



Military History Anniversaries 16 thru 31 January

Events in History over the next 15 day period that had U.S. military involvement or impacted in some way on U.S military operations or American interests

- JAN 16 1861 – Civil War: Crittenden Compromise. The last chance to keep North and South united, dies in the U.S. Senate. Essentially, the Crittenden Compromise sought to alleviate all concerns of the Southern states. Four states had already left the Union when it was proposed, but Senator Crittenden hoped the compromise would lure them back.
- Jan 16 1916 – WWI: After an eight-day offensive that marked the beginning of a new, aggressive strategy in the region, Austro-Hungarian troops under commander in chief Franz Conrad von Hotzendorf take control of the Balkan state of Montenegro.
- Jan 16 1945 – WW2: Adolf Hitler moves into his underground bunker, the so-called Führerbunker.
- Jan 16 1964 – Vietnam: President Johnson approves Oplan 34A, operations to be conducted by South Vietnamese forces supported by the United States to gather intelligence and conduct sabotage to destabilize the North Vietnamese regime. The Oplan 34A attacks played a major role in what became known as the Gulf of Tonkin Incident.
- Jan 16 1969 – Vietnam: An agreement is reached in Paris for the opening of expanded peace talks. It was agreed that representatives of the United States, South Vietnam, North Vietnam, and the National Liberation Front would sit at a circular table without nameplates, flags or markings.
- Jan 16 1990 – Cold War: In the wake of vicious fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces in Azerbaijan, the Soviet government sends in 11,000 troops to quell the conflict.
- Jan 16 1991 – Persian Gulf War: Coalition Forces go to war - At midnight in Iraq, the United Nations deadline for the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait expires, and the Pentagon prepares to commence offensive operations to forcibly eject Iraq from its five-month occupation of its oil-rich neighbor.
- Jan 16 2001 – US President Bill Clinton awards former President Theodore Roosevelt a posthumous Medal of Honor for his service in the Spanish American War.
- Jan 17 1781 – Revolutionary War: Battle of Cowpens SC. The militia's defeat of a battle-hardened force of British regulars in South Carolina was the turning point of the war in the south. Casualties and losses: US 149 - GB 1,168



This depiction of the Battle of Cowpens shows an unnamed black soldier (left) firing his pistol and saving the life of Colonel William Washington

- Jan 17 1865 – Civil War: Union General William T. Sherman’s army is rained in at Savannah, Georgia, as it waits to begin marching into the Carolinas.
- Jan 17 1899 – The United States takes possession of Wake Island in the Pacific Ocean.
- Jan 17 1944 – WW2: Allied forces launch the first of four battles with the intention of breaking through the Winter Line and seizing Rome, an effort that would ultimately take four months and cost 105,000 Allied casualties.
- Jan 17 1945 – WW2: The Nazis begin the evacuation of the Auschwitz concentration camp as Soviet forces close in.
- Jan 17 1945 – WW2. Soviet troops liberate the Polish capital Warsaw from German occupation. Warsaw was a battleground since the opening day of fighting in the European theater. Germany declared war by launching an air raid on September 1, 1939, and followed up with a siege that killed tens of thousands of Polish civilians and wreaked havoc on historic monuments. Deprived of electricity, water, and food, and with 25 percent of the city’s homes destroyed, Warsaw surrendered to the Germans on September 27.
- Jan 17 1961 – Cold War: In his farewell address to the nation, President Dwight D. Eisenhower warns the American people to keep a careful eye on what he calls the “military-industrial complex” that has developed in the post-World War II years.
- Jan 17 1966 – Cold War: H-Bomb lost in Spain. A B-52 bomber collides with a KC-135 Stratotanker over Spain, dropping three 70-kiloton nuclear bombs near the town of Palomares and another one into the sea in the Palomares incident.



The B28RI nuclear bomb, recovered from 2,850 feet (870 m) of water, on the deck of the USS Petrel.

- Jan 17 1971 – Vietnam: Some 300 paratroopers raid a communist prisoner of war camp near the town of Mimot in Cambodia on information that 20 U.S. prisoners were being held there. They found the camp empty, but captured 30 enemy soldiers and sustained no casualties.

