

MILITARY TERMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND ACRONYMS

Imprint: a brief note in the margin of a map giving all or some of the following: date of publication, printing, name of publisher, printer, place of publication, number of copies printed, etc.

IED: acronym for "improvised explosive device" - a device placed or fabricated in an improvised manner incorporating destructive, lethal, noxious, pyro-technic, or incendiary chemicals and designed to destroy, incapacitate, harass, or distract (normally devised from nonmilitary components)



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Words to Ponder:

"Coercion, after all, merely captures man. Freedom captivates him."

~ Robert McNamara

Pray for our Deployed Members:

Chaplain Brian Palmer and Family: US Army, serving the Lord in Fort McCoy, Wisconsin
Andrew Folz: US Air Force, deployed overseas

Together in Scripture Reading:

This month:
the book of Second Timothy



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One Man

Colonel Steve Martin

In a 2002 interview, Robert McNamara, the last surviving member of the John F. Kennedy administration, relayed a secret that had only recently been revealed after forty years. In speaking about his time as the Secretary of Defense during the Kennedy and Lyndon Baines Johnson administration, the reporter asked him about the thirteen difficult days of the Cuban Missile Crisis (October 14–28, 1962). "We came very, very close," McNamara confided slowly, "closer than we knew at the time." During a visit to Russia in 2002, McNamara was very surprised to learn from a Russian submarine commander that the subs approaching the blockade were carrying nuclear-tipped torpedoes. The commander who had himself commanded a submarine during the crisis revealed they had orders to shoot "when they thought desirable" if they were out of radio contact. McNamara was visually shaken when given this news. Few people had the insight into the events of this crisis as he did, and few people knew how desperately close the world came to nuclear war. During this same interview, McNamara stated: "We had never heard of that until that time. And I was so shocked I lost my cool."



Robert McNamara

the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union, this move was completely unacceptable to President John F. Kennedy and his administration. Several options were on the table for the Kennedy administration to choose from ranging from no action to full-scale invasion of Cuba. Much to the chagrin of his Joint Chiefs of Staff and many of his advisors, President Kennedy decided on a quarantine of Cuba.

The quarantine of Cuba was a naval operation - US Navy warships stopped any vessel bound for this island nation for inspection. If the ships were found to have goods and necessities of life, they could proceed. However, if they were carrying military equipment or components, the ships were turned around and denied passage. Quarantine operations were very contentious and tempers and nerves on both sides were quickly becoming frayed. During the two week standoff, both nations teetered on the brink of nuclear war. By October 25, the United States put its military at DEFENSE CONDITION (DEFCON) 2, for the only time in US history. Strategic Air Command (SAC) had ordered twenty-three B-52 bombers into continuous orbit within striking distance of the Soviet Union. On October 26, the United States informed its North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies that "the situation is growing shorter...the United States may find it necessary within a short time in its interest and that of its fellow nations in the Western Hemisphere to take whatever military action may be necessary." It appeared that both world powers were at a "stalemate" with neither willing to budge.

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'Much to the chagrin of his Joint Chiefs of Staff and many of his advisors, President Kennedy decided on a quarantine of Cuba.'

Did You Know: The Origin AND TYPES OF GRENADES

Editor's Note: Have you ever wondered where grenades came from? Let's find out.

The word "grenade" derives from the French word for a "small explosive shell". Its first use in English dates from the 1590s. It is likely derived from Old French pomegranate (influenced by Spanish grana-da), so called because the many-seeded fruit suggested the powder-filled, fragmenting bomb, or from similarity of shape. In fact, early grenades looked like pomegranates.

In military use, a grenade is a small explosive, chemical, or gas bomb. It is used at short range, thrown by hand or launched with a grenade launcher. The resulting powerful explosion causes shockwaves and disperses high-speed fragments of metal, which can cause shrapnel wounds for those within its effective radius.

Although its original inventor has never been determined beyond doubt, the consensus among military historians is that grenades first came into use around the 15th century. The first grenades were hollow iron balls filled with gunpowder and ignited by a slow burning wick. During the 17th century, armies began to form specialized divisions of soldiers trained to throw grenades. These specialists were called grenadiers, and for a time were regarded as elite fighters.

By the 19th century, with the increased improvement of firearms, grenades popularity decreased and largely fell out of use. They were first used extensively again during the Russo-Japanese War (1904-05).

