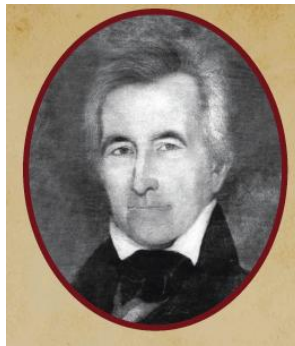




## Military History Anniversaries 01 thru 14 Feb

**Events in History over the next 14 day period that had U.S. military involvement or impacted in some way on U.S military operations or American interests**

- Feb 01 1781 – American Revolution: American Brigadier General William Lee Davidson dies in combat attempting to prevent General Charles Cornwallis’ army from crossing the Catawba River in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.



- Feb 01 1861 – Civil War: Texas Succeeds. Texas becomes the seventh state to secede from the Union when a state convention votes 166 to 8 in favor of the measure.
- Feb 01 1909 – U.S. troops leave Cuba after installing Jose Miguel Gomez as president.
- Feb 01 1917 – WWI: The lethal threat of the German U-boat submarine raises its head again, as Germany returns to the policy of unrestricted submarine warfare it had previously suspended in response to pressure from the United States and other neutral countries.
- 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 1943 – WW2: Japanese forces on Guadalcanal Island, defeated by Marines, start to withdraw after the Japanese emperor finally gives them permission.
- Feb 01 1945 – WW2: U.S. Rangers and Filipino guerrillas rescue 513 American survivors of the Bataan Death March.
- Feb 01 1951 – Cold War: By a vote of 44 to 7, the United Nations General Assembly passes a resolution condemning the communist government of the People’s Republic of China for acts of aggression in Korea. It was the first time since the United Nations formed in 1945 that it had condemned a nation as an aggressor.
- Feb 01 1964 – Vietnam: U.S. and South Vietnamese naval forces initiate Operation Plan (Oplan) 34A, which calls for raids by South Vietnamese commandos, operating under American orders, against North Vietnamese coastal and island installations.
- Feb 01 1968 – Vietnam: U.S. troops drive the North Vietnamese out of Tan Son Nhut airport in Saigon.

- 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 01 1998 – Rear Admiral Lillian E. Fishburne becomes the first female African American to be promoted to rear admiral.
- Feb 02 1812 – Old West: Staking a tenuous claim to the riches of the Far West, Russians establish Fort Ross on the coast north of San Francisco.
- Feb 02 1848 – Mexican-American War: The Treaty of Guadeloupe Hidalgo formally ends the Mexican War.
- Feb 02 1916 – WWI: Two days after nine German zeppelins dropped close to 400 bombs throughout the English Midlands, the crew of the British fishing trawler King Stephen comes across the crashed remains of one of the giant airships floating in the North Sea.
- Feb 02 1943 – WW2: The last of the German forces fighting at Stalingrad surrender, despite Hitler's earlier declaration that "Surrender is out of the question. The troops will defend themselves to the last!" Casualties and losses: Ger 850,000 - USSR 1,129,619
- Feb 02 1949 – Cold War: In response to Soviet leader Joseph Stalin's proposal that President Harry S. Truman travel to Russia for a conference, Secretary of State Dean Acheson brusquely rejects the idea as a "political maneuver." This rather curious exchange was further evidence of the diplomatic sparring between the United States and the Soviet Union that was so characteristic of the early years of the Cold War.
- Feb 02 1962 – Vietnam: The first U.S. Air Force plane is lost in South Vietnam. The C-123 aircraft crashed while spraying defoliant on a Viet Cong ambush site.
- Feb 02 1989 – Soviet war in Afghanistan: Soviet participation in the war in Afghanistan ended as Red Army troops withdrew from the capital city of Kabul. They left behind many of their arms for use by Afghan government forces. They were driven out principally by the insurgent mujahadin, armed through covert U.S. funding.



- Feb 03 1781 – American Revolution: British forces seize the Dutch-owned Caribbean island Sint Eustatius.
- Feb 03 1783 – American Revolution: Spain recognizes United States independence.
- Feb 03 1904 – Colombian troops clash with U.S. Marines in Panama.

