Military History Anniversaries 1 thru 31 MAR

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

- Mar 01 1916 – WWI: Germany begins attacking ships in the Atlantic.
- Mar 01 1941 – WW2: Bulgaria signs the Tripartite Pact under threat of a German invasion, allying itself with the Axis powers.
- Mar 01 1942 – WW2: 3 day Battle of Java Sea ends. US suffers a major naval defeat.
- Mar 01 1950 – Cold War: Klaus Fuchs is convicted of spying for the Soviet Union by disclosing top secret atomic bomb data.
- Mar 01 1954 – Cold War: The Castle Bravo, a 15–megaton hydrogen bomb, is detonated on Bikini Atoll in the Pacific Ocean, resulting in the worst radioactive contamination ever caused by the United State.

The Shrimp (code name Castle Bravo) device in its shot cab

- Mar 01 1961 – Cold War: President John F. Kennedy issues an executive order establishing the Peace Corps. It proved to be one of the most innovative and highly publicized Cold War programs set up by the United States.
- Mar 01 1965 – Vietnam: Ambassador Maxwell Taylor informs South Vietnamese Premier Phan Huy Quat that the United States is preparing to send 3,500 U.S. Marines to Vietnam to protect the U.S. airbase at Da Nang.
- Mar 02 1776 – American Revolution: Patriot militia units arrest the Royal Governor of Georgia James Wright and attempt to prevent capture of supply ships in the Battle of the Rice Boats.
- Mar 02 1836 – Texas Revolution: Declaration of independence of the Republic of Texas from Mexico.
- Mar 02 1941 – WW2: First German military units enter Bulgaria after it joined the Axis Pact.
• Mar 02 1965 – Vietnam: The US and South Vietnamese Air Force begin Operation Rolling Thunder, a sustained bombing campaign against North Vietnam that eventually became the most intense air/ground battle waged during the Cold War period.
• Mar 02 1991 – Gulf War: Battle at Rumaila Oil Field brings end to the 1991 Gulf War.
• Mar 02 2004 – Iraq War: Al Qaeda carries out the Ashoura Massacre killing 170 and wounding over 500.
• Mar 03 1776 – American Revolution: The first amphibious landing of the United States Marine Corps begins the Battle of Nassau.
• Mar 03 1863 – Civil War: U.S. Congress passes a conscription act that produces the first wartime draft of U.S. citizens in American history.
• Mar 03 1918 – WWI: Germany, Austria and Russia sign the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk ending Russia's involvement in World War I, and leading to the independence of Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland.
• Mar 03 1931 – The United States adopts The Star-Spangled Banner as its national anthem.
• Mar 03 1942 – WW2: Ten Japanese warplanes raid the town of Broome Western Australia killing more than 100 people.
• Mar 03 1942 – WW2: USS Perch (SS-176) scuttled after severe damage from Japanese destroyers Ushio and Sazanami. 60 POWs, 6 later died
• Mar 03 1943 – WW2: In London, England, 173 people are killed in a crush while trying to enter an air-raid shelter at Bethnal Green tube station.
• Mar 03 1945 – WW2: The RAF accidentally bombs the Bezuidenhout neighborhood in The Hague, Netherlands, killing 511 people.
• Mar 03 1945 – WW2: The American and Filipino troops liberate Manila, Philippines after 30 days of fighting.
• Mar 03 1980 – The USS Nautilus is decommissioned and stricken from the Naval Vessel Register.
• Mar 03 1994 – Somalia: American soldiers completely withdraw 28 days earlier than expected. Other nations, such as Belgium, France and Sweden, also decided to withdraw at this time.
• Mar 04 1776 – American Revolution: The Americans capture "Dorchester Heights" dominating the port of Boston Massachusetts.
• Mar 04 1776 – American Revolution: The Continental Army fortifies Dorchester Heights with cannon, leading the British troops to abandon the Siege of Boston.

• Mar 04 1941 – WW2: Operation Claymore. The United Kingdom launches its first large scale British Commando raid on Norway’s Lofoten Islands. Casualties and losses: UK 1 – Ger 228 + 10 ships sunk.


