From Wounded Knee to Afghanistan
A century of US military interventions

Compiled by Zoltan Grossman   (revised October 8, 2001)

The following is a partial list of U.S. military interventions from 1890 to 2000. This guide does NOT include demonstration duty by military police, mobilizations of the National Guard, offshore shows of naval strength, reinforcements of embassy personnel, the use of non-Defense Department personnel (such as the Drug Enforcement Agency), military exercises, non-combat mobilizations (such as replacing postal strikers), the permanent stationing of armed forces, covert actions where the U.S. did not play a command and control role, the use of small hostage rescue units, most uses of proxy Troops: U.S. piloting of foreign warplanes, foreign disaster assistance, military training and advisory programs not involving direct combat, civic action programs, and many other military activities.

Among sources used, besides news reports, are the Congressional Record (23 June 1969), 180 Landings by the U.S. Marine Corps History Division, Ege & Makhijani in Counterspy (July-Aug. 1982), and Daniel Ellsberg in Protest & Survive. "Instances of Use of United States Forces Abroad, 1798-1993" by Ellen C. Collier of the Library of Congress Congressional Research Service.

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SOUTH DAKOTA  1890 (-?)
Troops:  300 Lakota Indians massacred at Wounded Knee.

ARGENTINA  1890
Troops:  Buenos Aires interests protected.

CHILE  1891
Troops:  Marines clash with nationalist rebels.

HAITI  1891
Troops:  Black workers revolt on U.S.-claimed Navassa Island defeated.

IDAHO  1892
Troops:  Army suppresses silver miners' strike.

HAWAII  1893 (-?)
Naval, Troops:  Independent kingdom overthrown, annexed.

CHICAGO  1894
Troops:  Breaking of rail strike, 34 killed

NICARAGUA  1894
Troops:  Month-long occupation of Bluefields.

CHINA  1894-95
Naval, Troops:  Marines land in Sino-Jap War.
KOREA 1894-96
Troops: Marines kept in Seoul during war.

PANAMA 1895
Troops: naval: Marines land in Colombian province.

NICARAGUA 1896
Troops: Marines land in port of Corinto.

CHINA 1898-1900
Troops: Boxer Rebellion fought by foreign armies.

PHILIPPINES 1898-1910(-?)
Naval, Troops: Seized from Spain, killed 600,000 Filipinos.

CUBA 1898-1902(-?)
Naval, Troops: Seized from Spain, still hold Navy base.

PUERTO RICO 1898(-?)
Naval, Troops: Seized from Spain, occupation continues.

GUAM 1898(-?)
Naval, Troops: Seized from Spain, still used as base.

MINNESOTA 1898(-?)
Troops: Army battles Chippewa at Leech Lake.

NICARAGUA 1898
Troops: Marines land at port of San Juan del Sur.

SAMOA 1899(-?)
Troops: Battle over succession to throne.

NICARAGUA 1899
Troops: Marines land at port of Bluefields.

IDAHO 1899-1901
Troops: Army occupies Coeur d'Alene mining region.

OKLAHOMA 1901
Troops: Army battles Creek Indian revolt.

PANAMA 1901-14
Naval, Troops: Broke off from Colombia 1903, annexed Canal Zone 1914-99.

HONDURAS 1903
Troops: Marines intervene in revolution.

DOMINICAN REP. 1903-04
Troops: U.S. interests protected in Revolution.
KOREA 1904-05
Troops: Marines land in Russo-Japanese War.

CUBA 1906-09
Troops: Marines land in democratic election.

NICARAGUA 1907
Troops: "Dollar Diplomacy" protectorate set up.

HONDURAS 1907
Troops: Marines land during war with Nicaragua.

PANAMA 1908
Troops: Marines intervene in election contest.

NICARAGUA 1910
Troops: Marines land in Bluefields and Corinto.

HONDURAS 1911
Troops: /U.S. interests protected in civil war.

CHINA 1911-41
Naval; Troops: Continuous occupation with flare-ups.

CUBA 1912
Troops: U.S. interests protected in Havana.

PANAMA 1912
Troops: Marines land during heated election.

HONDURAS 1912
Troops: Marines protect U.S. economic interests.

NICARAGUA 1912-33
Troops; bombing; 20-year occupation, fought guerrillas.