- Jan 17 1972 – Vietnam: President Richard Nixon warns South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu in a private letter that his refusal to sign any negotiated peace agreement would render it impossible for the United States to continue assistance to South Vietnam.
- Jan 17 1991 – Persian Gulf War: Allies start Operation Desert Storm with air attacks on Iraq. Iraq fires 8 Scud missiles into Israel in an unsuccessful bid to provoke Israeli retaliation. The coalition flew over 100,000 sorties dropping 88,500 tons of bombs.
- Jan 17 1992 – During a visit to South Korea, Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa apologizes for forcing Korean women into sexual slavery during World War II.
- Jan 17 2007 – The Doomsday Clock is set to five minutes to midnight in response to North Korea nuclear testing.
- Jan 18 1776 – American Revolution: The Council of Safety in Savannah, Georgia, issues an arrest warrant for the colony’s royal governor, James Wright. Patriots led by Major Joseph Habersham of the Provincial Congress then took Wright into custody and placed him under house arrest.
- Jan 18 1911 – Naval Lieutenant Eugene Ely became the first man ever to land an airplane on the deck of a ship, the converted cruiser USS Pennsylvania, in San Francisco Bay.



First fixed-wing aircraft landing on a warship

- Jan 18 1919 – WWI: In Paris, France, some of the most powerful people in the world meet to begin the long, complicated negotiations that would officially mark the end of the First World War.



Leaders of the victorious Allied powers—France, Great Britain, the United States and Italy

- Jan 18 1942 – WW2: General MacArthur repels the Japanese in Bataan. The United States took the lead in the Far East war criminal trials.
- Jan 18 1943 – WW2: The deportation of Jews from the Warsaw ghetto to the concentration camp at Treblinka is resumed—but not without much bloodshed and resistance along the way.
- Jan 18 1950 – Vietnam: People’s Republic of China formally recognizes the communist Democratic Republic of Vietnam and agrees to furnish it military assistance; the Soviet Union extended diplomatic recognition to Hanoi on January 30.

- Jan 18 1962 – Vietnam: The United States begins spraying foliage with herbicides in South Vietnam, in order to reveal the whereabouts of Vietcong guerrillas.
- Jan 18 1985 – Cold War: For the first time since joining the World Court in 1946, the United States walks out of a case. The case that caused the dramatic walkout concerned U.S. paramilitary activities against the Nicaraguan government.
- Jan 19 1764 – American Revolution: The British Parliament expels John Wilkes from its ranks for his reputedly libelous, seditious and pornographic writings. Over the next 12 years, Wilkes' name became a byword for Parliamentary oppression both in Britain and in Britain's North American colonies.
- Jan 19 1862 – Civil War: Battle of Logan's Crossroads. Union General George Thomas defeats Confederates commanded by George Crittenden in southern Kentucky. The battle, also called Mill Springs or Beech Grove, secured Union control of the region and resulted in the death of Confederate General Felix Zollicoffer. Casualties and losses: US 246 - CSA 529.
- Jan 19 1915 – WWI: Britain suffers its first casualties from an air attack when two German zeppelins drop bombs on Great Yarmouth and King's Lynn on the eastern coast of England.
- Jan 19 1941 – WW2: British forces in East Africa, acting on information obtained by breaking the Italians' coded messages, invade Italian-occupied Eritrea. A solid step towards victory in Africa.
- Jan 19 1946 – WW2: General Douglas MacArthur establishes the International Military Tribunal for the Far East in Tokyo to try Japanese war criminals.



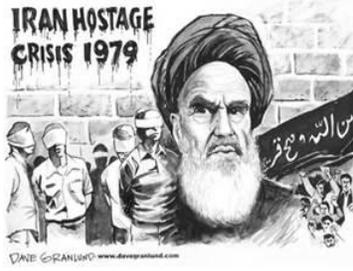
The judges

- Jan 19 1961 – Vietnam: Outgoing President Dwight D. Eisenhower cautions incoming President John F. Kennedy that Laos is “the key to the entire area of Southeast Asia,” and might even require the direct intervention of U.S. combat troops.
- Jan 19 1968 – Vietnam: Operation McLain. “Sky Soldiers” from the 173rd Airborne Brigade begin a reconnaissance-in-force operation in the Central Highlands. The purpose of this operation was to find and destroy the communist base camps in the area in order to promote better security for the province
- Jan 19 1977 – Post WWII: President Gerald R. Ford pardons Tokyo Rose. Although the nickname originally referred to several Japanese women who broadcast Axis propaganda over the radio to Allied troops during World War II, it eventually became synonymous with a Japanese-American woman named Iva Toguri. On the orders of the Japanese government, Toguri and other women broadcast sentimental American music and phony announcements regarding U.S. troop losses in a vain attempt to destroy the morale of Allied soldiers.



