

Military History Anniversaries 1 thru 31 January

Events in History over the next 30 day period that had U.S. military involvement or impacted in some way on U.S military operations or American interests

- Jan 01 1942 – WW2: The War Production Board (WPB) ordered the temporary end of all civilian automobile sales leaving dealers with one half million unsold cars.
- Jan 01 1945 – WW2: In Operation Bodenplatte, German planes attack American forward air bases in Europe. This is the last major offensive of the Luftwaffe.
- Jan 02 1777 – American Revolution: American forces under the command of George Washington repulsed a British attack at the Battle of the Assunpink Creek near Trenton, New Jersey. Casualties and losses: US 7 to 100 - GB 55 to 365.
- Jan 02 1791 – Big Bottom massacre (11 killed) in the Ohio Country, marking the beginning of the Northwest Indian War.
- Jan 02 1904 – Latin America Interventions: U.S. Marines are sent to Santo Domingo to aid the government against rebel forces.
- Jan 02 1942 – The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) convicts 33 members of a German spy ring headed by Fritz Joubert Duquesne in the largest espionage case in United States history-the Duquesne Spy Ring.



- Jan 02 1942 – WW2: In the Philippines, the city of Manila and the U.S. Naval base at Cavite fall to Japanese forces.
- Jan 02 1945 – WW2: Nuremberg, Germany is 90% destroyed by Allied bombers. 1,800 residents killed and roughly 100,000 displaced.
- Jan 02 1947 – Subsequent Nuremberg Trials: Former Field Marshal Erhard Milch of the Luftwaffe was accused of having committed war crimes and crimes against humanity. He was found guilty on 2 of 3 counts and sentenced to life imprisonment.

- Jan 02 1963 - Vietnam: The Viet Cong wins its first major victory in the Battle of Ap Bac. Casualties and losses: NLF 57 - US & ARVN 194
- Jan 02 1966 – Vietnam: American forces move into the Mekong Delta for the first time.
- Jan 03 1777 – American Revolution: American general George Washington defeats British general Charles Cornwallis at the Battle of Princeton. Casualties and losses: US 55 to 84 - GB 240 to 450.
- Jan 03 1920 – WWI: The last of the U.S. troops depart France.
- Jan 03 1944 – WW2: Top Ace Major Greg "Pappy" Boyington is shot down in his Corsair by Captain Masajiro Kawato flying a Zero.
- Jan 03 1945 – WW2: Admiral Chester W Nimitz is placed in command of all U.S. Naval forces in preparation for planned assaults against Iwo Jima, Okinawa and Japan.
- Jan 04 1944 – WW2: Operation Carpetbagger, involving the dropping of arms and supplies to resistance fighters in Europe, begins.
- Jan 04 1951 – Korea: Chinese communist forces recapture Seoul from United Nations troops.
- Jan 04 1989 – Second Gulf of Sidra incident: a pair of Libyan MiG-23 "Floggers" are shot down by a pair of US Navy F-14 Tomcats during an air-to-air confrontation.
- Jan 05 1781 – American Revolution: Richmond, Virginia, is burned by British naval forces led by Benedict Arnold.
- Jan 05 1904 – American Marines arrive in Seoul, Korea, to guard the U.S. legation there.
- Jan 05 1942 – WW2: U.S. and Filipino troops complete their withdrawal to a new defensive line along the base of the Bataan peninsula.
- Jan 05 1951 – Korea: Inchon, South Korea, the sight of General Douglas MacArthur's amphibious flanking maneuver, is abandoned by U.N. force to the advancing Chinese Army.
- Jan 06 1941 – WW2: President Franklin D. Roosevelt asks Congress to support the Lend-lease Bill to help supply the Allies.



"How lend-lease strikes at the Axis," ca. 1940–45.

- Jan 06 1967 – Vietnam: United States Marine Corps and ARVN troops launch 'Operation Deckhouse Five' in the Mekong River delta. Casualties and losses: (KIA) US 7 - Vietcong 21
- Jan 06 1975 – Vietnam: Battle of Phuoc Long - Phuoc Binh falls to the North Vietnamese. Casualties and losses: ARVN 5604 - NVA & VC 1300
- Jan 07 1942 – WW2: The siege of the Bataan Peninsula begins.
- Jan 07 1944 – WW2: The U.S. Air Force announces the production of the first jet fighter, Bell P-59 Airacomet.
- Jan 07 1945 – WW2: British General Bernard Montgomery holds a press conference in which he claims credit for victory in the Battle of the Bulge.
- Jan 07 1948 – Kentucky Air National Guard pilot Thomas Mantell crashes while in pursuit of a supposed UFO.
- Jan 07 1960 – The Polaris missile is test launched.

