

# The Chart Page

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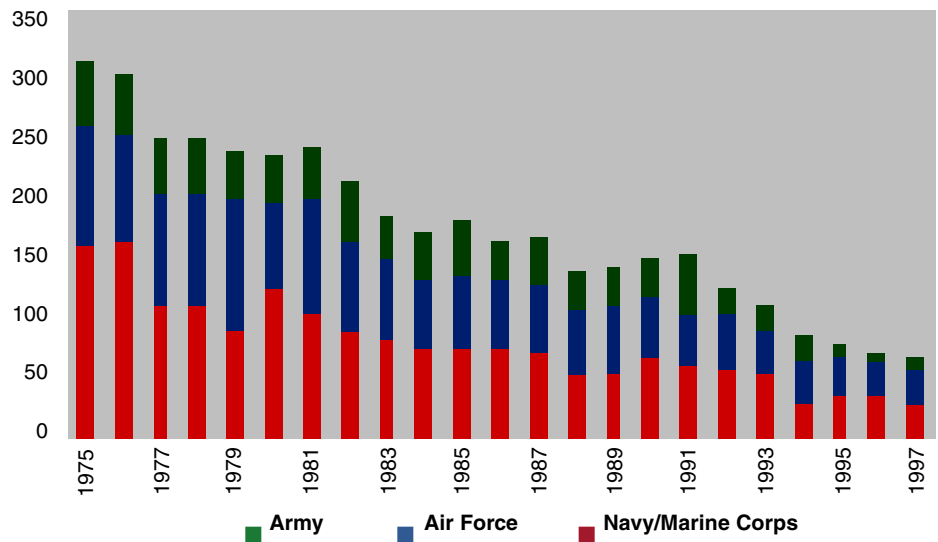
## New Flight Safety Record

The number of Class A flight mishaps involving military aircraft hit an all-time low in 1997, capping a 22-year decline in such accidents. Over the years 1975–96, the annual number of Class A mishaps plummeted from 309 to 71, fewest ever at that time. That record low was quickly broken as the armed services reported only 68 Class A accidents in 1997.

Meanwhile, the accident rate—expressed as the number of Class A mishaps per 100,000 flying hours—has for the three most recent years stayed flat at about 1.5, down from a high in 1975 of about 4.3.

Among the services, the Navy/Marine Corps' record concerning the absolute number of mishaps improved the most, dropping from 158 in 1975 to 27 in 1997 with a corresponding decline in the mishap rate from 7.3 to 1.9. Army aviation's mishap rate, which came in at 0.7 in 1996, rose in 1997 to 1.25. The number of Air Force mishaps dropped from 99 in 1975 to 29 in 1997, while the service's mishap rate rose slightly from 1.26 in 1996 to 1.37 in 1997.

*The Drop in Class A Mishaps*



Source: GAO, "Military Aircraft Safety: Serious Accidents Remain at Historically Low Levels," March 1998.

*Mishap Rates by Service*

