



Military History Anniversaries 1 thru 15 September

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

- Sep 01 1775 – American Revolution: Olive Branch Petition - Richard Penn and Arthur Lee, representing the Continental Congress, present the Petition to the Earl of Dartmouth on this day in 1775. Britain's King George III, however, refused to receive the petition, which, written by John Dickinson, appealed directly to the king and expressed hope for reconciliation between the colonies and Great Britain.
- Sep 01 1862 – Civil War: Battle of Chantilly – Following his brilliant victory at the Second Battle of Bull Run two days earlier, Confederate General Robert E. Lee strikes retreating Union forces at Chantilly, Virginia, and drives them away in the middle of an intense thunderstorm. Casualties and losses: US 1,300 - CSA 800.
- Sep 01 1864 – Civil War: Atlanta falls to Union forces - Union Army General William Tecumseh Sherman lays siege to Atlanta, Georgia, a critical Confederate hub, shelling civilians and cutting off supply lines. The Confederates retreated, destroying the city's munitions as they went. On November 15 of that year, Sherman's troops burned much of the city before continuing their march through the South. Sherman's Atlanta campaign was one of the most decisive victories of the Civil War.
- Sep 01 1939 – WW2: Nazi Germany attacks Poland - At 4:45 a.m., some 1.5 million German troops invade Poland all along its 1,750-mile border with German-controlled territory. Simultaneously, the German Luftwaffe bombed Polish airfields, and German warships and U-boats attacked Polish naval forces in the Baltic Sea. Hitler's action begins the war in Europe.
- Sep 01 1950 – Korean War: 13 North Korean divisions open assault on UN lines.
- Sep 01 1966 – Vietnam: In a speech before 100,000 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, President Charles de Gaulle of France denounces U.S. policy in Vietnam and urges the U.S. government to pull its troops out of Southeast Asia.
- Sep 01 1970 – Vietnam: The U.S. Senate rejects the McGovern-Hatfield amendment by a vote of 55-39. This legislation, proposed by Senators George McGovern of South Dakota and Mark Hatfield of Oregon, would have set a deadline of December 31, 1971, for complete withdrawal of American troops from South Vietnam. The Senate also turned down 71-22, a proposal forbidding the Army from sending draftees to Vietnam.
- Sep 01 1982 – The United States Air Force Space Command is founded
- Sep 01 1983 – Cold War: Korean Boeing 747 strays into Siberia & is shot down by a Soviet jet. All 269 on board are killed, including United States Congressman Lawrence McDonald. The incident dramatically increased tensions between the Soviet Union and the United States.
- Sep 02 1862 – Civil War: President Abraham Lincoln reluctantly restores Union General George B. McClellan to full command after General John Pope's disaster at the Second Battle of Bull Run, Virginia, on August 29 and 30. McClellan, commander of the Army of the Potomac, saw much of his

army transferred to Pope's Army of Virginia after his failure to capture Richmond, Virginia, during the Seven Days' Battles in June 1862.

