



Military History Anniversaries 1 thru 15 August

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

- Aug 01 1801 – Tripolitan War: The schooner USS Enterprise defeated the 14-gun Tripolitan corsair Tripoli after a fierce but one-sided battle.
- Aug 01 1907 – Air Force Day: The Aeronautical Division in the Office of the Chief Signal Officer of the Army was established.
- Aug 01 1942 – WW2: Ensign Henry C. White, while flying a J4F Widgeon plane, sinks U-166 as it approaches the Mississippi River, the first U-boat sunk by the U.S. Coast Guard.
- Aug 01 1950 – Korean War: Lead elements of the U.S. 2nd Infantry Division arrive in country from the U.S in defense of Pusan/Naktong Perimeter.
- Aug 01 1957 – The United States and Canada form the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD).
- Aug 02 1943 – WW2: Motor Torpedo Boat PT-109 is rammed by the Japanese destroyer Amagiri and sinks. Lt. John F. Kennedy, future U.S. President, saves all but two of his crew.



LTJG Kennedy (standing at right) on PT-109 in 1943

- Aug 02 1964 – Vietnam War: Gulf of Tonkin incident – North Vietnamese gunboats allegedly fire on the U.S. destroyers USS Maddox and USS Turner Joy.
- Aug 02 1990 – Iraq: Iraq invades Kuwait initiating Operation Desert Shield which became Desert Storm on 17 JAN 91 when it became clear he would not leave.
- Aug 03 1958 – Cold War: The first nuclear submarine USS Nautilus passes under the North Pole.
- Aug 04 1790 – Coast Guard: The Revenue Cutter Service, forerunner of the COAST GUARD was established by Alexander Hamilton.
- Aug 04 1873 –Indian Wars: whilst protecting a railroad survey party in Montana, the United States 7th Cavalry, under Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer clashes for the first time with the Sioux near the Tongue River; only one man on each side is killed.

- Aug 04 1914 – WWI: Germany invades Belgium. In response, the United Kingdom declares war on Germany. The United States declare their neutrality.
- Aug 04 1952 – Korean War: Battle for Old Baldy (Hill 266) which commenced on 26 JUN ends.
- Aug 04 1964 – Vietnam: Gulf of Tonkin Incident .The USS Maddox and Turner Joy exchange fire with North Vietnamese patrol boats. As a result Congress authorizes the use of military force in Southeast Asia
- Aug 04 1969 – Vietnam: At the apartment of French intermediary Jean Sainteny in Paris, American representative Henry Kissinger and North Vietnamese representative Xuan Thuy begin secret peace negotiations. The negotiations will eventually fail.
- Aug 04 1992 – WWII: Yōhei Kōno, Chief Cabinet Secretary of Japan, issued a formal apology for forcing women into sexual slavery during World War II.
- Aug 05 1861 – Civil War: Congress adopts the nation’s first income tax to finance the Civil War.
- Aug 05 1864 – Civil War: Admiral David Farragut, USN, exclaiming "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead," ran through a Confederate minefield at Mobile Bay, Alabama, and captured a defending group of Confederate ships.
- Aug 05 1951 – Korean War: The United Nations Command suspends armistice talks with the North Koreans when armed troops are spotted in neutral areas.
- Aug 05 1995 – Operation Storm begins in Croatia.
- Aug 06 1777 – American Revolution: The bloody Battle of Oriskany prevents American relief of the Siege of Fort Stanwix. Casualties and losses: US 465 - GB & Indians 93.
- Aug 06 1862 – Civil War: the Confederate ironclad CSS Arkansas is scuttled on the Mississippi River after sustaining damage in a battle with USS Essex near Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- Aug 06 1914 - WWI: First Battle of the Atlantic - two days after the United Kingdom had declared war on Germany over the German invasion of Belgium, ten German U-boats leave their base in Heligoland to attack Royal Navy warships in the North Sea.
- Aug 06 1945 – WW2: Hiroshima is devastated when the atomic bomb "Little Boy" is dropped by the United States B-29 Enola Gay. Around 70,000 people are killed instantly, and some tens of thousands die in subsequent years from burns and radiation poisoning.



