

The US Air Force led the way in every aspect of the air effort.

The Gulf War II Air Campaign, by the Numbers

By Robert S. Dudney, Editor in Chief

The United States Air Force dominated the Gulf War II air campaign, contributing to the coalition effort 863 aircraft and 24,196 combat and support missions of all types.

Those and other data are contained in a summary of airpower statistics prepared by the staff of Air Force Lt. Gen. T. Michael Moseley, head of Central Air Forces under US Central Command.

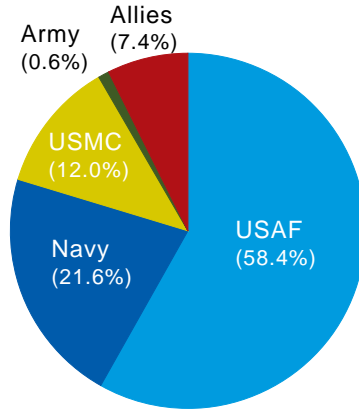
Moseley was CENTCOM combined force air component commander—the “air boss”—throughout Operation Iraqi Freedom. The air compo-

nent comprised forces from not only the US Air Force but also the Navy, Marine Corps, Army, Royal Air Force, Royal Australian Air Force, and Canadian Air Force.

Moseley’s unclassified 16-page report, dated April 30, carries the title “Operation Iraqi Freedom—By the Numbers.” It covers the period March 19 through April 18.

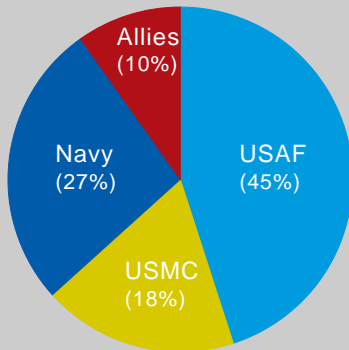
The report said that Air Force aircraft turned in nearly 60 percent of the coalition's 41,404 sorties. USAF notably dominated the strike and mobility categories of sorties. Data does not include Special Operations Forces, Army helicopter, and coalition sovereignty flights.

Total Air Sorties



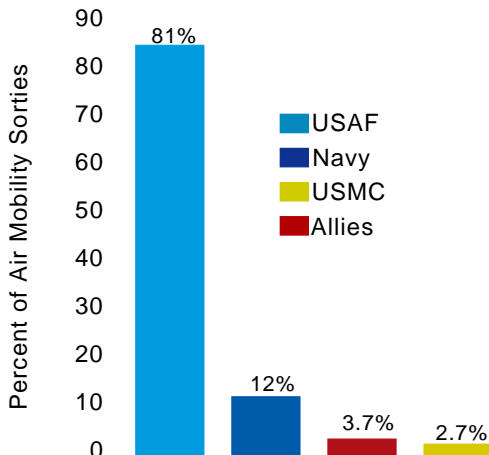
	Fighter	Bomber	Tanker	Airlift	C2	ISR	Rescue	Other	Total
USAF	8,828	505	6,193	7,413	432	452	191	182	24,196
Navy	5,568	0	2,058	0	442	357	0	520	8,945
USMC	3,794	0	454	0	75	305	0	320	4,948
Army	0	0	0	0	0	269	0	0	269
Allies	2,038	0	359	263	112	273	0	1	3,046
Total	20,228	505	9,064	7,676	1,061	1,656	191	1,023	41,404

Strike Sorties



	Fighter	Bomber	Total	Percent
USAF	8,828	505	9,333	45.0%
Navy	5,568	0	5,568	26.9%
USMC	3,794	0	3,794	18.3%
Army	0	0	0	0
Allies	2,038	0	2,038	9.8%
Total	20,228	505	20,733	