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- Jan 07 1975 – Vietnam: Vietnamese troops take Phuoc Binh in new full-scale offensive.
- Jan 08 1815 – War of 1812: Battle of New Orleans – A rag-tag army under Andrew Jackson defeats the British on the fields of Chalmette in the Battle of New Orleans. Casualties and losses: US 333 - UK 2,459.
- Jan 08 1863 – Civil War: Second Battle of Springfield ends with a Confederate withdrawal. Casualties and losses: US 231 CSA ~290.
- Jan 08 1877 – Crazy Horse and his warriors fight their last battle with the United States Cavalry at Wolf Mountain (Montana Territory).
- Jan 08 1918 – President Woodrow Wilson announces his "Fourteen Points" for the aftermath of WWI.
- Jan 08 1945 – WW2: Philippine Commonwealth troops under the Philippine Commonwealth Army units enter the province of Ilocos Sur in Northern Luzon and attack Japanese Imperial forces.
- Jan 08 1967 – Vietnam: Operation Cedar Falls. Over 16,000 U.S. and 14,000 Vietnamese troops start their biggest attack on the Iron Triangle, northwest of Saigon. Casualties and losses: US/ARVN 428 - NVA/VC 1030 (US Claim)
- Jan 08 2005 – The nuclear sub USS San Francisco collides at full speed with an undersea mountain south of Guam. One man is killed, but the sub surfaces and is repaired.
- Jan 09 1861 – Civil War: The "Star of the West" incident occurs near Charleston, South Carolina. It is considered by some historians to be the "First Shots of the American Civil War".
- Jan 09 1863 – Civil War: The 3 day Battle of Fort Hindman begins in Arkansas. Casualties and losses: US 1,061 - CSA ~5,000



Bombardment and capture of Fort Hindman, Arkansas Post, Ark

- Jan 09 1918 – Indian Wars: Battle of Bear Valley - The last battle of the American Indian Wars. Casualties and losses: US 0 - Yaqui 10
- Jan 09 1945 – WW2: U.S. troops land on Luzon, in the Philippines, 107 miles from Manila.
- Jan 09 1991 – Representatives from the United States and Iraq meet at the Geneva Peace Conference to try to find a peaceful resolution to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.
- Jan 10 1847 – Mexican War: General Stephen Kearny and Commodore Robert Stockton retake Los Angeles in the last California battle of the war.
- Jan 10 1920 – WWI: The Treaty of Versailles takes effect, officially ending World War I.

- Jan 10 1923 – WWI: The United States withdraws its last troops from Germany.
- Jan 10 1943 – WW2: USS Argonaut (AP5-1) sunk by aircraft (582d Kokutai) and Japanese destroyers Isokaze and Maikaze southeast of New Britain in Solomon Sea. 104 killed
- Jan 11 1863 – Civil War: The Battle of Fort Hindman (i.e. Arkansas Post) Arkansas ends with a Union victory and capture of the Arkansas River. Casualties and losses: US 1,061 - CSA ~5,500
- Jan 11 1863 – Civil War: CSS Alabama encountered and sank the USS Hatteras (1861) off Galveston Lighthouse in Texas. Casualties and losses: US 125 CSA 2.
- Jan 11 1940 – Benjamin O. Davis, Sr., becomes the U.S. Army's first black general, his son would later become a general as well.