• Mar 04 1944 – WW2: 1st US bombing of Berlin - After the success of Big Week, the USAAF begins a daylight bombing campaign of Berlin

• Mar 04 2002 – Afghanistan: Seven American Special Operations Forces soldiers are killed as they attempt to infiltrate the Shahi Kot Valley on a low-flying helicopter reconnaissance mission.

• Mar 05 1770 – Boston Massacre. British troops kill 5 American and a boy a in crowd. Crispus Attucks becomes 1st black man to die for American freedom. The event contributes to the outbreak of the American Revolutionary War five years later. At a subsequent trial the soldiers are defended by future U.S. president John Adams.

• Mar 05 1927 – 1,000 US marines land in China to protect American property

• Mar 05 1942 – WW2: US Navy's Mobile Construction Battalions "SEABEES" officially formed and placed in action in New Caledonia an island in the southwest Pacific as they landed and began construction of base facilities.

• Mar 05 1944 – WW2: The Red Army begins the Uman-Botoshany Offensive in the western Ukrainian SSR. Casualties and losses: SU 270,000 – Ger 130,000.

• Mar 05 1945 – WW2: Allies bomb The Hague, Netherlands. During the 128 raids casualties amounted to 884 killed and a further 631 wounded.

• Mar 05 1945 – WW2: US 7th Army Corps capture Cologne, Germany.

• Mar 05 1946 – Ho Chi Minh signs an agreement with France which recognizes Vietnam as an autonomous state in the Indochinese Federation and the French Union.

• Mar 05 1946 – Cold War: Winston Churchill coins the phrase "Iron Curtain" in his speech at Westminster College, Missouri.

• Mar 06 1836 – Texas Revolution: Battle of the Alamo – After a thirteen day siege by an army of 3,000 Mexican troops, the 187 Texas volunteers, including frontiersman Davy Crockett and colonel Jim Bowie, defending the Alamo are killed and the fort is captured. Mexican losses are about 600.


• Mar 06 1943 – WW2: Battle at Medenine (a.k.a. Operation Capri) North–Africa: Rommel’s assault attack which was abandoned at dusk on the same day after the loss of 52 German tanks.

• Mar 06 1944 – WW2: U.S. heavy bombers staged the first full–scale American raid on Berlin.

• Mar 06 1945 – WW2: Cologne Germany is captured by American Troops.

• Mar 06 1991 – Following Iraq's capitulation in the Persian Gulf conflict Pres Bush told Congress that "aggression is defeated. The war is over"

• Mar 07 1862 – Civil War: Union forces defeat Confederate troops at Pea Ridge in northwestern Arkansas. Casualties and losses: US 1,384 - CSA 2,000.

• Mar 7 1936 — WW2 (Prelude to): In violation of the Locarno Pact and the Treaty of Versailles, Germany reoccupies the Rhineland.


• Mar 07 1945 – WW2: American troops seize the Ludendorff Bridge over the Rhine River at Remagen, Germany.
- Mar 07 1951 – Korean War: Operation Ripper - United Nations troops led by General Matthew Ridgeway begin an assault against Chinese forces in an offensive to straighten out the U.N. front lines against the Chinese.
- Mar 07 1968 – Vietnam War: The United States and South Vietnamese military begin Operation Truong Cong Dinh to root out Viet Cong forces from the area surrounding My Tho.
- Mar 07 1777 – American Revolution: Regiments from Ansbach and Bayreuth Germany, sent to support Great Britain in the War, mutiny in the town of Ochsenfurt.
- Mar 07 1782 – American Revolution: Gnadenhütten massacre - Ninety-six Native Americans in Gnadenhutten, Ohio, who had converted to Christianity are killed by Pennsylvania militiamen in retaliation for raids carried out by other Indians.
- Mar 08 1862 - Civil War: The iron-clad CSS Virginia (formerly USS Merrimack) is launched at Hampton Roads, Virginia.
- Mar 08 1916 – Pancho Villa leads nearly 500 Mexican raiders in an attack against Columbus, New Mexico.
- Mar 08 1943 – WW2: Japanese forces attack American troops on Hill 700 in Bougainville. The battle will last five days.
- Mar 09 1862 – Civil War: The USS Monitor and CSS Virginia fight to a draw in the Battle of Hampton Roads the first fight between two ironclad warships.
Mar 09 1944 – WW2: Japanese troops counter-attack American forces on Hill 700 in Bougainville in a battle that would last five days.