Typical WWII German stick grenade



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Kevin Lilley

Vietnam Lapel Pin Honors Service

Editor's Note: The following was adapted from an article by Military Times writer Kevin Lilley.

A lapel pin available to all active-duty military members who served during the Vietnam War boasts powerful imagery: An eagle inside a blue circle, stars and stripes in the background, surrounded by a laurel wreath.

But the words on the back might say it best: "A Grateful Nation Thanks and Honors You."

The pin, a product of the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration, launched in limited numbers in 2014, with the first

one officially awarded to then-Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel in 2015. Retired Army Gen. Barry

McCaffrey received his pin during a brief ceremony at the Military Times offices on Nov. 10, a day before he served as master of ceremonies for a Veterans Day gathering at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

McCaffrey, who earned two Distinguished Service Crosses and two Silver Stars for his actions during

the Vietnam War, said the pin honoring his fellow veterans reinforces the importance of supporting America's men and women in uniform, regardless of politics. "You may

'You may have different political views, but you can honor the soldier who fought without necessarily endorsing the outcome of the conflict.'

have different political views, but you can honor the soldier who fought without necessarily endorsing the outcome of the conflict," he said.

Congress authorized the commemoration group in 2008 as part of legislation designed to recognize the war's 50th anniversary.



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One Man

October 27, became known within the Kennedy administration as "Black Saturday" with three separate incidents taking place that could have escalated the conflict into all-out nuclear war. Since the beginning of the conflict, the American U-2 spy plane had been making overflights of Cuba to determine the status and progress on completing the missile sites. In the days prior, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev had instructed that the Soviet S-75 Dvina surface-to-air-missiles (SAM) were only to be fired if multiple American planes were to cross into Cuban airspace.

His concern was that shooting down an American U-2 could be interpreted by President Kennedy as an escalation of the crisis. Fidel Castro, on the other hand, was anxious about American overflights and wanted more aggressive action against American intervention. At approximately noon on October 27, a U2 spy plane piloted

by Major Rudolph Anderson was shot down by one of the S-75 surface-to-air-missiles as he flew over Cuban airspace – Major Anderson was killed. Despite what seemed to be clear aggression against the United States, President Kennedy decided against military action to neutralize the S-75 Dvina SAM sites. Later, Nikita Khrushchev told his son Sergei that the shoot down was ordered by Raul Castro, brother of Fidel.

In 1962, both the United States and the Soviet Union were conducting nuclear tests in the atmosphere. To monitor the Soviet tests conducted at Novaya Zemlya, the United States sent U-2 spy planes to the North Pole to collect high altitude radioactive air samples. These routine missions were being flown out of Eilson Air Force Base (AFB), Alaska even as the Cuban Missile Crisis was taking place. At 4 a.m. (EST) on Oc-



Cpt. Charles Maultsby, USAF

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tober 27, Captain Charles F. Maultsby (pictured below, left) took off in his U-2 for this previously scheduled eight hour mission. Halfway to his destination, Maultsby was blinded by the aurora borealis or northern lights and had trouble taking a positional fix via the stars. Off course, Maultsby penetrated Soviet airspace and Soviet Mig Fighters were scrambled to intercept his aircraft. Once he realized that he was well off course, Maultsby turned his aircraft to exit Soviet airspace and return home. SAC Headquarters was now tracking the errant flight and was also tracking the Soviet Migs in hot pursuit. Alaska Air Defense Command scrambled two F-102 interceptors with nuclear air-to-air missiles, to intercept the Mig fighters if needed and escort the U-2 back to US territory. Fortunately, the Migs did not catch the U-2; however, Maultsby's plane ran out of fuel as it left Soviet airspace and he glided the plane to a landing at Kotzebue, Alaska at 2:25 p.m. (EST) after the longest flight ever recorded by a U-2 of 10 hours, 25 minutes. Later, Nikita Khrushchev stated that the flight could have easily been mistaken for a nuclear bomber which could have triggered a "fateful step."

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One Man

Captain Maultsby's errant flight into the Soviet Union only added more tension and drama to a day that was full of close calls, any of which could have pulled the trigger on full nuclear war. Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara was not informed of the errant flight until an hour and a half after the aircraft had entered Soviet airspace.

Upon hearing that the U-2 had made an unauthorized ninety minute flight over the Soviet Union's Far East coast, McNamara became furious. As he left the room with the Joint Chiefs of Staff to call President Kennedy, McNamara was heard to say, "this means war with the Soviet Union!" President Kennedy was incredulous that these missions were still being flown in the midst of this inter-

national crisis. As the incidents with the two U-2 flights were occupying the military and civilian leaders in the Kennedy administration, a situation of far greater significance was occurring in the waters off Cuba.