- Sep 02 1864 – Civil War: Union forces enter Atlanta, Georgia a day after the Confederate defenders flee the city.
- Sep 02 1898 – Machine gun 1st used in battle.
- Sep 02 1917 – WWI: Militarist conservatives within Germany formally launch a new political party, the Vaterlandspartei or Fatherland Party, a move that reflects the growing hold of the army over all aspects of German society during the First World War.
- Sep 02 1944 – WW2: Future President George Herbert Walker Bush is serving as a torpedo bomber pilot in the Pacific theater of World War II when his squadron is attacked by Japanese anti-aircraft guns. Bush was forced to bail out of the plane over the ocean. After floating on a raft for four hours, a submarine crew fished a safe but exhausted Bush out of the water.
- Sep 02 1945 – WW2: V–J Day - Combat ends in the Pacific Theater: The final official surrender of Japan is accepted aboard the battleship USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.
- Sep 02 1945 – WW2: Vietnam - Hours after Japan's surrender in World War II, Vietnamese communist Ho Chi Minh declares the independence of Vietnam from France. The proclamation paraphrased the U.S. Declaration of Independence in declaring, "All men are born equal: the Creator has given us inviolable rights, life, liberty, and happiness!" and was cheered by an enormous crowd gathered in Hanoi's Ba Dinh Square.
- Sep 02 1958 – Cold War: United States Air Force C–130A–II is shot down by fighters over Yerevan, Armenia when it strays into Soviet airspace while conducting a SIGINT mission. All the crew were lost.
- Sep 02 1945 –Vietnam: Phuc Yen, 10 miles north of Hanoi, and one of the largest air bases in North Vietnam, is smashed by U.S. fighter-bombers. During the attack, a MiG was shot down, bringing the total to 47 enemy aircraft shot down since the beginning of the North Vietnamese offensive. At this point in the war, 18 U.S. planes had been shot down by MiGs.
- Sep 02 1987 – Cold War: The trial of Mathias Rust, the 19-year-old pilot who flew his Cessna plane into Red Square in May 1987, begins in Moscow. Rust had become an international celebrity following his daring intrusion into Soviet airspace and landing in the center of Moscow, but the Soviet government condemned his actions.
- Sep 03 1777 – American Revolution: Battle of Cooch's Bridge – The Flag of the United States is flown in battle for the first time. The British Army and their Hessian allies defeated an American militia. Casualties and losses: US 40 – GB 23 to 60
- Sep 03 1783 – American Revolution: The war ends with the signing of the Treaty of Paris by the United States and the Kingdom of Great Britain. America is officially free from Britain.
- Sep 03 1812 – War of 1812: Pigeon Roost Massacre – Indians kill 24 settlers in Indiana.
- Sep 03 1855 – Indian Wars: In Nebraska, 700 soldiers under American General William S. Harney avenge the Grattan Massacre by attacking a Sioux village, killing 100 men, women, and children.
- Sep 03 1861 – Civil War: Confederate General Leonidas Polk commits a major political blunder by marching his troops into Columbus, Kentucky—negating Kentucky's avowed neutrality and causing the Unionist legislature to invite the U.S. government to drive the invaders away.
- Sep 03 1916 – WWI: Allies turned back Germans in WW I's Battle of Verdun.
- Sep 03 1939 – WW2: In response to Hitler's invasion of Poland, Britain and France, both allies of the overrun nation declare war on Germany. The first casualty of that declaration was not German—but the British ocean liner Athenia, which was sunk by a German U-30 submarine that had assumed the liner was armed and belligerent. There were more than 1,100 passengers on board, 112 of whom lost their lives.
- Sep 03 1939 – WW2: The United Kingdom and France begin a naval blockade of Germany that lasts until the end of the war. This also marks the beginning of the Battle of the Atlantic.
- Sep 03 1941 – WW2: 1st use of Zyklon-B gas in Auschwitz (on Russian prisoners of war).

- Sep 03 1942 – WW2: The Holocaust: In possibly the first Jewish ghetto uprising, residents of the Łachwa Ghetto in occupied Poland, informed of the upcoming "liquidation" of the ghetto, unsuccessfully fought against their Nazi captors.
- Sep 03 1943 – WW2: The allied invasion of Italy began on the same day that U.S. General Dwight D. Eisenhower and Italian Marshal Pietro Badoglio sign an armistice aboard the Royal Navy battleship HMS Nelson off Malta



