Military History Anniversaries 1 thru 28 FEB

**Significant events in U.S. Military History for the next 30 days are:**

- Feb 01 1909 – U.S. troops leave Cuba after installing Jose Miguel Gomez as president.
- Feb 01 1942 – WW2: U.S. Navy conducts Marshalls–Gilberts raids, the first offensive action by the United States against Japanese forces in the Pacific Theater.
- Feb 01 1968 – Vietnam: The execution of Viet Cong officer Nguyen Van Lem by South Vietnamese National Police Chief Nguyen Ngoc Loan is videotaped and photographed by Eddie Adams. This image helped build opposition to the Vietnam War.
- Feb 02 1848 – Mexican-American War: The Treaty of Guadeloupe Hidalgo formally ends the Mexican War.
- Feb 02 1943 – WW2: The last German forces surrender to the Soviets after the Battle of Stalingrad. Casualties and losses: Ger 850,000 - USSR 1,129,619
- Feb 02 1989 – Soviet war in Afghanistan: The last Soviet armored column leaves Kabul.
- Feb 03 1904 – Colombian troops clash with U.S. Marines in Panama.
- Feb 03 1917 – WW2: The U.S. breaks off diplomatic relations with Germany a day after the former announced a new policy of unrestricted submarine warfare.
- Feb 03 1944 – WW2: Beginning of the German Army offensive against the Anzio bridgehead in Italy.
- Feb 03 1944 – WW2: United States troops capture the Marshall Islands.
- Feb 03 1944 – WW2: The United States shells the Japanese homeland for the first time at Kurile Islands.
- Feb 03 1945 – WW2: Sinking of allied troop ship Dorchester results in Congress declaring this as Four Chaplains Day. 674 of 904 aboard drown.
- Feb 03 1961 – Cold War: The United States Air Forces begins Operation Looking Glass, and over the next 30 years, a "Doomsday Plane" is always in the air, with the capability
of taking direct control of the United States’ bombers and missiles in the event of the destruction of the SAC's command post.

- Feb 04 1899 – The Philippine-American War begins with the two day Battle of Manila. Casualties and losses: US 285 - PI 2,000
- Feb 04 1941 – WW2: The United Service Organization (USO) is created to entertain American troops.
- Feb 04 1945 – WW2: American, British and Soviet leaders meet in Yalta to discuss the war aims.
- Feb 04 1945 – WW2: USS Barbel (SS–316) sunk by Japanese naval aircraft in South China Sea in Palawan Passage. 81 killed
- Feb 04 1957 – The first nuclear–powered submarine, the USS Nautilus (SSN–571), logs its 60,000th nautical mile.
- Feb 05 1918 – WWI: Luxury Liner SS Tuscania (1914) is torpedoed off the coast of Ireland; it is the first ship carrying American troops (2,013) to Europe to be torpedoed and sunk. Of the crew and troops 210 lives were lost.
- Feb 05 1918 – WWI: Stephen W. Thompson shot down a German airplane. It was the first aerial victory by the U.S. military.
- Feb 05 1941 – WW2: Allied forces begin the Battle of Keren to capture Keren, Eritrea (Africa). Casualties and losses: UK/IN/FR 3,765 - Italy 33,847.
- Feb 05 1945 – WW2: USS Barbel (SS–316) sunk by Japanese naval aircraft in South China Sea in Palawan Passage. 81 killed
- Feb 05 1958 – A hydrogen bomb known as the Tybee Bomb is lost by the US Air Force off the coast of Savannah, Georgia, never to be recovered.
- Feb 05 1968 – Vietnam: Battle of Khe Sanh begins.
- Feb 06 1778 – American Revolution: In Paris the Treaty of Alliance and the Treaty of Amity and Commerce are signed by the United States and France signaling official recognition of the new republic.
- Feb 06 1899 – Spanish–American War: The Treaty of Paris (1898), a peace treaty between the United States and Spain, is ratified by the United States Senate.
- Feb 06 1922 – The Washington Naval Treaty was signed in Washington, DC, limiting the naval armaments of United States, Britain, Japan, France, and Italy.
- Feb 06 1945 – WW2: MacArthur reports the fall of Manila, and the liberation of 5,000 prisoners.
- Feb 07 1943 – WW2: Imperial Japanese naval forces complete the evacuation of 10,652 Imperial Japanese Army troops from Guadalcanal during Operation Ke, ending Japanese attempts to retake the island from Allied forces in the Guadalcanal Campaign.
Feb 07 1944 – WW2: In Anzio, Italy, German forces launch a counteroffensive during the Allied Operation Shingle.

