

## Next Stop: Fort Benning, Georgia

### Armor artifacts begin journey to Georgia

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**FORT KNOX** — A column of armor rolled out of this Army post Monday.

But since some of the vehicles lack engines or have bullet holes or otherwise beat up bodies, the line of tanks and armored personnel carriers didn't seem as imposing as they surely did 60 or 70 years ago.

They are the first large armor pieces — out of more than 200 — moving from the Patton Museum of Cavalry and Armor's collection to Fort Benning, Ga., as part of the post's transformation.

With a smell of exhaust in the air Monday morning, heavy equipment transport trucks carried 13 of the artifacts out one of the gates.

The Army at first planned to contract out the move but then decided to not only save money but also provide practice for 233rd Transportation Company troops, who've served numerous times in Iraq, 2nd Lt. Sean Chang said.

"This is going to be really good training for when we deploy again," he said.

The round trip likely will take a week. A possible route through Alabama was scrapped; the state wanted to impose certain fees and restrictions. So the convoy's new path will take it past the outskirts of Atlanta.

Troops used a winch to get some of the pieces on transport semis. They had to hoist one of them with a crane because its tracks are stuck.

Armor being moved includes pieces from World War I to modern day.

"They've seen some action," Chang said. Some of the artifacts will be rebuilt.

Three more convoys are planned.

Eventually, more than 200 armor pieces will move and 50 will stay as monuments at the gates or in or near the museum.

The Patton Museum of Cavalry and Armor is dividing into two entities. Staying at Fort Knox will be the Gen. George S. Patton Museum, which will focus on themes such as leadership and recruitment to go along with the post's new role. Fort Knox will be the new home of the Human Resources and Accessions commands, and the Armor Center is moving to Fort Benning.

The Army would like these artifacts to stay with the Armor School to teach soldiers about tanks they could encounter in combat.

The pieces that are moving will become part of the future National Armor and Cavalry Museum at Fort Benning.

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