- Feb 03 1917 – WWI: A day after Germany announced a new policy of unrestricted submarine warfare President Woodrow Wilson speaks for two hours before a historic session of Congress to announce that the United States is breaking diplomatic relations with them.
- Feb 03 1943 – WW2: The USAT Dorchester is sunk by a German U-boat. Only 230 of 902 men aboard survived. Congress declares this as Four Chaplains Day. The Chapel of the Four Chaplains, dedicated by President Harry Truman, is one of many memorials established to commemorate the Four Chaplains story.

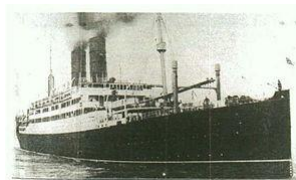


- Feb 03 1944 – WW2: Beginning of the German Army offensive against the Anzio bridgehead in Italy.
- Feb 03 1944 – WW2: American forces invade and take control of the Marshall Islands, long occupied by the Japanese and used by them as a base for military operations.
- Feb 03 1944 – WW2: The United States shells the Japanese homeland for the first time at Kurile Islands.
- Feb 03 1945 – WW2: As part of Operation Thunderclap, 1000 B-17's of the Eighth Air Force bomb Berlin, a raid which kills between 2,500 to 3,000 and dehouses another 120,000.
- Feb 03 1945 – WW2: The United States and the Philippine Commonwealth begin a month-long battle to retake Manila from Japan.
- 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 1950 – Cold War: Klaus Fuchs, a German-born British scientist who helped developed the atomic bomb, is arrested in Great Britain for passing top-secret information about the bomb to the Soviet Union. The arrest of Fuchs led authorities to several other individuals involved in a spy ring, culminating with the arrest of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg and their subsequent execution.
- 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 1861 – Civil War: The Confederacy is open for business when in Montgomery, Alabama, delegates from six break-away U.S. states convene the Provisional Confederate Congress and form the Confederate States of America. The first order of business was drafting a constitution. The congress used the U.S. Constitution as a model, taking most of it verbatim. In just four days, a tentative document to govern the new nation was hammered out.
- 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: Yalta Conference. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Soviet leader Joseph Stalin meet to discuss the Allied war effort against Germany and Japan and to try and settle some nagging diplomatic issues. While a number of important agreements were reached at the conference, tensions over European issues—particularly the fate of Poland—foreshadowed the crumbling of the Grand Alliance that had

developed between the U.S, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union during World War II and hinted at the Cold War to come.



- Feb 04 1945 – WW2: Santo Tomas Internment Camp is liberated from Japanese authority.
- Feb 04 1945 – WW2: First firebombing raid against Japan at Kobe.
- Feb 04 1945 – WW2: The Yalta Conference between the "Big Three" (Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin) opens at the Livadia Palace in the Crimea.
- Feb 04 1945 – WW2: The British Indian Army and Imperial Japanese Army begin a series of battles known as the Battle of Pokoku and Irrawaddy River operations.
- 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 04 1962 – Vietnam: The first U.S. helicopter is shot down in Vietnam. It was one of 15 helicopters ferrying South Vietnamese Army troops into battle near the village of Hong My in the Mekong Delta.
- Feb 04 1969 – PLO: With Yasir Arafat as its leader, the Palestine Liberation Organization was founded. By 1974 when he addressed the United Nations, Arafat had made significant strides towards establishing new respectability for the PLO's campaign for a Palestinian homeland. But gaining legitimacy hinged on cooling down terrorism, and Arafat found it increasingly difficult to reconcile the moderate and extremist segments of Palestinian politics.
- Feb 04 1972 – Vietnam: A force of 824 soldiers, the last of Thailand's 12,000 troops serving in South Vietnam, departs.
- Feb 05 1972 – Civil War: The Battle of Dabney's Mill (also known as Hatcher's Run). Union and Confederate forces around Petersburg, Virginia, begin a three-day battle that produces 3,000 casualties but ends with no significant advantage for either side.
- Feb 05 1918 – WWI: Luxury Liner SS Tuscania is torpedoed off the coast of Ireland; it is the first ship carrying American troops to Europe to be torpedoed and sunk. The German submarine U-77, with its crew of 34 men under the command of Lieutenant Commander Wilhelm Meyer, spotted the Tuscania and its convoy just eight miles off the Irish coast. After moving into position, Meyer fired two torpedoes at the Tuscania. The first torpedo missed, but the second torpedo scored a direct hit on the starboard side, causing a terrific explosion. The 14,384-ton steamer immediately took a great list and crewmembers were plunged into darkness as they began lowering lifeboats into the sea. Of the 2,397 American servicemen on the Tuscania, the convoy was able to rescue 2,187, along with the majority of the ship's British crew.