MEXICO 1913
Naval: Americans evacuated during revolution.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC 1914
Naval: Fight with rebels over Santo Domingo.

COLORADO 1914
Troops: Breaking of miners' strike by Army.

MEXICO 1914-18
Naval, Troops: Series of interventions against nationalists.

HAITI 1914-34
Troops, bombing: 19-year occupation after revolts.
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  1916-24
Troops:  8-year Marine occupation.

CUBA  1917-33
Troops:  Military occupation, economic protectorate.

WORLD WAR I  1917-18
Naval, Troops:  Ships sunk, fought Germany

RUSSIA  1918-22
Naval, Troops:  Five landings to fight Bolsheviks.

PANAMA  1918-20
Troops:  "Police duty" during unrest after elections.

YUGOSLAVIA  1919
Troops:  Marines intervene for Italy against Serbs in Dalmatia.

HONDURAS  1919
Troops:  Marines land during election campaign.

GUATEMALA  1920
Troops:  2-week intervention against unionists.

WEST VIRGINIA  1920-21
Troops:  bombing:  Army intervenes against mineworkers.

TURKEY  1922
Troops:  Fought nationalists in Smyrna (Izmir).

CHINA  1922-27
Naval, Troops:  Deployment during nationalist revolt.

HONDURAS  1924-25
Troops:  Landed twice during election strife.

PANAMA  1925
Troops:  Marines suppress general strike.

CHINA  1927-34
Troops:  Marines stationed throughout the country.

EL SALVADOR  1932
Naval:  Warships sent during Farabundo Marti revolt.

WASHINGTON DC  1932
Troops:  Army stops WWI vet bonus protest.

WORLD WAR II  1941-45
Naval, Troops:  bombing, nuclear:  Fought Axis for 3 years; 1st nuclear war.
DETROIT  1943
Troops: Army puts down Black rebellion.

IRAN  1946
Nuclear threat: Soviet Troops told to leave north (Iranian Azerbaijan).

YUGOSLAVIA  1946
Naval/Response to shooting-down of U.S. plane.

URUGUAY  1947
Nuclear threat: Bombers deployed as show of strength.

GREECE  1947-49
Command Operation: U.S. directs extreme-right in civil war.

CHINA  1948-49
Troops: Marines evacuate Americans before Communist victory.

GERMANY  1948
Nuclear threat: Atomic-capable bombers guard Berlin Airlift.

PHILIPPINES  1948-54
Command Operation: CIA directs war against Huk Rebellion.

PUERTO RICO  1950
Command Operation: Independence rebellion crushed in Ponce.

KOREA  1950-53

IRAN  1953
Command Operation: CIA overthrows democracy, installs Shah.

VIETNAM  1954
Nuclear threat: Bombs offered to French to use against siege.

GUATEMALA  1954

EGYPT  1956
Nuclear threat, Troops: Soviets told to keep out of Suez crisis; Marines evacuate foreigners

LEBANON  1958
Troops: naval: Marine occupation against rebels.

IRAQ  1958
Nuclear threat: Iraq warned against invading Kuwait.
CHINA  1958
Nuclear threat:  China told not to move on Taiwan isles.

PANAMA  1958
Troops:  Flag protests erupt into confrontation.

VIETNAM  1960-75

CUBA  1961
Command Operation: CIA-directed exile invasion fails.

GERMANY  1961
Nuclear threat:  Alert during Berlin Wall crisis.

CUBA  1962
Nuclear threat:  Naval Blockade during missile crisis; near-war with USSR.

LAOS  1962
Command Operation:  Military buildup during guerrilla war.

PANAMA  1964
Troops:  Panamanians shot for urging canal's return.

INDONESIA  1965
Command Operation:  Million killed in CIA-assisted army coup.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  1965-66
Troops; bombing:  Marines land during election campaign.

GUATEMALA  1966-67
Command Operation:  Green Berets intervene against rebels.

DETROIT  1967
Troops:  Army battles Blacks, 43 killed.

UNITED STATES  1968
Troops:  After King is shot; over 21,000 soldiers in cities.

CAMBODIA  1969-75
Bombing, Troops; Naval:  Up to 2 million killed in decade of bombing, starvation, and political chaos.

OMAN  1970

LAOS  1971-73
Command Operation; bombing:  U.S. directs South Vietnamese invasion; "carpet-bombs" countryside.
SOUTH DAKOTA  1973

MIDEAST  1973
Nuclear threat:   World-wide alert during Mid-East War.

