

October 1962		Cuban Missile Crisis (considered nearest event where US & Soviet Union engaged in Nuclear War)
		Soviet Nuclear Weapons build-up begins (peaks in mid-1980's)
1967		John Walker Chief Warrant Officer for US Navy begins spying for Soviet Union. Walker made a plea deal in 1985 after discovery. Walker helped the Soviets decipher more than one million encrypted naval messages
1969		First NATO War Games begin
		NATO begins practicing War Games involving simulated release of Tactical Nuclear Weapons use to NATO forces. This exercise was known as Able Archer. This was an annual exercise held in conjunction with Reforger (Return of Forces to Germany).
1973		Leonid Brezhnev meets Ronald Reagan in San Clemente, California during a visit to United States. Reagan was governor of California at time
1976		
late 1970's		Ambinder, Marc. The Brink: President Reagan and the Nuclear War Scare of 1983 (p. 22). Simon & Schuster. Kindle Edition.
December 12, 1979		The military commander of NATO decided to deploy 572 new nuclear missiles in Western Europe. US announces deployment of Pershing Intermediate Range Nuclear Weapons in response to Soviet SS-20 systems. Soviet Union considers this is a First Strike Option weapon
December 24, 1979		Soviet Union launches invasion of Afghanistan
1980		Britain adopts upgrade of Submarine Ballistic missiles to Trident 2
July 25, 1980		Presidential Directive 59, signed on July 25, 1980, committed the US to endure a nuclear war that lasted beyond an exchange of first strikes
January 1981		Ronald Reagan becomes president of United States
March 30, 1981		Ronald Reagan is shot, paranoia increased in administration
May 1981		Soviet Union begins RYAN (Raketno Yadernoye Napadenie) Nuclear Missile Attack intelligence system using key indicators to predict likelihood of United States pre-emptive attack. Key indicators of a NATO preparation for Nuclear attack were considered to be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• monitor blood banks to see whether prices paid per pint were rising—a sign (to the KGB) that the UK might be preparing for mass burn casualties;</li><li>• collect data on where government officials would be taken during a nuclear emergency;</li><li>• identify the location of major fallout shelters;</li><li>• keep key government officials under constant surveillance;</li><li>• recruit new agents in NATO who would steal war plans for them;</li><li>• map the pre-crisis communication system that the British leadership would use in the days leading up to a sudden war;</li><li>• identify and target technical personnel who would have to be read in to secret nuclear war plans;</li><li>• determine whether churches and banks would be notified in advance, too.</li></ul>
May 10, 1981		Pope John Paul II assassination attempt with CIA suspicion that KGB behind attempt
May 16, 1981		Yuri Andropov KGB Chief and future General Secretary states in a politburo meeting; "The new American administration, he declared, was actively preparing for nuclear war." Andropov was also concerned the US was fomenting political issues in Poland.
June 10, 1981		Reagan asks Richard Allen (National Security Advisor) to draw up a list of ways that the US could help Solidarity, quietly.
March 1, 1982		Reagan observes War Game Ivy League which escalates from a smaller incident into a full Nuclear War.
November 12, 1982		Lenoid Brezhnev dies and Yuri Andropov (former KGB Chief) becomes General Secretary
		Andropov had pulled aside Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq, the president of Pakistan, and threatened to crush him unless he cut off support to the Afghan mujahedeen.

January 1983		Reagan makes a dramatic proposal to sit down with Andropov, wherever and whenever, to sign an agreement to get rid of all intermediate-range nuclear missiles. That meant the Soviet SS-20s and all the Pershing's and GLCMs.
<i>February 1983</i>		Andropov suffered total renal failure and begins dialysis treatments
March 8, 1983		In speech to UK House of Commons President Reagan refers to the Soviet Union as an "Evil Empire" for the first time.
March 23, 1983		Reagan announces the SDI Strategic Defense Initiative (Star Wars missile defense system)
March 29, 1983		US Navy begins FleetEx 83. The US Carriers Enterprise, Midway, & Coral Sea conduct joint exercise in Northern Pacific within flight range of USSR. The purpose of the mission was to intentionally provoke the Soviet Union into responding so that the US forces could study their response, tactics, and capabilities