- 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 – WWI: Adolf Hitler scolds his Axis partner, Benito Mussolini, for his troops' retreat in the face of British advances in Libya, demanding that the Duce command his forces to resist.
- 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: General Douglas MacArthur returns to Manila.
- 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.



**A Mk 15 nuclear 7600 pound bomb**

- Feb 05 1960 – Vietnam: The South Vietnamese government requests that Washington double U.S. Military Assistance and Advisory Group (MAAG-Vietnam) strength from 342 to 685.
- Feb 05 1968 – Vietnam: Battle of Khe Sanh begins.
- Feb 05 1975 – Vietnam: North Vietnamese Gen. Van Tien Dung departs for South Vietnam to take command of communist forces in preparation for a new offensive. In December 1974, the North Vietnamese 7th Division and the newly formed 3rd Division attacked Phuoc Long Province, north of Saigon. This attack represented an escalation in the “cease-fire war” that started shortly after the Paris Peace Accords were signed in 1973.
- Feb 05 1989 – Afghanistan: In an important move signaling the close of the nearly decade-long Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan, the last Russian troops withdraw from the capital city of Kabul. Less than two weeks later, all Soviet troops departed Afghanistan entirely, ending what many observers referred to as Russia’s “Vietnam.”
- Feb 05 2007 – Iraq: Lieutenant Ehren Watada faced a court martial for refusing to deploy to Iraq and for publicly criticizing the war, the first officer since Vietnam to be so tried. A volunteer from Hawaii who joined the U.S. Army prior to the invasion in 2003. Initially having served in South Korea, he learned more about the Iraqi conflict and the bogus claims of Saddam Hussein’s possession of weapons of mass destruction.



- Feb 06 1778 – American Revolution: Representatives from the United States and France sign the Treaty of Amity and Commerce and the Treaty of Alliance in Paris. The Treaty of Amity and Commerce recognized the United States as an independent nation and encouraged trade between France and the America, while the Treaty of Alliance provided for a military alliance against

Great Britain, stipulating that the absolute independence of the United States be recognized as a condition for peace and that France would be permitted to conquer the British West Indies.

- Feb 06 1862 – Civil War: The U.S. Navy gives the United States its first victory of the war, by capturing Fort Henry, Tennessee, known as the Battle of Fort Henry. Casualties and losses: US 40 - CSA 79.
- 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 1917 – WWI: Just three days after U.S. President Woodrow Wilson's speech of February 3, 1917—in which he broke diplomatic relations with Germany and warned that war would follow if American interests at sea were again assaulted—a German submarine torpedoes and sinks the Anchor Line passenger steamer California off the Irish coast.
- 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 1943 – WW2: Wary of his growing antiwar attitude, Benito Mussolini removes Count Galeazzo Ciano, his son-in-law, as head of Italy's foreign ministry and takes over the duty himself. After humiliating defeats in Greece and North Africa, Ciano began arguing for a peace agreement with the Allies.
- Feb 06 1943 – WW2: The U.S. government required the 110,000 dispossessed Japanese Americans forcibly held in concentration (internment) camps to answer loyalty surveys.