Marshal Pietro Badoglio & U.S. General Dwight D. Eisenhower

- Sep 03 1950 – Vietnam: A U.S. Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG) of 35 men arrives in Saigon to screen French requests for American military aid, assist in the training of South Vietnamese troops, and advise on strategy.
- Sep 03 1990 – Cold War: President George Bush prepares for his first summit meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The theme of the meeting was cooperation between the two superpowers in dealing with the Iraqi crisis in the Middle East.
- Sep 04 1780 – American Revolution: Patriot Francis Marion's Carolina militia routs Loyalists at Blue Savannah, South Carolina, and in the process Marion wins 60 new recruits to the Patriot cause.
- Sep 04 1812 – War of 1812: The Siege of Fort Harrison begins when the fort is set on fire.
- Sep 04 1862 – Civil War: Maryland Campaign – Gen Lee invades North with 50,000 Confederate troops.
- Sep 04 1864 – Civil War: John Hunt Morgan, the feared Confederate cavalry leader, is killed. At the time of his death, Morgan was preparing for a raid on Knoxville, Tennessee. Alerted to his presence, Union cavalry attacked his headquarters at Greenville. Morgan was shot and killed while trying to join his men.
- Sep 04 1886 – Indian Wars: After almost 30 years of fighting, Apache leader Geronimo surrenders with his remaining warriors to General Nelson Miles in Arizona ending last major US-Indian war.



- Sep 04 1918 – WWI: United States troops land at Archangel, in northern Russia and stay 10 months. The landing was part of an Allied intervention in the civil war raging in that country after revolution

in 1917 led to the abdication of Czar Nicholas II in favor of a provisional government; the seizure of power by Vladimir Lenin and his radical socialist Bolshevik Party; and, finally, Russia's withdrawal from participation alongside the Allies in World War I.

- Sep 04 1923 – Maiden flight of the first U.S. airship, the USS Shenandoah.
- Sep 04 1940 – WW2: The American destroyer Greer becomes the first U.S. vessel fired on in the war when a German sub aims a few torpedoes at it, sparking heightened tensions between Germany and the United States. It was a case of mistaken identity. Roosevelt unofficially declared war on anyone who further attacked American vessels in the North Atlantic: “If German or Italian vessels of war enter these waters, they do so at their own peril.”
- Sep 04 1945 – WW2: The Wake Island Japanese garrison's 2,200 Japanese soldiers finally lay down their arms and surrender to a detachment of U.S. Marines days after their government had already formally capitulated. Wake Island was one of the islands bombed as part of a wider bombing raid that coincided with the attack on Pearl Harbor and they had held since 23 December of 1941.
- Sep 04 1957 – Cold War: Under orders from the governor of Arkansas, armed National Guardsmen prevent nine African-American students from attending the all-white Central High School in Little Rock. What began as a domestic crisis soon exploded into a Cold War embarrassment.
- Sep 04 1967 – Vietnam: The U.S. 1st Marine Division launches Operation SWIFT, a search and destroy operation in Quang Nam and Quang Tin Provinces in I Corps Tactical Zone (the region south of the Demilitarized Zone). A fierce four-day battle ensued in the Que Son Valley, 25 miles south of Da Nang. During the course of the battle, 114 men of the U.S. 5th Marine Regiment were killed while the North Vietnamese forces suffered 376 casualties.
- Sep 04 1969 – Vietnam: Radio Hanoi announces the death of Ho Chi Minh, proclaiming that the National Liberation Front will halt military operations in the South for three days, September 8-11, in mourning for Ho. He had been the spiritual leader of the communists in Vietnam since the earliest days of the struggle against the French and, later, the United States and its ally in Saigon.
- Sep 05 1781 – American Revolution: Battle of the Chesapeake – The British Navy is repelled by the French Navy, leading to the British surrender at Yorktown. Casualties and losses: FR 220 - GB 336
- Sep 05 1812 – War of 1812: The Siege of Fort Wayne begins when Chief Winamac's forces attack two soldiers returning from the fort's outhouses.
- Sep 05 1863 – Civil War: The United States Foreign Minister to Great Britain, Charles Francis Adams, sends an angry letter to the British government warning that war between the two nations could erupt if it allows a pair of powerful ironclad ships, designed to help the Confederates break the Union naval blockade, to set sail. The British argued that selling ships to the Confederates was not a violation of their Neutrality Act of 1819 so long as they were not armed. So the Confederacy simply purchased the ships and then took them to another port before adding the armament.
- Sep 05 1877 – Indian Wars: Oglala Sioux chief Crazy Horse is bayoneted by a United States soldier after resisting confinement in a guardhouse at Fort Robinson in Nebraska. A year earlier, Crazy Horse was among the Sioux leaders who defeated George Armstrong Custer's Seventh Cavalry at the Battle of Little Bighorn in Montana Territory.
- Sep 05 1914 – WW1: Battle of the Marne - Thirty miles northeast of Paris, the French 6th Army under General Michel-Joseph Maunoury begins attacking the right flank of German forces advancing on the French capital. By the next day, the counterattack was total. More than two million soldiers fought in the Battle of the Marne, and 100,000 of them were killed or wounded.
- Sep 05 1939 – WW2: FDR declares US neutrality at start of WW II in Europe
- Sep 05 1942 – WW2: Japanese high command orders withdrawal at Milne Bay, first Japanese defeat in the Pacific War.
- Sep 05 1943 – WW2: Salamaua–Lae campaign – Gen. Douglas MacArthur's 503rd Parachute Regiment land and occupy Nazdab, just east of Lae, a port city in northeastern Papua New Guinea, situating them perfectly for future operations on the islands.

