

**U.S. Military Aircraft and Missile Designations - ©2012-15 - RMF 7/25/2015**

Symbol	Type	Years in Use	Highest Number Allotted	Notes
<b>Army/Air Force</b>				
<b>1919-23 System</b>				
PW	Pursuit, Water-Cooled		9	Type I
PN	Pursuit, Night		1	Type II
PA	Pursuit, Air-Cooled		1	Type III
PG	Pursuit, Ground Attack		1	Type IV
TP	Two-seat Pursuit		1	Type V
GA	Ground Attack		2	Type VI
IL	Infantry Liaison		1	Type VII
NO	Night Observation		2	Type VIII
AO	Artillery Observation		1	Type IX
CO	Corps Observation		8	Type X
DB	Day Bomber		1	Type XI
NBS	Light Bomber, Short-Distance		5	Type XII
NBL	Light Bomber, Long-Distance		2	Type XIII
TA	Trainer, Air-Cooled		6	Type XIV
TW	Trainer, Water-Cooled		5	Type XV
Miscellaneous				Type XVI
A	Ambulance		2	
COA	Corps Observation, Amphibian		1	
GL	Glider		2	
M	Messenger		1	
MAT	Messenger, Aerial Torpedo		-	
PS	Pursuit, Special Alert		1	
R	Racer		8	
S	Seaplane		1	
T	Transport		3	
<b>1924-1947 System</b>				
A	Attack	1926-1947	45	
	Aerial Target	1940-1941	8	
AG	Assault Glider	1942-1944	2	
AT	Advanced Trainer	1925-1947	24	
B	Bomber	1925 to Date	71	Split into two at 68 - One manned one unmanned.
BC	Basic Combat Trainer	1936-1940	3	
BG	Bomb Glider	1942-1944	3	
BLR	Bomber, Long-range	1935-1936	3	
BQ	Guided Bomb	1942-1945	8	
BT	Basic Trainer	1930-1947	17	
C	Transport	1925 to Date	144	
CG	Transport Glider	1941-1947	20	
CQ	Drone Control	1942-1945	4	
F	Photographic Reconnaissance	1930-1947	15	
FG	Fuel Glider	1944-1947	1	
FM	Fighter, Multiplace	1936-1941	3	
G	Gyroplane	1935-1939	2	
GB	Glide Bomb	1941-1947	15	
GT	Glide Torpedo	1942-1947	1	
HB	Heavy Bomber	1925-1927	3	
JB	Jet-Propelled Bomb	1943-1947	10	
L	Liaison	1942-1963	28	
LB	Light Bomber	1925-1932	14	
O	Observation	1924-1945	63	
OA	Observation, Amphibian	1925-1947	16	
OQ	Target, Flying Model	1942-1947	19	
P	Pursuit	1925-1947	92	
PB	Pursuit, Bi-place	1935-1941	3	
PG	Powered Glider	1943-1947	3	
PQ	Manned Aerial Target	1941-1947	15	
PT	Primary Trainer	1925-1947	27	
R	Rotorcraft	1941-1947	16	
S	Supersonic Research	1946-1947	5	
TG	Training Glider	1921-1957	33	
VB	Vertical Bomb	1943-1947	13	
<b>1948-63 System</b>				
				After 6/11/48
A	Amphibian	1948-1963	16	From OA.
B	Bomber	1948-1963	71	Continued use for existing aircraft after 1963.
C	Transport	1948 to Date	144	Continued use for existing aircraft after 1963 plus new additions to date.
F	Fighter	1948 to Date	117	From P. Continued use for existing aircraft after 1963 plus new additions to date. Split into two 98 to 104 - One manned one unmanned.
G	Glider	1948-1963	20	From CG.
H	Helicopter	1948 to Date	72	From R. Continued use for existing aircraft after 1963 plus new additions to date.
K	Tanker	8/15/55-1963	Not used	Added.
L	Liaison	1948-1963	28	To U (most), O.
