



Military Corner

United States Air Force

Previously part of the United States Army, the USAF was formed as a separate branch of the military on September 18, 1947. The USAF is the largest and the most technologically advanced air force in the world, with about 6057 manned aircraft in service (4,273 USAF; 1,313 Air National Guard; and 400 Air Force Reserve); approximately 160 Unmanned Combat Air Vehicles, 2161 Air-Launched Cruise Missiles, and 1900 Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles; and as of September 30, 2005, had 351,800 personnel on active duty, 122,750 in the Selected and Individual Ready Reserves, and 106,800 in the Air National Guard. An additional 14,000 personnel were in the Standby Reserve and the Air Force employed 166,730 civilian personnel. The USAF is currently planning a massive Reduction-in-Force (RIF). Because of budget constraints, the USAF will reduce the service's current size by 40,000 full time equivalent positions by 2011, with approximately half to be eliminated in FY 2007. Approximately 35,000 active duty positions, or one year's cycle of enlistments and retirements, will be eliminated over 5 years.[3] The current size of the active-duty force is roughly 70% of that of the USAF at the end of the first Gulf War in 1991.[2006 USAF Almanac: USAF Personnel Strength]

Since the Air Force wasn't created until 1947, that eliminates the possibility of any World War II AF covers. It also means you'll find a bigger percentage of rear-strikes and 30-strikes here. Some 1,289 covers are currently listed, basically including: AF Bases, Exchanges/PXs, Reserve, Recruiting, plus a variety of on-base Banks, S&L's, and Credit Unions (I count those, but I don't know about others).

