

# BARTON

## LIBRARY

*Dare to Know*

### Military Fiction

*Fiction that features the military lifestyle and loyalty to the armed forces and its codes and is generally set during peacetime.*

A narrow genre in which members of a modern-day military form all or most of the *dramatis personae*. Stories depict the lives of soldiers serving between major conflicts, although characters may be engaged in proxy wars and in armed combat with hostile non-state actors, such as terrorists, revolutionaries, international criminal cartels, or “black hat” hackers. This latter alternative blends into the **thriller** genre. The most successful authors are either veterans or current or retired members of national security agencies, and have often established strong connections to resources within the military communities. While prior service is not a prerequisite, those writing in military fiction should be familiar with the relevant armed forces, their organizations, and unique language. Andre Dubus II’s *The Lieutenant* (1967) is a classic example.

#### Common Elements

Garrison life
Peacetime deployments
Military culture
Traditional military values
Military jargon
Firearms

Weapons platforms
Humanitarian operations
Peacekeeping operations
Security assistance
Counter-narcotics and counter-terrorism operations

Compelling protagonists
Service vs. home life
Personal points of view
Dark humor

#### Benefits of Reading

Provides readers with an understanding of decision-making amidst immense physical stress
Allows readers to consider multiple perspectives of geopolitics
Affords readers thrilling stories with a gritty realism

Gives readers a glimpse into a unique sub-culture with its own values and traditions
Instructs readers on effective leadership
Delivers insight to readers concerning post-conflict operations
Encourages readers to appreciate the sacrifices of those who serve their countries

#### Modern Literary Examples

*The Alpha Enigma* (2020) by W. Michael Gear

*Beyond the Point* (2019) by Claire Gibson  
*Dark Winter* (2018) by A. J. Tata

*The Protector* (2011) by Marliss Melton

*The Stronghold* (2023) by Dino Buzzati

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