M	Missile	1948-1963	92	See below.
Q	Aerial Target	1948-1963	20	PQ redesignated.
		1948-1963	12?	New series.
R	Reconnaissance	1948-1963	16	From F.
	Rocket	1955-1963	11	See Below.
S	Search & Rescue	1948-8/15/55	Not used	Dropped.
	Sailplane	1960-1963	2	Added.
T	Trainer	1948 to Date	52	From PT. Continued use for existing aircraft after 1963 plus new additions to date.
U	Utility	3/14/55 to Date	38	Added. Continued use for existing aircraft after 1963 plus new additions to date.
V	Convertiplane	1953-1963	3	Added.
X	Experimental	1948 to Date	56	From S. Continued use for existing aircraft after 1963 plus new additions to date.
<b>USAF Missile System 1955-1963</b>				
GAM	Guided airborne missile		68-92	Split from Bomber.
IM	Interceptor missile	c.1955	1	Separate series redesignated in 68-92 series.
IM	Interceptor missile		98-104?	Split from Fighter.

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LV	Launch Vehicle		3?	Separate series.
RM	Research missile		68-92	Split from Bomber.
SM	Strategic missile		68-92	Split from Bomber.
TM	Tactical missile		68-92	Split from Bomber.
GAR	Guided Airborne rocket		1-11	Separate series
<b>Interim USAF Rocket, Missile, and Spacecraft System 1961</b>				
Type				
G	Booster			
J	Spacecraft			
M	Missile			
P	Probe			
R	Rocket			
S	Satellite			
<b>Missile Launch Method</b>				
A	Aircraft			
C	Coffin			
G	Ground Vehicle			
H	Silo			
M	Multiple			
P	Soft Pad			
R	Railroad Car			
S	Space			
<b>Mission</b>				
B	Communications			
C	Cargo			
E	Early Warning			
I	Interceptor			
K	Tanker			
N	Test			
P	Propulsion			
Q	Target			
R	Reconnaissance			
S	Strategic			
W	Weather			
X	Research			
<b>1956-63 Army System</b>				
AC	Airplane, Cargo		2	
AO	Airplane, Observation		3	
AU	Airplane, Utility		1	
HC	Helicopter, Cargo		1	
HO	Helicopter, Observation		6	
HU	Helicopter, Utility		1	
VZ	VTOL Research		12	
<b>1963-Present Tri-Service System</b>				
<b>Aircraft</b>				
A	Tactical support	1963 to Date	29	11, 13-28 not used.
B	Bomber	1963 to Date	2	
C	Transport	1963 to Date	46	13, 16?, 30?, 34, 36?, 39, 42?, 43-44 not used.
D	Drone Control	2002 to Date	2	
E	Electronic surveillance	1963 to Date	10	7 not used.
F	Fighter	1963 to Date	35	13, 19, 24-34 not used.
G	Glider	1963 to Date	15	13 not used.
H	Helicopter	1963 to Date	6	
L	Laser	1996 to Date	1	
O	Observation	1963 to Date	5	4 not used.
P	Patrol	1963 to Date	8	1, 6 not used.
Q	RPV	1997 to Date	21	13, 20 not used.
R	Reconnaissance	1963 to Date	2	ER-2 is unofficial.
S	Anti-submarine	1963 to Date	3	1 not used.
T	Trainer	1963 to Date	6	4, 5 not used.
V	V/STOL	1963 to Date	23	13, 14, 17, 19, 21 not used.
Z	Airship	1963 to Date	3	
<b>Rockets, Missiles, Etc.</b>				
B	Booster	c.1988-?	11	
SLV	(Space?) Launch Vehicle	1962-c.1980	5	Not part of Tri-Service system?
M	Missile	1963 to Date	175	
N	Probe	1963 to Date	12	
R	Rocket	1963 to Date	18	
MS	Spaceplane	c.2000	1	Not part of Tri-Service system?