- Sep 05 1945 – Cold War: Igor Gouzenko, a Soviet Union embassy clerk, defects to Canada with over 100 documents on Soviet espionage activities and sleeper agents exposing Soviet espionage in North America, signaling the beginning of the Cold War.



Gouzenko wearing his white hood for anonymity

- Sep 05 1969 – Vietnam: Lt. William Calley is charged with six specifications of premeditated murder in the death of 109 Vietnamese civilians at My Lai in March 1968. Calley, a platoon leader in Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade (Light) of the 23rd (Americal) Division had led his men in a massacre of Vietnamese civilians, including women and children, at My Lai 4, a cluster of hamlets that made up Son My village in Son Tinh District in Quang Ngai Province in the coastal lowlands of I Corps Tactical Zone on March 16, 1968.
- Sep 05 1970 – Vietnam: Operation Jefferson – The 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), in coordination with the South Vietnamese (ARVN) 1st Infantry Division, initiates Operation Jefferson Glenn in Thua Thien Province west of Hue. This operation lasted until October 1971, and was one of the last major large-scale military operations in which U.S. ground forces would take part.
- Sep 06 1781 – American Revolution: Battle of Groton Heights – General Benedict Arnold led British forces to victory over a small Connecticut militia force. Casualties and losses: US 145 - GB 193.
- Sep 06 1861 – Civil War: Forces under Union General Ulysses S. Grant bloodlessly capture Paducah, Kentucky, which gives the Union control of the mouth of the Tennessee River.
- Sep 06 1863 – Civil War: Confederates evacuate Battery Wagner and Morris Island in South Carolina.
- Sep 06 1944 – WW2: Tartu Offensive Operation - Soviet forces captured the city of Tartu manned by 69,000 German troops on their way to re-establishing their rule in Estonia. Casualties and losses: Ger Unk - USSR 71,806.
- Sep 06 1949 – Allied military authorities relinquish control of former Nazi Germany assets back to German control.
- Sep 06 1976 – Cold War: Soviet air force pilot Lt. Viktor Belenko lands a MiG-25 jet fighter at Hakodate on the island of Hokkaido in Japan and requests political asylum in the United States.
- Sep 07 1776 – American Revolution: According to American colonial reports, Ezra Lee makes the world's first submarine attack in the Turtle, attempting to attach a time bomb to the hull of HMS Eagle in
- Sep 07 1863 – Civil War: Confederates evacuate Battery Wagner and Morris Island in South Carolina.
- Sep 07 1864 – Civil War: Atlanta, Georgia, is evacuated on orders of Union General William Tecumseh Sherman.
- Sep 07 1940 – WW2: The Blitz - The German Luftwaffe changed their strategy in the Battle of Britain and began bombing London and other British cities and towns for over 50 consecutive nights. Casualties and losses: Eng 86 to 139,000 civilians – Ger 3,363 aircrew, 2,265 planes.