Mar 09 1945 – WW2: Operation Meeting House - U.S. B–29 bombers launched incendiary bomb attacks against Tokyo Japan. Resulting conflagration kills more than 100,000 people, mostly civilians. It was later estimated to be the single most destructive bombing raid in history.

Charred remains of Japanese civilians after the firebombing of Tokyo


Mar 10 1848 – Mexican-American War: The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo is ratified by the United States Senate, ending the War.

Mar 10 1953 – Korean War: North Korean gunners at Wonsan fire on the USS Missouri. The ship responds by firing 998 rounds at the enemy position.


Mar 10 1975 – Vietnam: The North Vietnamese Army attacks the South Vietnamese town of Ban Me Thout the offensive will end with total victory in Vietnam.

Mar 11 1863 – Civil War: Union troops under General Ulysses S. Grant give up their preparations to take Vicksburg after failing to pass Fort Pemberton north of Vicksburg.

Mar 11 1865 – Civil War: Union General William Sherman and his forces occupy Fayetteville, N.C.

Mar 11 1916 - USS Nevada (BB-36) is commissioned. The first US Navy "super-dreadnought".

Mar 11 1941 – WW2: President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs the Lend-Lease Act into law, allowing American-built war supplies to be shipped to the Allies on loan.


Mar 11 1945 – WW2: The Imperial Japanese Navy attempts a large-scale kamikaze attack on the U.S. Pacific Fleet anchored at Ulithi atoll in Operation Tan No. 2.

Mar 11 1945 – WW2: The Empire of Japan established the Empire of Vietnam, a short-lived puppet state, with Bảo Đại as its ruler.

Mar 11 1946 – WW2 Postwar: Rudolf Höss, the first commandant of Auschwitz concentration camp, is captured by British troops.

Mar 12 1864 – Civil War: The Red River Campaign begins as a US Navy fleet of 13 Ironclads and 7 Gunboats and other support ships enter the Red River.
• Mar 12 1920 – USS H–1 (SS–28) foundered and sunk off Santa Margarita Island, California. 4 died
• Mar 12 1947 – Cold War: The Truman Doctrine is proclaimed to help stem the spread of Communism. Historians often consider it as the start of the Cold War.
• Mar 13 1862 – Civil War: The U.S. federal government forbids all Union army officers to return fugitive slaves, thus effectively annulling the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 and setting the stage for the Emancipation Proclamation.
• Mar 13 1865 – Civil War: The Confederate States of America agree to the use of African American troops.
• Mar 13 1943 – WW2: In Bougainville, Japanese troops end their assault on American forces at Hill 700.
• Mar 13 1943 – WW2: The Holocaust: German forces liquidate the Jewish ghetto in Kraków, Poland sending most of its inhabitants to Belzec extermination camp & Płaszów slave-labor camp, and Auschwitz concentration camp for extermination.