- Jan 11 1967 – Vietnam: Operation Deckhouse Five, a combined USMC and ARVN troop effort in the Mekong River delta ends in failure.
- Jan 12 1991 – Gulf War: An act of the U.S. Congress authorizes the use of military force to drive Iraq out of Kuwait.
- Jan 12 1846 – Mexican War: President James Polk dispatches General Zachary Taylor and 4,000 troops to the Texas Border as war with Mexico looms.
- Jan 12 1962 – Vietnam: Operation Chopper, the first American combat mission in the war, takes place. Casualties and losses: US none - NLF 6.
- Jan 12 1962 – Vietnam: Operation Ranch Hand initiated which lasted until 1972. It involved spraying an estimated 20 million gallons of defoliants and herbicides over rural areas of South Vietnam in an attempt to deprive the Vietnamese people of food and vegetation cover.
- Jan 12 1991 – Gulf War: An act of the U.S. Congress authorizes the use of military force to drive Iraq out of Kuwait.
- Jan 13 1815 – War of 1812: British troops capture Fort Peter in St. Marys, Georgia, the only battle of the war to take place in the state.
- Jan 13 1847 – The Treaty of Cahuenga ends the Mexican–American War in California.
- Jan 13 1893 – U.S. Marines land in Honolulu from the U.S.S. Boston to prevent the queen from abrogating the Bayonet Constitution
- Jan 13 1968 – Vietnam: U.S. reports shifting most air targets from North Vietnam to Laos.
- Jan 14 1784 – American Revolution: Ratification Day, United States - Congress ratifies the Treaty of Paris with Great Britain ending hostilities between the two countries. The other combatant nations, France, Spain and the Dutch Republic had separate agreements.
- Jan 14 1911 – The USS Arkansas, the largest U.S. battleship, is launched from the yards of the New York Shipbuilding Company.
- Jan 14 1943 – WW2: Operation Ke, the successful Japanese operation to evacuate their forces from Guadalcanal during the Guadalcanal campaign, begins.

- Jan 14 1943 – WW2: Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill begin the Casablanca Conference to discuss strategy and study the next phase of the war.
- Jan 14 1950 – The first prototype of the MiG-17 makes its maiden flight.
- Jan 14 1969 – An accidental explosion aboard the USS Enterprise (CVN-65) near Hawaii kills 27 people.
- Jan 15 1815 – War of 1812: American frigate USS President, commanded by Commodore Stephen Decatur, is captured by a squadron of four British frigates.
- Jan 15 1865 – Civil War: Fort Fisher North Carolina falls to the Union, thus cutting off the last major seaport of the Confederacy. Casualties and losses: US 1,341 - CSA ~1,500
- Jan 15 1943 – The world's largest office building, The Pentagon, is dedicated in Arlington, Virginia.
- Jan 15 1944 – WW2: The U.S. Fifth Army successfully breaks the German Winter Line in Italy with the capture of Mount Trocchio.



- Jan 15 1973 – Vietnam: Citing progress in peace negotiations, President Richard Nixon announces the suspension of offensive action in North Vietnam.
- Jan 15 1991 – The United Nations deadline for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from occupied Kuwait expires, preparing the way for the start of Operation Desert Storm.
- Jan 16 1945 – WW2: Adolf Hitler moves into his underground bunker, the so-called Führerbunker.
- Jan 16 1991 – The Coalition Forces go to war with Iraq, beginning the Gulf War (U.S. Time).
- Jan 16 2001 – US President Bill Clinton awards former President Theodore Roosevelt a posthumous Medal of Honor for his service in the Spanish American War.
- Jan 17 1781 – Revolutionary War: Battle of Cowpens. The militia's defeat of a battle-hardened force of British regulars in South Carolina was the turning point of the war in the south. Casualties and losses: US 149 - GB 1,168



This depiction of the Battle of Cowpens shows an unnamed black soldier (left) firing his pistol and saving the life of Colonel William Washington