Iva Toguri aka Tokjo Rose

- Jan 19 1991 – Gulf War: Iraq fires a second Scud missile into Israel, causing 15 injuries.
- Jan 20 1777 – American Revolution: Battle of Millstone. Brigadier General Philemon Dickinson leads 400 raw men from the New Jersey militia and 50 Pennsylvania riflemen in an attack against a group of 500 British soldiers foraging for food near Van Nest’s Mills in Millstone, New Jersey.
- Jan 20 1873 – Civil War: Mud March Begins. Union General Ambrose Burnside’s Army of the Potomac begins an offensive against General Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia that quickly bogs down as several days of heavy rain turn the roads of Virginia into a muddy quagmire. The campaign was abandoned three days later.
- Jan 20 1887 – The United States Senate allows the Navy to lease Pearl Harbor as a naval base.
- Jan 20 1918 – WWI: British and German forces clash in the Aegean Sea when the German battleships Goeben and Breslau attempt a surprise raid on Allied forces off the Dardanelle Straits.
- Jan 20 1942 – WWII: Wannsee conference. Nazi officials meet to discuss the details of the “Final Solution” of the “Jewish question.”
- Jan 20 1944 – WW2: Allied forces in Italy begin unsuccessful operations to cross the Rapido River and seize Cassino.
- Jan 20 1949 – Cold War: President Harry S. Truman calls for a “bold new program for making the benefits of our scientific advances and industrial progress available for the improvement and growth of underdeveloped nations.” The resulting Point Four program (so-called because it was the fourth point in Truman’s speech) resulted in millions of dollars in scientific and technical assistance—as well as hundreds of U.S. experts—sent to Latin American, Asian, Middle Eastern, and African nations.
- Jan 20 1969 – Vietnam: Richard Nixon is inaugurated as president of the United States and says, “After a period of confrontation [in Vietnam], we are entering an era of negotiation.”
- Jan 20 1972 – Vietnam: A contingent of more than 10,000 South Vietnamese troops begin a sweep 45 miles northwest of Saigon to find and destroy enemy forces. There was much speculation that the North Vietnamese would launch a major offensive around the Tet (Chinese New Year) holiday.
- Jan 20 1981 – Iran: Minutes after Ronald Reagan’s inauguration as the 40th president of the United States, the 52 U.S. captives held at the U.S. embassy in Teheran, Iran, are released, ending the 444-day Iran Hostage Crisis.



- Jan 21 1861 – Civil War: Jefferson Davis resigns from the United States Senate.
- Jan 21 1863 – Civil War: First Battle of Sabine Pass. Two Confederate ships drive away two Union ships as the Rebels recapture Sabine Pass, Texas, and open an important port for the Confederacy.
- Jan 21 1950 – Cold War: Former State Department official Alger Hiss is convicted of having perjured himself in regards to testimony about his alleged involvement in a Soviet spy ring before and during World War II. Hiss served nearly four years in jail, but steadfastly protested his innocence during and after his incarceration.
- Jan 21 1954 – The first nuclear-powered submarine (USS Nautilus) was launched in Groton CT by Mamie Eisenhower.



Launching Nautilus

- Jan 21 1968 – Vietnam: Siege of Khe Sanh begins as North Vietnamese units surround U.S. Marines based on the hilltop headquarters.
- Jan 21 1968 – A B-52 bomber crashes near Thule Air Base, contaminating the area after its nuclear payload ruptures. One of the four bombs remains unaccounted for after the cleanup operation is complete.
- Jan 21 1977 – U.S. President Jimmy Carter grants an unconditional pardon to hundreds of thousands of men who evaded the draft during the Vietnam War.



- Jan 22 1779 – American Revolution: Famed Tory outlaw Claudius Smith meets his end on the Goshen, New York gallows. In the wake of his death, Patriot civilians hope for relief from guerilla warfare in upstate New York.
- Jan 22 1941 – WWII: British and Commonwealth forces enter the port at Tobruk, in Libya, and take 30,000 Italian prisoners, 236 guns, and 87 tanks

- Jan 22 1944 – WW2: Operation Shingle. Battle of Anzio - U.S. troops under Major General John P. Lucas make an amphibious landing behind German lines at Anzio, Italy, just south of Rome. Casualties and losses: US|UK|Can 43,000 - GE|IT 40,000



U.S. Army soldiers landing at Anzio in late January 1944.