Deportation of Jews from the Ghetto, March 1943

• Mar 14 1780 – American Revolution: Spanish forces capture Fort Charlotte in Mobile, Alabama, the last British frontier post capable of threatening New Orleans in Spanish Louisiana.
• Mar 14 1864 – Civil War: Union troops occupy Fort de Russy, Louisiana.
• Mar 14 1915 – WWI: Cornered off the coast of Chile by the Royal Navy after fleeing the Battle of the Falkland Islands, the German light cruiser SMS Dresden is abandoned and scuttled by her crew.
• Mar 14 1916 – WWI: Battle of Verdun – German attack on Mort–Homme ridge West of Verdun.
• Mar 14 1947 The United States signs a 99–year lease on naval bases in the Philippines.
• Mar 14 1951 – Korean War: U.N. forces recapture Seoul for the second time during the Korean War.
• Mar 14 1954 – The Viet Minh launch an assault against the French Colonial Forces at Dien Bien Phu.
• Mar 14 1945 - World War II: The R.A.F.’s first operational use of the Grand Slam bomb, Bielefeld, Germany.
• Mar 15 1783 - In an emotional speech in Newburgh, New York, George Washington asks his officers not to support the Newburgh Conspiracy. The plea is successful and the threatened coup d'état never takes place.
• Mar 15 1916 – President Woodrow Wilson sends 4,800 United States troops over the U.S.–
  Mexico border to pursue Pancho Villa.
• Mar 15 1939 – WW2: German troops occupy the remaining part of Bohemia and Moravia;
  Czechoslovakia ceases to exist.
• Mar 15 1943 – WW2: Third Battle of Kharkov - The last great victory of German arms in the
  eastern front. In a series of battles the German counterstrike led to the destruction of
  approximately 52 Soviet divisions and the recapture of the cities of Kharkov and Belgorod.
  Casualties and losses: SU 86,469 – Ger 11,500
• Mar 15 1943 – WW2: USS Triton (SS–201) sunk either by Japanese destroyer Satsuki or
  submarine chaser Ch 24 north of Admiralty Islands. 74 killed.
• Mar 15 1944 – WW2: Battle of Monte Cassino - Cassino, Italy is destroyed by Allied bombing.
• Mar 15 1945 – VA elevated to a Cabinet–level agency under Public Law 100–527
• Mar 16 1802 – The Army Corps of Engineers is established to found and operate West Point Academy.
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  Academy.
• Mar 16 1935 – Adolf Hitler orders Germany to rearm herself in violation of the Versailles Treaty.
• Mar 16 1942 – WW2: The first V–2 rocket test launch. It explodes at liftoff.
• Mar 17 1776 – American Revolution: British forces evacuate Boston, ending the Siege of Boston,
  after George Washington and Henry Knox place artillery in positions overlooking the city.
• Mar 17 1780 – American Revolution: George Washington grants the Continental Army a holiday
  "as an act of solidarity with the Irish in their fight for independence".
• Mar 17 1942 – WW2: Holocaust: The first Jews from the Lviv Ghetto (western Ukraine) are
  gassed at the Belzec death camp (eastern Poland).
• Mar 18 1915 – WWI: During the Battle of Gallipoli, three battleships are sunk during a failed
  British and French naval attack on the Dardanelles.
• Mar 18 1940 – WW2: Axis Powers - Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini meet at the Brenner Pass
  in the Alps and agree to form an alliance against France and the United Kingdom.
• Mar 18 1969 – Vietnam: The United States begins secretly bombing the Sihanouk Trail in Cambodia, used by communist forces to infiltrate South Vietnam.
• Mar 19 1863 – Civil War: The SS Georgiana, said to have been the most powerful Confederate cruiser, is destroyed on her maiden voyage with a cargo of munitions, medicines and merchandise then valued at over $1,000,000.
• Mar 19 1865 – Civil War: The Battle of Bentonville begins. By the end of the battle two days later, Confederate forces had retreated from Four Oaks, North Carolina. Casualties and losses: US 1,527 - CSA 2,606
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• Mar 19 1941 – WW2: The 99th Pursuit Squadron also known as the Tuskegee Airmen, the first all-black unit of the Army Air Corp, is activated.
• Mar 19 1944 – WW2: Nazi forces occupy Hungary.
• Mar 19 1945 – WW2: Adolf Hitler issues his "Nero Decree" ordering all industries, military installations, shops, transportation facilities and communications facilities in Germany to be destroyed.
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• Mar 19 1945 – WW2: Off the coast of Japan, a dive bomber hits the aircraft carrier USS Franklin, killing 724 of her crew. Badly damaged, the ship is able to return to the U.S. under her own power.
• Mar 19 1965 – The wreck of the SS Georgiana, valued at over $50,000,000 and said to have been the most powerful Confederate cruiser, is discovered by teenage diver and pioneer underwater archaeologist E. Lee Spence, exactly 102 years after its destruction.
• Mar 19 2002 – Afghanistan: Operation Anaconda ends (started on March 2) after killing 500 Taliban and al Qaeda fighters with 11 allied troop fatalities.
• Mar 20 1922 – The USS Langley (CV–1) is commissioned as the first United States Navy aircraft carrier.
• Mar 20 1942 – Holocaust: in Rohatyn, western Ukraine, the German SS murder 3,000 Jews, including 600 children, annihilating 70% of Rohatyn's Jewish ghetto.
• Mar 20 1942 – WW II: General Douglas MacArthur, at Terowie, South Australia, makes his famous speech regarding the fall of the Philippines, in which he says: "I came out of Bataan and I shall return".
• Mar 20 1944 – WW II: Four thousand U.S. Marines made a landing on unoccupied Emirau Island in the Bismarck Archipelago to develop an airbase as part of Operation Cartwheel for the encirclement of the major Japanese base at Rabaul.
• Mar 20 1945 – WW2: USS Kete (SS–369) missing. Most likely sunk by a mine or a Japanese submarine (perhaps RO 41) east of Okinawa. 87 killed
• Mar 20 1952 – The United States Senate ratifies a peace treaty with Japan.
• Mar 20 2003 – Iraq: Invasion of Iraq by American and British led coalition (the UK, Australia and Poland) begins without United Nations support and in defiance of world opinion.
• Mar 21 1918 – WWI: The German Army opened the Spring Offensive with Operation Michael (First Battle of the Somme) attempting to break through the Allied lines and to seize ports on the English Channel.
• Mar 21 1943 – WW2: Wehrmacht officer Rudolf von Gersdorff plots to assassinate Adolf Hitler by using a suicide bomb, but the plan falls through. Von Gersdorff is able to defuse the bomb in time and avoid suspicion.
• Mar 21 1945 – WW2: British troops liberate Mandalay, Burma.
• Mar 21 1945 – WW2: Operation Carthage: Royal Air Force planes bomb Gestapo headquarters in Copenhagen, Denmark. They also hit a school and 125 civilians are killed.
• Mar 21 1945 – WW2: Bulgaria and the Soviet Union successfully complete their defense of the north bank of the Drava River as the Battle of the Transdanubian Hills concludes. Casualties and losses: Unknown

