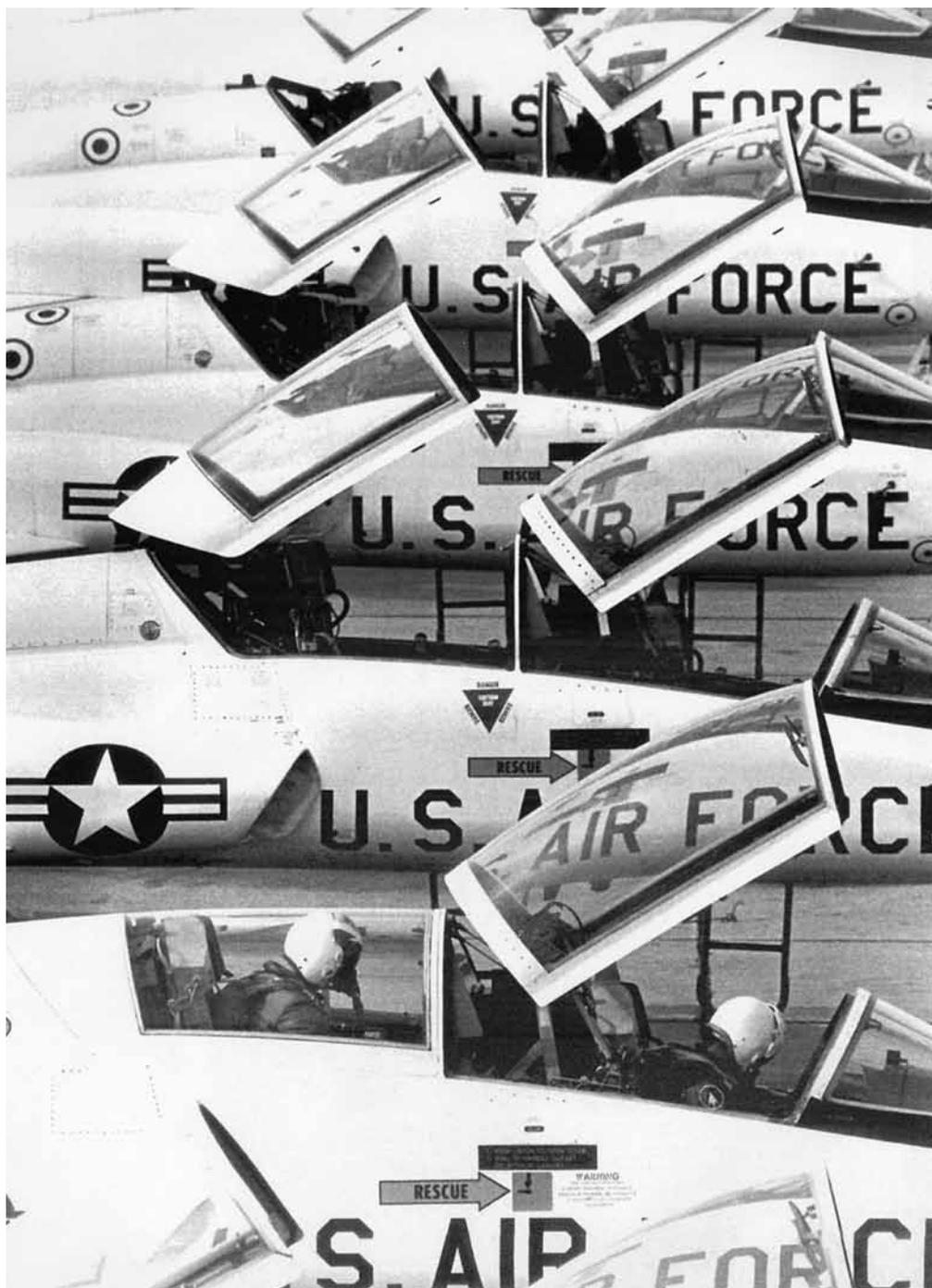


Open Talons

Northrop Grumman photo



The T-38 Talons in this unusual, hall-of-mirrors shot were already old when the photo was taken in 1985. A Talon prototype first flew in 1959; it entered service in 1961. Northrop built 1,187. By the time these models lined up, the Talon was nearly a quarter-century old and had trained 56,000 USAF fighter pilots. Yet the twin-turbojet, Mach 1.3 trainer is still serving as USAF's advanced training aircraft for students selected to fly fighters. The latest, upgraded version of the aircraft is the T-38C, which was delivered in 2002.