Timeline of US Military Conflicts

1622-1644 Powhatan Wars: Jamestown settlers and Powhatan Indians clash.

1637 Pequot War: Pequot Indians and Puritan settlers battle in the Connecticut River Valley.

1675-1676 King Philip’s War: Indian Leader Metacomet (aka King Philip) organized New England tribes in a revolt against Colonial expansion.

1676 Bacon’s Rebellion: Nathaniel Bacon leads unauthorized expeditions against Indians.

1677-1679 Culpepper’s Rebellion: Albemarle, Carolina, colonist imprison the deputy governor, convene a legislature and run the government.


1689-1691 Leisler’s Rebellion: Militia captain Jacob Leisler names himself governor of New York and tries to organize an expedition against French Canada.

1702-1713 Queen Anne’s War: French and Indians attack British settlements; British capture Acadia.

1711-1713 Tuscarora War: Tuscarora Indians attack settlers along North Carolina’s Neuse and Pamlico rivers.

1715-1716 Yamasee War: Creek, Yamasee, Apalachee, Savannah and Sarraw Indians attack South Carolina settlements.

1739-1742 War of Jenkin’s Ear: England declares war on Spain as both nations try to expand their interest in America.

1744-1748 King George’s War: French, Indians and Spanish fight the British from French Canada to the Caribbean.

1754-1763 French and Indian War: British regulars and American colonials square off against the French and their Indian allies. The capture of Quebec ends French rule in Canada.

1760-1762 Cherokee Uprising: British and Cherokee fight in Tennessee, Virginia and the Carolinas.

1763-1766 Pontiac’s War: Pontiac leads the Ottawa, Wyandot, Potawatomi and Ojibwa in an attempt to drive British settlers out of former French territories.


1765-1766 Stamp Act Revolt: Sons of Liberty resist Britain’s Stamp Act; it’s repealed in March 1766.
1768-1771 Regulator War: Western North Carolina colonists fight government officials.

1770 Boston Massacre: British soldiers kill five Bostonians.

1773 Boston Tea Party: Colonist dressed as Indians board ships and dump tea into Boston Harbor.

1774 Lord Dunmore's War: Shawnee Indians fight Virginia settlers over colonist expansion into the Appalachians.

1775-1783 American Revolution: Colonies fight for independence from Great Britain.

1786-1787 Shay's Rebellion: Suffering from a harsh economy, Massachusetts farmers march on Springfield; the state militia defeats the uprising.

1790-1812 Ohio Valley Campaigns: US forces fight sporadic battles with Miami, Shawnee and other tribes in what is now Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois.

1794 Whiskey Rebellion: Western Pennsylvanians protest the government's new tax on whiskey.

1798-1800 Quasi-War with France: French privateers prey on US merchant vessels, prompting an undeclared naval war between the United States and France.

1801-1805 First Barbary War: The United States attacks the Barbary state of Tripoli after refusing to pay tribute to pirates.

1812-1815 War of 1812: The United States takes on British forces, who burn Washington, D.C.

1815 Second Barbary War: Algiers declares war on the United States.

1817-1818 First Seminole War: Conflict begins after US authorities try to reclaim runaway slaves living among the Seminoles.

1832 Black Hawk War: Illinois and Wisconsin militia, supported by the US Army, take on the Sauk, Fox, Winnebago, Sioux and Chippewa tribes.

1835-1842 Second Seminole War: War erupts after the Seminole Indians refuse to relocate west of the Mississippi River.

1836 War of Texas Independence: American settlers in Texas fight Mexico for independence.

1838-1839 Trail of Tears: US soldiers relocate Cherokee Indians from eastern states to Oklahoma Territory. More than 4,000 Cherokee die during the journey.

1838-1839 Aroostook War: Maine farmers and Canadian lumbermen clash over border territory.

1839-1846 Anti-Rent War: New York farmers rebel against feudal landowner system.
1842 Dorr Rebellion: An attempt to reform Rhode Island’s 1663 charter, under which only land owners can vote, becomes an armed uprising.

1846-1848 Mexican War: Mexico cedes what’s now California, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Utah and Nevada to the United States.

1855-1858 Third Seminole War: The Seminole are defeated and moved from Florida.

1857-1858 Utah War: President Buchanan sends troops to enforce his appointment of non-Mormon governor Alfred Cumming.

1860-1900 Plains and Western Indian Wars: Western states witness repeated conflict between US settlers and American Indian inhabitants.

1861-1865 Civil War: Southern and Northern states fight over slavery and state’s rights issues.

1864-1868 Navajo Wars: After a series of treaties fails, Col. Kit Carson begins a scorched-earth policy that forces the Indians to surrender.

1866-1871 The Fenian War: Irish-American movement launches five unsuccessful raids in Canada.

1898 Spanish-American War: United States declares war on Spain and launches offensives in Cuba and the Philippines.


1900 Boxer Rebellion: United States is part of an international force that ends a siege in Beijing.

1898-1934 The Banana Wars: Marines quell revolts in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Panama and Cuba.

1916-1917 Pancho Villa Expedition: US troops pursue the bandit and revolutionary Pancho Villa in Mexico.

1917-1918 World War I: More than 4 million Americans serve in ‘The Great War’.

1919-1920 Russian Revolution: The United States deploys to Vladivostok and Siberia to support anti-Bolshevik forces.


1950-1953 Korean War: US troops, supported by the United Nations, help South Korea fight off invasions from North Korea in this military conflict, which was the first significant armed conflict of the Cold War.

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NARA has the following military records:

1. Volunteer military service 1775-1902
2. US Army military service 1789-1917
3. US Navy military service 1789-1902
4. US Marine Corp 1789-1904
5. Civil War Service and Pension Records