Feb 07 1951 - Korea: SANcheon-Hamyang massacre: South Korean Army 11th Division killed 705 unarmed civilians in SANcheon and Hamyang, South Gyeongsang district of South Korea. The victims were civilians and 85% of them were women, children and elderly people.


Feb 08 1948 – The formal creation of the Korean People's Army of North Korea is announced.

Feb 08 1971 – Vietnam: South Vietnamese ground forces, backed by American air power, begin Operation Lam Son 719, a 17,000 man incursion into Laos that ends three weeks later in a disaster. Casualties and losses: ARVN/US/KOL 22,121 - NVA/PLO 8339


Feb 09 1862 – Civil War: A Union naval flotilla destroys the bulk of the Confederate Mosquito Fleet in the Battle of Elizabeth City on the Pasquotank River in North Carolina.

Feb 09 1942 – WW2: Top United States military leaders hold their first formal meeting to discuss American military strategy in the war.

Feb 09 1942 – WW2: Japanese submarine bombards Midway Atoll

Feb 09 1943 – WW2: Allied authorities declare Guadalcanal secure after Imperial Japan evacuates its remaining forces from the island, ending the Battle of Guadalcanal. Casualties and losses: Allies 7104 - JP 32,000

Feb 09 1965 – Vietnam: The first United States combat troops are sent to South Vietnam.

Feb 09 2001 – The American submarine USS Greeneville accidentally strikes and sinks the Ehime-Maru, a Japanese training vessel operated by the Uwajima Fishery High School

Feb 10 1763 – French and Indian War: The 1763 Treaty of Paris ends the war and France cedes Quebec to Great Britain.


Feb 11 1862 - American Civil War: General Ulysses S. Grant commences the 6 day Battle of Fort Donelson, Tennessee.

Feb 11 1938 – Japan refuses to reveal naval data requested by the U.S. and Britain.

Feb 11 1942 – WW2: USS Shark (SS–174) sunk by Japanese destroyer Yamakaze; Makassar Strait, 120 miles east of Menado, Celebes. 59 killed.
• Feb 11 1943 – WW2: General Dwight Eisenhower is selected to command the allied armies in Europe.
• Feb 12 1946 – WW2: Operation Deadlight ends after scuttling 121 of 154 captured U-boats.
• Feb 12 1951 – Korea: U.N. forces push north across the 38th parallel for the second time
• Feb 13 1951 – Korea: Battle of Chipyong–ni, which represented the "high–water mark" of the Chinese incursion into South Korea, commences. Casualties and losses: China 5,079 - UN 343.
• Feb 13 1971 – Vietnam: Backed by American air and artillery support, South Vietnamese troops invade Laos.
• Feb 13 1991 – Gulf War: Two laser–guided "smart bombs" destroy a bunker in Baghdad. It was being used as a military communications outpost and unknown to allied forces, as a shelter for Iraqi civilians.
• Feb 14 1778 – The United States Flag is formally recognized by a foreign naval vessel for the first time, when French Admiral Toussaint-Guillaume Picquet de la Motte rendered a nine gun salute to USS Ranger, commanded by John Paul Jones.
• Feb 15 1898 – U.S. battleship Maine mysteriously blows up in Havana Harbor, Cuba killing more than 260 crew members and bringing the United States closer to war with Spain.
• Feb 15 1944 – WW2: The assault on Monte Cassino, Italy, begins
• Feb 15 1967 – Vietnam: Thirteen U.S. helicopters are shot down in one day in Vietnam
• Feb 15 1989 - Soviet Union invasion of Afghanistan: The Soviet Union officially announces that all of its troops have left Afghanistan.
• Feb 15 2003 – Iraq War: Protests against the Iraq war take place in over 600 cities worldwide. It is estimated that between 8 million to 30 million people participate, making this the largest peace demonstration in history.
• Feb 16 1804 – 1Lt. Stephen Decatur led a successful raid into Tripoli Harbor to burn the U.S. Navy frigate Philadelphia, which had fallen into the hands of pirates.
• Feb 16 1862 – Civil War: Confederates surrender Ft. Donelson TN. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's victory earned him the nickname ‘Unconditional Surrender Grant.’ Casualties and losses: US 2691 - CSA 13,846
• Feb 16 1864 – Civil War: The H.L. Hunley becomes the first submarine to engage and sink a warship, the USS Housatonic.
• Feb 16 1865 – Civil War: Columbia, South Carolina is burned as Confederate forces flee from advancing Union forces.
Feb 16 1944 – WW2: Operation Hailstone begins. U.S. naval air, surface, and submarine attack against Truk (Chuuk), Japan's main base in the central Pacific, in support of the Eniwetok invasion. (WWII)


Feb 16 2006 - The last Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) is decommissioned by the United States Army.

