

Air Force Update



Lafayette Rotary Club

February 3, 2009

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Indiana State President

Air Force Association

AFA's Mission

Promoting Air Force Air Power

- **Educate** the public about the critical role of aerospace power in the defense of our nation
- **Advocate** aerospace power and a strong national defense
- **Support** the US Air Force, the Air Force Family and aerospace education

Air Dominance

"We better be prepared to dominate the skies above the surface of the earth or be prepared to be buried beneath it."

- General Carl A. "Tooney" Spaatz (1st CSAF)

Need for Air Dominance

- Air dominance is a precondition for all other successful combat operations in modern warfare.
- Last soldier killed from enemy air in 1953
- Success at Normandy not possible without Air supremacy.
- Loss of Korean War without air supremacy.
- Iraq/Afghanistan- Airlift operates freely to enable pinpoint air delivery of supplies and enable unmanned air vehicles to operate unchallenged
- British would have lost Falklands War without air dominance—protected their landing ships from enemy aircraft

Gross Domestic Product

- **3% GDP** spent on Defense today; a record low
 - While we are a nation at war!
- **In the past ... GDP rates have been:**
 - 37% during WWII
 - 14% during Korea
 - 9% during Vietnam
 - 6% during the Reagan military buildup

We Can Afford It Today!

The Air Force Today

- **Engaged in continuous warfighting 18+ years**
 - Threat less clear; difficult to know who the enemy is
 - Interoperability and jointness are key to success
 - Air Force providing thousands 'in lieu of' Airman
- **Force structure negatively impacted by:**
 - Operation Iraq Freedom
 - Operation Enduring Freedom
 - Operation Noble Eagle
- **Budget dollars are scarce**
 - Army wants more soldiers; adds hundreds of Airmen
 - Economic crises affects national security environment

\$50.00
reward for
story behind
this photo



An Air Force in Crisis

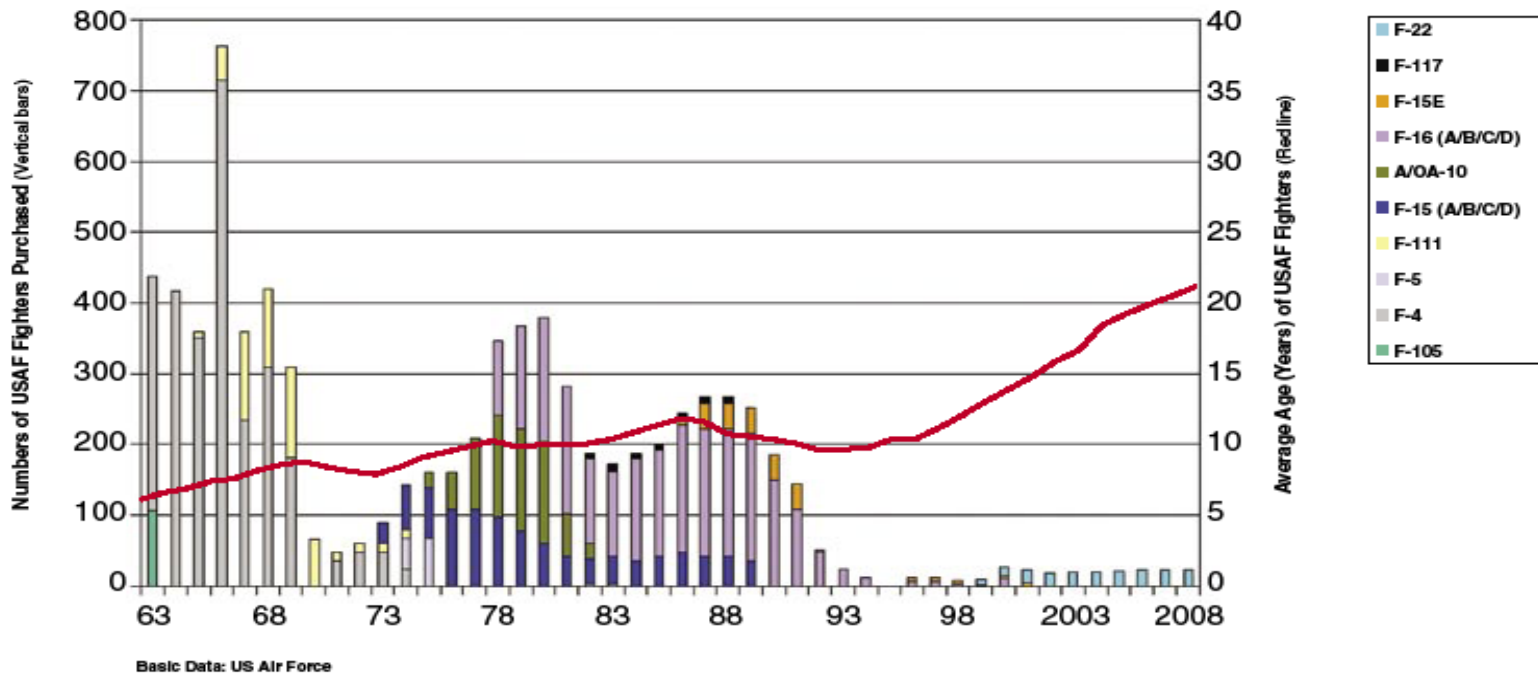
- **Aircraft average age is 25+ years**
 - **B-52H averages 46.6 years**
 - **KC-135E oldest aircraft, 50+ years**
 - **When KC-135 retires...90 years old**
 - **Mother of last crew member yet to be born**
 - **Grounded over 940 aircraft in last 12 months**
 - **140 A-10s restricted or grounded today**
 - **In 2008, 450 F-15's, 450 T-38's, 21 KC-135E's, 20 B-52's, and 140 A-10's were grounded**
 - **1/3 of F-15s grounded in 2008 equate to three aircraft carriers**
 - **Missouri Nat'l Guard F-15 structural failure**
 - **Aircraft grounded totals more than all other branches' aircraft combined**
 - **Aircraft placed on restricted mission capability**
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- **Space assets all past their design life**
 - **14 of 30 GPS satellites within 1 component of failure**