S	Satellite	c.1988-?	14	
<b>Prefix letters</b>				
A	Calibration	1948-1963		
	Tactical support	1963 to Date		
B	Bomber	48 (not used), 1963 to Date		
C	Transport	1943 to Date		
D	Drone director	1948 to Date		
E	Exempt	1946-1947		
	Electronics	1948 to Date		
F	Photographic	1945-1947		
	Fighter	1948 (not used), 1964-1965, 1978 to Date		
G	Glider	1948		Not used.
	Parasite/carrier	1949-1956		
	Permanently grounded	1963 to Date		

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Symbol	Type	Years in Use	Highest Number Allotted	Notes
H	Search and rescue	1963 to Date		
J	Temporary special test	1956 to Date		
K	Ferret	1944-1947		
	Tanker	1949 to Date		
L	Liaison	1948-1963		
	Winterized	1963 to Date		
M	Medical evacuation	1951-1963		
	Radio-controlled bomb	1948-1949		
	Missile carrier	1963-c.1972		
	Mine Countermeasures	c.1972-1976		
	Multi-mission	1977 to Date		
N	Permanent special test	1956 to Date		
O	Observation	c.1973 to Date		
P	Passenger transport	1948-1963		
	Maritime Patrol	c.1973 to Date		
Q	Radio-controlled drone	1948 to Date		
R	Restricted from combat	1942-1947		
	Reconnaissance	1948 to Date		
S	Search and rescue	1948-1963		
	Anti-submarine	1963 to Date		
T	Trainer	1943 to Date		
U	Utility	1941 to Date		
V	Staff transport	1945 to Date		
W	Weather reconnaissance	1948 to Date		
X	Experimental	1924-1963		Air Service added 5/14/24.
Y	Service test	1928 to Date		
Y1	Procured with F1 funds	1931-1936		
Z	Obsolete	1928-1963		
	Project	1963 to Date		
Tri-Service missile prefix letters				
First letter (launch environment)				
A	Air launched			
B	Multiple			
C	Coffin (semi-hard) launcher			
F	Individual			
G	Ground launched			
H	Hard silo stored			
L	Hard silo launched			
M	Mobile launcher			
P	Soft pad launch			
R	Surface ship launched			
S	Space			
U	Underwater			
Second letter (basic mission)				
C	Transport			
D	Decoy			
E	Electronics			
G	Ground attack			
I	Interception			
L	Launch detection			
M	Scientific calibration			
N	Navigation			
Q	Pilotless drone			
S	Space operation support			
T	Training			
U	Underwater attack			
W	Weather			
Status Letters				
C	Captive			
D	Dummy			
J	Temporary special test			
M	Maintenance (now obsolete)			
N	Permanent special test			
X	Experimental			
Y	Service test			
Z	Project			
Miscellaneous Suffix Letters				
I	Instrument training	1932-1941		
G	Radio-controlled target	1940		
R	Radio-controlled target	1940		
-IT	Instrument training	1955		
Manufacturer letters 1939-Date				
AB	Army Ballistic Missile Agency			Redstone Arsenal, AL
AD	Aerodesign/Aero Commander			Bethany, OK
AE	Aeronca			Middletown, OH
AG	Air Glider			Akron, OH
AH	American Helicopter			Manhattan Beach, CA
AJ	Aerojet-General			El Monte & Sacramento, CA
AL	Atlantic Research			Alexandria, VA
AV	AVRO Canada			Malton, CA
BA	Bell			Atlanta, GA
BB	Babcock			Deland, FL
BC	Bell Aerosystems			Buffalo, NY
BD	Bridgeport			Riverside, CA
BE	Bell			Buffalo, NY
BF	Bell			Fort Worth, TX
BH	Beechcraft			Wichita, KS
BL	Bellanca			New Castle, DE

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BN	Boeing			Renton, WA
BO	Boeing			Seattle, WA
BP	Bureau of Naval Weapons			Washington, DC
BR	Briegleb			Beverly Hills, CA
BS	Bowlus			San Francisco, CA
BU	Budd			Philadelphia, PA
BW	Boeing			Wichita, KS
