



United States Army Air Corps Recruiting Poster

The **United States Army Air Corps (USAAC)** was the aerial warfare service of the United States of America between 1926 and 1941. After World War I, as early aviation became an increasingly important part of modern warfare, a philosophical rift developed between more traditional ground-based army personnel and those who felt that aircraft were being underutilized and that air operations were being stifled for political reasons unrelated to their effectiveness.

The USAAC was renamed from the earlier United States Army Air Service on 2 July 1926, and was part of the larger United States Army. The Air Corps became the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) on 20 June 1941, giving it greater autonomy from the Army's middle-level command structure. During World War II, although not an administrative echelon, the Air Corps (AC) remained as one of the combat arms of the Army until 1947, when it was legally abolished by legislation establishing the Department of the Air Force

The establishment of the Air Force as its own military branch was the result of a long fought political and economic battle. There was a good deal of conflict between the Army and the Air Corp for control of its personnel and assets, and their use. WW II definitely demonstrated the effectiveness and need for and effect air warfare branch.