The Aging Fleet

Air Force Fighters: Dwindling Purchases, Rising Age

Graphic by Heather Lewis, AIR FORCE Magazine



What's next

- **Decision on keeping F-22 Line open**
 - **Only aircraft capable of surviving in SA-20 environment**
 - **At 183, Not enough to fill ten squadrons, must fill gap with older F-15s/F-16s**
- **Decision on KC-X Tanker Contract**
- **Decision on CSAR-X Contract**
- **Decision on purchasing more C-17s**
- **Speed purchase and delivery of F-35**



The Next Few Years

- **Five Year Defense Plan** buys 125 aircraft per year for next 6 years
 - 45 year aircraft replacement rate
 - Average age of the aircraft rises to 46+ years
 - **Actually** 80 of 125 are aircraft; others are UAVs
 - 72 year aircraft replacement rate
- CSAF** needs 200 aircraft a year to make modest reduction in aircraft age
- ~ \$20B extra per year to make this happen
 - ~ Proposes retiring 137 F-15s and 177 F-16s in 2009 to help upgrade the remainder of the fleet



The Constitution of the United States

- **...provide** for the common defense...
- **...promote** the general welfare...

We should not ask our Airmen to protect us with equipment that will not allow them to survive...and win...

EDUCATE

ADVOCATE

SUPPORT



EDUCATE

ADVOCATE

SUPPORT



05/20/2007

Congressional Climate

- **In a typical session:**
 - 10,000 bills introduced
 - 2,000 reported out of committee
 - 645 signed into law
- **Ever-declining military experience among Members of Congress and staff:**

Senate: 35% have military experience; 5% have AF experience

House: 28% have military experience; 5% have AF experience

What Can You Do?

- Letter/call Congressman
- Speak with Congressional Staffers
- Letter to local newspaper editor
- Call to Action





- *AFA is working for Americans every day*
- *Need your help to share Air Force facts*
- **Senator Lugar: 1-317-226-5555**
- **Senator Bayh: 1-317-554-0750**
- **Congressman Steve Buyer: 1-574-583-9819**

THANK YOU LAFAYETTE ROTARY!!