BX	Bendix			Detroit, MI
BY	Bendix			Michawaha, IN
CA	Chase			West Trenton, NJ
CAN	Canadair			Montreal, Canada
CC	Canadian Commercial			Toronto, Canada
CCF	Canadian Car & Foundry			Fort William, Canada
CE	Cessna			Wichita, KS
CF	Consolidated (Convair)			Fort Worth ,TX
CH	Christopher			St. Louis, MO
CK	Curtiss			Louisville, KY
CL	Culver			Wichita, KS
CM	Commonwealth Aircraft			Kansas City, MO
	Chrysler Missile			Detroit, MI
CN	Chase			Willow Run, MI
	Chrysler Space			New Orleans, LA
CO	Consolidated (Convair)			San Diego, CA
CP	Convair (General Dynamics)			Pomona, CA
CR	Cornelius			Dayton, OH
CS	Curtiss			St. Louis, MO
CU	Curtiss			Buffalo, NY
CV	Chance Vought			Dallas, TX
DA	Doak Aircraft			Torrance, CA
DC	Douglas			Chicago,IL
DE	Douglas			El Segundo, CA
DH	Dehavilland Canada			Toronto, Canada
DJ	Sud Aviation			Marignane, France
DK	Douglas			Oklahoma City, OK
DL	Douglas			Long Beach, CA
DM	Doman			Danbury, CT
DO	Douglas			Santa Monica, CA
DT	Douglas			Tulsa, OK
FA	Fairchild			Hagerstown, MD
FB	Fairchild			Burlington, NC
FE	Fleet			Fort Erie, Canada
FL	Fleetwings			Bristol, PA
FN	Ford Aeronutronic			Newport Beach, CA
FO	Ford			Willow Run, MI
FR	Frankfort			Frankfort, IN
FS	Firestone			Los Angeles, CA
FT	Fletcher			Pasadena, CA
GA	G & A Aircraft			Willow Grove , PA
GC	General Motors-Fisher Body			Cleveland, OH
GE	General Aircraft			Astoria, NY
GF	Globe			Fort Worth, TX
GK	General Motors-Fisher Body			Kansas City, MO
GM	General Motors-Fisher Body			Detroit, MI
GN	Gibson			Greenville, MI
GO	Goodyear			Akron, OH
GP	General Electric			Philadelphia, PA
GR	Grumman			Bethpage, NY
GT	Grand Central			Tuscon, AZ
GY	Gyrodyne			St. James, NY
HA	Hughes Aircraft (missiles)			Culver City, CA
HE	Helio			Norwood, MA
HI	Higgins			New Orleans, LA
HO	Howard			Chicago, IL
HP	Handley Page			United Kingdom
HS	Hawker Siddley			United Kingdom
HU	Hughes			Culver City and San Diego, CA
IN	Interstate			El Segundo, CA
KA	Kaman			Windsor locks and Bloomfield, CT
KE	Kellet			Philadelphia, PA
KH	Kawasaki Helicopters			Kobe, Japan
KM	Kaiser			Willow Run, MI
LD	Lockheed Missiles			Sunnyvale, CA
LK	Laister-Kauffman			St. Louis, MO
LM	Lockheed			Marietta, GA
LO	Lockheed			Burbank, CA
MA	Martin			Baltimore, MD
MC	cDonnell/McDonnell Douglas			St. Louis, MO
MD	Martin			Denver, CO
MF	Martin			Orlando, FL
MG	Martin			Marietta,GA
MH	McCulloch			Los Angeles, CA
MM	McDonnell			Memphis, TN
MO	Martin			Omaha, NB
MP	Minneapolis-Honeywell			Hopkins, MN
MS	Motorola			Scottsdale, AZ
MX	Maxson Electronics			Great River, NY
NA	North American			Inglewood, CA
NC	North American			Kansas City, MO
ND	Noorduyn			Montreal, Canada
NF	North American			Fresno, CA
NH	North American			Columbus, OH
NI	North American			Downey, CA
NK	Nash-Kelvinator			Detroit, MI
NL	Norris Thremador			Los Angeles,CA
NO	Northrop			Hawthorne, CA
NT	North American			Dallas, TX





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Symbol	Type	Years in Use	Highest Number Allotted	Notes
T	Torpedo Aircraft	1922-1935		
	Transport	1927-1930		
	Trainer	1948-1963		
TB	Torpedo Bomber	1935-1946		
TD	Target Drone	1942-1946		
TS	Torpedo-Scout	1943		
U	Unmanned Drone	1946-1955		
	Utility	1955-1963		
W	Electronic Search	1952-1963		
ZF	Free balloon	1922-1945?		