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- Jan 17 1899 – The United States takes possession of Wake Island in the Pacific Ocean.
- Jan 17 1944 – WW2: Allied forces launch the first of four battles with the intention of breaking through the Winter Line and seizing Rome, an effort that would ultimately take four months and cost 105,000 Allied casualties.
- Jan 17 1945 – The Nazis begin the evacuation of the Auschwitz concentration camp as Soviet forces close in.
- Jan 17 1966 – Cold War: A B-52 bomber collides with a KC-135 Stratotanker over Spain, dropping three 70-kiloton nuclear bombs near the town of Palomares and another one into the sea in the Palomares incident.
- Jan 17 1991 – Persian Gulf War: Allies start Operation Desert Storm with air attacks on Iraq. Iraq fires 8 Scud missiles into Israel in an unsuccessful bid to provoke Israeli retaliation. The coalition flew over 100,000 sorties dropping 88,500 tons of bombs.
- Jan 17 1992 – During a visit to South Korea, Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa apologizes for forcing Korean women into sexual slavery during World War II.
- Jan 17 2007 – The Doomsday Clock is set to five minutes to midnight in response to North Korea nuclear testing.
- Jan 18 1911 – Naval Lieutenant Eugene Ely became the first man ever to land an airplane on the deck of a ship, the converted cruiser USS Pennsylvania, in San Francisco Bay.
- Jan 18 1919 – WWI: The Paris Peace Conference opens in Versailles, France.
- Jan 18 1942 – WW2: General MacArthur repels the Japanese in Bataan. The United States took the lead in the Far East war criminal trials.
- Jan 18 1962 – Vietnam: The United States begins spraying foliage with herbicides in South Vietnam, in order to reveal the whereabouts of Vietcong guerrillas.
- Jan 19 1946 – WW2: General Douglas MacArthur establishes the International Military Tribunal for the Far East in Tokyo to try Japanese war criminals.



The judges

- Jan 19 1962 – Civil War: Battle of Mill Springs – The Confederacy suffers its first significant defeat in the conflict. Casualties and losses: US 246 - CSA 529.
- Jan 19 1946 – General Douglas MacArthur establishes the International Military Tribunal for the Far East in Tokyo to try Japanese war criminals.
- Jan 19 1981 – Iran Hostage Crisis: United States and Iranian officials sign an agreement to release 52 American hostages after 14 months of captivity.

- Jan 19 1991 – Gulf War: Iraq fires a second Scud missile into Israel, causing 15 injuries.
- Jan 20 1887 – The United States Senate allows the Navy to lease Pearl Harbor as a naval base.
- Jan 20 1944 – WW2: Allied forces in Italy begin unsuccessful operations to cross the Rapido River and seize Cassino.
- Jan 21 1861 – Civil War: Jefferson Davis resigns from the United States Senate.
- Jan 21 1954 – The first nuclear-powered submarine (USS Nautilus) was launched in Groton CT by Mamie Eisenhower.
- Jan 21 1968 – Vietnam: Siege of Khe Sanh begins as North Vietnamese units surround U.S. Marines based on the hilltop headquarters.
- Jan 21 1968 – A B-52 bomber crashes near Thule Air Base, contaminating the area after its nuclear payload ruptures. One of the four bombs remains unaccounted for after the cleanup operation is complete.
- Jan 21 1977 – President Jimmy Carter pardons nearly all American Vietnam War draft evaders inclusive of those who had immigrated to Canada.
- Jan 22 1944 – WW2: Operation Shingle. Battle of Anzio - U.S. troops under Major General John P. Lucas make an amphibious landing behind German lines at Anzio, Italy, just south of Rome. Casualties and losses: US|UK|Can 43,000 - GE|IT 40,000



U.S. Army soldiers landing at Anzio in late January 1944.

- Jan 22 1968 – Vietnam: Operation Igloo White, a US electronic surveillance system to stop communist infiltration into South Vietnam begins installation.
- Jan 22 1991 – Gulf War: Three SCUDs and one Patriot missile hit Ramat Gan in Israel, injuring 96 people. Three elderly people die of heart attacks.
- Jan 23 1870 – In Montana, U.S. cavalrymen kill 173 Native Americans, mostly women and children, in the Marias Massacre.
- Jan 23 1941 – Charles Lindbergh testifies before the U.S. Congress and recommends that the United States negotiate a neutrality pact with Adolf Hitler.
- Jan 23 1942 – WW2: The Battle of Rabaul begins, the first fighting of the New Guinea campaign.
- Jan 23 1943 – WW2: Australian and American forces finally defeat the Japanese army in Papua. This turning point in the Pacific War marks the beginning of the end of Japanese aggression.
- Jan 23 1943 – WW2: The Battle of Mount Austen, the Galloping Horse, and the Sea Horse on Guadalcanal during the Guadalcanal campaign ends.
- Jan 23 1945 – WW2: Karl Dönitz launches Operation Hannibal.

