



To: **EVERYONE REGISTERED FOR 2015 ALL BIRDDOG UNIT REUNION**

Date: **September 29, 2015**

From: **REUNION COMMITTEE**

Subj: **FINAL PRE-REUNION UPDATE (PRINT & SAVE)**

THE REUNION IS NEXT WEEK, ONLY DAYS AWAY! Hard to believe since we started planning this event over 2-years ago! At this time we have almost 300 people registered. At the end of this update there is a list of everyone attending by name and unit.

OK, let's address one subject, FIRST, IF YOU HAVE NOT REGISTERED....READ BELOW –

NOT REGISTERED? ONLINE REGISTRATION IS NOW CLOSED! However, you can still go to the Reunion Internet Registration page and print the registration form for mailing. The cutoff for receiving printed registration forms is **MONDAY OCTOBER 5TH**. After this date you may still register (Space Available Only) at the La Quinta Hotel in Dothan, Alabama starting Thursday October 8th in the afternoon. To get the printed form go to <https://afr-reg.com/birddog2015/> and click top right corner for "Registration Form". Print & Mail with payment. (We don't want to leave anybody out but there comes a time when we must give our vendors their final count for food and buses).

ON-SITE CHECK-IN/REGISTRATION PACKAGE PICKUP

REUNION ONSITE CHECK-IN – Dothan La Quinta Inn & Suites

EVERYONE that is Pre-registered must pick up their registration packages at the Dothan La Quinta Inn & Suites. The La Quinta is the reunion HQ. If you are staying at the next door Country Inn & Suites or staying at any of the other area hotels be sure to pick up your registration package Thursday AFTERNOON at the La Quinta before the Welcome Reception.

CHECK-IN WILL BE OPEN THURSDAY NOON – 5:00PM; FRIDAY 7:00AM-8:30AM (This is also where you can register if you have not done so – Space Available.)

Dress Code throughout the reunion is whatever you want to wear or feel appropriate for the event you are attending and the climatic conditions.

EVENTS SCHEDULE

#1 WELCOME RECEPTION

Thursday October 8th 6:00pm-10:00pm

Dothan Country Club

200 Cherokee Ave, Dothan

Food, drink and entertainment (the Bobcats Band 6-10pm) plus a few surprises. Don't miss this opportunity to get reacquainted with fellow service members, spouses and family members.

SHUTTLE BUSES will run non-stop between the La Quinta and Country Inn to the Dothan CC starting at 5:30pm – 10:00 pm.

#2 BIRDDOG MEMORIAL DEDICATION

Friday October 9th 11:00am (9:30am Buses arrive at Museum)

Army Aviation Museum

Ft. Rucker (Daleville Gate)

BUSES will depart the La Quinta Inn & Suites at 8:30am for Ft. Rucker. **(MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A PICTURE ID WITH YOU)**

Perhaps the highlight of the entire reunion, the **Birddog Memorial Dedication**, is not to be missed by anyone. If you cannot make it for the entire reunion, you should try to be at the **Birddog Memorial Dedication** to be held at the **Army Aviation Museum, Ft. Rucker**.

This ceremony will be full military protocol with honor guard, military band, guest speaker Lieutenant General Kevin Mangum (Deputy Commanding General/Chief of Staff, US Army Training and Doctrine Command, Fort Eustis, Virginia; also son of Robert Mangum who served as pilot with the 73rd Aviation Company.) There will be several short presentations for recognition of all units and special recognition honors for those who were lost in conflict. Weather permitting there will be a flyover of Birddog Aircraft.

This ceremony will start PROMPTLY at 11:00 am. Seating will be outside near the memorial. If the weather is inclement, the dedication will be held inside the adjoining Army Aviation Museum, same start time.

Arriving and clearing Ft Rucker Post Security. (*IMPORTANT!* See the Q&A section below for complete instructions). If you are taking the reunion bus from the Dothan Hotels, you will be cleared through POST security as a group. If you are driving your own vehicle, we urge you to



arrive at the Daleville gate as early as possible. Allow more time if you are entering the Enterprise gate. **Please plan to arrive at the memorial site outside the museum NLT 9:30 am.** (Read instructions below).