CHILE  1973
Command Operation:   CIA-backed coup ousts elected Marxist president.

CAMBODIA  1975
Troops; bombing:   Gas captured ship, 28 die in copter crash.

ANGOLA  1976-92
Command Operation: CIA assists South African-backed rebels.

IRAN  1980
Troops; nuclear threat, aborted bombing:   Raid to rescue Embassy hostages; 8 troops die in copter-plane crash. Soviets warned not to get involved in revolution.

LIBYA  1981
Naval jets: Two Libyan jets shot down in maneuvers.

EL SALVADOR  1981-92
Command Operation; Troops: Advisors, over-flights aid anti-rebel war, soldiers briefly involved in hostage clash.

NICARAGUA  1981-90
Command Operation; Naval: CIA directs exile (Contra) invasions, plants harbor mines against revolution.

LEBANON  1982-84
Naval, bombing, Troops:   Marines expel PLO and back Phalangists, Navy bombs and shells Muslim and Syrian positions.

HONDURAS  1983-89
Troops: Maneuvers help build bases near borders.

GRENADEA  1983-84
Troops; bombing: Invasion four years after revolution.

IRAN  1984
Jets: Two Iranian jets shot down over Persian Gulf.

LIBYA  1986
Bombing; naval:   Air strikes to topple nationalist gov't.

BOLIVIA  1986
Troops:   Army assists raids on cocaine region.

IRAN  1987-88
Naval; bombing: US intervenes on side of Iraq in war.
LIBYA 1989
Naval; jets: Two Libyan jets shot down.

VIRGIN ISLANDS 1989
Troops: St. Croix Black unrest after storm.

PHILIPPINES 1989
Jets: Air cover provided for government against coup.

PANAMA 1989-90
Troops; bombing: Nationalist government ousted by 27,000 soldiers, leaders arrested, 2000+ killed.

LIBERIA 1990
Troops: Foreigners evacuated during civil war.

SAUDI ARABIA 1990-91
Troops; jets: Iraq countered after invading Kuwait; 540,000 Troops: also stationed in Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, UAE, Israel.

IRAQ 1990-?
Bombing; Troops; Naval: Blockade of Iraqi and Jordanian ports, air strikes; 200,000+ killed in invasion of Iraq and Kuwait; no-fly zone over Kurdish north, Shiite south, large-scale destruction of Iraqi military.

KUWAIT 1991
Naval; bombing; Troops: Kuwait royal family returned to throne.

LOS ANGELES 1992
Troops: Army, Marines deployed against anti-police uprising.

SOMALIA 1992-94
Troops; naval; bombing: U.S.-led United Nations occupation during civil war; raids against one Mogadishu faction.

YUGOSLAVIA 1992-94
Naval: NATO blockade of Serbia and Montenegro.

BOSNIA 1995
Jets, bombing No-fly zone patrolled in civil war; downed jets, bombed Serbs.

HAITI 1994-96
Troops; naval: Blockade against military government; Troops: restore President Aristide to office three years after coup.

CROATIA 1995
Bombing: Krajina Serb airfields attacked before Croatian offensive.

ZAIRE (CONGO) 1996-97
Troops: Marines at Rwandan Hutu refuge camps, in area where Congo revolution begins.
LIBERIA  1997
Troops:  Soldiers under fire during evacuation of foreigners.

ALBANIA  1997
Troops:  Soldiers under fire during evacuation of foreigners.

SUDAN  1998
Missiles:  Attack on pharmaceutical plant alleged to be "terrorist" nerve gas plant.

AFGHANISTAN  1998
Missiles:  Attack on former CIA training camps used by Islamic fundamentalist groups alleged to have attacked embassies.

IRAQ  1998-?
Bombing, Missiles:  Four days of intensive air strikes after weapons inspectors allege Iraqi obstructions.

YUGOSLAVIA  1999-?
Bombing, Missiles:  Heavy NATO air strikes after Serbia declines to withdraw from Kosovo.

YEMEN  2000
Naval:  Suicide bomb attack on USS Cole.

MACEDONIA  2001
Troops:  NATO troops shift and partially disarm Albanian rebels.

UNITED STATES  2001
Jets, naval:  Response to hijacking attacks.

AFGHANISTAN  2001

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