- Jan 23 1968 – North Korea seizes the USS Pueblo, claiming the ship had violated their territorial waters while spying.
- Jan 23 1973 – Vietnam: President Richard Nixon claims that Vietnam peace has been reached in Paris and that the POWs would be home in 60 days.
- Jan 24 1917 – WWI: Zimmerman telegram sent to the Mexican government by the German foreign minister intercepted. Promised Mexico that the lands taken from it by the U.S. during the 1846–1848 war would be returned if Mexico entered on Germany's side and the Germans won.
- Jan 24 1942 – WW2: The Allies bombard Bangkok, leading Thailand to declare war against the United States and United Kingdom.
- Jan 24 1942 – USS S-26 (SS-131) sunk after collision with USS PC-460 in Gulf of Panama. 46 died
- Jan 24 1961 – Cold War: A B-52 bomber carrying two H-bombs breaks up in mid-air over North Carolina. The uranium core of one weapon remains lost.
- Jan 24 1972 – Japanese Sgt. Shoichi Yokoi is found hiding in a Guam jungle, where he had been since the end of World War II.



- Jan 24 1982 – Vietnam: A draft of Air Force history reports that the U.S. secretly sprayed herbicides on Laos during the war.
- Jan 25 1942 – WW2: Thailand declares war on the United States and United Kingdom.
- Jan 25 1945 – WW2: The Battle of the Bulge ends. Casualties and losses: US 89,500 - GB 1408 - Civ 3000 - Ger 67,200 to 100,000.
- Jan 25 1949 – WW2: Axis Sally, who broadcasted Nazi propaganda to U.S. troops in Europe, stands trial in the United States for war crimes.
- Jan 25 1951 – Korea: The U.S. Eighth Army in Korea launches Operation Thunderbolt, a counter attack to push the Chinese Army north of the Han River.
- Jan 25 2003 – 2003 Invasion of Iraq: A group of people left London, England, for Baghdad, Iraq, to serve as human shields to prevent the U.S.-led coalition troops from bombing certain locations.
- Jan 26 1787 – Shays' Rebellion: The rebellion's largest confrontation, outside the Springfield Armory, results in the killing of four rebels and the wounding of twenty.
- Jan 26 1856 – First Battle of Seattle. Marines from the USS Decatur drive off American Indian attackers after all day battle with settlers.
- Jan 26 1863 – Civil War: General Ambrose Burnside is relieved of command of the Army of the Potomac after the disastrous Fredericksburg campaign. He is replaced by Joseph Hooker.
- Jan 26 1942 – WW2: The first United States forces arrive in Europe landing in Northern Ireland.
- Jan 26 1942 – WW2: Thailand declares war on the United States and United Kingdom.
- Jan 26 1945 – WW2: The Battle of the Bulge ends.

- Jan 26 2003 – Invasion of Iraq: A group of people leave London, England, for Baghdad, Iraq, to serve as human shields, intending to prevent the U.S.-led coalition troops from bombing certain locations.
- Jan 27 1776 – American Revolution: Henry Knox's "noble train of artillery" arrives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- Jan 27 1825 – The U.S. Congress approves Indian Territory (in what is present-day Oklahoma), clearing the way for forced relocation of the Eastern Indians on the "Trail of Tears".
- Jan 27 1862 – Civil War: President Lincoln issues General War Order No. 1, setting in motion the Union armies.
- Jan 27 1939 – First flight of the Lockheed P-38 Lightning.
- Jan 27 1943 – WW2: The VIII Bomber Command dispatched ninety-one B-17s and B-24s to attack the U-Boat construction yards at Wilhemshaven, Germany. This was the first American bombing attack on Germany of the war.
- Jan 27 1951 – Cold War: Nuclear testing at the Nevada Test Site begins with a one-kiloton bomb dropped on Frenchman Flat.
- Jan 27 1944 – WW2: The 900-day Siege of Leningrad is lifted.
- Jan 27 1945 – WW2: The Red Army liberates the remained inmates of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp built by the Nazi Germans on the territory of Poland.



