



## January this week for Apple Inc, Japanese WW II vets, and the Dept. of Homeland Security

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What do Apple Inc, a World War II Imperial Japanese soldier and The Department of Homeland Security have in common? This past January 24 of course.

In this date on 1984 the very first Apple Macintosh Computer went on sale. Steve Jobs vision that one day computers would be as indispensable as commodities would go unrealized until the late 90's, when he rejoined Apple as CEO, leading the company towards a new era of innovation and prosperity, literally changing the way we interact on a daily basis. Today Apple products are sold by the billions, and more innovations are [on the way](#).

On January 24 1972, a time traveler of sorts found himself launched almost 30 years into the future a-la Marty McFly in Back to the Future II. Imperial Japanese soldier Shoichi Yokoi had evaded capture from the allies by hiding in the dense and remote jungles of Guam during the waning days of World War II. Unbeknownst to him, the war ended with the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and Shoichi remained secluded amidst the vegetation for decades, surviving on rain water and by eating plants and hunting animals. Stoic in his quest for survival and the fulfillment of his duty, he evaded detection by locals, even after finding leaflets that announced that the war was over (he thought it was a ruse by the allies), while the rest of the world went on a rapid course towards modernity. By the time he was finally found -still defiant and soldierly- he was shocked to learn not only that the Japanese had ultimately lost the war, but that the world had achieved incredible marvels of science, both monstrous (atomic power) and awe-inspiring (walking on the moon). What may be more shocking still is that two other holdouts from the Japanese Imperial Army would [still be found](#) hiding in jungles in 1974.

For America, January 24 2003 is also a date to remember as the date when The Department of Homeland Security officially began operations, achieving the biggest centralization of federal agencies in the History of The United States. Agencies like FEMA, TSA, The Coast Guard, Secret Service, etc would come under the umbrella of the DHS, sometimes to the chagrin of those who reject the further bureaucratization of government, but welcomed by those who sleep better at night knowing that a full cross-coordinated effort to protect the Homeland is in place, where hopefully, inter-agency information lapses like the ones that failed to prevent 9/11 will be non-existent. Here's an interesting analysis of the [DHS's efforts](#), linked via the Cato Institute. Of course, during the long trail of History, this date denotes many other things for many different people. What, if any, is your memorable remembrance of January 24?