- Jan 22 1964 – Vietnam: The U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff inform Defense Secretary Robert McNamara that they “are wholly in favor of executing the covert actions of Oplan 34A against North Vietnam.”
- Jan 22 1968 – Vietnam: Operation Igloo White, a US electronic surveillance system to stop communist infiltration into South Vietnam begins installation.
- Jan 22 1968 – Vietnam: Operating in the two northernmost military regions, the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) launches Operations Jeb Stuart and Pershing II designed to clear the regions of enemy forces.
- Jan 22 1982 – Cold War: In a revival of the diplomacy “linkages” that were made famous by Henry Kissinger during the Nixon years, the administration of President Ronald Reagan announces that further progress on arms talks will be linked to a reduction of Soviet oppression in Poland. The U.S. ploy was but one more piece of the increasingly complex jigsaw puzzle of nuclear arms reduction.
- Jan 22 1991 – Gulf War: Three SCUDs and one Patriot missile hit Ramat Gan in Israel, injuring 96 people. Three elderly people die of heart attacks.
- Jan 23 1865 – Civil War: Confederate General John Bell Hood is officially removed as commander of the Army of Tennessee. He had requested the removal a few weeks before; the action closed a bleak chapter in the history of the Army of Tennessee. There were about 65,000 soldiers when Hood assumed command in July. On January 1, a generous assessment would count 18,000 men in the army, which was no longer a viable fighting force.



General John Bell Hood

- Jan 23 1870 – In Montana, U.S. cavalrymen kill 173 Native Americans, mostly women and children, in the Marias Massacre.
- Jan 23 1920 – Post WWI: The Dutch government refuses demands by the Allies for the extradition of Wilhelm II, the former kaiser of Germany, who has been living in exile in the Netherlands since November 1918. Wilhelm headed the list of so-called war criminals put together by the Allies. Wilhelm turned down Winston Churchill's offer of asylum in Britain in 1940, as Hitler's armies pushed through Holland, choosing instead to live under German occupation. He died the following year.



Kaiser Wilhelm II, c. 1914

- Jan 23 1941 – Charles Lindbergh testifies before the U.S. Congress and recommends that the United States negotiate a neutrality pact with Adolf Hitler. When, in 1941, President Roosevelt denounced Lindbergh publicly, the aviator resigned from the Air Corps Reserve. He eventually contributed to the war effort, though, flying 50 combat missions over the Pacific.



Charles Lindbergh

- Jan 23 1942 – WW2: The Battle of Rabaul begins, the first fighting of the New Guinea campaign.
- Jan 23 1943 – WW2: Australian and American forces finally defeat the Japanese army in Papua. This turning point in the Pacific War marks the beginning of the end of Japanese aggression.
- Jan 23 1943 – WW2: The Battle of Mount Austen, the Galloping Horse, and the Sea Horse on Guadalcanal during the Guadalcanal campaign ends.
- Jan 23 1945 – WW2: Karl Dönitz launches Operation Hannibal. Hannibal was a German naval operation involving the evacuation by sea of German troops and civilians from Courland, East Prussia, and the Polish Corridor from mid-January to May, 1945 as the Red Army advanced during the East Prussian and East Pomeranian Offensives and subsidiary operations.

- Jan 23 1968 – North Korea seizes the USS Pueblo, claiming the ship had violated their territorial waters while spying.



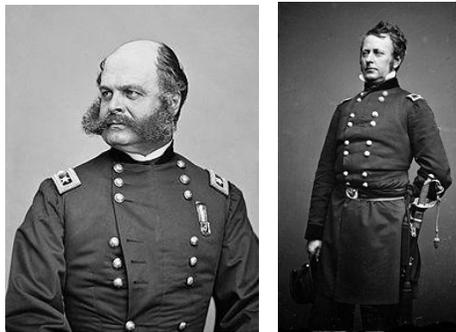
USS Pueblo (AGER-2) – Pyongyang

- Jan 23 1973 – Vietnam: President Richard Nixon claims that Vietnam peace has been reached in Paris and that the POWs would be home in 60 days.
- Jan 24 1781 – American Revolution: Patriot commanders Lieutenant Colonel Light Horse Henry Lee and Brigadier General Francis Swamp Fox Marion of the South Carolina militia combine forces and conduct a raid on Georgetown, South Carolina, which is defended by 200 British soldiers.
- Jan 24 1865 – Civil War: The Confederate Congress agrees to continue prisoner exchanges, opening a process that had operated only sporadically for three years.
- Jan 24 1915 – WWI: German naval forces under Admiral Franz von Hipper, encouraged by the success of a surprise attack on the British coastal towns of Hartlepool and Scarborough the previous month, set off toward Britain once again, only to be intercepted by a squadron of British cruisers led by Vice-Admiral Sir David Beatty on the morning of January 24, 1915, near the Dogger Bank in the North Sea.
- Jan 24 1917 – WWI: Zimmerman telegram sent to the Mexican government by the German foreign minister intercepted. Promised Mexico that the lands taken from it by the U.S. during the 1846–1848 war would be returned if Mexico entered on Germany's side and the Germans won.
- Jan 24 1942 – WW2: The Allies bombard Bangkok, leading Thailand to declare war against the United States and United Kingdom.
- Jan 24 1942 – USS S-26 (SS-131) sunk after collision with USS PC-460 in Gulf of Panama. 46 died
- Jan 24 1943 – WW2: Battle of Stalingrad. German Gen. Friedrich von Paulus, commander in chief of the German 6th Army at Stalingrad, urgently requests permission from Adolf Hitler to surrender his position there, but Hitler refuses.
- Jan 24 1961 – Cold War: A B-52 bomber carrying two H-bombs breaks up in mid-air over North Carolina. The uranium core of one weapon remains lost.
- Jan 24 1966 – Vietnam: In the largest search-and-destroy operation to date—Operation Masher/White Wing/Thang Phong II—the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), South Vietnamese, and Korean forces sweep through Binh Dinh Province in the central lowlands along the coast.
- Jan 24 1972 – Japanese Sgt. Shoichi Yokoi is found hiding in a Guam jungle, where he had been since the end of World War II.