The American aircraft carrier USS Randolph was in charge of a group of eleven destroyers enforcing the quarantine of Cuba. A Soviet Foxtrot-class submarine, B-59 was detected trying to evade the blockade. The destroyers began maneuvers to force the Soviet submarine to surface for identification. After repeated attempts at communications, they started dropping a series of "signaling depth charges (practice

depth charges the size of hand grenades) on the B-59 as it reached the blockade line.



Inside the B-59, the Soviet Captain Valentin Savitsky ordered the submarine to go deep in order to evade the American destroyers – it was also too deep to monitor any radio traffic. The Soviet Union had authorized its naval commanders to use their nuclear tipped torpedoes if they felt they were under attack and had no communications with their chain of command. Without communications, the officers of the B-59 did not know whether war had started or not.

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Did You Know: ORIGIN AND TYPES OF GRENADES

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The hand grenades of World War I can be described as empty cans filled with gunpowder and stones, with a primitive fuse. The Australians used the tin cans from jam and their early grenades were nicknamed "Jam Bombs."

The first safe grenade (that is, safe for the person throwing it) was the Mills bomb, invented by English engineer and designer William Mills in 1915. Mills bomb incorporated some design elements of a Belgian self-igniting grenade; however, he added safety enhancements and upgraded its deadly efficiency. These changes revolutionized trench-war combat. Britain manufactured millions of Mills bombs during the course of World War I, popularizing the explosive device that remains one of the most iconic weapons of the 20th century.

Two other important grenade designs that emerged from the First World War are the German stick grenade (a narrow explosive with often-troublesome pull cord that was prone to accidental detonations) and the Mk II "pineapple" grenade, designed for the U.S. military in 1918.

NEXT MONTH: We will feature the American use of hand grenades and the six major types of grenades.



Typical M61 "frag" grenade (by USA during Vietnam era)

CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

Snowball's Chance (Part 1)

Editor's Note: The following 'fun story' for February was adapted from an article by freelance writer and editor R. Jason Benson.

In February of 1863, the Confederate Army found itself in a jam near Rappahannock Academy. Two back-to-back snowstorms buried several divisions under nearly a foot and a half of snow in northern Virginia. After five days of relentless snow, the sun finally returned and milder temperatures began to soften the deep snow cover.

The soldiers emerged from their tents into the newly white landscape, pushed to their extreme limit. They were wet, freezing, filthy and hungry -- this could not go on any further. They had one thing in mind, and one thing alone: A 10,000-man snowball fight.

The Confederate Army had recently undergone an organizational overhaul, which had led to a certain

amount of friendly rivalry between units. Up to that point, this had been limited to verbal barbs and we assume the occasional West Side Story-style dance battle. But when the battle-hardened soldiers took one look at the vast fields of ideal-for-snowballs snow, they knew trouble was about to go down -- 11-year-old style (like the background picture).

On the morning of February 25, General Hoke riled up his North Carolinian soldiers for an early morning assault at the camp of Colonel Stiles' Georgian Brigade. They formed up in full battle lines -- complete with cavalry and everything -- and followed their officers straight into the Georgians' camp, where they proceeded to pelt them with snowballs.

What happened next? You'll have to read about it in next month's issue!

R. Jason Benson

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Pictured below: Former Defense Secretary Ash Carter honors Vietnam Veteran Thomas Snee with the 50th anniversary commemorative pin in March 2016.



For more information, visit vietnamwar50th.com

Vietnam Lapel Pin

GETTING THE PIN

All US veterans who served on active duty between Nov. 1, 1955 and May 15, 1975, regardless of location, are eligible for the pin. The pins are distributed by "commemorative partners" such as veterans associations, universities, medical centers and a host of other types of groups that have agreed to support the commemoration, according to the organization's website.

These groups are authorized to conduct "dignified public presentations" of the pins to former service members. A list of the groups is available at www.vietnamwar50th.com, and a list of commemorations held by the

groups including contact information, is at www.vietnamwar50th.com/events. If a veteran is not able to attend a public event, a private ceremony can be conducted, according to the commemoration's website. Veterans seeking more information about the lapel pin or nearby commemorative events contact the group via email at whs.pentagon.wso.mbx.vnwar50th-cpp-events-application@mail.mil.

