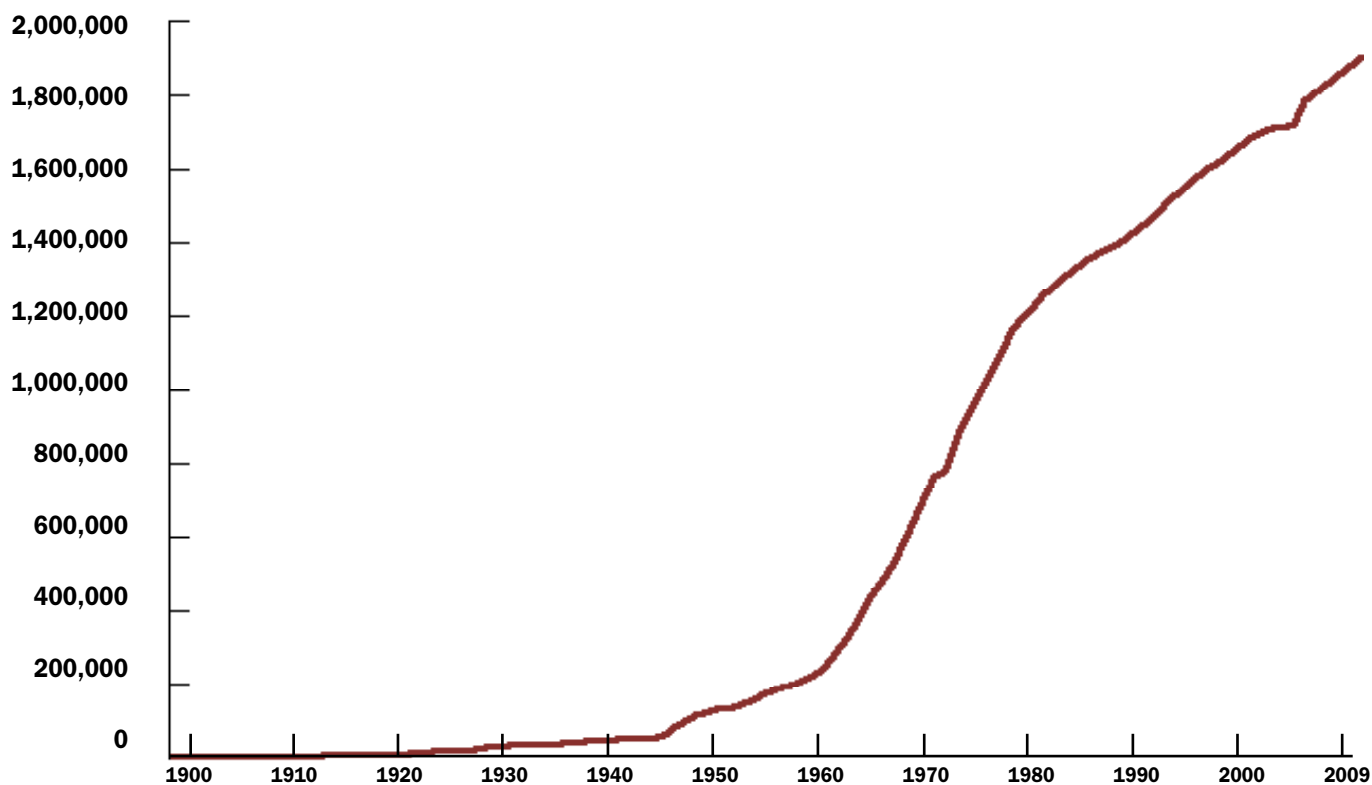


Two Million Retirees

At the dawn of the 20th century, US military retirees were few—about 3,000. They now number nearly two million, a population larger than that of Phoenix, the nation's fifth largest city. The line on this page shows explosive growth. It took 75 years for the US to reach a level of one million retirees, and 35 years later reached the current—and still climbing—total of 1.9 million. The high growth rate stems from commencement of a large standing Cold War force and shift

to a professional force in the early 1970s. Of today's retirees, some 28 percent were officers, and 72 percent came from enlisted ranks. The largest contingent comes from the Army (672,902). Other service totals: Air Force, 653,209; Navy, 475,769; and Marine Corps, 102,350. The Army has the largest group of officer retirees (207,638), while the Air Force has produced the most enlisted retirees (484,754). The cost of retired pay each year now tops \$49 billion.

Military Retirees Receiving Retired Pay, 1900-2009



Source: "Statistical Report on the Military Retirement System," Department of Defense, Office of the Actuary, May 2010.