

A photograph of Mikhail Kalashnikov, the Russian general and military engineer, wearing a green military uniform and a peaked cap with a gold emblem. He is holding an AK-47 assault rifle with both hands, looking upwards and to the right. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Today in History

November 10, 1919

▲ **Mikhail Kalashnikov, Russian general and military engineer who designed the AK-47, the world's most widely used assault rifle, and its variants, was born**

1969: Long-running U.S. TV series *Sesame Street* made its debut

1989: The destruction of the Berlin Wall began a day after East Germany agreed to lift the "iron curtain"

2009: A power failure blacked out much of Brazil due to a fault at the giant Itaipu hydro-electric dam

2014: Ansar Beit al-Maqdis, an Islamist militant group in Egypt, pledged allegiance to the so-called Islamic State