**The Manzanar Relocation Center, a one of the concentration camps where Japanese-Americans were forced to live throughout World War II.**

- Feb 06 1945 – WW2: MacArthur reports the fall of Manila, and the liberation of 5,000 prisoners.
- Feb 06 1959 – Cold War: The United States successfully test-fired its first intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), known as Titan, from Cape Canaveral. It was a two-stage rocket designed to carry nuclear warheads



- Feb 06 1966 – Vietnam: Accompanied by his leading political and military advisers, U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson meets with South Vietnamese Premier Nguyen Cao Ky in Honolulu. The talks concluded with issuance of a joint declaration in which the United States promised to help South Vietnam “prevent aggression,” develop its economy, and establish “the principles of self-determination of peoples and government by the consent of the governed.”
- Feb 06 1973 – Vietnam: Supervisors from the International Commission of Control and Supervision (ICCS), delegated to oversee the cease-fire, start to take up their positions. The cease-fire had gone into effect as a provision of the Paris Peace Accords.



- Feb 07 1775 – American Revolution: In London Benjamin Franklin publishes An Imaginary Speech in defense of American courage. Franklin’s speech was intended to counter an unnamed officer’s comments to Parliament that the British need not fear the colonial rebels, because “Americans are unequal to the People of this Country [Britain] in Devotion to Women, and in Courage, and worse than all, they are religious.” Franklin responded to the three-pronged critique with his usual wit and acuity. Noting that the colonial population had increased while the British population had declined, Franklin concluded that American men must therefore be more “effectually devoted to the Fair Sex” than their British brethren.
- Feb 07 1862 – Civil War: One day after the fall of Fort Henry on the Tennessee River, Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston, commander of Rebel forces in the West, orders 15,000 reinforcements to Fort Donelson. This fort lay on the Cumberland River just a few miles from Fort Henry. Johnston’s decision turned out to be a mistake, as many of the troops were captured when the Fort Donelson fell to the Yankees on February 16.
- Feb 07 1915 – WWI: In a blinding snowstorm, General Fritz von Below and Germany’s Eighth Army launch a surprise attack against the Russian lines just north of the Masurian Lakes on the Eastern Front, beginning the Winter Battle of the Masurian Lakes (also known as the Second Battle of the Masurian Lakes). The Russians suffered 56,000 casualties in the Winter Battle; an estimated 100,000 more had been taken prisoner. German losses were comparatively small, though many German troops suffered from exposure due to the extreme cold.
- 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: Sancheong-Hamyang massacre: South Korean Army 11th Division killed 705 unarmed citizens in Sancheong and Hamyang, South Gyeongsang district of South Korea. The victims were civilians and 85% of them were women, children and elderly people.
- Feb 07 1965 – Vietnam: As part of Operation Flaming Dart, 49 U.S. Navy jets from the 7th Fleet carriers Coral Sea and Hancock drop bombs and rockets on the barracks and staging areas at Dong Hoi, a guerrilla training camp in North Vietnam. Escorted by U.S. jets, a follow-up raid by South Vietnamese planes bombed a North Vietnamese military communications center.
- Feb 07 1968 – Vietnam: North Vietnamese use 11 Soviet-built light tanks to overrun the U.S. Special Forces camp at Lang Vei at the end of an 18-hour long siege. Casualties and losses: NVA 310 - US/ARVN/KOL 534.
- Feb 07 1971 – Vietnam: Operation Dewey Canyon II ends, but U.S. units continue to provide support for South Vietnamese army operations in Laos. Operation Dewey Canyon II began on 30 JAN as the initial phase of Lam Son 719, the South Vietnamese invasion of Laos that was to commence on 8 FEB. 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.
- Feb 07 1971 – Post WW2: Dr. Josef Mengele, the infamous Nazi doctor who performed medical experiments at the Auschwitz death camps, dies of a stroke while swimming in Brazil—although his death was not verified until 1985.