ZH	Airship, Search & Rescue	1945-1954		
ZK	Kite balloon	1922-1945?		
ZN	Airship, Training	1941-1945		
ZP	Airship, Patrol	1941-1963		
ZR	Airship, Rigid	1922-1940		
ZRS	Airship, Rigid, Scout	1928-1940		
ZS	Airship, Scout	1941-1954		
	Airship, Anti-submarine	1954-1963		
ZT	Airship, Training	1948-1954		
ZU	Airship, Utility	1948-1954		
Navy manufacturer letters 1922-1963				
A	Aeromarine	1922		
	Atlantic (Fokker)	1927-1930		
	General Aviation	1930-1932		Ex-Atlantic
	Brewster	1935-1943		
	Allied	1941-1943		
	Noorduyn	1946		
B	Bee Line (Booth)	1922		
	Boeing	1923-1959		
	Beech	1937-1963		
	Budd	1942-1944		
BS	Blackburn	1922		
C	Curtiss	1922-1946		
	Cessna	1943		
	Culver	1943-1946		
	Convertawings	c.1952		
	DeHavilland Canada	1955-1956		
CH	Caspar-Werke	1922		
D	Douglas	1922-1963		
	McDonnell	1942-1946		To H
	Radioplane	1943		
	Frankfort	1945-1946		
DH	DeHavilland	1927-1931		
DW	Dayton-Wright	1923		
E	Elias	1922-1924		
	Detroit	1928		
	Bellanca	1931-1937		
	Piper	1941-1945		
	Gould	1942-1945		
	Pratt-Read	1942-1945		
	Edo	1943-1946		
	Hiller	1948-1963		
	Cessna	1951		
F	Fokker	1922		
	Grumman	1931-1963		
	Fairchild Canada	1942-1945		
G	Gallaudet	1922		
	Eberhart	1927-1928		
	Great Lakes	1929-1935		
	AGA Aviation	1942		
	Goodyear	1942-1963		
	Globe	1946-1959		
H	Huff-Daland	1922-1927		
	Hall	1928-1940		
	Stearman-Hammond	1937-1938		
	Howard	1941-1944		
	Snead	1942		
	McDonnell	1946-1963		
HP	Handley-Page	1922		
J	Berliner-Joyce	1929-1935		
	General Aviation	1935		
	North American	1937		
JL	Junkers-Larsen	1922		
K	J.V. Martin	1922-1924		
	Keystone	1927-1930		
	Krieder-Reisner	1935-1936		
	Kinner	1935-1936		
	Fairchild	1937-1942		
	Nash-Kelvinator	1942		
	Kaiser-Fleetwings	1943-1945		
	Kaman	1950-1963		
L	LWF	1922		
	Loening	1924-1933		
	Bell	1939-1963		
	Langley	1942-1943		
	Columbia	1945		
M	Martin	1922-1963		
	General Motors Eastern Aircr	1942-1945		
	McCulloch	1953-1954		
N	Naval Aircraft Factory	1922-1963		
	Gyrodyne	1960		
O	Viking	1929-1936		
	Lockheed	1931-1950		
	Piper	1960		
P	Pitcam	1931-1932		

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	Spartan	1940-1941		
	Piper (gliders)	1942-1943		
	Piasecki (Vertol)	1946-1963		
PL	Parnall	1922		
Q	Ward Hall	1926		
	Stinson	1934-1936		
	Fairchild	1928-1963		
	Bristol Aeronautical	1941-1943		
R	Ford	1927-1932		
	Maxson-Brewster	1939-1940		
	Ryan	1941-1946		
	Aeronca	1942		
	American	1942		
	Brunswick	1942-1943		
	Interstate	1942-1943		
	Radioplane	1943-1963		
RO	Romeo (Italy)	1928-?		