#3 REUNION BBQ FESTIVAL

Friday October 9th (Immediately after the dedication ceremony) 12:30pm-6pm

Friends of Army Aviation

189 Heritage Way (Blackwell Airport), Ozark

What an event this will be! Hosted by Friends of Army Aviation (FAA) in their hangar facility at Blackwell Airport. The schedule includes food, drink, entertainment (Bluegrass Band), airplane rides (O-1 Birddogs, UH-1, Cobra), unit presentations, etc.

Buses will depart Ft. Rucker after the ceremony directly to Blackwell Airport. Be sure to bring a change of clothes if you want to wear something different. For those who need to leave the BBQ before 6pm, one bus will leave the BBQ earlier (approximately 4pm) to return to the La Quinta.

There will be a digital projector and screen for videos, slides and Internet connection.

Bring any Memorabilia. Tables will be setup for their display.

(Note: Anyone not registered for the reunion but attending ONLY the BBQ can buy a ticket at the event. On site BBQ tickets are \$85/pp with reunion package or \$50/pp without reunion package. Tickets will be sold inside the front door at the FAA hangar.

#4 REUNION OCTOBERFEST

Saturday October 10th 12:00pm-5pm

VFW Post 6020

434 Highway 84 E, Daleville

Buses will depart the La Quinta Inn & Suites 11:30am for the VFW and return to the hotels approximately 5pm.

Prepare your selves for a wonderful time enjoying German food, drink, the “BobCats Band” and the “Polkadots Band” (accordion, tuba & drums), unit presentations, etc.

There will be a digital projector and screen for videos, slides and Internet connection.

Bring any Memorabilia. Tables will be setup for their display.

REUNION Q&A

(Here are answers to some questions being asked) -

- 1. DRESS CODE** - Many of you want to know the dress code for reunion events. Your reunion committee has decided based on feedback that the dress code will be whatever you feel is appropriate for the event. Basically, there is **no dress code** - only what you want to wear. However, we will have a **professional photographer** at each event to take unit group pictures as well as group pictures of all attending. Times for the overall group pictures will be set forth in the final events schedule.
- 2. ATTENDING ONLY THE BBQ EVENT** - several people have asked if they can attend just the BBQ on Friday after the Memorial Dedication without paying the Reunion Registration Fee (\$95/\$65). To be fair to those who have registered and paid the fee, we are discussing options that may allow someone to pay a partial fee, plus the BBQ fee. We will have a decision next week and send everyone an update.
- 3. REUNION DINNER** - there is no formal reunion dinner planned for Saturday night. Your reunion committee debated having a formal dinner or not and it was decided that the Octoberfest Event Saturday during the day would offer plenty of opportunity for interaction among unit members similar to what a dinner would accomplish. Based on this a dinner was not included in the schedule. Plus, there are a number of fine restaurants in the Dothan area where a dinner can be held for smaller groups if individuals want to set something up on their own.
- 4. DEDICATION CEREMONY** - the dedication ceremony will be held outdoors around the Birddog Monument. There will be chairs setup for this. However, if the weather is forecast to be inclement, the dedication ceremony will be held inside the Army Aviation Museum, which is permanently setup for Ft Rucker Graduation ceremonies.
- 5. FT RUCKER SECURITY** - the Army has strict regulations for entry through the post gates. For the purpose of our dedication event, Ft. Rucker's Provost Marshal has approved a procedure that will allow our reunion buses to enter without each person on board having to undergo a background security check. In addition, **each private vehicle can also enter if one person in the vehicle is an approved sponsor (retired or active duty military with photo ID) and every passenger has a photo ID/driver's license to show.** Other than these two options, every person entering the post in a vehicle must undergo a security check at the gate where they will be issued a photo ID pass (good for six months). Where possible to expedite the entry process, we are urging everyone to take the bus, which will also transport everyone to the BBQ in Ozark and return everyone to the hotels in Dothan. If you are still planning to drive yourself and do not have an approved sponsor in the vehicle, make sure everyone has a photo ID and please plan to arrive early enough to clear security by allowing at least one hour for the process. We are planning for the buses to arrive at the Daleville Gate NLT 9:30am. This will give



everyone a chance to tour the museum and be seated for the dedication that will start promptly at 11:00am.

