



Centre for Military Studies



Integrating Innovative Air Power Facing 21st Century Strategic Challenges

Learning From the F-16

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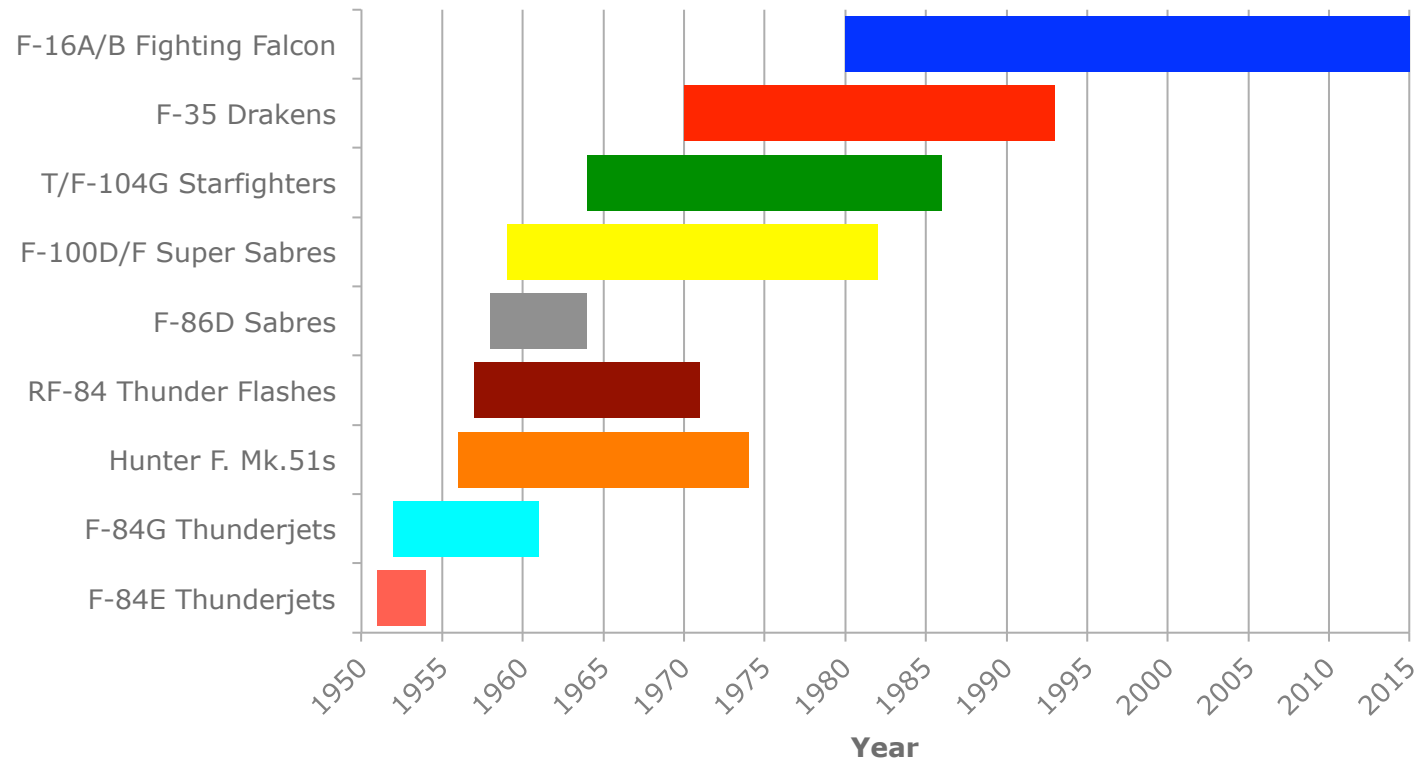
Overview

- Denmark's Combat Air Force
- Declining Resources
- Increasing Operations
- Learning from the F-16
- Financial & Technical Benefits
- Alliance Benefits
- Recommendations: Type
- Recommendations: Management