Feb 17 1864 – Civil War: The Confederate H.L. Hunley in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina becomes the first submarine to engage and sink a warship, the USS Housatonic.

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Feb 18 1865 – Civil War: Union troops force the Confederates to abandon Fort Anderson, N.C.

Feb 18 1865 – Civil War: Union forces under Major General William T. Sherman set the South Carolina State House on fire during the burning of Columbia.

Feb 18 1955 – Cold War: Operation Teapot test shot "Wasp" is successfully detonated at the Nevada Test Site with a yield of 1.2 kilotons. Wasp is the first of fourteen shots of the Teapot series.

Feb 19 1942 – WW2: President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs the executive order 9066, allowing the United States military to relocate Japanese–Americans to Japanese internment camps.

Feb 19 1943 – WW2: USS Grampus (SS–207) sunk either by Japanese naval aircraft (958th Kokutai) southeast of New Britain on 19 February or by destroyer Minegumo in Blackett Strait on the night of 5–6 March. 71 killed

Feb 19 1943 – WW2: German troops of the Afrika Korps break through the Kasserine Pass, defeating U.S. forces. U.S. troops retake the pass 5 days later. Casualties and losses: US 6,500 Axis 2,000.


• Feb 19 1976 – Executive Order 9066, which led to the relocation of Japanese Americans to internment camps, is rescinded by President Gerald R. Ford's Proclamation 4417
• Feb 19 1999 – President Bill Clinton issues a posthumous pardon for first African American graduate of West Point, U.S. Army Lt. Henry Ossian Flipper.
• Feb 20 1864 – Civil War: Confederate troops defeat a Union army sent to bring Florida into the union at the Battle of Olustee, Fla. Casualties and losses: US 1,861
• Feb 20 1942 – WW2: Lt. Edward O’Hare downs five out of nine Japanese bombers that are attacking the carrier Lexington and becomes America's first World War II flying ace
• Feb 20 1944 – WW2: The ‘Big Week’ began with American bomber raids on German aircraft manufacturing centers. - CSA 946.
• Feb 21 1916 – WW I: In France, the Battle of Verdun begins.
• Feb 21 1945 – WW2: Japanese Kamikaze planes sink the escort carrier Bismarck Sea and damage the Saratoga.
• Feb 21 1951 – Korea: The U. S. Eighth Army launches Operation Killer, a counterattack to push Chinese forces north of the Han River in Korea.
• Feb 22 1836 – Mexican General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna began his 13 day siege of the Alamo Spanish mission in San Antonio, Texas.
• Feb 22 1899 – Filipino forces led by General Antonio Luna counterattacks for the first time against the American forces during the Philippine-American War. The Filipinos failed to regain Manila from the Americans.
• Feb 22 1909 – The sixteen battleships of the Great White Fleet, led by the USS Connecticut (BB–18), return to the United States after a voyage around the world.
• Feb 22 1915 – WWI: Germany institutes unrestricted submarine warfare.
• Feb 22 1944 - WW2: American aircraft mistakenly bomb the Dutch towns of Nijmegen, Arnhem, Enschede and Deventer, resulting in 800 dead in Nijmegen alone.
• Feb 22 1973 – Cold War: Following President Richard Nixon's visit to the People's Republic of China, the two countries agree to establish liaison offices.
• Feb 22 1984 – Britain and the U.S. send warships to the Persian Gulf following an Iranian offensive against Iraq.
• Feb 23 1836 – The Battle of the Alamo begins in San Antonio, Texas.
• Feb 23 1847 – Mexican–American War: Battle of Buena Vista – In Mexico, American troops under General Zachary Taylor defeat Mexican General Antonio López de Santa Anna.
Feb 23 1903 – Cuba leases Guantánamo Bay to the United States ‘in perpetuity’.

Feb 23 1942 – WW2: A Japanese submarine surfaced off the coast of California, shelling the coastline near the town of Ellwood. The first Axis explosives to hit American soil.