Little Boy Atomic Bomb and her deliverer Enola Gay today at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center

- Aug 06 1945 – WW2: USS Bullhead (SS-332) missing. Most likely sunk by Japanese Army aircraft (73rd Chutai) off Bali in the Java Sea. 84 killed.
- Aug 06 1990 – Gulf War: The United Nations Security Council orders a global trade embargo against Iraq in response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.
- Aug 07 1782 – American Revolution: Purple Heart day. General George Washington authorizes the award of the Purple Heart for soldiers as an award for military merit. Only 3 were given. As we know it today it was reestablished in 1932 to coincide with the 200th anniversary of the birth of George Washington.
- Aug 07 1789 – The United States War Department is established.

- Aug 07 1791 – Northwest Indian War: United States troops destroy the Miami town of Kenapacomaqua near the site of present-day Logansport, Indiana. Casualties and losses: Indians 43 - US 3.
- Aug 07 1794 – U.S. President George Washington invokes the Militia Law of 1792 to suppress the Whiskey Rebellion in western Pennsylvania.
- Aug 07 1942 – WW2: The U.S. 1st Marine Division lands on the islands of Guadalcanal and Tulagi in the Solomon Islands. First American amphibious landing of the war.
- Aug 07 1964 – Vietnam: Congress overwhelmingly passes the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, allowing the president to use unlimited military force to prevent attacks on U.S. forces.
- Aug 08 1918 – WWI: Hundred Days Offensive - Battle of Amiens begins a string of almost continuous victories with a push through the German front lines. Casualties and losses: Allies 1,070,000 of which 127,000 were US - Ger & Aus-Hung 1,172,075
- Aug 08 1942 – WW2: U.S. Marines capture the Japanese airstrip on Guadalcanal.
- Aug 08 1944 – WW2: U.S. forces complete the capture of the Marianas Islands.
- Aug 08 1950 – Korean War: U.S. troops repel the first North Korean attempt to overrun them at the battle of Naktong Bulge, which continued for 10 days. Casualties and losses: US 1,800 - NKA 3,500.
- Aug 08 1990 – Gulf War: Iraq occupies Kuwait and the state is annexed to Iraq. This would lead to the Gulf War shortly afterward.
- Aug 08 2000 – Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley is raised to the surface after 136 years on the ocean floor and 30 years after its discovery.
- Aug 09 1862 – Civil War: Battle of Cedar Mountain – At Cedar Mountain, Virginia, Confederate General Stonewall Jackson narrowly defeats Union forces under General John Pope. Casualties and losses: US 2,353 - CSA 1,338.
- Aug 09 1877 – Indian Wars: Battle of Big Hole - A small band of Nez Percé Indians clash with the United States Army. Casualties and losses: US 69 - Indians 70 to 90 killed.
- Aug 09 1942 – WW2: Battle of Savo Island - Allied naval forces protecting their amphibious forces during the initial stages of the Battle of Guadalcanal are surprised and defeated by an Imperial Japanese Navy cruiser force. Casualties and losses: US & AUS 1,077 - JP 58.
- Aug 09 1945 – WW2: The B-29 bomber Bock's Car drops a second atomic bomb (Fat Man) on Nagasaki, Japan killing 39,000 people. It was this second atomic bomb that induced the Japanese to surrender.



- Aug 10 1861 – Civil War: Battle of Wilson's Creek – The war enters Missouri when a band of raw Confederate troops defeat Union forces in the southwestern part of the state. Casualties and losses: US 1,317 - CSA 1,232
- Aug 10 1944 – WW2: American forces defeat the last Japanese troops on Guam.
- Aug 10 1950 – Korean War: President Harry S. Truman calls the National Guard to active duty to fight in the War.
- Aug 10 1961 – Vietnam: First use of the Agent Orange by the U.S. Army.
- Aug 11 1972 – Vietnam: The last U.S. ground forces withdraw from Vietnam.
- Aug 12 1898 – Spanish American War: Conflict officially ends after three months and 22 days of hostilities.