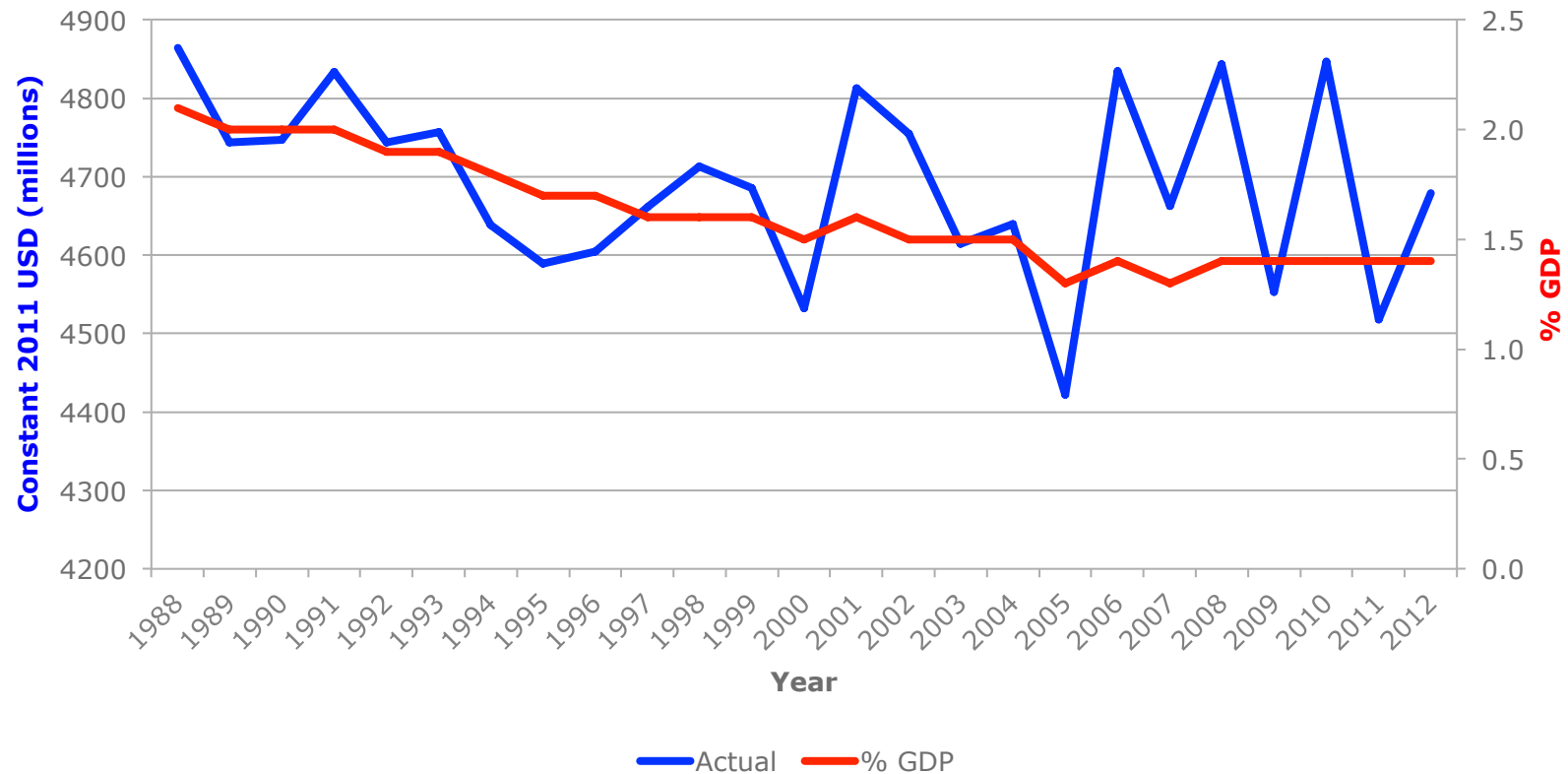
Denmark's Combat Aircraft Fleet

RDAF Combat Aircraft Lifespans



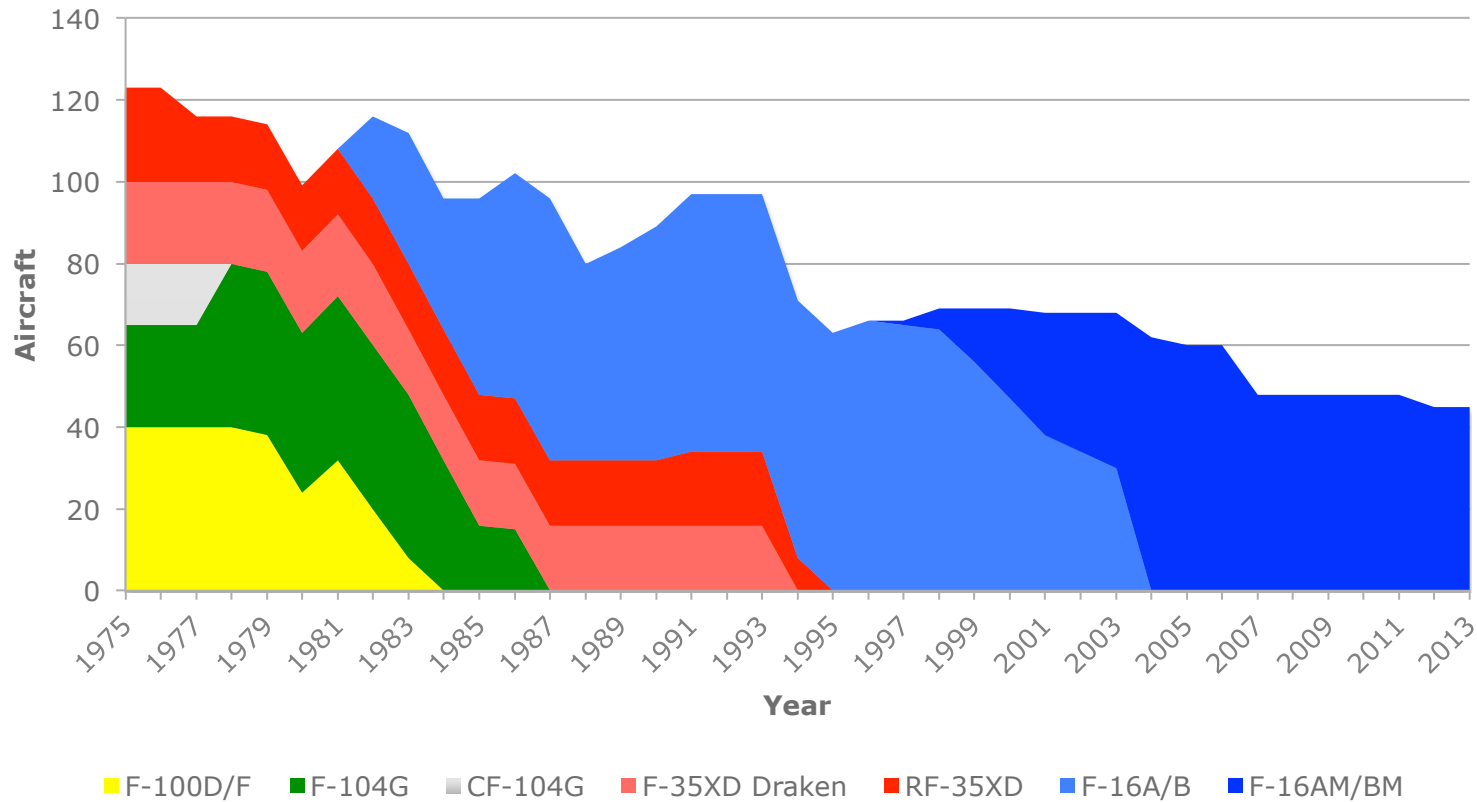
Shrinking Resources

Danish Defence Spending 1988–2012



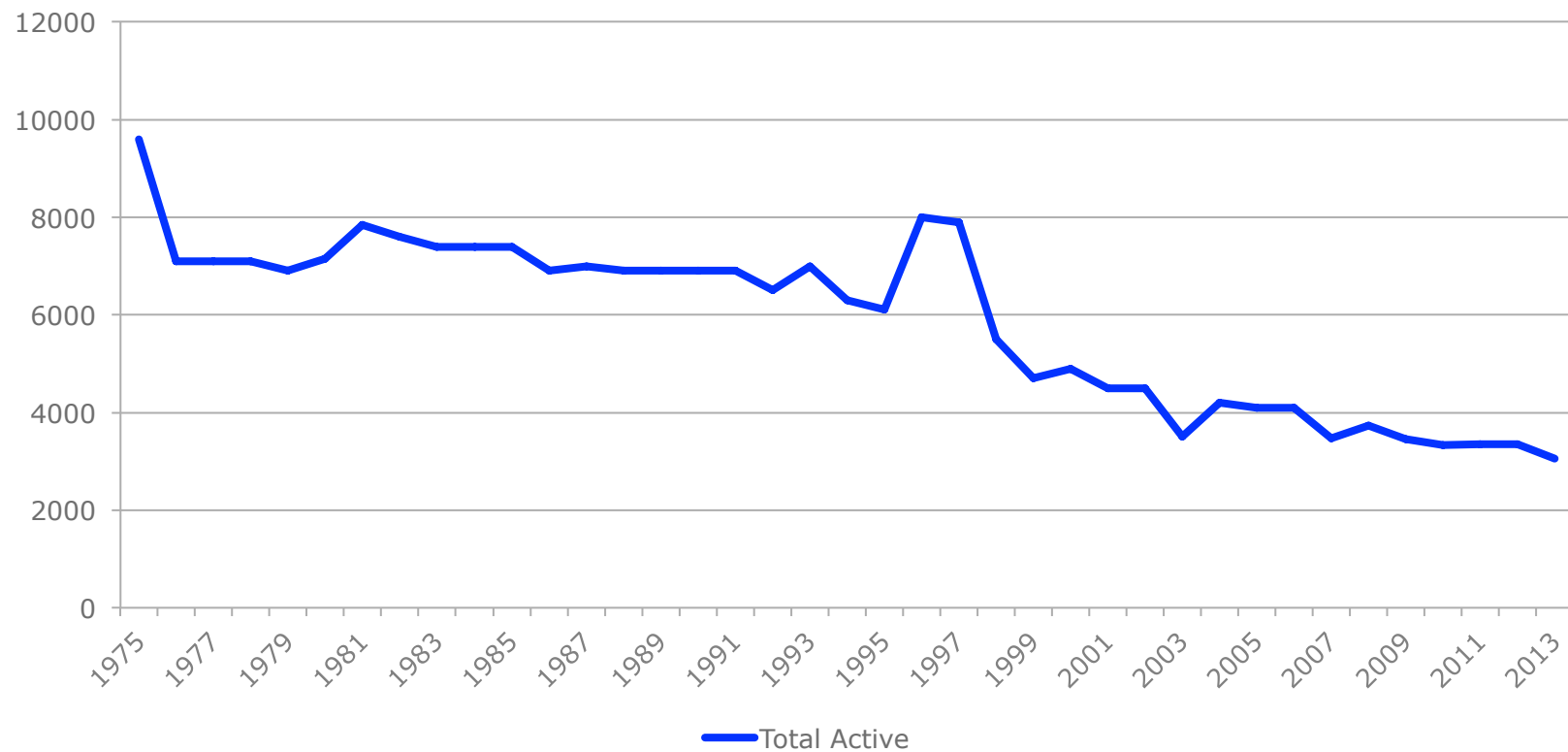
Shrinking Combat Aircraft Inventory

RDAF Combat Aircraft Inventory: 1975–2013



Shrinking Resources

Total Active Duty RDAF



Increasing Operations



Kosovo: Operation Determined Falcon

- 15 June 1998
- 2 + 2 F-16
- 1st expeditionary operation

Operation Allied Force

- 13 October 1998–June 2000 (operations: 24 March–6 June 1999)
- 4→8 + 1–2 F-16, 120 personnel
 - 220 missions, 442 sorties, 4 strikes, 24 bombs
- 1st strikes since 9 April 1940