Mengele sometime before 1945 and "Selection" of Hungarian Jews on the ramp at Auschwitz-II (Birkenau), May/June 1944 during which he sought subjects for his experiments

- Feb 07 1990 – Cold War: The Central Committee of the Soviet Union’s Communist Party agrees to endorse President Mikhail Gorbachev’s recommendation that the party give up its 70-year long monopoly of political power. The Committee’s decision to allow political challenges to the party’s dominance in Russia was yet another signal of the impending collapse of the Soviet system.
- Feb 08 1777 – American Revolution: Just six months after his release as a prisoner-of-war, Major Timothy Bigelow becomes colonel of the 15th Massachusetts Colonial Line of the Continental Army. After his promotion, Bigelow fought valiantly in some of the most important battles of the Revolutionary War, including the Battle of Saratoga in October 1777, the Battle of Monmouth in June 1778 and the Battle of Yorktown in October 1781.
- Feb 08 1862– Civil War: Battle of Roanoke Island - Union General Ambrose Burnside scores a major victory when his troops capture Roanoke Island in North Carolina. It was one of the first major Union victories of the Civil War and gave the Yankees control of the mouth of Albemarle Sound, allowing them to threaten the Rebel capital of Richmond, Virginia, from the south.
- Feb 08 1918 – WWI: the United States Army resumes publication of the military newsletter Stars and Stripes. Begun as a newsletter for Union soldiers during the American Civil War, Stars and Stripes was published weekly during World War I from February 8, 1918, until June 13, 1919.
- Feb 08 1942 – WW2: Japan invades Singapore.
- Feb 08 1943 – WW2: Japanese troops evacuate Guadalcanal, leaving the island in Allied possession after a prolonged campaign. The American victory paved the way for other Allied wins in the Solomon Islands. Guadalcanal is the largest of the Solomons, a group of 992 islands and atolls, 347 of which are inhabited, in the South Pacific Ocean.



- Feb 08 1948 – Korea: The formal creation of the Korean People's Army of North Korea is announced.
- Feb 08 1948 – Cold War: Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty, the highest Catholic official in Hungary, is convicted of treason and sentenced to life imprisonment by the Communist People’s Court. Outraged observers in Western Europe and the United States condemned both the trial and Mindszenty’s conviction as “perversions” and “lynchings.”
- Feb 08 1962 – Vietnam: The Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV), headed by Gen. Paul D. Harkins, former U.S. Army Deputy Commander-in-Chief in the Pacific, is installed in Saigon as the United States reorganizes its military command in South Vietnam.
- 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 1775– American Revolution: British Parliament declares Massachusetts in rebellion.
- 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 1918 – Civil War: The first peace treaty of World War I is signed when the newly declared independent state of Ukraine officially comes to terms with the Central Powers at 2 a.m. in Berlin, Germany, on this day in 1918.



- Feb 09 1942 – WW2: The largest and most luxurious ocean liner on the seas at that time, France's Normandie, catches fire while in the process of being converted for military use by the United States. When the Navy took control of the ship, shortly after Pearl Harbor, it began the conversion of the liner to a troop ship, renamed the USS Lafayette in honor of the French general who aided the American colonies in their original quest for independence. Sabotage was originally suspected, but the likely cause was sparks from a welder's torch. Although the ship was finally righted, the massive salvage operation cost \$3,750,000 and the fire damage made any hope of employing the vessel impossible. It was scrapped—literally chopped up for scrap metal—in 1946.



- Feb 09 1942 – WW2: Dwight D. Eisenhower and top United States military leaders hold their first formal meeting to discuss American military strategy in the war.



**Dwight D. Eisenhower**

- Feb 09 1943 – WW2: Under the command of Major General Orde Wingate, the 77th Indian Brigade, also called the Chindits, launch guerrilla raids behind Japanese lines in Burma.
- 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 1950 – Cold War: Senator Joseph McCarthy claims that he has a list with the names of over 200 members of the Department of State that are "known communists." The speech vaulted McCarthy to national prominence and sparked a nationwide hysteria about subversives in the American government.
- Feb 09 1964 –The G.I. JOE action figure made its debut as an 11.5 inch "doll" for boys with 21 moving parts, named after the movie, The Story of G.I. JOE.