- Sep 07 1942 – WW2: Australian and American forces inflict a significant defeat upon the Japanese at the Battle of Milne Bay.
- Sep 07 1965 – Vietnam: Operation Piranha – In a followup to August's Operation Starlight, United States Marines and South Vietnamese forces initiate the operation on the Batangan Peninsula.
- Sep 07 1976 – Cold War: Soviet Air Force pilot Lt. Viktor Belenko lands a MiG-25 jet fighter at Hakodate on the island of Hokkaid in Japan and requests political asylum in the United States.



Lt. Viktor Belenko

MIG-25 "Foxbat"

- Sep 08 1863 – Civil War: Second Battle of Sabine Pass – On the Texas/Louisiana border at the mouth of the Sabine River, a small Confederate force thwarts a Union invasion of Texas.
- Sep 08 1923 – Honda Point Disaster: Nine US Navy destroyers run aground off the California coast. Seven are lost, and twenty-three sailors killed.
- Sep 08 1943 – WW2: Gen Eisenhower announced unconditional surrender of Italy in WW II.
- Sep 08 1943 – WW2: The O.B.S. (German General Headquarters for the Mediterranean zone) in Frascati is bombed by USAAF.
- Sep 08 1945 – Cold War: United States troops arrive to partition the southern part of Korea in response to Soviet troops occupying the northern part of the peninsula a month earlier.
- Sep 08 1951 – Treaty of San Francisco: In San Francisco, California, 48 nations sign a peace treaty with Japan in formal recognition of the end of the Pacific War.
- Sep 08 1975 – USAF Tech Sergeant Leonard Matlovich, a decorated veteran of the Vietnam War, appears in his Air Force uniform on the cover of Time magazine with the headline "I Am a Homosexual". He is later given a general discharge.
- Sep 09 1863 – Civil War: The Union Army enters Chattanooga, Tennessee.
- Sep 09 1914 – WWI: Battle of Marne– German advance stalls, Paris is saved.
- Sep 09 1942 – WW2: First bombing on continental U.S. soil. A Japanese floatplane flown by Warrant Officer Nobuo Fujita drops an incendiary bomb on Mount Emily, Oregon.



Nobuo Fujita standing by his Yokosuka E14Y "Glen" seaplane

- Sep 09 1943 – WW2: USS Grayling (SS-209) – Most likely rammed and sunk by Japanese transport Hokuan Maru, South China Sea west of Luzon. 76 killed.
- Sep 09 1943 – WW2: The Allies land at Salerno and Taranto, Italy.
- Sep 10 1776 – American Revolution: George Washington asks for a spy volunteer, Nathan Hale volunteers.

- Sep 10 1813 – War of 1812: Battle of Lake Erie – U.S. Naval Captain Oliver Hazard Perry defeats a British flotilla. Casualties and losses: US 124 - GB 440
- Sep 10 1919 – Latin America Interventions: Honduras. U.S. Marines land during election campaign.
- Sep 11 1776 – British–American peace conference on Staten Island fails to stop American Revolutionary War.
- Sep 11 1777 – American Revolution: Battle of Brandywine – The British celebrate a major victory in Chester County, Pennsylvania. Casualties and losses: US 1,300 - GB 587.
- Sep 11 1813 – War of 1812: British troops arrive in Mount Vernon and prepare to march to and invade Washington D.C.
- Sep 11 1814 – War of 1812: The climax of the Battle of Plattsburgh, a major United States victory in the war which ended Britain's final invasion of the northern states. Casualties and losses: US 220 - GB/CAN 605.
- Sep 11 1919 – U.S. Marines invade Honduras.
- Sep 11 1941 – WW2: FDR orders any Axis ship found in American waters be shot on sight.
- Sep 11 1941 – Charles Lindbergh's Des Moines Speech accusing the British, Jews and the Roosevelt administration of pressing for war with Germany
- Sep 11 1944 – WW2: The first Allied troops of the U.S. Army cross the western border of Germany.
- Sep 11 1965 – Vietnam: The 1st Cavalry Division of the United States Army arrives in country.
- Sep 11 2001 – 9/11: 2,996 people are killed when terrorists hijack four passenger planes crashing two into New York's World Trade Towers causing the collapse of both. Another headed toward Washington likely to strike the White House or Capitol. Plane crashed just over 100 miles away in Pennsylvania after passengers stormed the cockpit and overpowered the hijackers.
- Sep 11 2001 – 9/11: Terrorists hijack a passenger plane and crash it into the Pentagon causing the death of 125 people.