Kyrgyzstan/Afghanistan: Operation Enduring Freedom

- 20 December 2001–September 2002
- 1 C-130H + 53–73 personnel
 - 448 flying hours, 590 tons of cargo
- 1st global deployment; 1st EAPF deployment
- October 2002–October 2003
- 6 F-16
- 743 sorties, 4347 flying hours, 19 laser-guided bomb strikes
- 1st precision strikes; 1st close air support



Increasing Operations



Baltic Air Policing

- 2004: 1 July– 30 October—5 F-16s, 6 pilots, 60 personnel
- 2009: 2 January– 1 May—4 F-16s, 45–50 personnel
- 2011: 2 September– 4 January 2012—4 F-16s, 45–50 personnel
- 2013: 3 January– 30 April—4 F-16s, 45–50 personnel
- 2014: 1 May– 31 August—4+2 F-16s, 50 personnel



Iceland Air Policing

- 2009: 4 – 30 March—4 F-16s, 48 personnel
- 2010: 8 – 29 March—4 F-16s, 52 personnel



Increasing Operations



Libya: Operation Odyssey Dawn

- 20 – 30 March 2011
- 4 F-16s, 39 missions, 102 PGMs
 - 2nd only to USAF

Operation Unified Protector

- 31 March–31 October 2011
- 4 F-16s, 561 missions, 821 PGMs
 - 4th behind the US, UK, and France



Mali: Operation Serval/ MINUSMA

- 2013: 17 January–17 May—1 C-130J, 40 personnel
- 2014: 1 February–June—1 C-130J, 60 personnel



Increasing Operations



Iraq: Operation Inherent Resolve

- 2014: 27 August– 10 September: 1 C-130
- 2014: 2 October– Present: 4+3 F-16 + 140 personnel
 - 284 missions, 217 PGMs (as of 16 April 2015)
- 2014: November–present: 1 C-130J

- Context for Combat Aircraft Purchase
 - Decision on Type: Mid 2015
 - Entering Inventory: 2018–2020
 - What Kind?
 - How Many?



Learning from the F-16

Financial & Technical Benefits

- Greatly Reduced Price from Consortium Buy
- Common Configuration Advantages
 - Performance Data
 - Maintenance & Fleet Management
 - Division of Labor
 - Sharing of Parts & Munitions



Learning from the F-16

Financial & Technical Benefits

- MOU on Common Updates
 - Enhanced MOU on Mid-Life Update
- MNFP Committee Decision-Making on Upgrades
 - Equal Say
 - Proportional Pay
- Quick Modernization



