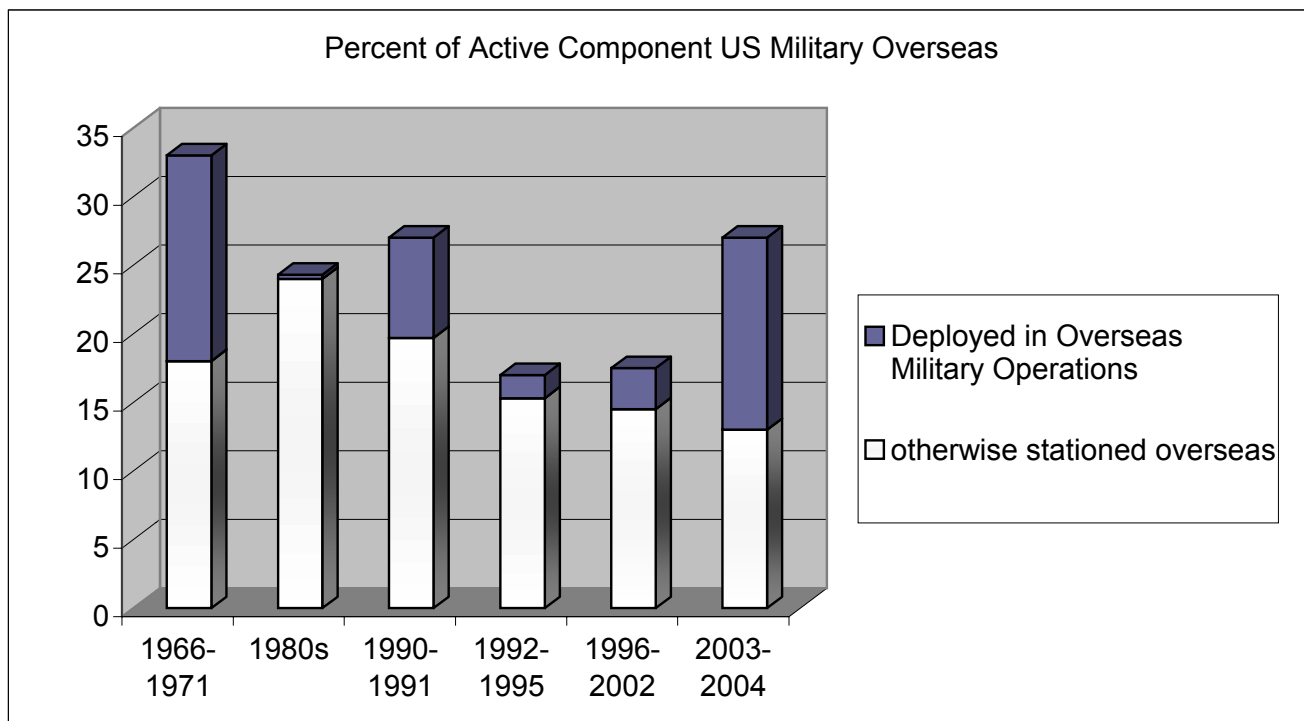


Change in the Percentage of US Military Personnel Overseas, Stationed & Deployed

- The current percentage of active-component military personnel who are overseas is similar to that during the two-year period 1990-1991, when Operation Desert Storm occurred.
- The Vietnam war period is called to mind when we look at the ratio between the percent overseas who are at semi-permanent bases and those who are deployed in actual military operations.
- A much greater percentage of the force is currently deployed overseas – especially in combat operations --- than was the case during the period 1992-2002.



One measure of potential stress on the military is the percentage of personnel stationed and deployed overseas. The bar graph illustrates this percentage during several different time periods for active component forces (all service average). It distinguishes between personnel who are simply stationed overseas and those who are deployed in “temporary” military operations. Each bar reflects averages for the period it represents. The periods themselves are defined so that years with similar averages would be clustered together. (The period 1966-1971 is the Vietnam War high-tide; 1990 and 1991 are the years during which the first Gulf War occurred.)

The “stationed overseas” category comprises the percent of active military personnel serving at semi-permanent bases and in routine, non-combat missions. For these units, many of the functions of everyday life and military support and training can be maintained, much as they would be at home in the United States. Included in this category are the routine, predictable rotations of the Navy and Marine Corps.

By contrast, the “deployed in foreign military operations” category comprises the percent of active personnel who are engaged in temporary operations that involve combat or an immediate possibility of combat. There is nothing routine or predictable about such deployments. The wear and tear they impose on troops and equipment is considerable. Everyday life for the troops so deployed is often rugged, facilities are often marginal, provisions for support are *ad hoc*, and opportunities for regular refresher training are limited.

Sources: Estimates are derived principally from the quarterly and yearly DoD reports, *Active Duty Military Personnel Strengths by Regional Area and by Country*, produced by the Statistical Analysis Division of the Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, US Department of Defense. Additional official and unofficial sources were used to determine the size and length of foreign military operations.