S	Stout	1922		
	Sikorsky	1928-1963		
	Stearman	1934-1945		
	Schweizer	1941		
	Supermarine	1943		
	Sperry	1950		
T	Thomas-Morse	1922		
	New Standard	1930-1934		
	Northrop	1933-1944		
	Timm	1941-1943		
	Taylorcraft	1942		
	Temco	1956		
U	Vought	1922-1963		
V	Vultee	1941		
	Lockheed-Vega	1942-1963		
	Vickers Canada	1943-1945		
VK	Vickers	1922		
W	Wright	1922-1926		
	Waco	1934-1945		
	Canadian Car & Foundry	1942-1945		
	Willys-Overland	1945-1947		
X	Cox-Kleimen	1922-1924		
Y	Consolidated (Convair)	1926-1963		
	Vultee-Stinson	1942-1945		
Z	Pennsylvania Aircraft Syndicate	1933-1934		
Prefix letters				
N	Naval Reserve	1945-c.1950		
X	Experimental	1927-1954		
Y	Experimental	1954-1963		Sometimes shown as Y/
Suffix letters				
A	Armed model			
	Arrestor gear			
	Amphibian			
	Land-based			
	Army contract			
	Miscellaneous modification			
B	British contract			
	Special armament			
	Miscellaneous modification			
C	Catapult gear			
	Carrier-based			
	Cannon-armed	-3/27/1946		To B
	Equivalent to Army C model			
	Miscellaneous modification			
D	Drone director			
	Drop tanks			
	Equivalent to Army D model			
	Miscellaneous modification			
E	Electronic Equipment			
F	Flagship			
	Special Powerplant			
G	USCG model			
	Search and rescue			
	Armed model			
	Equivalent to Army G model			
H	Ambulance			
	Equivalent to Army H model			
	Surface-search radar			
J	Cold-weather equipment			
	Equivalent to Army J model			
K	Drone			
KD	Drone			
L	Cold-weather equipment			
	Searchlight equipped			
M	Missile carrier			
N	Night version			
NA	Night attack			
P	Photographic			
Q	Electronic countermeasures			
R	Transport			
	Staff transport			
S	Seaplane version			
	Anti-Submarine			
T	Trainer			
U	Utility			

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W	Search radar equipped			
Z	Staff transport			
<b>Joint Missile System 1947-1963</b>				
<b>Missiles</b>				
AAM	Air to Air	1947-1963		
ASM	Air to Surface	1947-1963		
AUM	Air to Underwater	1947-1963		
SAM	Surface to Air	1947-1963		
SSM	Surface to Surface	1947-1963		
SUM	Surface to Underwater			Not used
UAM	Underwater to Air			Not used
USM	Underwater to Surface			Not used
<b>Test Vehicles</b>				
CTV	Control Guidance			
LTV	Launch			
PTV	Propulsion			
RTV	Research			
RV	Research	1951-1962		
<b>Service Designators</b>				
A	Army Air Force/Air Force	1947-1951		
A	Army	1951-1962		
G	Army	1947-1951		"Ground"
N	Navy	1947-1962		