

## “No-War-Itis” in the 1930s

After World War II, Gen. Carl A. Spaatz took up the topic of readiness—rather, the lack of it—in the 1930s. The Chief of Staff, writing in *Foreign Affairs*, said US Army Air Forces after Pearl Harbor rapidly built up personnel, combat groups, and, at a much slower pace, aircraft. However, it took years to forge such “things” into an effective fighting force, measured in combat sorties.

Sorties did not grow much until 1943, and did not hit high levels until 1944. They shot up at D-Day, declined, and then peaked in 1945. Spaatz warned this long lag between onset of a crisis and arrival of usable military power was dangerous, and should be avoided by careful planning for future conflicts.

### Expansion of US Army Air Forces, 1939-45

Curves are individually consistent but expressed in different scales. Small numbers on chart signify actual numbers of personnel, groups, aircraft, and sorties at given points.