Feb 23 1945 – WW2: During the Battle of Iwo Jima, a group of Marines and a commonly forgotten U.S. Navy Corpsman, reach the top of Mt. Suribachi and are photographed raising the American flag. The photo would later win a Pulitzer Prize and become the model for the national USMC War Memorial.

Feb 23 1945 – WW2: The capital of the Philippines, Manila, is liberated by American forces.

Feb 23 1945 – WW2: The 11th Airborne Division, with Filipino guerrillas, free the captives of the Los Baños internment camp.

Feb 23 1967 – Vietnam: U.S. troops begin the largest offensive of the war, near the Cambodian border.

Feb 23 1991 – Gulf War: Ground troops cross the Saudi Arabian border and enter Iraq, thus starting the ground phase of the war.

Feb 23 2008 - A United States Air Force B-2 Spirit crashes on Guam. It is the first operational loss of a B-2.

Feb 24 1813 – War of 1812: The American ship USS Hornet sank the British sloop HMS Peacock in an action off the coast of Guiana (north coast of South America.

Feb 24 1917 – WW I: The U.S. ambassador to the United Kingdom is given the Zimmermann Telegram, in which Germany pledges to ensure the return of New Mexico, Texas, and Arizona to Mexico if Mexico declares war on the United States.

Feb 24 1942 – Battle of Los Angeles: A UFO flying over wartime Los Angeles causes a blackout order at 2:25 a.m. and attracts a barrage of anti-aircraft fire, ultimately killing 3 civilians.

Feb 24 1944 – WW2: Merrill’s Marauders, a specially trained group of American soldiers, begin their ground campaign against Japan into Burma.

Feb 24 1968 – Vietnam War: The Tet Offensive is halted; South Vietnam recaptures Hué.

Feb 25 1933 – USS Ranger, the first U.S. Navy ship to be built solely as an aircraft carrier, is launched.


Feb 25 1968 – Vietnam: 135 unarmed citizens of Ha My village in South Vietnam's Quang Nam Province are killed and buried en masse by South Korean troops in what would come to be known as the Ha My massacre.

Feb 26 1943 – U.S. Flying Fortresses and Liberators pound German docks and U–boat lairs at Wilhelmshaven.

- Feb 26 1991 – Gulf War: United States Army forces capture the town of Al Busayyah, Iraq.
- Feb 27 1776 – American Revolution: the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge in North Carolina breaks up a Loyalist militia.
- Feb 27 1864 – Civil War: The first Union prisoners arrive at Andersonville Prison in Georgia.
- Feb 27 1944 – WW2: USS Grayback (SS–208) missing. Most likely succumbed to damage inflicted by land–based Japanese naval aircraft suffered the day before in the East China Sea. 80 killed
- Feb 27 1991 – Gulf War: U.S. President George H. W. Bush announces that "Kuwait is liberated".
- Feb 28 1844 – A gun on USS Princeton explodes while the boat is on a Potomac River cruise, killing eight people, including two United States Cabinet members.
- Feb 28 1863 – Civil War: The Confederate ship Nashville was destroyed by the Union ironclad vessel USS Montauk on the Ogeechee River in Georgia.
- Feb 28 1893 – The USS Indiana, the lead ship of her class and the first battleship in the United States Navy comparable to foreign battleships of the time, is launched.
- Feb 28 1916 – WW I: Beginning of the battle of Verdun, in France, which lasted ten months.
- Feb 28 1942 – The heavy cruiser USS Houston (CA–30) is sunk in the Battle of Sunda Strait with 693 crew members killed, along with HMAS Perth (D29) which lost 375 men.
- Feb 28 1945 – WW2: U.S. tanks break the natural defense line west of the Rhine and cross the Erft River.
- Feb 28 1991 – The first Gulf War ends.
- Feb 28 1994 – U.S. warplanes shoot down four Serb aircraft over Bosnia in the first NATO use of force in the troubled area.
- Feb 29 1864 – American Civil War: Kilpatrick–Dahlgren Raid fails – plans to free 15,000 Union soldiers being held near Richmond, Virginia are thwarted.
- Feb 29 1944 – WW2: The Admiralty Islands are invaded in Operation Brewer led by American General Douglas MacArthur.
- Feb 29 1972 – Vietnam War: Vietnamization – South Korea withdraws 11,000 of its 48,000 troops from Vietnam.

[Source: Various Jan 2014 ++]