

# MILITARY SCIENCE FICTION

Here are some great books if you like reading about warfare in space, on distant planets or set in an alternate reality. War is ever with mankind, even when we reach the stars.

## [Hidden Empire](#) by Kevin J. Anderson

A long time from now in a spiral arm of our own galaxy, three factions of the human race have the place more or less to themselves. As for resident aliens, the Ildrians are aging pacifists, and the Killkiss are extinct. Unfortunately, two archeologists, using an ancient Killkiss artifact to turn a gas giant into a minor star to make its system habitable, thoroughly incense its inhabitants, the Hydrogues, who swarm out from their home world in a fleet of huge, deadly ships. The *Saga of Seven Suns* series continues with [A Forest of Stars](#).

## [Weapons of Choice](#) by John Birmingham

The impossible has spawned the unthinkable. A military experiment in the year 2021 has thrust an American-led multinational armada back to 1942, right into the middle of the U.S. naval task force speeding toward Midway Atoll—and what was to be the most spectacular U.S. triumph of the entire war. Thousands died in the chaos, but the ripples had only begun. For these veterans of Pearl Harbor, led by Admirals Nimitz, Halsey, and Spruance, have never seen a helicopter, a satellite, or a nuclear weapon. The *Axis of Time* series continues with [Designated Targets](#).

## [Dauntless](#) by Jack Campbell

The Alliance has been fighting the Syndics for a century, and losing badly. Now its fleet is crippled and stranded in enemy territory. Captain John "Black Jack" Geary's legendary exploits are known to every schoolchild. Revered for his heroic "last stand" in the early days of the war, he was presumed dead. But a century later, Geary miraculously returns from survival hibernation and reluctantly takes command of the Alliance fleet as it faces annihilation by the Syndics. The *Lost Fleet* series continues with [Fearless](#).

## [The Far Side of the Stars](#) by David Drake

While the Republic of Cinnabar is at peace with the Alliance, Lt. Daniel Leary and Signals Officer Adele Mundy must escort a pair of wealthy nobles on an expedition. The ship Princess Cecile has been sold as a private yacht, but she still has her guns, missiles, and veteran crew. Daniel and Adele will need all of those things as they face winged dragons, an Alliance cruiser, jealous lovers, and a mysterious oracle which foresees the future. That won't be enough, though, when they penetrate a secret Alliance base and find a hostile fleet ready for a war that will sweep Cinnabar out of a strategically crucial arm of the galaxy. The first novel in the RCN series is [With The Lightnings](#).

## [The Forever War](#) by Joe Haldeman

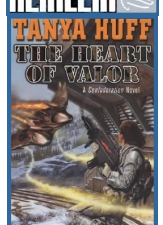
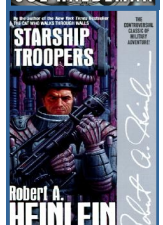
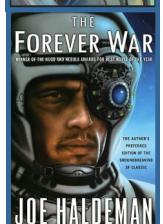
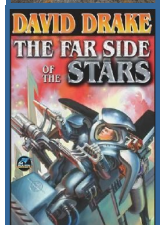
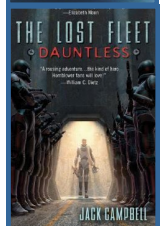
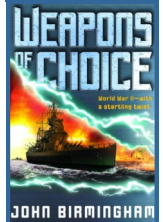
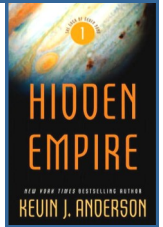
William Mandella is a hero in spite of himself - a reluctant conscript drafted into an elite military unit, and propelled through space and time to fight in a distant thousand-year conflict. He never wanted to go to war, but the leaders on Earth have drawn a line in the interstellar sand, despite the fact that their fierce alien enemy is un-knowable, unconquerable, and very far away. But the true test of his mettle will come when he returns to Earth. Because of the time dilation caused by space travel the loyal soldier is aging months, while his home planet is aging centuries, and the difference will prove the saying: you never can go home. Also try [Forever Peace](#) and [Forever Free](#).

## [Starship Troopers](#) by Robert Heinlein

A classic novel by one of science fiction's greatest writers (which has been "loosely adapted" into a movie). In one of Heinlein's most controversial bestsellers, a young recruit of the future goes through the toughest boot camp in the universe -- and into battle with the Terran Mobile Infantry against mankind's most frightening enemy in what historians would come to call the First Interstellar War. Also try [The Moon Is a Harsh Mistress](#).