- Feb 09 1965 – Vietnam: President Lyndon Johnson ordered a U.S. Marine Corps Hawk air defense missile battalion deployed to Da Nang, South Vietnam, to provide protection for the key U.S. air base there. American military advisers had been in country since the defeat and withdrawal of the French in 1954, but this was the first commitment of combat troops to South Vietnam.



- Feb 09 1972 – The aircraft carrier USS Constellation joins aircraft carriers Coral Sea and Hancock off the coast of Vietnam. From 1964 to 1975, there were usually three U.S. carriers stationed in the water near Vietnam at any given time. Carrier aircraft participated in the bombing of North Vietnam and also provided close air support for U.S. and South Vietnamese forces in South Vietnam. In 1972, the number of U.S. carriers off Vietnam increased to seven as part of the U.S. reaction to the North Vietnamese Easter Offensive that was launched on 30 MAR.
- Feb 09 2001 – The American submarine USS Greeneville, a 7,000-ton nuclear submarine, accidentally strikes and sinks the Ehime-Maru, a Japanese training vessel operated by the Uwajima Fishery High School in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, killing four students and five other people. The submarine was hosting a cruise for VIPs at the time, some of whom were actually at the controls of the sub when the collision occurred. The Greenville's rudder sliced right through the Ehime Maru's engine room as it rose to the surface damaging it so severely that it sank within 10 minutes.
- Feb 09 2003 – Iraq: Six weeks before the Iraq War began, Secretary of State Colin Powell on ABC-TV's "This Week" dismissed the need for U.N. weapons inspectors to continue searching Iraq for weapons of mass destruction.



- Feb 10 1763 – French and Indian War: The 1763 Treaty of Paris ends the war and France cedes Quebec to Great Britain.
- Feb 10 1779 – American Revolution: Battle of Carr's Fort - A force of more than 340 men from the South Carolina and Georgia militias, led by Colonel Andrew Pickens of South Carolina with Colonel John Dooly and Lieutenant Colonel Elijah Clarke of Georgia, attack a group of approximately 200 Loyalists under the command of Colonel John Hamilton at Robert Carr's Fort, in Wilkes County, Georgia.
- Feb 10 1916 – WWI: As a result of bitter disagreements with President Woodrow Wilson over America's national defense strategies, Lindley M. Garrison resigns his position as the United States secretary of war.
- Feb 10 1942 – WW2: A Japanese submarine launches a brutal attack on Midway, a coral atoll used as a U.S. Navy base. It was the fourth bombing of the atoll by Japanese ships since December
- Feb 10 1954 – President Dwight Eisenhower warns against United States intervention in Vietnam.
- Feb 10 1962 – Cold War: Francis Gary Powers, an American who was shot down over the Soviet Union while flying a CIA spy plane in 1960, is released by the Soviets in exchange for the U.S. release of a Russian spy. The exchange concluded one of the most dramatic episodes of the Cold War.

- Feb 10 1965 – Vietnam: Viet Cong guerrillas blow up the U.S. barracks at Qui Nhon, 75 miles east of Pleiku on the central coast, with a 100-pound explosive charge under the building. A total of 23 U.S. personnel were killed, as well as two Viet Cong. In response to the attack, President Lyndon B. Johnson ordered a retaliatory air strike operation on North Vietnam called Flaming Dart II.
- Feb 10 2003 – Iraq: Iraq acceded to U-2 surveillance flights over its territory, meeting a key demand by U.N. inspectors searching for banned weapons of mass destruction (WMD) there.