- Jan 24 1973 – Vietnam: National Security Adviser Henry Kissinger announces that a truce is expected in Laos and Cambodia. Kissinger had been meeting privately with Le Duc Tho and other North Vietnamese and Viet Cong representatives in Paris since early January.
- Jan 24 1980 – Cold War: In an action obviously designed as another in a series of very strong reactions to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, U.S. officials announce that America is ready to sell military equipment (excluding weapons) to communist China. The surprise statement was part of the U.S. effort to build a closer relationship with the People’s Republic of China for use as leverage against possible Soviet aggression.
- Jan 24 1982 – Vietnam: A draft of Air Force history reports that the U.S. secretly sprayed herbicides on Laos during the war.
- Jan 25 1776 – American Revolution: The Continental Congress authorizes the first national Revolutionary War memorial in honor of Brigadier General Richard Montgomery, who had been killed during an assault on Quebec on December 31, 1775. They directed a Monument be procured, from Paris, or any other part of France, with an inscription, sacred to his memory, and expressive of his amiable character and heroick achievements; and that the Continental Treasurers be directed to advance a sum, not exceeding three hundred Pounds sterling, to Dr. Benjamin Franklin, (who is desired to see this Resolution properly executed,) for defraying the expenses thereof.
- Jan 25 1863 – Civil War: Union General Ambrose Burnside is removed as commander of the Army of the Potomac after serving in the role for two months. At Fredericksburg, Virginia, on December 13 Burnside attacked repeatedly against Lee’s entrenched Confederates along Marye’s Heights above Fredericksburg with tragic results for the Union. More than 13,000 Yankees fell; Lee lost just 5,000 troops. In January 1863, Burnside attempted another campaign against Lee. Four days of rain turned the Union offensive into the ignominious “Mud March.
- Jan 25 1942 – WW2: Thailand formally declares war on the United States and United Kingdom.
- Jan 25 1945 – WW2: The Battle of the Bulge ends.
- Jan 25 1949 – WW2: Axis Sally, who broadcasted Nazi propaganda to U.S. troops in Europe, stands trial in the United States for war crimes.
- Jan 25 1951 – Korea: The U.S. Eighth Army in Korea launches Operation Thunderbolt, a counter attack to push the Chinese Army north of the Han River.
- Jan 25 1956 – Cold War: In a long interview with visiting American attorney Marshall MacDuffie, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev adopts a friendly attitude toward the United States and indicates that he believes President Dwight Eisenhower is sincere in his desire for peace.
- Jan 25 1969 – Vietnam: The first fully attended meeting of the formal Paris peace talks is held. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, the chief negotiator for the United States, urged an immediate restoration of a genuine DMZ as the first “practical move toward peace.”

- Jan 25 1972 – Vietnam: President Richard Nixon, in response to criticism that his administration has not made its best efforts to end the war, reveals that his National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger has held 12 secret peace negotiating sessions between August 4, 1969, and August 16, 1971.
- Jan 25 1995 – USSR: Russia’s early-warning defense radar detects an unexpected missile launch near Norway, and Russian military command estimates the missile to be only minutes from impact on Moscow. Moments later, Russian President Boris Yeltsin, his defense minister, and his chief of staff were informed of the missile launch. The nuclear command systems switched to combat mode, and the nuclear suitcases carried by Yeltsin and his top commander were activated for the first time in the history of the Soviet-made weapons system.
- Jan 25 2003 – 2003 Invasion of Iraq: A group of people left London, England, for Baghdad, Iraq, to serve as human shields to prevent the U.S.-led coalition troops from bombing certain locations.
- Jan 26 1787 – Shays' Rebellion: The rebellion's largest confrontation, outside the Springfield Armory, results in the killing of four rebels and the wounding of twenty.
- Jan 26 1856 – First Battle of Seattle. Marines from the USS Decatur drive off American Indian attackers after all day battle with settlers.
- Jan 26 1863 – Civil War: General Ambrose Burnside is relieved of command of the Army of the Potomac after the disastrous Fredericksburg campaign. He is replaced by Joseph Hooker.



