

A photograph of Mikhail Kalashnikov, the Soviet military engineer, smiling and holding an AK-47 assault rifle. He is wearing a military uniform with several medals on his chest. Two young boys in military uniforms are visible in the background.

Today in History

November 13, 1947

▲ **Soviet military engineer Mikhail Kalashnikov completed the development of the AK-47, the world's most commonly used assault rifle**

1970: Hafez al-Assad seized power in Syria in a bloodless military coup

1982: The Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated to more than 58,000 U.S. men and women killed or missing in the Vietnam War

2008: Investors dumped Russian assets over fears that the country's economy was in crisis

2015: Coordinated terrorist attacks in Paris killed 130 people at a concert hall, stadium and bars