



# 2012 MVPA ALASKA HIGHWAY CONVOY UPDATE

Military Vehicle Preservation Association

Issue 3

## In This Issue

- Alaska Hwy History
- Why MVPA Members are Convoying
- HMVs – A Closer Look



The MVPA mission is "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.

## Contact Us

Wendy Rowsam,  
Convoy Public Relations  
warowsam@centurytel.net  
920-863-8656

Military Vehicle  
Preservation Association  
1-800-365-5798  
www.mvpa.org

Find us on Facebook  
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Highway Convoy"

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## Celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Building of the Alaska Highway

**Honoring the Troops & Military Vehicles that  
Built a 1,523 Mile Road Through the Wilderness  
One of the Greatest Construction Feats of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**



### **The Alaska Highway Took Only 8 ½ Months to Build in 1942**

The attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 led to one of the greatest engineering feats of the century. Recognizing that the U.S. West Coast, Canada and all of Alaska were open to possible Japanese invasion, President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered the construction

of the "Alaska Canada Military Highway" on February 11, 1942. This important road would be used to supply forces in Alaska and the airfields located and planned along the West Coast.

### **Why The Alaska Highway is Important to Historic Military Vehicle Collectors**

Building the Alaska Highway would not have been possible without over 7,000 pieces of military equipment including 5,000 trucks, 904 tractors, 374 graders and 174 shovels. Trucks used during construction included:

**Jeeps by Ford & Willys**  
**Dodge ½ Ton WC 4X4**  
**Chevrolet 1 ½ Ton 4X4**  
**Studebaker US 6X6**  
**GMC CCKW 6X6**  
**GMC 4X4 Air Compressor Trucks**  
**Diamond T 6X6**  
**White 6 Ton 6X6 Heavy Trucks**  
**International Harvester 2X4 K Series**  
**AutoCar 4X4**  
**FWD 4X4**



Photo Credit: This image is a work of a U.S. Army soldier or employee, taken or made during the course of the person's official duties. As a work of the U.S. federal government, the image is in the public domain.

## 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

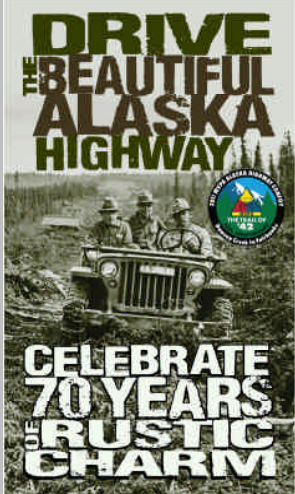
**August 4** Convoy leaves Dawson Creek at 0700 Hrs (7:00 a.m.)

**August 30** Convoy returns to Dawson Creek

**97** HMVs

**43** Support Vehicles

**243** Participants



## Road Construction Puts Men & Military Vehicles to the Test

Approximately 11,000 service men worked exhausting 12 to 16-hour days in harsh and dangerous conditions to complete the road in record time. Men and machines faced monumental challenges and prevailed. That's why driving the Alaska Highway is so important to historic military vehicle collectors. It's a chance to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the building of this important road, to honor our great veterans, past and present, and to showcase the historic military vehicles members work hard to preserve.

## Historic Military Vehicles – Part of Our History



Historic military vehicles (HMVs) of all eras will take part in the MVPA Alaska Highway Convoy.

The HMVs in the convoy are privately-owned by collectors who have an interest in preserving the important role these vehicles have played in military history.



HMVs are rated based on size. 4 different truck sizes, in the convoy, are shown here.

- 1/4 ton
- 3/4 ton
- 1 1/2 ton
- 2 1/2 ton



HMVs in the convoy range in age from the 1940's to 1990's.

Collecting and restoring HMVs is part of the old car club hobby.



Many collectors are veterans and their interest in HMVs was sparked as a result of their military service, while others are family members of veterans who grew up hearing stories about these amazing vehicles.

Motorcycles and bicycles were also used by the military. Two military motorcycles will be part of the convoy.