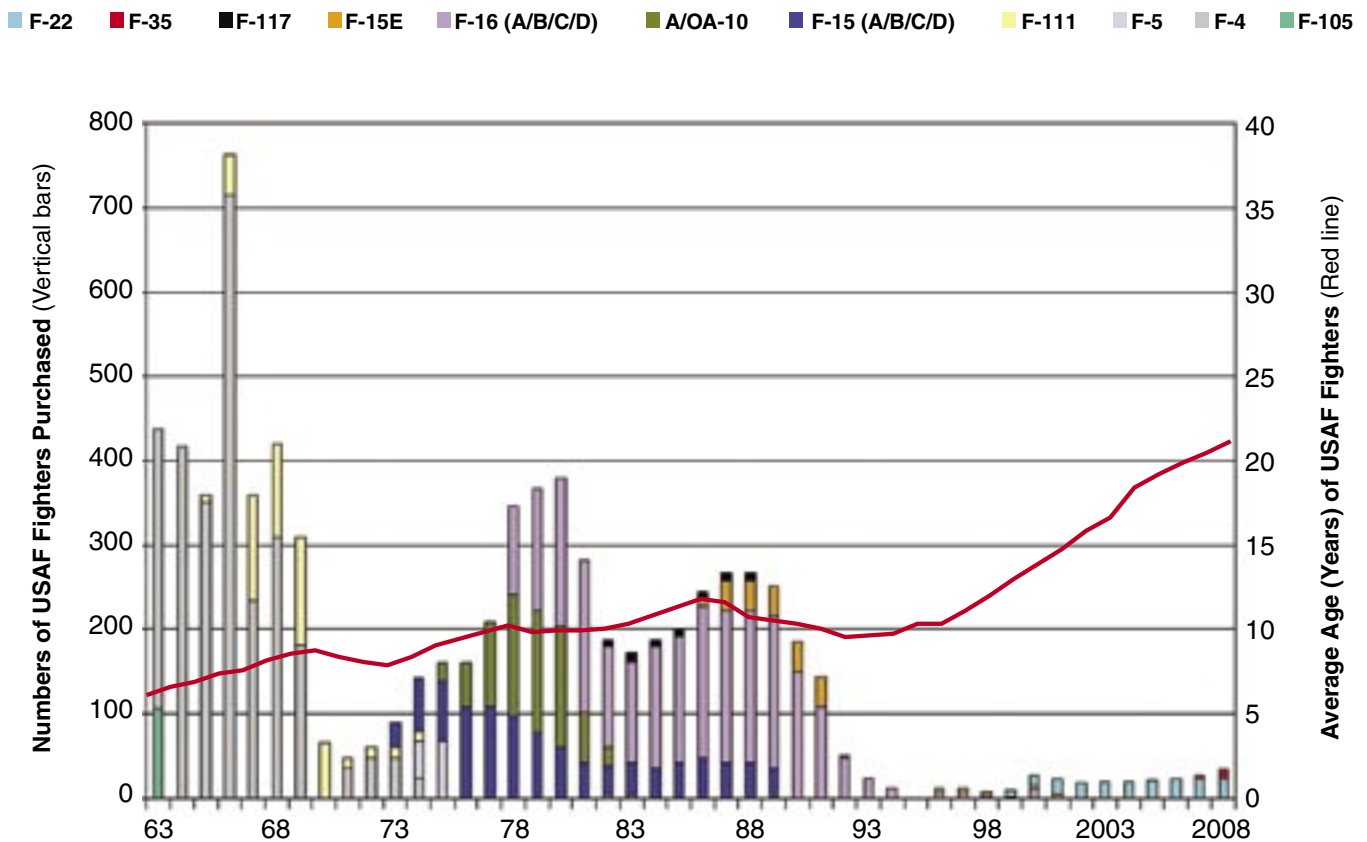


## Desolation Row

If you want to know why USAF fighters are so old, look no further. In the '60s, '70s, and '80s, fighter purchases (vertical bars) generally oscillated between 150 and 400 a year. Turnover was heavy, so average age (red line) hovered around 10 years. Then, in 1992,

came the crash. Fighter purchases fell to almost nothing and have stayed in that desolate spot through three Presidencies. With no replacements, fighters have stayed in service, growing long in the tooth. The average fighter is now an unprecedented 21 years old.

### Air Force Fighters: Dwindling Purchases, Rising Age



Basic Data: US Air Force