6. UNIT PRESENTERS & MEMORABILIA - During the reunion's events schedule, we would like **one (1) representative from each unit** to give a short overview about their unit. This presentation should be **no more than 15 minutes** in length and highlight key information about the unit. Units can select their presenter in advance or early in the reunion. (There will also be Ad Hoc moments for sharing stories and experiences). We are planning to have **audio visual projection** available for either digital (preferred) or slide presentation. If your unit has an Internet presence with photos or videos on line, we are **planning to have an Internet connection**. Bring CD's or DVD's as backups. In addition, we will try to have projection images running in the background on a screen somewhere at each event location. Please bring what you have to support this effort also, including **photographs** and any **memorabilia**. We will have tables setup for displaying what you bring. *(Please make sure your name is clearly marked on everything you want to keep)*

7. PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOS - The reunion committee has hired a professional photographer to be with us at each event. Group pictures will be taken at the Welcome Reception, Memorial Dedication, Reunion BBQ and Reunion Oktoberfest. Pictures taken by the photographer will be made available at no cost on a special website for downloading after the reunion. If you have pictures you want to share after the reunion, please email them to bob@219headhunters.com clearly title "2015 Reunion Pictures".

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

EMAIL YOUR QUESTION TO BOB@219HEADHUNTERS.COM

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WILL CONSOLIDATED AND SENT OUT IN AN EMAIL BEFORE THE REUNION



REUNION MINI-POCKET SCHEDULE

THURSDAY OCT 8th

- 1pm-5pm: *Check-in Opens* – La Quinta Hotel Conference Room
★ 6pm-10pm: *Welcome Reception*– Dothan Country Club. Shuttle Buses will operate between the CC and hotels (La Quinta & Country Inn)

FRIDAY OCT 9th

- 7:30am: *Check-In Opens* – La Quinta Hotel Conference Room
8:30am: *Buses depart* La Quinta for Ft. Rucker. (Arrive Daleville Gate 9:15am) In your planning, please allow enough time to eat breakfast. Also, you may want to bring a change of clothes for the BBQ after the Dedication Ceremony.
9:30-10:45am: *Tour Army Aviation Museum*
★ 11:00am: *Birddog Unit Memorial Dedication Ceremony* (Will start promptly). Printed Dedication Programs will be passed out before the ceremony. Full Military Protocol. Birddog Flyover. Guest Presenter is LTG Kevin Mangum. If the weather is inclement, the ceremony will be held inside the museum.
12:30pm: *Buses Depart* Ft. Rucker for trip to Blackwell Airport in Ozark.
★ 1:30pm -6pm: *Reunion BBQ Festival* – hosted by Friends of Army Aviation at their Blackwell Airport, Ozark hangar facility. Food, drink, entertainment, Birddog displays, Birddog rides weather permitting, other aircraft possible. Some presentations. **Note:** Buses will stay at BBQ as long as we need them but one(1) bus will depart early back to hotels. Time TBD.
Evening – Everyone on their own.

SATURDAY OCT 10th

- Morning – Everyone is on their own.
11:30am: *Buses Depart* La Quinta for Daleville VFW
★ 12Noon -5pm: *Reunion Octoberfest* at the VFW Post 6020. Address – 434 AL-134, Daleville. Food, drink, entertainment, presentations, surprises, etc.
5pm: *Buses Depart* back to hotels
Evening – **Everyone on their own** (Some of you may want to organize a unit dinner or just get together with others. There are many fine restaurants in the Dothan area. We will provide a list to choose from prior to the reunion).

SUNDAY OCT 11th

Goodbyes and Departures

- ★ *Designates a reunion planned event*
**Schedule Subject to Change up to and including at reunion.*



The following units are represented in the registration –

ROSTER OF PEOPLE REGISTERED SORTED BY UNIT (As of Friday 09/25-2015)*7

*If you do not see a name in this list there are a number of people NOT REGISTERED but attending just the Memorial Dedication & Reunion BBQ Festival.





**VFW Post 6020
Daleville, AL**

Welcome Reception
Dothan Country Club
200 Cherokee Ave
Dothan, AL

**Country Inn
& Suites**