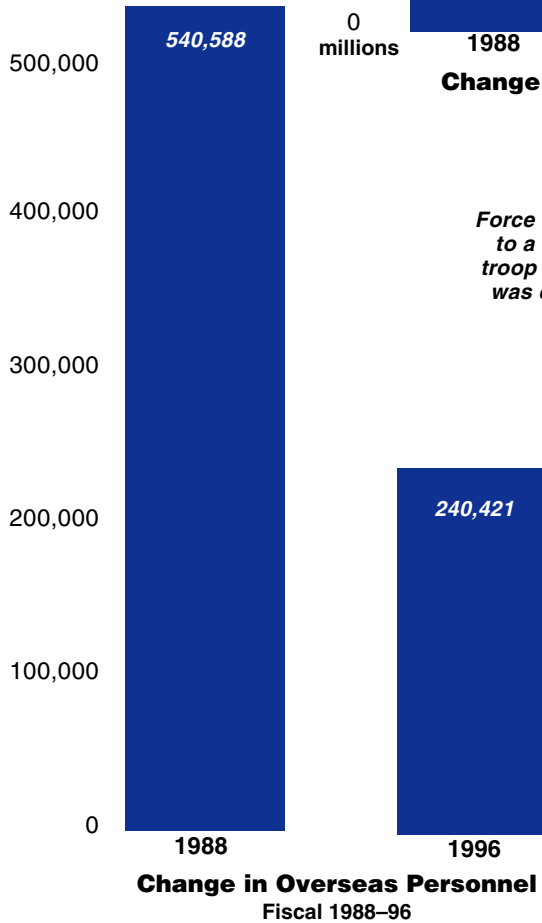
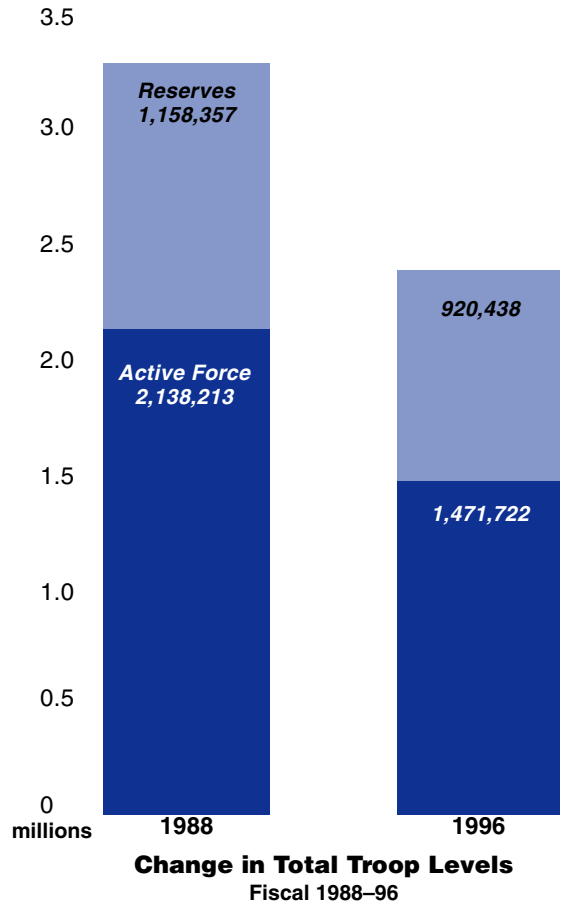


The US, with fewer forces stationed overseas and afloat, is looking at different ways to exert influence.

# New Routes to Overseas Presence

**M**ore than 240,000 US troops are forward deployed around the world, providing US "presence" overseas. The Pentagon says such forward deployments ensure that US forces are ready to fight, familiar with regions in which combat operations may take place, and able to operate with allies. They allow the US to deter aggression or respond swiftly to threats. However, with the end of the Cold War and the danger of global conflict with the Soviet Union, American presence is undergoing significant change. The General Accounting Office recently conducted a study of the issue. Moreover, DoD and the Joint Chiefs of Staff are studying whether there are better ways to provide US overseas presence. Airpower advocates say that rapidly deployable, US-based air assets can provide another highly effective form of presence and influence at lower cost.

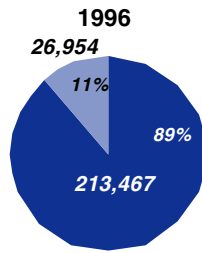
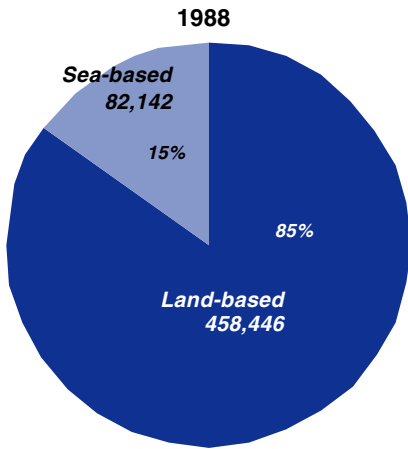


*Force reductions since 1988 have led to a much smaller level of overseas troop presence. The force as a whole was cut by 27 percent, but overseas forces were cut by 56 percent.*

