Availability and Use of Aircraft in the Air Force and Navy

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For information about the conference, see https://weai.org/conferences/view/12/97th-Annual-Conference. For further details about the analysis shown in this presentation, see Congressional Budget Office, Availability and Use of Aircraft in the Air Force and Navy (January 2022), www.cbo.gov/publication/57433, and Availability and Use of F-35 Fighter Aircraft (April 2022), www.cbo.gov/publication/57842.
There Are Different Ways to Measure Aircraft Availability

**DoD’s Method:**

\[ \text{Operator–Possessed, Mission–Capable Hours} \]
\[ \text{Operator–Possessed Hours} \]

**CBO’s Method:**

\[ \text{Operator–Possessed, Mission–Capable Hours} \]
\[ \text{Entire Fleet Hours} \]
DoD’s Approach Calculates Greater Availability Rates Than CBO’s

Number of Aircraft

**Operator-Possessed**
- **121** Mission Capable
- **59** Not Mission Capable

**Depot**
- **17** Mission Capable
- **14** Not Mission Capable

**Storage**
- **93** Mission Capable

*What the Air Force’s Data Show*

**Different Ways to Calculate the Availability Rate**

- **DoD’s Approach**
  - 67% Available
  - 33% Unavailable

- **CBO’s Approach**
  - 40% Available
  - 60% Unavailable
By CBO’s Measure, Availability Has Trended Downward in Both Services but More Markedly in the Department of the Navy

DoN = Department of the Navy.
Average Flying Hours per Aircraft Have Also Trended Downward
The Navy Has Had an Especially Marked Decline in the Availability of Its Fighter Aircraft
Availability of the F-35 Has Improved in Recent Years

Percent

F-35C
F-35A
F-35B

2011 2013 2015 2017 2019 2021
Availability of the F-35 Has Been Higher Than That of Other Fighter Aircraft, but F-35s Are Much Newer
The F-35’s Flying Hours per Aircraft Have Generally Increased
The Pandemic Markedly Reduced the Air Force’s Flying in April 2020
But Fleet Availability Rates Increased in April and May 2020