Learning from the F-16

Alliance Benefits

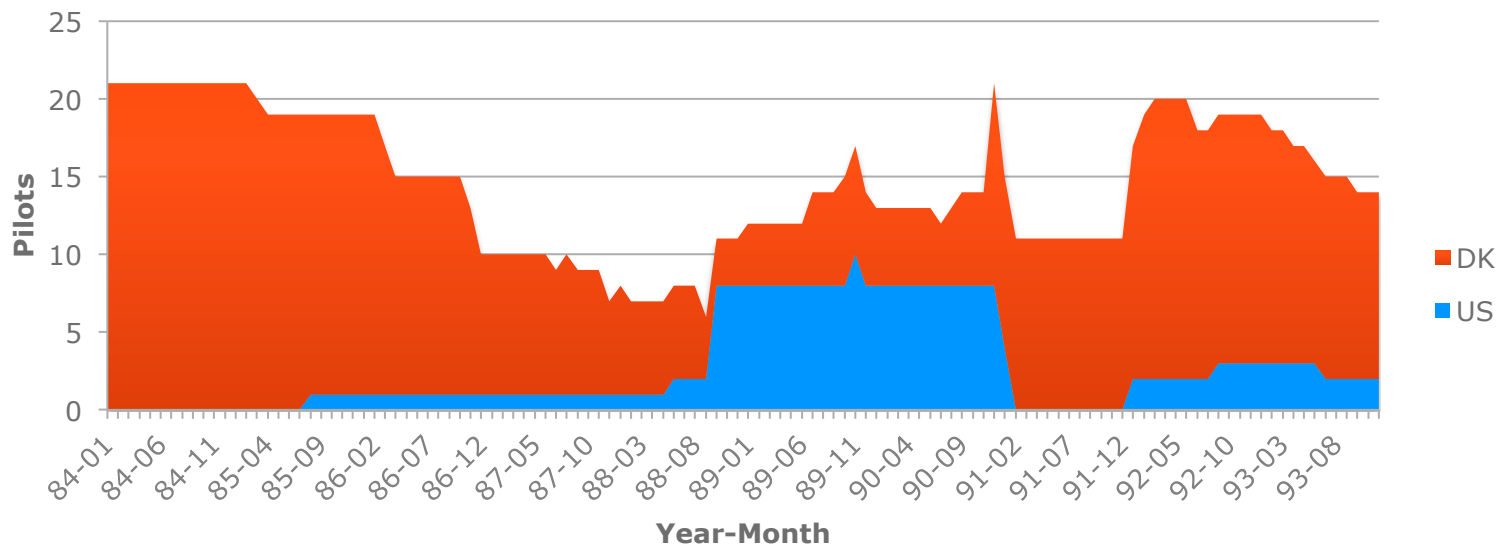
- Train as You Fight: Commonality → Red Flag
- Commonality → Multinational Squadron → EPAF



Learning from the F-16

- Pilot Shortage & USAF Assistance

RDAF 727 Squadron Manning: 1984–1994



Learning from the F-16

- RDAF Transformation
 - Offensive Turn
 - Driven by Operation Allied Force
 - Acquiring PGMs
 - All-Weather, Precision Strike Capabilities
 - Expeditionary Turn
 - Driven by Operation Enduring Freedom
 - Air Superiority *and* Air-to-Ground Missions
 - Helped by 2004 Defence Agreement
 - Operations Separated from Support
 - Organize as You Fight
 - Expeditionary Air Force Construct
 - Cultural Shift
- Not Driven by Type of Aircraft, but by
 - Operational Experience
 - Allied Expectations
 - Domestic Politics



Recommendations: Selection

- Many Users
- Large Partner to Absorb Costs & Help
- Institutionalize Cooperation on Modernization
- Equal Say & Proportional Pay



Recommendations: Cooperation

- Manage Pilot Cadre
 - Increased Demand from Civil Aviation
 - Post-2012 Personnel System Changes
→ Retention & Recruitment Issue
- Further Integrate into Cooperative Institutions to Stay Abreast
 - NATO Joint Air Power Competency Centre
 - European Air Group
 - USAF Combined Forces Air Component Commander course
→ Costs DKK to Post Personnel
 - These are Investments with Large Returns



Recommendations: Cooperation

- Multinational Exercises
 - Red Flag
 - Green Flag
 - Maple Flag

- Emphasize EPAF
 - Do Together what Cannot be Done Alone
 - Train Together
 - Presents Full Squadron to SACEUR
 - Focus Danish Diplomacy
 - Requires Political Focus



Take Aways

- 1975: 2.65 Billion DKK got more than *just* 58 combat aircraft
 - Increased Danish Combat Power
 - Increased Danish Commitment to NATO
 - Increased NATO & US Commitment to Denmark
- Resulted from Multinational Cooperation in F-16
 - Procurement
 - Maintenance
 - Fleet Management
 - Parts Sharing
 - Munitions Sharing
 - Pilot Training
 - Multinational Exercises
- Common Aircraft for Common Purposes



Thank You

<http://cms.polsci.ku.dk/english/publications/learningfromthef-16/>