Air Mobility Sorties



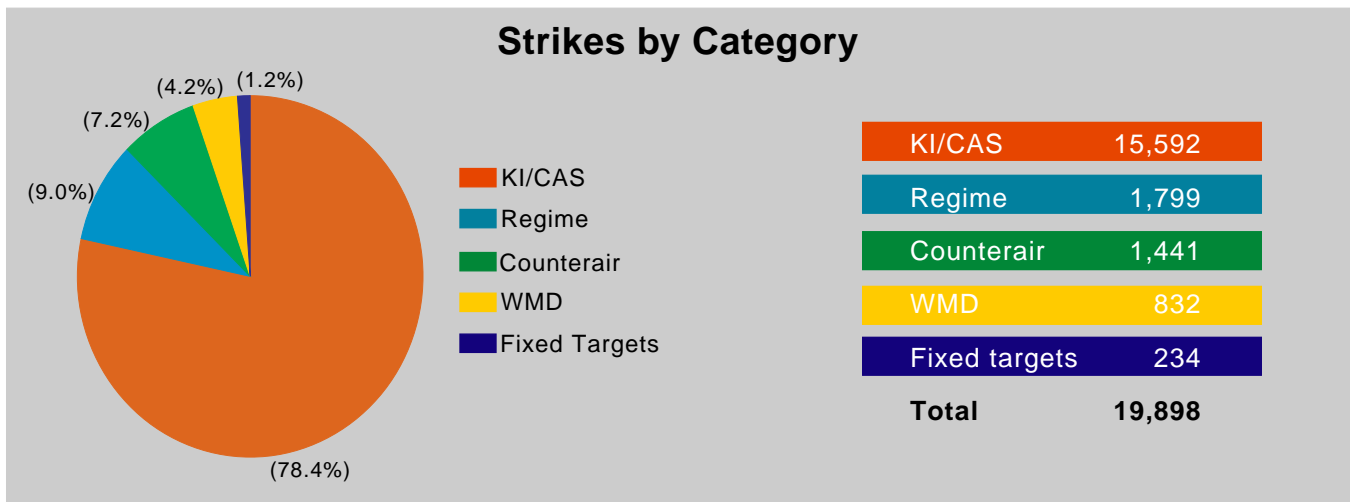
	Tanker	Airlift	Total	Percent
USAF	6,193	7,413	13,606	81.3%
Navy	2,058	0	2,058	12.3%
USMC	454	0	454	2.7%
Army	0	0	0	0
Allies	359	263	622	3.7%
Total	9,064	7,676	16,740	

The coalition conducted some 20,000 individual strikes, some requiring use of more than one weapon.

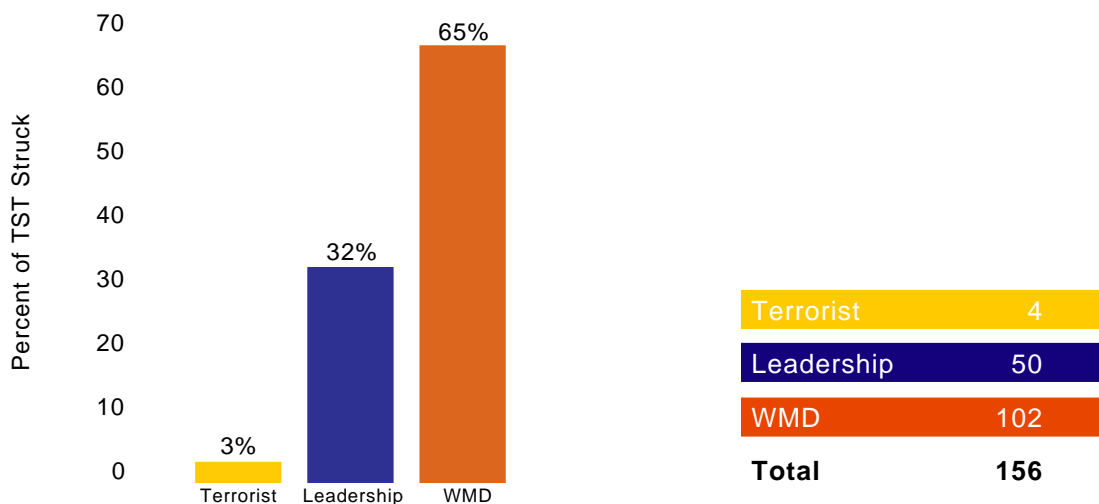
The air component devoted an overwhelming amount of its effort—some 78 percent—to support of ground forces. These were called “kill box interdiction/close air support,” or KI/CAS missions.

