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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Fort Leonard Wood invites area to view 'History in Motion'**

**FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo.** – A caravan of more than 50 historic military vehicles will be traveling across the country along Route 66 with a planned stop at Fort Leonard Wood.

The Military Vehicle Preservation Association will stage military Jeeps and trucks from World War II to the current day at the John B. Mahaffey Museum from 5 to 6 p.m. Sept. 20. MVPA drivers will be available to talk about the importance of their vehicles during its military service life.

In addition to meeting with MVPA drivers, the public may also tour the indoor and outdoor museum displays, which will be open after hours that day. The 399<sup>th</sup> Army Band Jazz Combo is slated to provide uplifting music to welcome the MVPA and guests.

To gain access to Fort Leonard Wood, visitors should be prepared to provide a current driver's license, proof of insurance and vehicle registration. Visitors are not required to have a pass to attend this event.

Fort Leonard Wood's John B. Mahaffey Museum is located at 495 South Dakota Avenue. Additional parking will be available at the Daugherty Bowling Center and Davidson Fitness Center. For more information, call the Pulaski County Tourism Bureau at 573-336-6355 or the Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office at 573-563-5034/4145.

The visit is part of the Military Vehicle Preservation Association's 30-day, cross-country convoy from Chicago, Illinois, to Santa Monica, California, and was brought to Fort Leonard Wood's attention by the Pulaski County Tourism Bureau.

"Route 66 is a major attraction in the area, and Fort Leonard Wood was a perfect fit for this group," said Karen Hood, certified travel industry specialist with the Pulaski County Tourism Bureau. "We know that our community and the participants of the convoy will enjoy the visit."

The MVPA is looking forward to seeing the post museum too, she added, which was really "the whole reason for their visit."

Following the static display, the MVPA plans to enjoy a private dinner banquet at the museum to fuel up for the remaining 25 days of their journey.

Brad Nelson, a nine-year MVPA member, who helped to coordinate this year's 2,300-mile convoy, said to be part of the MVPA, one only needs to have an "interest in preserving military vehicles."

"You do not need to be a veteran to be in the MVPA, but there are many veterans who are members," he said.

Nelson said MVPA members participate in the convoy, which is held every two to three years, because "it is a good excuse to drive their vehicles and see the country at 35 miles per hour."

"You don't get to see America on the interstate," he explained. "I don't know who gets a bigger kick from the event—the drivers or the people who come out to see us. It's fun to see the response."

Honoring veterans is an important goal of the event.

"The convoy participants use this event as an opportunity to say 'thank you' to all military Veterans, active-duty armed forces personnel and their Families for their service to our country," Nelson said.

For that reason, Nelson added he really hopes for a great turn out from past and present service members and Families in the local area.

There will be military vehicles in the convoy of different shapes and sizes and the convoy will be tracked from a website, so people can "get our live position and get a feel for how we are coming along," according to Nelson.

The public is invited and encouraged to meet and greet the vehicle owners and take photos.

"The visit represents a joint effort between Pulaski County Tourism, the city of St. Robert, the MVPA, Fort Leonard Wood, and the surrounding community," Col. Tracy Lanier, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Leonard Wood garrison commander, said. "Fort Leonard Wood looks forward to a

great event and everyone is invited to come out to enjoy this historic visit.”

- 30 -

Media wishing to cover the event should contact the Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office at 573.563.5034/4145.

Photo credit: Convoy image courtesy of MVPA, [www.mvpa.org](http://www.mvpa.org).



#### *About Fort Leonard Wood*

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*Fort Leonard Wood is a thriving and prosperous installation that has evolved from a small basic training post 75 years ago to a premier Army Center of Excellence that trains about 80,000 military and civilians each year.*

*Home to the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, Fort Leonard Wood now trains and educates service members and develops doctrine and capabilities for the Training and Doctrine Command's U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear School, U.S. Army Engineer School, and U.S. Army Military Police School, three gender integrated Initial Military Training brigades, and the Army's largest Noncommissioned Officers Academy.*

*Over the past several years, Fort Leonard Wood has received numerous additional responsibilities to include supporting a colonel-commanded Marine Corps Detachment and an Air Force Detachment, which are both the largest on any Army installation, a large Navy Seabee Detachment and elements of the Coast Guard train here as well.*

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