Source: DoD

## Land-based and Sea-based Presence

Fiscal 1988-96

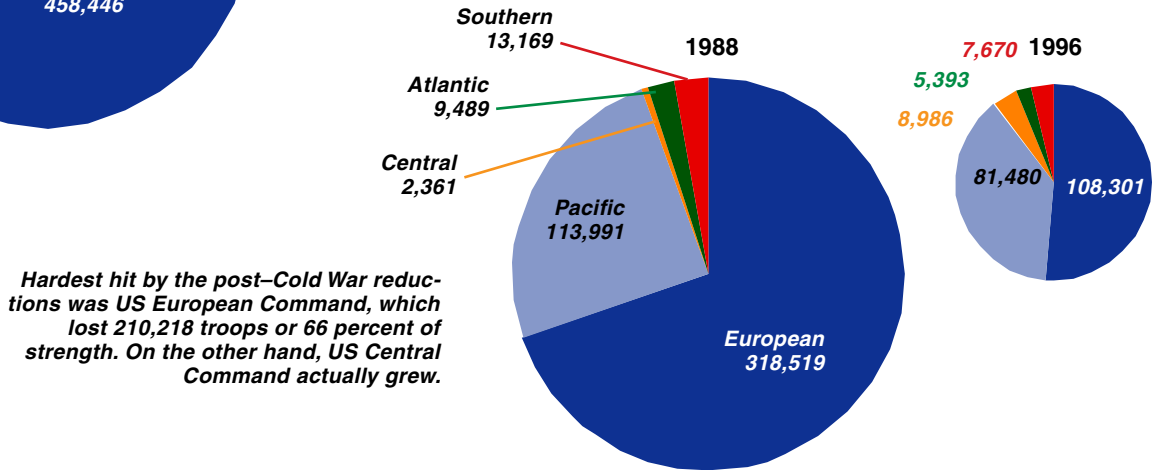


Land-based tactical air and ground forces now account for a larger share of the nation's overseas deployments.

Source: DoD

## Forces in the Major Combat Theaters

Fiscal 1988-96



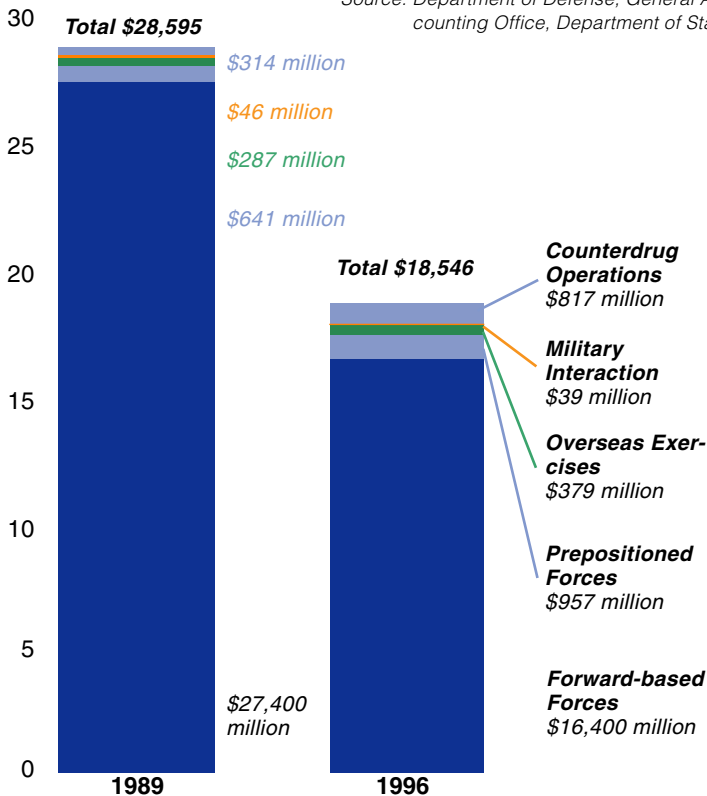
Hardest hit by the post-Cold War reductions was US European Command, which lost 210,218 troops or 66 percent of strength. On the other hand, US Central Command actually grew.

## Funding of Overseas Presence

Fiscal 1989-96 (Millions of constant 96 dollars)

Funding for overseas presence has dropped sharply. With fewer forces abroad, DoD requires less to sustain overseas operations.

Source: Department of Defense, General Accounting Office, Department of State



## US Forward-deployed Forces

Fiscal 1988-96

Overseas Force Element	FY88	FY96
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European Command		
USAF Fighter Wing Equivalents	9.33	2
Army Ground Divisions	4	2
Marine Expeditionary Forces	0	0
Navy Carrier Battle Groups	1-2	1
Amphibious Ready Group	0	1

Pacific Command		
USAF Fighter Wing Equivalents	4	3
Army Ground Divisions	2	2
Marine Expeditionary Forces	1	1
Navy Carrier Battle Groups	1-2	1
Amphibious Ready Group	0	1

Central Command		
USAF Fighter Wing Equivalents	0	1
Army Ground Divisions	0	0
Marine Expeditionary Forces	0	0
Navy Carrier Battle Groups	1	1
Amphibious Ready Group	0	1

Source: DoD