General Ambrose Burnside (left) and General Joseph Hooker

- Jan 26 1942 – WW2: The first United States forces arrive in Europe landing in Northern Ireland.
- Jan 26 1942 – WW2: Thailand declares war on the United States and United Kingdom.
- Jan 26 1945 – WW2: The Battle of the Bulge ends. Casualties and losses: US 89,500 - GB 1408 - Civ 3000 - Ger 67,200 to 100,000.
- Jan 26 1970 – Vietnam: U.S. Navy Lt. Everett Alvarez Jr. spends his 2,000th day in captivity in Southeast Asia. First taken prisoner when his plane was shot down on August 5, 1964, he became the longest-held POW in U.S. history. Alvarez was downed over Hon Gai during the first bombing raids against North Vietnam in retaliation for the disputed attack on U.S. destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin in August 1964.
- Jan 26 1972 – Vietnam: Radio Hanoi announces North Vietnam’s rejection of the latest U.S. peace proposal. Revealing more details of the secret Paris peace talks, Henry Kissinger responds publicly, condemning the North Vietnamese announcement and criticizing Hanoi’s nine-point counter-proposal, which had been submitted during the secret talks.
- Jan 26 1980 – Cold War: At the request of President Jimmy Carter, the U.S. Olympic Committee votes to ask the International Olympic Committee to cancel or move the upcoming Moscow

Olympics. The action was in response to the Soviet military invasion of Afghanistan the previous month.

- Jan 26 2003 – Invasion of Iraq: A group of people leave London, England, for Baghdad, Iraq, to serve as human shields, intending to prevent the U.S.-led coalition troops from bombing certain locations.



Human shields greeted as they cross the border into Iraq, 15 February 2003

- Jan 27 1776 – American Revolution: Henry Knox's "noble train of artillery" arrives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- Jan 27 1825 – The U.S. Congress approves Indian Territory (in what is present-day Oklahoma), clearing the way for forced relocation of the Eastern Indians on the "Trail of Tears".
- Jan 27 1862 – Civil War: President Abraham Lincoln issues General War Order No. 1, ordering all land and sea forces to advance on February 22, 1862. This bold move sent a message to his commanders that the president was tired of excuses and delays in seizing the offensive against Confederate forces.
- Jan 27 1918 – WW1: Plagued by hunger and increasingly frustrated with the continuing Great War, hundreds of thousands of long-suffering German workers prepare for a massive strike in Berlin.
- Jan 27 1939 – First flight of the Lockheed P-38 Lightning.
- Jan 27 1943 – WW2: The VIII Bomber Command dispatched ninety-one B-17s and B-24s to attack the U-Boat construction yards at Wilhemshaven, Germany. This was the first American bombing attack on Germany of the war.
- Jan 27 1951 – Cold War: Nuclear testing at the Nevada Test Site begins with a one-kiloton bomb dropped on Frenchman Flat.
- Jan 27 1944 – WW2: Soviet forces permanently break the Leningrad siege line, ending the almost 900-day German-enforced containment of the city, which cost hundreds of thousands of Russian lives.
- Jan 27 1945 – WW2: The Red Army liberates the remained inmates of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp built by the Nazi Germans on the territory of Poland.