Coalition aircraft attacked 156 “time-sensitive targets,” which are fleeting in nature, and 686 “dynamic targets,” meaning those that are mobile and of high importance.

Dynamic Targets Struck		
South	243	35%
West	271	40%
North	172	25%
Total	686	



Time-Sensitive Targets Struck

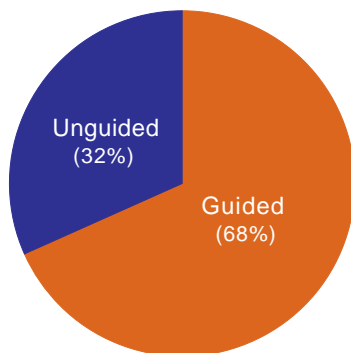


The study reported that coalition aircraft dropped on Iraq a total of 29,199 bombs, rockets, and missiles of all varieties.

Gulf War II featured heavy use of precision guided weapons, or those guided to the target by laser beams, satellite signal, or TV image matching. Two-thirds of the expended munitions—19,948—were of the precision guided type.

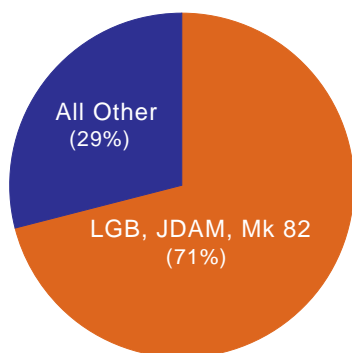
In heaviest use were the laser guided bomb, Joint Direct Attack Munition, and Mk 82 iron bomb. These three types accounted for 71 percent of all munitions expended. The rest was divided among 16 other types.

Munitions Expended



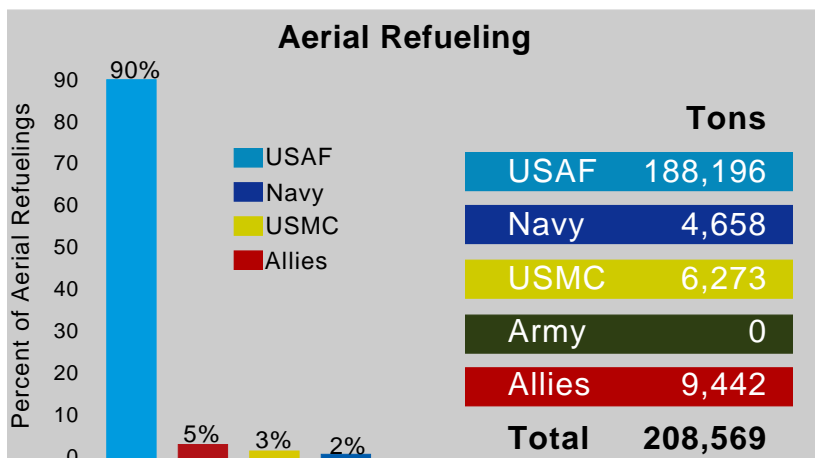
Guided	19,948
Unguided	9,251
Total	29,199

Most Popular Munitions



Air Force aerial tankers provided critical support for all other aircraft, delivering 90 percent of the 208,569 tons of jet fuel offloaded in the sky.

Another major support effort—theater and medical transport—generated 2,478 sorties during the war.



Munitions Use By Type

LGB	8,618	29.51%
GPS-JDAM	6,542	22.40%
Mk 82	5,504	18.85%
Mk 83	1,692	5.79%
M117	1,625	5.57%
Maverick	918	3.14%
GPS-WCMD	908	3.11%
TLAM	802	2.75%
Allied guided	679	2.33%
Hellfire	562	1.92%
HARM	408	1.40%
JSOW	253	0.87%
CBU-99	182	0.62%
CALCM	153	0.52%
Allied unguided	124	0.42%
CBU-87	118	0.40%
GPS-LGB	98	0.34%
Other guided	7	0.025%
Mk 84	6	0.021%
Total	29,199	

Air Force Theater Transport

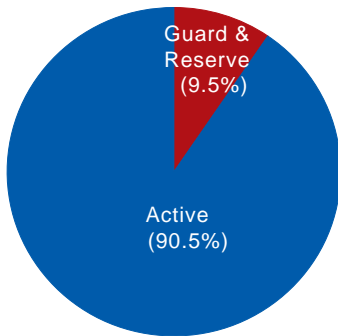
	Missions	Persons
C-130	2,203	9,662
Medevac	136	1,572
DV aircraft	139	641
Total	2,478	11,875

Coalition nations deployed 466,985 active, National Guard, and Reserve airmen, soldiers, sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen.

