

Airpower Steps Up

In the wars of Southwest Asia—Iraq and Afghanistan—airpower has become more prominent and important. Figure 1 shows that, for four straight years, overall sortie numbers have risen, especially in close air support of troops on the ground. As Figure 2 shows, there was also a dramatic increase in CAS strikes. Figure 3 reflects the growing desire for USAF's air delivery of cargo. "ISR" stands for intelligence-surveillance-reconnaissance.

Fig. 1
Air Activity in Southwest Asia
Number of Sorties

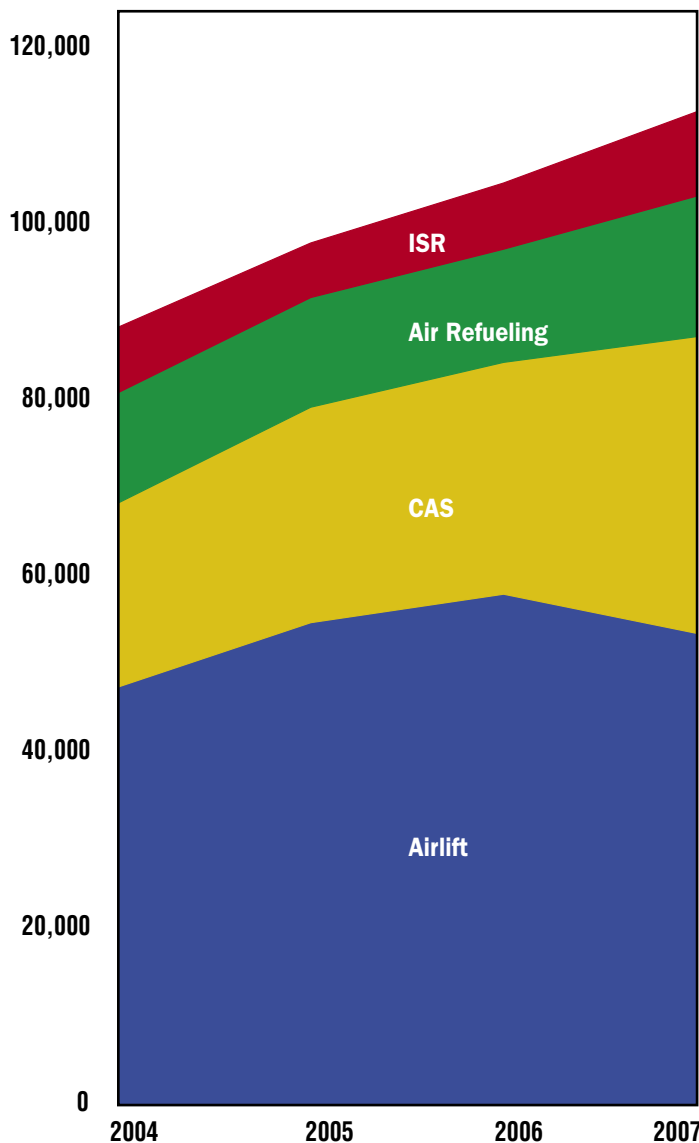


Fig. 2

CAS Strikes
(Actual Expenditure of Munitions)

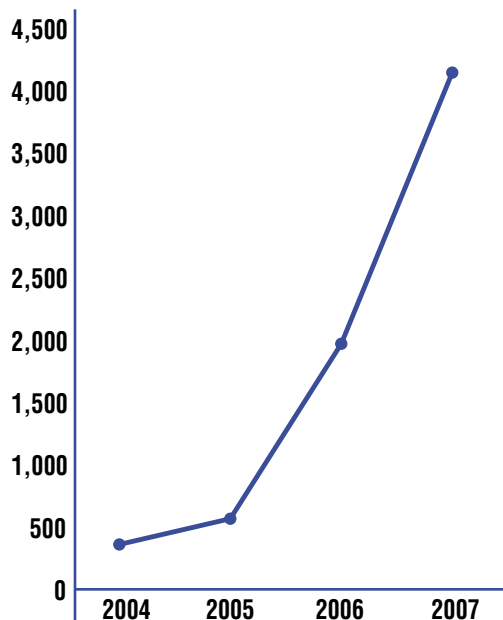
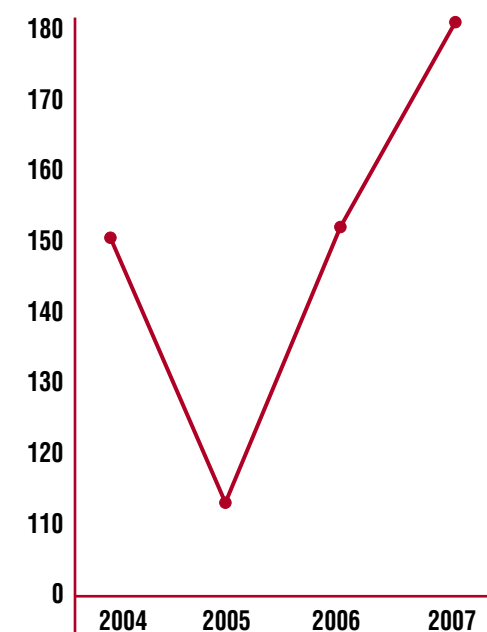


Fig. 3

Supplies Airlifted
(Thousands of tons)



Source: USCENTAF, Combined Air and Space Operations Center, Jan. 3, 2008. Data reflects the activities of all services, with the exception of airlift, which is USAF only.