



2012 MVPA ALASKA HIGHWAY CONVOY UPDATE

Military Vehicle Preservation Association

Issue 2

Quick Facts

July 30 Participants begin arriving in Dawson Creek, BC

August 1 Convoy HQ opens at Mile 0 RV Park

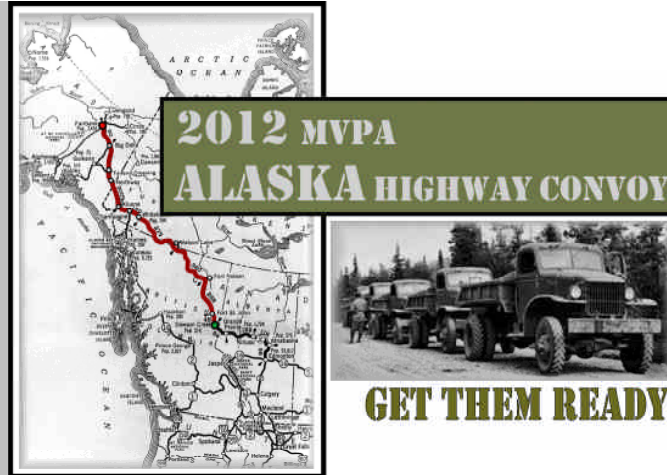
August 2-3 Participant meetings, vehicle inspections

August 3 Official Launch Ceremony in Dawson Creek

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Convoy Updates will be sent regularly between now and August 2012.



August 4 Convoy leaves Dawson Creek at 0700 Hrs (7:00 a.m.)

August 30 Convoy returns to Dawson Creek

97 Historic Military Vehicles **43** Civilian Chase Vehicles **243** Participants

Meet Convoy Commander Terry Shelswell

A convoy of this size and scope requires a strong leader who knows how to set priorities, make decisions, adapt to changing conditions and work with a wide variety of people...all while keeping a sense of humor and remembering that it's a hobby to be enjoyed. Those are the skills Terry Shelswell, Convoy Commander brings to this convoy.

This is Terry's second major convoy command. In 2009 he led the MVPA's Transcontinental Motor Convoy on the famous Lincoln Highway from Washington, DC to San Francisco. The 2009 convoy

took 26 days, went 3,250 miles and involved over 350 participants.

Terry and his wife Muriel are from Canada and now live in Michigan. He works for a large manufacturer of automotive components and is currently in charge of building a new manufacturing facility. Terry will drive a M38A1 Jeep on the convoy and Muriel will drive their chase vehicle with a camper.



Terry (right) & Convoy Chief Maintenance Officer Dennis Boots talk during '09 convoy.

Contact Us

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Here's the artwork for another one of our cool t-shirts!

More Maintenance Team Photos...



Ken Field, Dennis Boots, Bernie Field, Dave Corkum, Bob Field

Maintenance Team Keeps Convoy Rolling



The Alaska Highway Convoy Maintenance Team will be prepared to keep the convoy rolling for 27 days and 4,100 miles (6,600 km). These two Contact Maintenance trucks are equipped with the tools and equipment needed to make a wide variety of vehicle repairs. The front section of each trailer houses comfortable living quarters. The rear section is a shop on wheels.

The Maintenance Team will be led by Chief Maintenance Officer Dennis Boots from Denton, Texas. Dennis led the 2009 Convoy Maintenance Team. The team includes three more 2009 convoy veterans, Ken Field, Bernie Field and Davis Cowles. New to the AC'12 Maintenance Team are Andy Harwood and Randy Bennett. Each person brings significant experience to the team.

What do we do about parts for military vehicles? The Maintenance Team has identified a list of spare parts by vehicle type that participants are asked to carry. These parts, along with a general supply of common parts, will be carried in a special parts trailer. We have also noted the locations of automotive parts stores along the route so we can secure spare parts locally if needed.

What happens if there's a breakdown? Participants follow a set procedure if there's a breakdown. The vehicle immediately behind the one that has broken down pulls over to assist, other vehicles pull around and continue. The two vehicle drivers trouble shoot the problem and wait for the Maintenance Team to arrive. If the problem can be fixed quickly the repair is made along the road. If it requires more than 15 minutes of work the vehicle is put on a trailer or a tow bar for the balance of the day. Usually the vehicle is repaired that evening and back in the convoy the next day.



The MVPA (www.mvpa.org) is an organization with its mission "To provide an international organization for military vehicle enthusiasts, historians, preservationists and collectors interested in the acquisition, restoration, preservation, safe operation and public education of historic military transport". We have over 9,000 members globally and over 35 years as an organization. The MVPA is a registered US 501(c)(10) organization.