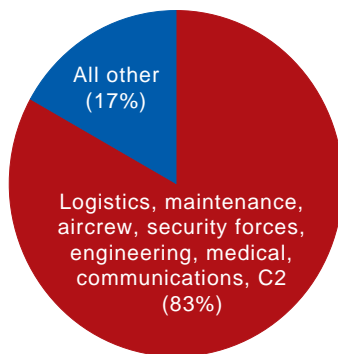
Of the coalition total, 423,998—91 percent—were American. Almost 10 percent of the US force came from the Guard and Reserve.

Half of the Americans—233,342—were soldiers. USAF provided 54,955 troops. Seven USAF personnel categories—logistics, maintenance, aircrew, security forces, engineering, medical, communications, and command and control—accounted for four-fifths of the total.

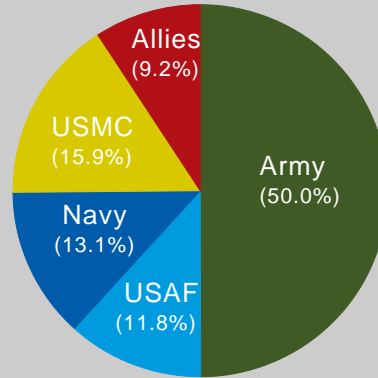
The US Force Mix



USAF Breakdown



Total Personnel



	Active	Guard	Reserve	Total
USAF	45,664	7,207	2,084	54,955
Army	213,793	8,866	10,683	233,342
USMC	64,904	0	9,501	74,405
Navy*	59,240	0	2,056	61,296
Allies	42,987	0	0	42,987
Total	426,588	16,073	24,324	466,985

*Navy number includes 681 Coast Guard.

US Air Force Personnel Categories

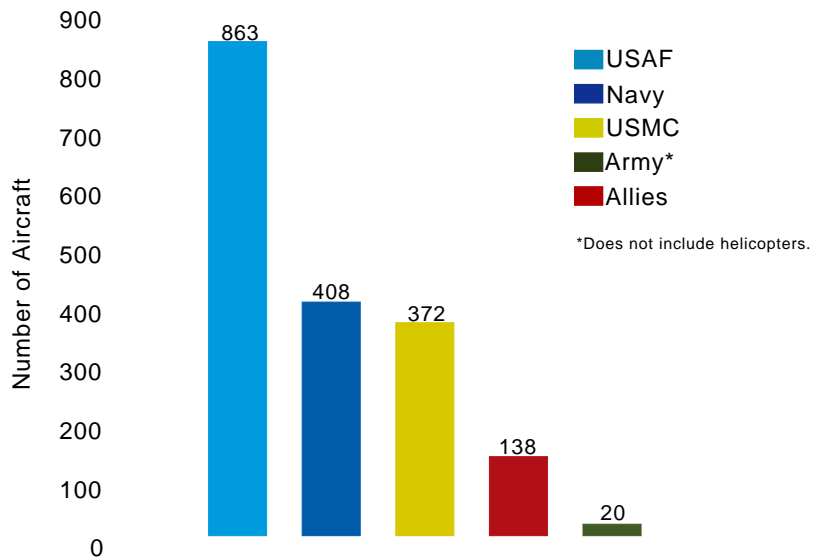
Logistics & maintenance	21,829	39.7%
Aircrew (all)	7,040	12.8%
Security forces	4,825	8.8%
Engineering	4,592	8.4%
Medical	3,104	5.6%
Communications	2,431	4.4%
Command & control	1,857	3.4%
Other	3,757	6.8%
Services	1,784	3.2%
Intelligence	1,356	2.5%
Aircrew support	999	1.8%
Mission support	521	0.9%
Financial/acquisition	464	0.8%
Chaplains & support	143	0.3%
Investigations	152	0.3%
Legal	80	0.1%
Historians	21	0.0%
Total	54,955	

The air armada in the Gulf comprised 1,801 combat and support aircraft (not counting US Army helicopters).