![Yokosuka MXY7 Ohka](image)

• Mar 22 1713 – The Tuscarora War comes to an end with the fall of Fort Neoheroka, effectively opening up the interior of North Carolina to European colonization.
• Mar 22 1939 – WW2: Germany takes Memel from Lithuania.
• Mar 22 1942 – WW2: In the Mediterranean Sea, the Royal Navy confronts Italy's Regia Marina in the Second Battle of Sirte.
• Mar 22 1942 – WW2: Heavy German and Italian assault interrupts badly needed resupply of food and ammunition leaving conditions on Malta critical.
• Mar 22 1943 – WW2: The entire population (149 people, including 75 children) of Khatyn in the Republic of Belarus near Minsk is burnt alive by the German 118th Schutzmannschaft Nazi battalion occupation force.
- Mar 23 1775 – Revolutionary War: Patrick Henry delivers his speech "Give me Liberty, or give me Death!" at St. John's Church in Richmond, Virginia.
- Mar 23 1862 – Civil War: The First Battle of Kernstown, Virginia: It marked the start of Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign. Although his only defeat throughout the war, the engagement distracts Federal efforts to capture Richmond. Casualties and losses: US 500 - CSA 718

Mar 24 1765 - American Revolution: The Kingdom of Great Britain passes the Quartering Act that requires the Thirteen Colonies to house British troops.

