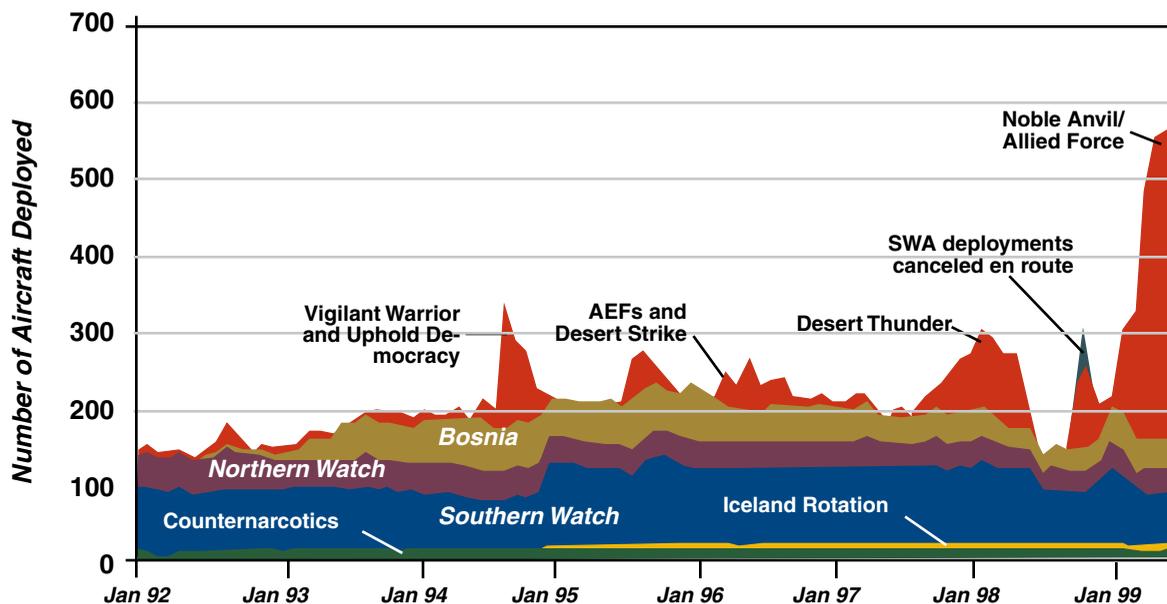


The Chart Page

By Tamar A. Mehuron, Associate Editor

Pressing Engagement

USAF Deployments Through the 1990s



Source: Col. Robert Allardice, USAF, "Expeditionary Aerospace Force ... Defining the Cost of Engagement."

In 1990–91, USAF prepared for, waged, and stood down from a big war—Desert Storm. The rest of the 1990s was spent in worldwide “engagement,” featuring constant, draining deployments such as Northern Watch, Southern Watch, and Bosnia, plus “surges” to meet sudden crises. Of the latter type, the largest and most wearing was Allied Force in the Balkans, which strained airmen and aircraft nearly to the limit. The graph depicts the number of aircraft tasked for these various contingencies.

To better manage the allocation of troops and equipment to meet these demands, USAF devised the Expeditionary Aerospace Force concept, which service leaders hope will even out the pressures associated with the policy of engagement.

AEF Aerospace Expeditionary Force
SWA Southwest Asia