The Air Force provided 51 percent of the combat aircraft and all of the heavy bombers. Most of the tanker, airlift, and ISR aircraft came from USAF units. The Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve accounted for more than 300 aircraft.

The mission capable rates for most aircraft flying in Gulf War II were quite high. For example, the B-1B, B-2, and B-52 bombers all turned in MC rates above 75 percent. The MC rate for most fighters topped 80 percent.

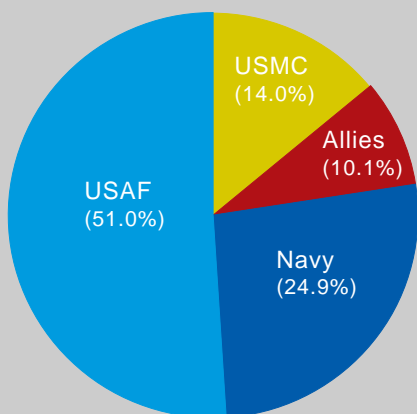
Total Coalition Aircraft



	Fighter	Bomber	SOF	ISR	C2	Airlift	Tanker	Other	Total
USAF	293	51	131	60	22	111	182	13	863
Navy	232	0	0	29	20	5	52	70	408
USMC	130	0	0	0	0	0	22	220	372
Army*	0	0	0	18	0	0	0	2	20
Allies	80	0	14	11	4	10	12	7	138

*Does not include helicopters.

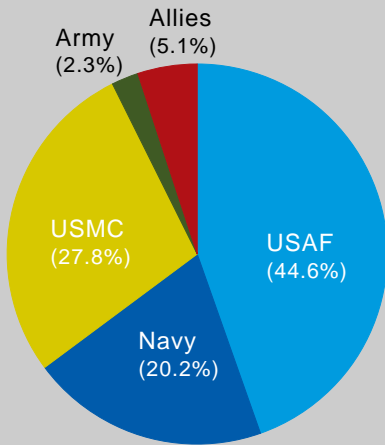
Combat Aircraft



	Fighter	Bomber	SOF	Total
USAF	293	51	131	475
Navy	232	0	0	232
USMC	130	0	0	130
Army*	0	0	0	0
Allies	80	0	14	94

*Does not include helicopters.

Support Aircraft



	ISR	C2	Airlift	Tanker	Other	Total
USAF	60	22	111	182	13	388
Navy	29	20	5	52	70	176
USMC	0	0	0	22	220	242
Army	18	0	0	0	2	20
Allies	11	4	10	12	7	44

ANG and AFRC Aircraft

	ANG	AFRC	Total
A-10	47	12	59
B-52	0	6	6
C-130	72	6	78
E-8	9	0	9
EC-130	1	0	1
F-16	45	6	51
HC-130	0	4	4
HH-60	3	6	9
KC-135	57	22	79
MC-130	2	6	8
Total	236	68	304

Mission Capable Rates, USAF Aircraft

Type	Aircraft	Percent
Attack	A-10	85.0%
	AC-130	91.0%
Bomber	B-1	79.4%
	B-2	85.0%
	B-52	76.7%
Fighter	F-15C	82.6%
	F-15E	84.1%
	F-16C	73.9%
	F-16CG	84.0%
	F-16CJ	80.4%
	F-117	89.3%
	Tanker	KC-10
Airlift	KC-135	86.4%
	C-130	88.4%
ISR	C-20	100.0%
	C-21A	96.4%
	E-3B	80.7%
	E-8C	70.0%
	EC-130E	87.8%
	EC-130H	97.8%
	RC-135	80.8%
SOF	U-2	79.1%
	HH-60	88.5%
	MH-53M	82.0%
UAV	UH-60A	100.0%
	MQ-1	77.2%
	RQ-1	76.6%
	RQ-4	74.1%