- Aug 12 1948 – USS Nevada (BB-36) is struck from the naval record.
- Aug 12 1950 – Korean War: Bloody Gulch massacre - 75 American POWs are murdered by North Korean Army.
- Aug 12 1952 – Korean War: The 4 day Battle of Bunker Hill (Hill 122) began. First Major Marine Combat in Western Korean
- Aug 12 1969 – Vietnam: American installations at Quan-Loi come under Viet Cong attack.
- Aug 13 1779 – American Revolution: Penobscot Expedition - United States' worst naval defeat prior to Pearl Harbor. Casualties and losses: GB 86 – US 474 + all ships (43) lost
- Aug 13 1898 – Spanish-American War: Spanish and American forces engaged in a mock battle for Manila, after which the Spanish commander surrendered in order to keep the city out of Filipino rebel hands.
- Aug 13 1906 – The all black infantrymen of the U.S. Army's 25th Infantry Regiment are accused of killing a white bartender and wounding a white police officer in Brownsville, Texas, despite exculpatory evidence; all are later dishonorably discharged.
- Aug 13 1918 – Women enlist in the United States Marine Corps for the first time. Opha Mae Johnson is the first woman to enlist.
- Aug 13 1942 – WW2: Major General Eugene Reybold of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers authorizes the construction of facilities that would house the "Development of Substitute Materials" project, better known as the Manhattan Project.



Oak Ridge K-25 plant, Hanford B Reactor, and S-50 Plant

- Aug 13 1944 – WW2: USS Flier (SS-250) sunk by a Japanese mine south of Palawan in Balabac Strait. 78 killed, 8 survived and were rescued.
- Aug 14 1842 – Indian Wars: Second Seminole War ends, with the Seminoles forced from Florida to Oklahoma. Casualties and losses: US 1,600 military, civilians UNK – Seminoles UNK



Osceola, Seminole leader

- Aug 14 1912 – United States Marines invade Nicaragua to support the U.S.-backed government installed there after José Santos Zelaya had resigned three years earlier.
- Aug 14 1941 – WW2: Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt sign the Atlantic Charter of war stating postwar aims.
- Aug 14 1945 – WW2: Japan accepts the Allied terms of surrender in WW2 and the Emperor records the Imperial Rescript on Surrender (August 15 in Japan standard time).

- Aug 14 1965 – Vietnam: Advance units of the Seventh Marines land at Chu Lai, bringing U.S. Marine strength in South Vietnam to four regiments and four air groups.
- Aug 14 1973 – Vietnam: The United States ends the "secret" bombing of Cambodia.
- Aug 14 2013 – National Navajo Code Talkers Day
- Aug 15 1812 – War of 1812: The 15 minute Battle of Fort Dearborn is fought between United States troops and Potawatomi at what is now Chicago, Illinois. US Militia defeated and taken prisoner. Casualties and losses: Indians 15 - US 93.
- Aug 15 1942 – WW2: Operation Pedestal - The SS Ohio reaches the island of Malta barely afloat carrying vital fuel supplies for the island's defenses.
- Aug 15 1942 – WW2: The Japanese submarine I-25 departs Japan with a floatplane in its hold which will be assembled upon arriving off the West Coast and used to bomb U.S. forests.
- Aug 15 1943 – WW2: Kiska Island, Aleutians - An invasion force of 34,426 Canadian and American troops landed on Kiska to find it abandoned. Under the cover of fog, the Japanese had successfully removed their troops on 28 July. Allied casualties nevertheless numbered 313 as the result of friendly fire, booby traps, disease, or frostbite. As with Attu, Kiska offered an extremely hostile environment.



US military propaganda poster from 1942/43 for Thirteenth Naval District

- Aug 15 1944 – WW2: Operation Dragoon - Allied forces land in southern France.
- Aug 15 1945 – WW2: Japan surrenders to end the war.
- Aug 15 1950 – Korean War: Two U.S. divisions are badly mauled by the North Korean Army in the 5 day Battle of the Bowling Alley in South Korea.
- Aug 15 1973 – Vietnam: The United States bombing of Cambodia ends.

[Source: Various Jul 2015 ++]