

**TO: All Birddog Monument voters/donors/interested parties:**

**FROM:** Rod Stewart - mouthpiece of the movement to upgrade the bronze model on top of the Monument to our Birddog units and fallen brothers.

**BACKGROUND:** The Monument now stands in a Memorial Park, across from the USArmy Aviation Museum, at Ft. Rucker, Alabama. It was unveiled months ago - a beautiful result of a long hard process headed by Norm McPhee, with considerable assistance and financial support from many others. Only after the unveiling was the bronze model on top seen. There were financial, time and distance reasons that lead to this model being attached - described as "small" "cartoonish" "pot-belly pig" and worse.



Those who saw the model started email chatter and formed a group desiring to replace the model with a realistic Birddog - upgraded to the scale of the stately monument - and worthy of those inscribed on it. This to be accomplished in time for the formal dedication of the Monument during the All Birddog Reunion, next year. Most who attend will be seeing the Monument for the first - and likely, the last time - hence the deadline.



**VOTE:** Many have taken up this mission. Money has been pledged, modelers found and an email/web page vote taken. As of now, 160 have voted by name to replace the model. 19 want it left as is, and 4 have no preference. Of those also listed as donors, the vote is 51/3/3. New voters are still welcome.

**DELAY:** Some involved in building the monument have gone to considerable efforts to prevent the accomplishment of this mission, using past positions to lobby contacts at Ft. Rucker's Monuments and Parks Committee (who now control the monument) to prevent any changes. The motive for this is immaterial - but is an explanation for some of the delay that many of you have questioned.

**ARTWORK:** Several companies who have proven qualified to provide quality aviation bronze work have been offered a chance to bid for the job. All use CAD processes to precisely produce an exact model. Prices will vary depending on what size limits, if any, Ft. Rucker will impose. Bigger = more money, and more detail, artwork, metal and weight. The companies who built the monument are cooperating with this effort.

**STATUS:** All of the votes, information and even one proposal for how a new model could look, have been sent to Ft. Rucker. From email and phone conversations with the chair of the approval committee, it may be weeks until they will meet and provide us with a reply to our request for permission to put a new Birddog model on the monument. There is no known way for us to speed this process.



ACTION: Until Ft. Rucker's committee meets, we are in limbo.

While many of you will be unhappy with that fact, it is suggested that individual contacts directed at them may add to the delay. All committee members have "real" jobs with a higher priority. When artwork is ready for Ft. Rucker's approval, you will be again asked to vote your opinion - and your wallet. In the meantime, please provide any ideas, supporting offers, and/or other information to help accomplish this mission. It is your monument too.

- Rod Stewart

Alumni: 183rd, 219th, 220th.

IBDA

PS Please publish and forward to any other interested parties.

Advise if you should require more details of past communications, the vote or anything else.