



# *In Contrast*

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## *Aging Air Force Aircraft*

**An Illustration with cars  
The Age of the Air Force Fleet  
1955-Present**

**AFA Policy/Communications**

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# 1955



**Above: B-52 Stratofortress**

**Right: GE Theater**



A 1955 Nash Ambassador. Two years later, the line was sold to A.M.C., discontinued entirely in 1974.

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# 1956



**Above: U-2 Dragon Lady**  
**Right: Ed Sullivan Show**



Still popular in '56, the last Studebaker was built 10 years later.

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# 1957



**KC-135 Stratotanker**



In '57, the black-&-white police car was a new and spreading trend.

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# 1958



**Above: C-130E Hercules**

**Right: Maverick**



This 1958 Buick Limited weighed in at more than 4,600 pounds.

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# 1970



**Above: C-5A Galaxy**



1970 saw the introduction of the Gremlin.

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# 1973



**RC-135 Rivet Joint**



The Dodge Dart line would shut down three years after 1973.

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# 1975



**F-15 Eagle**

**& A-10 Thunderbolt**



Still outselling the Mustang in '75, the Ford Maverick shut down two years later.

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# 1977



**Above: E-3 Sentry. Below: A-10a**



In '77, GM responded to gas costs by downsizing – slightly. This Cadillac Sedan De Ville was still 18.5 feet & over 4,200 lbs.

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# 1979



**F-16 Fighting Falcon**



The square Ford Fairmont, like this green one from '79, debuted as a bestseller in the 70s.

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# 1982



**Above: KC-10 Extender**



After the 1982 Malibu, Chevy closed the line for 14 years, replacing it with the Celebrity, since also discontinued.

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# 1983



**F-117 Nighthawk**



In 1983, in its 2nd year, the Pontiac 6000 was selling well. It was discontinued after a decade.

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# 1986



**B-1b Lancer**



After 42 years, the Jeep JC line was shut down. Chrysler bought Jeep the next year

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# 1989



**F-15E Strike Eagle**



The Geo Metro & Chevy Sprint came on the scene in '89. The Chevette has ended its run in '87.

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# 1995



**C-17 Globemaster III**



In '95, the Dodge Spirit ended a six-year run.

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# 1997



**B-2 Spirit**

**E-8 Joint Stars**



Built since the 1950s, the Buick Skylark line was shut down after the 1997 edition.

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2003



**MQ-1 Predator**



The last Aurora was built in 2003, and one year later, the entire Oldsmobile line closed out.

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**2005**



**F-22 Raptor**



Still a common sight, the last Pontiac Grand Am was made in '05

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