- Mar 23 1994 – A United States Air Force (USAF) F–16 aircraft collides with a USAF C–130 at Pope Air Force Base and then crashes, killing 24 United States Army soldiers on the ground. This later became known as the Green Ramp disaster.
- Mar 23 2003 – Iraq War: In Nasiriyah, 11 soldiers of the 507th Maintenance Company as well as 18 U.S. Marines are killed during the first major conflict of Operation Iraqi Freedom. 654 Iraqi combatants are also killed.
- Mar 24 1944 – WW2: In an event later dramatized in the movie The Great Escape, 76 prisoners begin breaking out of Stalag Luft III.
- Mar 24 1944 – WW2: German occupation troops killed 335 people in Rome as a reprisal for a partisan attack conducted on the previous day against the SS Police Regiment Bozen.
- Mar 24 1999 - Kosovo War: NATO commences aerial bombardment against Yugoslavia, marking the first time NATO has attacked a sovereign country.
- Mar 25 1865 – Civil War: In Virginia, Confederate forces temporarily capture Fort Stedman from the Union.
- Mar 25 1915 – 1st submarine disaster. USS F-4 (SS–23) sunk after a battery explosion off Honolulu, Hawaii. 21 died.
- Mar 25 1953 – Korean War: The USS Missouri fires on targets at Kojo, North Korea, the last time her guns fire until the Persian Gulf War of 1992.
- Mar 25 1975 – Vietnam: The former imperial capital of Hue fell to North Vietnamese troops along with the entire Thua Thien Province.
- Mar 26 1917 – WWI: First Battle of Gaza - Attempting to advance into Palestine, British were defeated by Ottoman troops. Casualties and losses: GB 3,967 – OE/Get/AH 1,691
- Mar 26 1942 – WW2: The first female prisoners arrive at Auschwitz concentration camp in German-occupied Poland.
- Mar 26 1944 – USS Tullibee (SS–284) accidentally sunk by circular run of own torpedo off Palau Islands. 79 died
- Mar 26 1945 – WW2: The Battle of Iwo Jima ends as the island is officially secured by American forces.
- Mar 26 1982 – A groundbreaking ceremony for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is held in Washington, D.C.
- Mar 27 1794 – The U.S. establishes a permanent navy and authorizes the building of 6 frigates.
- Mar 27 1814 – War of 1812: In central Alabama, U.S. forces under General Andrew Jackson defeat the Creek at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend.
- Mar 27 1836 – Texas Revolution: Goliad massacre – Antonio López de Santa Anna orders the Mexican army to kill about 400 Texas POWs at Goliad, Texas.
- Mar 27 1846 – Mexican–American War: Siege of Fort Texas.
- Mar 27 1886 – Apache Wars: Famous Apache warrior, Geronimo, surrenders to the U.S. Army, ending the main phase of the Apache Wars.

Geronimo, 1898
- Mar 27 1943 – World War II: Battle of the Komandorski Islands - In the Aleutian Islands the battle begins when United States Navy forces intercept Japanese attempting to reinforce a garrison at Kiska.
- Mar 27 1945 – WW2: Gen Eisenhower declares German defenses on Western Front broken.
- Mar 27 1945 – WW2: Operation Starvation, the aerial mining of Japan's ports and waterways begins.
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Peenemünde Museum replica of V-2

- Mar 28 1946 – Cold War: The United States State Department releases the Acheson-Lilienthal Report, outlining a plan for the international control of nuclear power.
- Mar 28 2003 – In a friendly fire incident, two A-10 Thunderbolt II attack aircraft from the United States Idaho Air National Guard's 190th Fighter Squadron attack British tanks participating in the 2003 invasion of Iraq, killing British soldier Matty Hull.
- Mar 29 1847 – Mexican-American War: United States forces led by General Winfield Scott take Veracruz after a siege.
- Mar 29 1865 – Civil War: Federal forces under Major General Philip Sheridan move to flank Confederate forces under Robert E. Lee as the Appomattox Campaign begins.
- Mar 29 1911 – The M1911 .45 ACP pistol becomes the official U.S. Army side arm.
- Mar 29 1942 – WW2: The Bombing of Lübeck is the first major success for the RAF Bomber Command against Germany and a German city.
- Mar 29 1944 – WW2: Allied bombing raid on Nuremberg. Along the English eastern coast 795 aircraft are dispatched, including 572 Lancasters, 214 Halifaxes and 9 Mosquitos. The bombers meet resistance at the coasts of Belgium and the Netherlands from German fighters. In total, 95 bombers are lost, making it the largest Bomber Command loss of World War II.

![William Calley](image)

• Mar 30 1944 – WW2: The U.S. fleet attacks Palau, near the Philippines.
• Mar 30 1972 – Vietnam: The Easter Offensive begins with Hanoi launching its heaviest attack in four years, crossing into the DMZ.
• Mar 31 1941 – WW2: Germany begins a counter offensive in Africa.

[Source: Various Feb 2015++]