- Jan 27 1951 – Cold War: Nuclear testing at the Nevada Test Site begins with a one-kiloton bomb dropped on Frenchman Flat.
- Jan 27 1967 – Vietnam: Specialist Four Donald W. Evans, a 23-year-old medic from Covina, California, was awarded a posthumous Medal of Honor for action on this day in the Kontum Province.
- Jan 27 1973 – Vietnam: The Paris Peace Accords are signed by officials from the United States and North Vietnam, bringing an official end to America’s participation in its most unpopular foreign war. The accords did little, however, to solve the turmoil in Vietnam or to heal the terrible domestic divisions in the United States brought on by its involvement in this Cold War battleground.
- Jan 28 1777 – American Revolution: John Burgoyne, poet, playwright and British general, submits an ill-fated plan to the British government to isolate New England from the other colonies.
- Jan 28 1909 – United States troops leave Cuba with the exception of Guantanamo Bay Naval Base after being there since the Spanish–American War.
- Jan 28 1915 – An act of the U.S. Congress creates the U.S. Coast Guard as a branch of the United States Armed Forces to fight contraband trade and aid distressed vessels at sea.
- Jan 28 1915 – WWI: In the country’s first such action against American shipping interests on the high seas, the captain of a German cruiser orders the destruction of the William P. Frye, an American merchant ship.
- Jan 28 1945 – WW2: Part of the 717-mile “Burma Road” from Lashio, Burma to Kunming in southwest China is reopened by the Allies, permitting supplies to flow back into China.
- Jan 28 1964 – Cold War: The U.S. State Department angrily accuses the Soviet Union of shooting down an American jet that strayed into East German airspace. Three U.S. officers aboard the plane were killed in the incident. The Soviets responded with charges that the flight was a “gross provocation,” and the incident was an ugly reminder of the heightened East-West tensions of the Cold War era.
- Jan 28 1966 – Vietnam: Operation White Wing, a search and destroy mission, begins.
- Jan 28 1973 – Vietnam: A cease-fire goes into effect at 8 a.m., Saigon time (midnight on January 27, Greenwich Mean Time).
- Jan 28 1975 – Vietnam: President Gerald Ford asks Congress for an additional \$522 million in military aid for South Vietnam and Cambodia. He revealed that North Vietnam now had 289,000 troops in South Vietnam, and tanks, heavy artillery, and antiaircraft weapons “by the hundreds.”
- Jan 28 1980 – USCGC Blackthorn collides with the tanker Capricorn while leaving Tampa Florida and capsizes killing 23 Coast Guard crewmembers.
- Jan 29 1777 – American Revolution: Facing a surprise British counterassault in the bitter cold and with a snowstorm approaching, American commander Major General William Heath and his army of 6,000 abandon their siege on Fort Independence, in Bronx County, New York
- Jan 29 1861 – Civil War: Kansas is admitted to the Union as free state. It was the 34th state to join the Union. The struggle between pro- and anti-slave forces in Kansas was a major factor in the eruption of the Civil War

- Jan 29 1915 – WWI: In the Argonne region of France, German lieutenant Erwin Rommel leads his company in the daring capture of four French block-houses, the structures used on the front to house artillery positions.
- Jan 29 1916 – WWI: Paris is first bombed by German zeppelins.
- Jan 29 1942 – WW2: Britain and the USSR secure an agreement with Iran that offers the Iran protection while creating a “Persian corridor” for the Allies—a supply route from the West to Russia.
- Jan 29 1943 – WW2: Battle of Rennell Island Guadalcanal. The last major naval engagement with Japan. The cruiser Chicago is torpedoed and heavily damaged by Japanese bombers.
- Jan 29 1964 – Cold War: Stanley Kubrick’s black comic masterpiece, Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb opens in theaters to both critical and popular acclaim. The movie’s popularity was evidence of changing attitudes toward atomic weapons and the concept of nuclear deterrence.
- Jan 29 1968 – Vietnam: In his annual budget message, President Lyndon B. Johnson asks for \$26.3 billion to continue the war in Vietnam, and announces an increase in taxes. The war was becoming very expensive, both in terms of lives and national treasure.
- Jan 29 1974 – Vietnam: The fighting continues in South Vietnam despite the cease-fire that was initiated on January 28, 1973, under the provisions of the Paris Peace Accords. This latest fighting was part of the ongoing battles that followed the brief lull of the cease-fire. The Peace Accords had left an estimated 145,000 North Vietnamese troops in South Vietnam when the cease-fire went into effect.
- Jan 29 1991 – Gulf War: Iraqi forces attack into Saudi Arabian town of Kafji, but are turned back by Coalition forces.
- Jan 30 1781 – American Revolution: Maryland becomes the 13th and final state to ratify the Articles of Confederation, almost three years after the official deadline given by Congress of March 10, 1778.
- Jan 30 1862 – The first American ironclad warship, the USS Monitor is launched.
- Jan 30 1911 – The destroyer USS Terry (DD-25) makes the first airplane rescue at sea saving the life of James McCurdy 10 miles from Havana, Cuba.
- Jan 30 1915 – WWI: Germany is the first to make large-scale use of poison gas in warfare in the Battle of Bolimów against Russia.
- Jan 30 1917 – WWI: Germany announces that its U-boats will resume unrestricted submarine warfare after a two-year hiatus.
- Jan 30 1933 – Pre WW2: President Paul von Hindenburg names Adolf Hitler, leader or fuhrer of the National Socialist German Workers Party (or Nazi Party), as chancellor of Germany.
- Jan 30 1942 – WW2: Allied forces are defeated by the Japanese at the Battle of Malaya and retreat to the island of Singapore.
- Jan 30 1942 – WW2: Japanese forces invade the island of Ambon in the Dutch East Indies.
- Jan 30 1943 – WW2: The British Royal Air Force begins a bombing campaign on the German capital that coincides with the 10th anniversary of Hitler’s accession to power.
- Jan 30 1943 – WW2: German Field Marshal Friedrich Paulus surrenders to the Soviets at Stalingrad, followed 2 days later by the remainder of his Sixth Army, ending one of the war's fiercest battles.



