have NOT done either of the above but are planning on attending, there is a NEW Schedule for Friday October 9th and Saturday October 10th.**

FRIDAY OCTOBER 9, 2015 – the **Birddog Memorial Dedication** will be held 11:00 am Friday October 9, 2015 at Ft Rucker, Alabama followed immediately by a special **Birddog BBQ Festival** where all units, families and friends can enjoy good southern cooking, be entertained by local musicians and experience flights in the Birddog and other selected aircraft courtesy of Friends of Army Aviation. This special event will be held in Ozark at the Blackwell Airport.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 10, 2015 - we are working on possible plans for either a large reception or a sit down-dinner.

REUNION REGISTRATION REFUNDS - Armed Forces Reunions Inc. (AFRI) will begin making full refunds June 11. We have asked AFRI to delay making these refunds for 1-week to allow time for organizing the new schedule and in anticipation that AFRI may still provide service these two days. AFRI's Birddog Reunion webpage will remain active in this process.

WYNDHAM BAY POINT HOTEL RESERVATIONS - The Wyndham Bay Point Resort will commence releasing all rooms and make refunds to anyone who may have secured a room with a deposit commencing NLT Monday June 8th.

SUMMARY, no one likes sudden changes but the All Birddog Unit Reunion Committee & AFRI have worked tirelessly on your behalf since receiving the news of the Wyndham Bay Point's inability to handle our event. Our primary goal has been the Memorial Dedication and the recognition of everyone who served with a Birddog Unit. The consolidation to the Ft. Rucker Area accomplishes this. Please pass the word and above all maintain your enthusiasm for attending this historic one-time event. There can be no greater honor to those we lost than for us to come together in one place in their memory and likewise, no better feeling for us who remain than coming together as one group to honor & celebrate our collective service. Whether we served in Vietnam, Stateside or elsewhere around the world, we did it with one of the finest airplanes ever built, the L-19/O-1 Birddog, performing one of the most needed missions in any conflict or war, providing close air support and communications to the boots on the ground.

Another announcement will be forthcoming within the next few days. It will provide additional instructions for attending this historic event. Have questions?? Watch for answers on the <http://www.L19Birddog.com> website as well AFRI's website at <https://afr-reg.com/birddog2015>

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Brewster

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2015 All Birddog Unit Reunion Chairman

Committee Members: Chairman, Robert Brewster, Vice Chairman; Stephen Butler, US Army; Charles Mingus, US Army; Charles Barnes, US Army; David Haidle, US Army; Richard Baker, US Army; Donald Vaughn, US Army; Hiram Johnston, US Army; Marcus Mitchell, US Army; John Ritz, US Army; Rod Stewart, US Army; Sam Dawson, IBDA Rep; Molly & Ted Day, Armed Forces Reunions Inc.