- Sep 11 2012 – Patriot Day established to remember those who perished in the attack on the United States by radical Islamic terrorists.
- Sep 12 1814 – War of 1812: Battle of North Point – Although the Maryland Militia lost the Battle, they delayed the British advance against Baltimore, buying time for the defense of the city. Casualties and losses: US 213 - UK 329.
- Sep 12 1847 – Mexican–American War: The 2 day Battle of Chapultepec begins. Casualties and losses: US 862 = MEX 2,623.
- Sep 12 1862 – Civil War: The 3 Day Battle of Harpers Ferry VA began.
- Sep 12 1918 – WWI: St Mihiel France. First U.S. Operation and Victory by an Independent American Army.

- Sep 12 1942 – WW2: Battle of Edson's Ridge - First day of the 3 day battle. The Imperial Japanese Army began their unsuccessful attempt to retake Henderson Field on Guadalcanal from U.S. Marines.
- Sep 12 1944 – WW2: U.S. Army troops enter Germany for 1st time.
- Sep 13 1814 – War of 1812: In a turning point of the war the British fail to capture Baltimore, Maryland. During the battle, Francis Scott Key composes his poem "Defense of Fort McHenry", which is later set to music and becomes the United States' national anthem.
- Sep 13 1847 – American–Mexican War: U.S. forces under General Winfield Scott capture Mexico City effectively ending the war.
- Sep 13 1847 – Mexican–American War: Six teenage military cadets known as Niños Héroes die defending Chapultepec Castle in the Battle of Chapultepec.
- Sep 13 1862 – Civil War: Union soldiers find a copy of Robert E. Lee's battle plans in a field outside Frederick, Maryland. It is the prelude to the Battle of Antietam.
- Sep 13 1861 – Civil War: 1st naval battle of the war. Union frigate "Colorado" sinks privateer "Judah" off Pensacola, Fla.
- Sep 13 1900 – Philippine American War: Filipino resistance fighters defeat a small American column in the Battle of Pulang Lupa.
- Sep 13 1942 – WW2: Second day of the Battle of Edson's Ridge in the Guadalcanal campaign. U.S. Marines successfully defeated attacks by the Imperial Japanese Army with heavy losses for the Japanese forces. Casualties and losses: US 263 - JP ~1,200



Dead Japanese soldiers lie on the ridge near Hill 123 after the battle

- Sep 13 1951 – Korean War: The 32 day Battle of Heart Break Ridge began.
- Sep 14 1862 – Civil War: The Battle of South Mountain, part of the Maryland Campaign, is fought. Casualties and losses: US 2,325 - CSA 2,685.
- Sep 15 1776 – American Revolution: British forces capture Kip's Bay Manhattan.
- Sep 15 1862 – Civil War: Confederate forces capture Harpers Ferry, Virginia. Casualties and: US 12,636 - CSA 28.



Harpers Ferry, Virginia

- Sep 15 1914 – Vera Cruz Incident: U.S. Marines march out of Vera Cruz, Mexico.

- Sep 15 1916 – WWI: 1st tank used in war, "Little Willies" at Battle of Flers, France
- Sep 15 1942 – WW2: U.S. Navy aircraft carrier USS Wasp is torpedoed at Guadalcanal.
- Sep 15 1944 – WW2: The 73 day Battle of Peleliu begins as the United States Marine Corps' 1st Marine Division and the U.S. Army's 81st Infantry Division hit White and Orange beaches under heavy fire from Japanese infantry and artillery. Casualties and losses: US 9,804 - JP 10,897.
- Sep 15 1950 – Korean War: UN forces land at Inchon in South Korea.
- Sep 15 1962 – Cold War: The Soviet ship Poltava heads toward Cuba, one of the events that sets into motion the Cuban Missile Crisis.

[Source: <http://www.history.com/schedule> Aug 2015 ++]