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- Jan 27 1973 – The Paris Peace Accords officially end the Vietnam War. Colonel William Nolde is killed in action becoming the conflict's last recorded American combat casualty.
- Jan 28 1909 – United States troops leave Cuba with the exception of Guantanamo Bay Naval Base after being there since the Spanish–American War.
- Jan 28 1915 – An act of the U.S. Congress creates the U.S. Coast Guard as a branch of the United States Armed Forces to fight contraband trade and aid distressed vessels at sea.
- Jan 28 1945 – WW2: Supplies begin to reach the Republic of China over the newly reopened Burma Road.
- Jan 28 1966 – Vietnam: Operation White Wing, a search and destroy mission, begins.
- Jan 28 1980 – USCGC Blackthorn collides with the tanker Capricorn while leaving Tampa Florida and capsizes killing 23 Coast Guard crewmembers.
- Jan 29 1916 – WWI: Paris is first bombed by German zeppelins.
- Jan 29 1943 – WW2: Battle of Rennell Island Guadalcanal. The last major naval engagement with Japan. The cruiser Chicago is torpedoed and heavily damaged by Japanese bombers.

- Jan 29 1991 – Gulf War: Iraqi forces attack into Saudi Arabian town of Kafji, but are turned back by Coalition forces.
- Jan 30 1862 – The first American ironclad warship, the USS Monitor is launched.
- Jan 30 1911 – The destroyer USS Terry (DD-25) makes the first airplane rescue at sea saving the life of James McCurdy 10 miles from Havana, Cuba.
- Jan 30 1915 – WWI: Germany is the first to make large-scale use of poison gas in warfare in the Battle of Bolimów against Russia.
- Jan 30 1917 – WWI: Germany announces that its U-boats will resume unrestricted submarine warfare after a two-year hiatus.
- Jan 30 1942 – WW2: Allied forces are defeated by the Japanese at the Battle of Malaya and retreat to the island of Singapore.
- Jan 30 1942 – WW2: Japanese forces invade the island of Ambon in the Dutch East Indies.
- Jan 30 1943 – World War II: German Field Marshal Friedrich Paulus surrenders to the Soviets at Stalingrad, followed 2 days later by the remainder of his Sixth Army, ending one of the war's fiercest battles.



Paulus (left) and his aides Col. Wilhelm Adam (right) and Lt.-Gen. Arthur Schmidt (middle), after their surrender in Stalingrad

- Jan 30 1943 – WW2: Second day of the Battle of Rennell Island. The USS Chicago (CA-29) is sunk and a U.S. destroyer is heavily damaged by Japanese torpedoes.
- Jan 30 1944 – WW2: The Battle of Cisterna, part of Operation Shingle, takes place in central Italy with a clear German victory.
- Jan 30 1944 – WW2: American forces land on Kwajalein Atoll and other islands in the Japanese-held Marshall Islands.
- Jan 30 1944 - WW2: During the Anzio campaign the 1st Ranger Battalion (Darby's Rangers) is destroyed behind enemy lines in a heavily outnumbered encounter at Battle of Cisterna, Italy.
- Jan 30 1945 – WW2: Raid at Cabanatuan: 126 American Rangers and Filipino resistance liberate 500 prisoners from the Cabanatuan POW camp.
- Jan 30 1945 – WW2: US Army private Eddie Slovik is executed for desertion, the first such execution of an American soldier since the Civil War.
- Jan 30 1945 - WW2: About 3,000 inmates from the Stutthof concentration camp are forcibly marched into the Baltic Sea at Palmnicken (now Yantarny, Russia) and executed.
- Jan 30 1945 – WW2: The Wilhelm Gustloff, overfilled with German refugees, sinks in the Baltic Sea after being torpedoed by a Soviet submarine, leading to the deadliest known maritime disaster with approximately 9,500 people killed.

- Jan 30 1950 – President Harry S. Truman announces a program to develop the hydrogen bomb.
- Jan 30 1968 – Vietnam: Viet Cong attack the United States embassy in Saigon, and other attacks, in the early morning hours, later grouped together as the Tet Offensive.
- Jan 30 1971 – The Winter Soldier Investigation, organized by the Vietnam Veterans Against the War to publicize war crimes and atrocities by Americans and allies in Vietnam, begins in Detroit, Michigan.
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- Jan 31 1968 – Vietnam: Battle of Hue begins.
- Jan 31 1968 – Vietnam: Tet Offensive begins as Viet Cong and North Vietnamese soldiers attack strategic and civilian locations throughout the South including the ancient imperial capital of Hue.