**U-2 Spy Plane**

- Feb 11 1862 - 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 1942 – WW2: The German battleships Gneisenau and Scharnhorst, as well as the heavy cruiser Prinz Eugen, escape from the French port of Brest and make a mad dash up the English Channel to safety in German waters.
- Feb 11 1943 – WW2: General Dwight Eisenhower is selected to command the allied armies in Europe.
- Feb 11 1956 – Cold War: Donald Maclean and Guy Burgess, former members of the British Foreign Office who had disappeared from England in 1951, resurface in Moscow. Their surprise appearance and formal statement to the press put an end to one of the most intriguing mysteries of the early Cold War.
- Feb 11 1962 – Vietnam: Nine U.S. and South Vietnamese crewmen are killed in a SC-47 crash about 70 miles north of Saigon. The aircraft was part of Operation Farm Gate, a mission that had initially been designed to provide advisory support in assisting the South Vietnamese Air Force to increase its capability.
- Feb 11 1973 – Vietnam: First release of American prisoners of war from Vietnam takes place.
- Feb 12 1915 – WWI: One of the biggest air raids of the war occurs when 34 planes from the British Naval Wing attack the German-occupied coastal towns of Blankenberghe, Ostend and Zeebrugge in Belgium.
- Feb 12 1917 – WWI: The Austrian submarine U-35 bombs and sinks the American schooner Lyman M. Law in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Cagliari, Sardinia. The Lyman M. Law had embarked on its final journey from Stockton, Maine, with a crew of 10 on January 6, 1917, carrying a cargo of 60,000 bundles of lemon-box staves.
- Feb 12 1941 – WW2: German General Erwin Rommel arrives in Tripoli, Libya, with the newly formed Afrika Korps, to reinforce the beleaguered Italians' position.
- Feb 12 1946 – WW2: Operation Deadlight ends after scuttling 121 of 154 captured U-boats.
- Feb 12 1947 – An estimated 400-500 veterans and conscientious objectors from World Wars I and II burned their draft cards during two demonstrations, in front of the White House and at New York City's Labor Temple, in protest of a proposed universal conscription law. This was the first peacetime draft-card burning.



- Feb 12 1951 – Korea: U.N. forces push north across the 38th parallel for the second time
- Feb 12 1972 – Vietnam: About 6,000 Cambodian troops launch a major operation to wrestle the religious center of Angkor Wat from 4,000 North Vietnamese troops entrenched around the famous Buddhist temple complex, which had been seized in June 1970. Fighting continued throughout the month. Even with the addition of 4,000 more troops, the Cambodians were unsuccessful, and eventually abandoned their efforts to expel the North Vietnamese.
- Feb 12 1973 – Vietnam: The release of U.S. POWs begins in Hanoi as part of the Paris peace settlement. The return of U.S. POWs began when North Vietnam released 142 of 591 U.S. prisoners at Hanoi's Gia Lam Airport. Part of what was called Operation Homecoming, the first 20 POWs arrived to a hero's welcome at Travis Air Force Base in California on February 14. Operation Homecoming was completed on March 29, 1973, when the last of 591 U.S. prisoners were released and returned to the United States.
- Feb 12 1988 – Cold War: Two Soviet warships bump two U.S. navy vessels in waters claimed by the Soviet Union. The incident was an indication that even though the Cold War was slowly coming to a close, old tensions and animosities remained unabated.
- Feb 12 2002 – Former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic goes on trial at The Hague, Netherlands, on charges of genocide and war crimes in Bosnia, Croatia and Kosovo. Milosevic served as his own attorney for much of the prolonged trial, which ended without a verdict when the so-called "Butcher of the Balkans" was found dead at age 64 from an apparent heart attack in his prison cell on March 11, 2006.



**Slobodan Milosevic during his war crimes trial**

- Feb 13 1776 – American Revolution: Patrick Henry becomes colonel of the First Virginia battalion in defense of the state's supply of gunpowder.
- Feb 13 1920 – Post WWI: The League of Nations, the international organization formed at the peace conference at Versailles in the wake of WWI, recognizes the perpetual neutrality of Switzerland on this day in 1920.
- Feb 13 1945 – WW2: The siege of Budapest concludes with the unconditional surrender of German and Hungarian forces to the Red Army.
- Feb 13 1945 – WW2: Fire Bombing of Dresden - A series of Allied bombers are dispatched to Dresden, Germany to attack the city with a massive aerial bombardment reducing the "Florence of the Elbe" to rubble and flames, and killing as many as 135,000 people. It was the single most destructive bombing of the war—including Hiroshima and Nagasaki—and all the more horrendous because little, if anything, was accomplished strategically, since the Germans were already on the verge of surrender.