## [The Heart of Valor](#) by Tanya Huff

Staff Sergeant Torin Kerr's goal is to keep both officers and her troops alive as they face missions throughout the galaxy. But she's been sidelined for a while, so she jumps at the chance to go to Crucible, the Marine Corps training planet, as temporary aide to Major Svensson. The major was reduced to little more than a brain and spinal cord in his last combat, and is now eager to field test his new body. It's supposed to be an easy assignment - after all, Crucible was set up so recruits could be trained safely. But Torin's barely on-planet when someone starts blasting the training scenarios to smithereens. The *Confederation* series begins with [Valor's Choice](#).



## [The Elysium Commission](#) by L. E. Modesitt

A talented problem-solver-for-hire, and former special-ops soldier, Blaine Donne is called in to investigate a series of mysteries linked to an enigmatic woman with no ties to the past or present, and discovers a utopian world in an alternate universe. Also try some of Modesitt's other military sci-fi novels, including [Flash](#) and [Haze](#).

## [Trading In Danger](#) by Elizabeth Moon

Forced to resign from the Space Academy because of her involvement in an incident that endangered the school's reputation, Kylara Vatta returns home to her family in disgrace. Accepting a minor post in her father's interstellar transport business, she captains an obsolete ship bound for the junkyard on its last voyage, only to find herself caught up in a war between two space colonies that threatens her ship and crew. Moon has launched a new military Sci-Fi series featuring a resilient heroine whose courage is equaled only by her personal integrity. The *Vatta's War* series continues with [Marque and Reprisal](#).

## [Star Soldiers](#) by Andre Norton

The first starships from Earth have burst out into the universe...only to run straight into the restraining grasp of the alien federation known as Central Control. Humans can only go to the stars as interstellar mercenaries; the aliens who already dominate the galaxy allow no other recourse. But when Swordsman Third Class Kana Karr and his comrades-in-arms are betrayed and abandoned on a hostile world by their alien masters, the warriors from Earth begin a desperate but glorious march across a planet whose every sword is against them.

## [Halo: First Strike](#) by Eric Nylund

With the destruction of Halo, the human-Covenant war rages on as the SPARTAN super soldier Master Chief, aided by the artificial intelligence Cortana, race against time to rescue survivors of the disaster and evade Covenant warships that still patrol much of space. Also try [Halo: Ghosts of Onyx](#) and Greg Bear's [Halo: Cryptum](#).

## [Into the Looking Glass](#) by John Ringo

The good news was that the 60-kiloton explosion that decimated a populated zone in Florida wasn't a nuclear explosion. The bad news is that an experiment gone awry has created an inter-dimensional gateway to... somewhere. The really bad news is that similar gateways are appearing throughout the world-and they're being used as passageways by hostile alien invaders. But a resilient humanity, instead of giving in to despair, fights back! Veteran Military SF author Ringo's *Looking Glass* series continues with [Vorpall Blade](#). Also try Ringo's *Troy Rising* series, starting with [Live Free or Die](#).

## [Old Man's War](#) by John Scalzi

On his 75th birthday John Perry did two things—he visited his wife's grave and then he joined the army. The Colonial Defense Force (CDF) has extended its reach into interstellar space to pave the way for human colonization of other planets while fending off marauding aliens. Perry's youth is restored with a new body and soon fights for his life on various alien-infested battlegrounds. This series continues with [The Ghost Brigades](#).

## [One Jump Ahead](#) by Mark Van Name

Jon Moore wanted only to relax on the pristine planet of Macken - but Macken was the secret battleground of two trans-galactic mega-corporations, both determined to control the local jump gate and the riches of an undeveloped world. Moore was too valuable a tool not to be used, whether or not he was willing. What the corporations didn't realize was that Moore had a mind of his own and a conscience that wouldn't let him quit until he'd righted the wrong they'd tricked him into making. They also didn't realize that Jon's new partner was Lobo, an AI-enhanced Assault Vehicle. The *Jon & Lobo* series continues with [Slanted Jack](#).

## [On Basilisk Station](#) by David Weber

Having made him look a fool, Honor Harrington has been exiled to Basilisk Station in disgrace and set up for ruin by a superior who hates her. Her demoralized crew blames her for their ship's humiliating posting. Parliament isn't sure it wants to keep the place; the major local industry is smuggling; the merchant cartels want her head, and she's got a single, over-age light cruiser with an armament that doesn't work to police the entire star system. But the people out to get her have made one mistake. They've made her mad. The *Honor Harrington* series continues with [The Honor of the Queen](#). Also try the *Multiverse* series, starting with [Hell's Gate](#).

## [The Cobra Alliance](#) by Timothy Zahn

When two colony worlds fall to Troft forces almost without a struggle, Earth makes a desperate decision. It would attack the aliens not from space, but with a new Cobra ground force. Now that same force is under threat of disbanding--just when they're needed most. This series continues with [Cobra Guardian](#).

Also see other Military Sci-Fi authors, such as [Lois McMaster Bujold](#), [William Dietz](#), [Gordon Dickson](#), [Harry Harrison](#), and [Harry Turtledove](#).