Paulus (left) and his aides Col. Wilhelm Adam (right) and Lt.-Gen. Arthur Schmidt (middle), after their surrender in Stalingrad

- Jan 30 1943 – WW2: Second day of the Battle of Rennell Island. The USS Chicago (CA-29) is sunk and a U.S. destroyer is heavily damaged by Japanese torpedoes.
- Jan 30 1944 – WW2: The Battle of Cisterna, part of Operation Shingle, takes place in central Italy with a clear German victory.
- Jan 30 1944 – WW2: American forces land on Kwajalein Atoll and other islands in the Japanese-held Marshall Islands.
- Jan 30 1945 – WW2: Raid at Cabanatuan: 126 American Rangers and Filipino resistance liberate 500 prisoners from the Cabanatuan POW camp.
- Jan 30 1945 - WW2: About 3,000 inmates from the Stutthof concentration camp are forcibly marched into the Baltic Sea at Palmnicken (now Yantarny, Russia) and executed.
- Jan 30 1945 – WW2: The Wilhelm Gustloff, overfilled with German refugees, sinks in the Baltic Sea after being torpedoed by a Soviet submarine, leading to the deadliest known maritime disaster with approximately 9,500 people killed.
- Jan 30 1971 – Vietnam: The Winter Soldier Investigation, organized by the Vietnam Veterans against the War to publicize war crimes and atrocities by Americans and allies in Vietnam, begins in Detroit, Michigan.
- Jan 30 1971 – Vietnam: Operation Dewey Canyon II begins as the initial phase of Lam Son 719, the South Vietnamese invasion of Laos that would commence on February 8. The purpose of the South Vietnamese operation was to interdict the Ho Chi Minh Trail, advance to Tchepone in Laos, and destroy the North Vietnamese supply dumps in the area.
- Jan 31 1865 – Civil War: The U.S. House of Representatives passes the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery in America. The amendment read, “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude...shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.”
- Jan 31 1917 – WWI: After a two-year hiatus Germany announces the renewal of unlimited submarine warfare in the Atlantic, and German torpedo-armed submarines prepare to attack any and all ships, including civilian passenger carriers, said to be sited in war-zone waters.
- Jan 31 1942 – WW2: Allied forces are defeated by the Japanese at the Battle of Malaya and retreat to the island of Singapore.

- Jan 31 1943 – German Field Marshal Friedrich Paulus surrenders to the Soviets at Stalingrad, followed 2 days later by the remainder of his Sixth Army, ending one of World War II's fiercest battles.
- Jan 31 1944 – WW2: During the Anzio campaign the 1st Ranger Battalion (Darby's Rangers) is destroyed behind enemy lines in a heavily outnumbered encounter at Battle of Cisterna, Italy.
- Jan 31 1944 – WW2: U.S. troops under Vice Adm. Spruance land on Kwajalein atoll in the Japanese-held Marshall Islands.
- Jan 31 1945 – US Army private Eddie Slovik is executed for desertion, the first such execution of an American soldier since the Civil War.



- Jan 31 1950 – Pre Cold War: U.S. President Harry S. Truman publicly announces his decision to support the development of the hydrogen bomb, a weapon theorized to be hundreds of times more powerful than the atomic bombs dropped on Japan during World War II. Five months earlier, the United States had lost its nuclear supremacy when the Soviet Union successfully detonated an atomic bomb at their test site in Kazakhstan.



- Jan 31 1968 – Vietnam: Battle of Hue begins.
- Jan 31 1968 – Vietnam: Tet Offensive. In coordinated attacks all across South Vietnam including the United States embassy in Saigon, communist forces launch their largest offensive of the Vietnam War against South Vietnamese and U.S. troops.
- Jan 31 1972 – Vietnam: In a communiqué charging President Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger with “unilaterally” divulging the substance of the secret talks, creating the impasse at the secret meeting, and distorting the facts, North Vietnam publishes the nine-point plan they submitted during the secret talks.

[Source: <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history> | This Day In History | Jan 2016 ++]