- 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 1960 – Cold War: France became the world's fourth nuclear power, conducting its first plutonium bomb test at the Reggane base in the Sahara Desert in what was then French Algeria. "Gerboise Bleue" was detonated from a 330-foot tower and had a yield of 60-70 kilotons (equivalent to nearly 70,000 tons of TNT).



- Feb 13 1965 – Vietnam: Operation Rolling Thunder - President Lyndon B. Johnson decides to undertake the sustained bombing of North Vietnam that he and his advisers have been contemplating for a year.
- Feb 13 1968 – Vietnam: As an emergency measure in response to the 1968 communist Tet Offensive, Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara approves the deployment of 10,500 troops to cope with threats of a second offensive. The Joint Chiefs of Staff, who had argued against dispatching any reinforcements at the time because it would seriously deplete the strategic reserve, immediately sent McNamara a memorandum asking that 46,300 reservists and former servicemen be activated.
- Feb 13 1971 – Vietnam: Backed by American air and artillery support, South Vietnamese troops invade Laos.
- Feb 13 1984 – Cold War: Following the death of Yuri Andropov four days earlier, Konstantin Chernenko takes over as the general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, the ruling position in the Soviet Union. Chernenko was the last of the Russian communist "hard-liners" prior to the ascension to power of the reform-minded Mikhail Gorbachev in 1985. Chernenko's brief rule was characterized by a return to the hard-line policies of Brezhnev.
- Feb 13 1991 – Gulf War: Two precision-guided missiles destroyed the Amiriyah subterranean bunker in Baghdad while being used as an air-raid shelter by 408 Iraqi civilians during the first Gulf War. The resulting deaths of all inside made it the single most lethal incident for non-combatants in modern air warfare. The U.S. had detected signals coming from the bunker and considered it a military command and control center.



**Visitors tour the Amiriyah Bunker. The Iraqi government has preserved the bunker as a public memorial.**

- Feb 14 1778 – American Revolution: 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.



13 Star Flags (1777-1795)

- Feb 14 1779 – American Revolution: Battle of Kettle Creek - A Patriot militia force of 340 led by Colonel Andrew Pickens of South Carolina with Colonel John Dooly and Lieutenant Colonel Elijah Clarke of Georgia defeats a larger force of 700 Loyalist militia commanded by Colonel James Boyd 1779 at Kettle Creek, Georgia. Casualties and losses US 32 – GB ~145.
- Feb 14 1864 – Civil War: Union General William T. Sherman enters Meridian, Mississippi, during a winter campaign that served as a precursor to Sherman's March to the Sea campaign in Georgia. This often-overlooked Mississippi campaign was the first attempt by the Union at total warfare, a strike aimed not just at military objectives but also at the will of the Southern people.
- Feb 14 1942 – WW2: Battle of Pasir Panjang contributes to the fall of Singapore.
- Feb 14 1943 – WW2: Battle of the Kasserine Pass - German General Erwin Rommel and his Afrika Korps launch an offensive against an Allied defensive line in Tunisia, North Africa. The Kasserine Pass was the site of the United States' first major battle defeat of the war. More than 1,000 American soldiers were killed by Rommel's offensive, and hundreds were taken prisoner.
- Feb 14 1945 – WW2: On the first day of the bombing of Dresden, the British Royal Air Force and the United States Army Air Forces begin fire-bombing Dresden, the capital of the German state of Saxony.
- Feb 14 1945 – WW2: Navigational error leads to the mistaken bombing of Prague, Czechoslovakia by an American squadron of B-17s assisting in the Soviet's Vistula-Oder Offensive.
- Feb 14 1962 – Vietnam: President John F. Kennedy authorizes U.S. military advisors in Vietnam to return fire if fired upon.
- Feb 14 1970 – Vietnam: Despite an increasingly active antiwar movement, a Gallup Poll shows that a majority of those polled (55 percent) oppose an immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Vietnam. Those that favored American withdrawal had risen from 21 percent, in a November poll, to 35 percent.

[Source: <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history> | This Day In History | JAN 2017 ++]