Each Vietnam veteran is eligible to receive one pin; civilians who were working for government agencies in Vietnam during the conflict are not eligible.



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FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

- Robert Carver - 3
- Rose Wilson - 6
- Vickie Salerno - 14
- Andrew Folz - 27

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES:

- Albert & Becky Watkins - 14

Happy Valentine's Day

MAILBAG FOR ANDREW FOLZ

For those who would like to drop Andrew Folz a note of encouragement, his deployed address is:

Andrew Folz
1 ECEG
Unit 61239
APO AE 09309-1239

THIS MONTH IN MILITARY HISTORY

14 Feb 1864 - Union General William T. Sherman enters Meridian, Mississippi, during a winter campaign that served as a precursor to Sherman's "March to the Sea." This often-overlooked 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. Sherman launched the campaign from Vicksburg, Mississippi, with the goal of destroying the rail center at Meridian and clearing central Mississippi of Confederate resistance. Sherman believed this would free addi-

tional Federal troops that he hoped to use on his planned campaign against Atlanta, Georgia, in the following months. Ultimately, Sherman failed to clear Mississippi of Rebels totally, and the Confederates repaired the rail lines within a month.

One Man

With their batteries running low and running out of air, Savitsky ordered the torpedo tubes loaded with the nuclear-tipped torpedoes. Unlike other Soviet submarines, the B-59 had three people who had to authorize launch of the nuclear torpedoes: the captain of the sub, the political officer Ivan Maslennikov and the Deputy Brigade Commander in charge of the submarine flotilla Captain Vasili Arkhipov. The submarine captain and political officer wanted to launch the torpedoes. However, Captain Arkhipov thought the better course was to surface and wait to hear from Moscow. In the heat of the moment, an argument broke out between Captain Savitsky and Captain Arkhipov. Finally, Arkhipov prevailed; the B-59 surfaced and received orders to return to the Soviet Union. In 2002, Thomas Blanton, who was then director of the US National Security Archive said "a guy called Vasili Arkhipov saved the world."



Vasili Alexandrovich Arkhipov
1926 - 1998

The following day, October 28, President Kennedy and Nikita Khrushchev reached an agreement to end the crisis. A negotiated settlement determined that the Soviets would

remove the medium and intermediate range missiles from Cuba under the provisions that the United States would remove its Jupiter missiles from Turkey and Italy, and that the United States would guarantee that she would not invade Cuba.

The study of this critical point in history tells us that we narrowly escaped a nuclear war and the great destruction that it would bring. Seemingly, one man, Vasili Arkhipov, was all that stood between the world and total destruction. However, in the Bible we find that all things are in God's control. Isaiah 45: 6-7 tells us: "That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else. I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things."

Isaiah 14 also tells us: "The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand." God's plans will not be interrupted and as Jesus told us in Matthew 10, nothing slips his notice: "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall

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not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered."

Even before the Garden of Eden, our Heavenly Father knew that mankind was headed for destruction. Because of God's great love for mankind, He provided an escape from damnation for the world. He sent His only Son to Earth to die for our sins. Paul tells us in Romans 5, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Destruction was in our future and we had no recourse or no means to avoid the coming destruction. Paul tells us later in the same chapter; "For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift of grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ... For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ."

Through the disobedience of one man, Adam, sin came into the world assuring us of certain eternal destruction. But through the obedience of one man, Jesus Christ, who was obedient unto death on the cross, we can now receive His grace unto eternal life. Each of us has a decision to make; to choose Christ Jesus as our Savior or suffer destruction. Choose wisely, eternal consequences rest in your decision!

Prayer Notes, Event Announcements

Please continue to pray for Ashley Huskey as she is being treated for vasculitis.

Please keep Phil Wagher in your prayers for continued health and strength.

Andrew Folz, son of Ken and Cheryl Folz, is deployed overseas with the Air Force. Please keep Andrew and his family in your prayers during this period of separation. Please continue to keep Brian and Ivey Palmer in your prayers as they

minister to soldiers and families at Ft. McCoy, Wisconsin. Please continue to keep our new President, Donald Trump, and his administration in your prayers!

~ Colonel Martin

Coming up next month:

- A Swimming Pool, or a Horse Trough?
- Brain Injury to Qualify for Purple Heart
- Origin/Types of Grenades (Part 2)



The Brian Palmer Family

