

RAF COLLEGE CRANWELL

“Training Statistics”



1945 - 1979

“Lies, Damn Lies and Statistics”

When you are fortunate to discover a plethora of training records, particularly ones that have been locked away for many years, the temptation is to analyse them and collate statistics that give an insight into changing trends. So it is with individual flight cadet records, graduation programmes and disposal rolls, stored in the College archive, that record the passage of some 28,000 cadets who have undergone training at the RAF College.

In this album, we offer some insight into the training trends of the world’s oldest independent air academy, from its inception in 1920 to the present date. We do not claim that the statistics are wholly accurate, but merely give some indication of training trends through the decades. Some individual records are missing from the archive - perhaps withdrawn for briefings, mislaid or even destroyed over time - but we have collated sufficient information to enable comparisons to be made as life at the College evolved over its 100 year history.

In the 1920s and 1930s (Era 1), you will see an analysis of RAF and FCO cadets that graduated from Initial Officer and Pilot Training; those who “withdrew”; those who were killed in flying accidents. In the war years (Era 2), the College was closed for Officer Training, but many airman aircrew undertook their flying training with the SFTS at Cranwell. Officer and Pilot training at the College resumed in the 1940s (the beginning of Era 3), to which Navigator, Equipment and Secretarial Training was added in the 1950s, and then Engineering and Regiment Training in the 1960s. The recruitment of cadets straight from school ceased with 101 Entry, which graduated in March 1973.

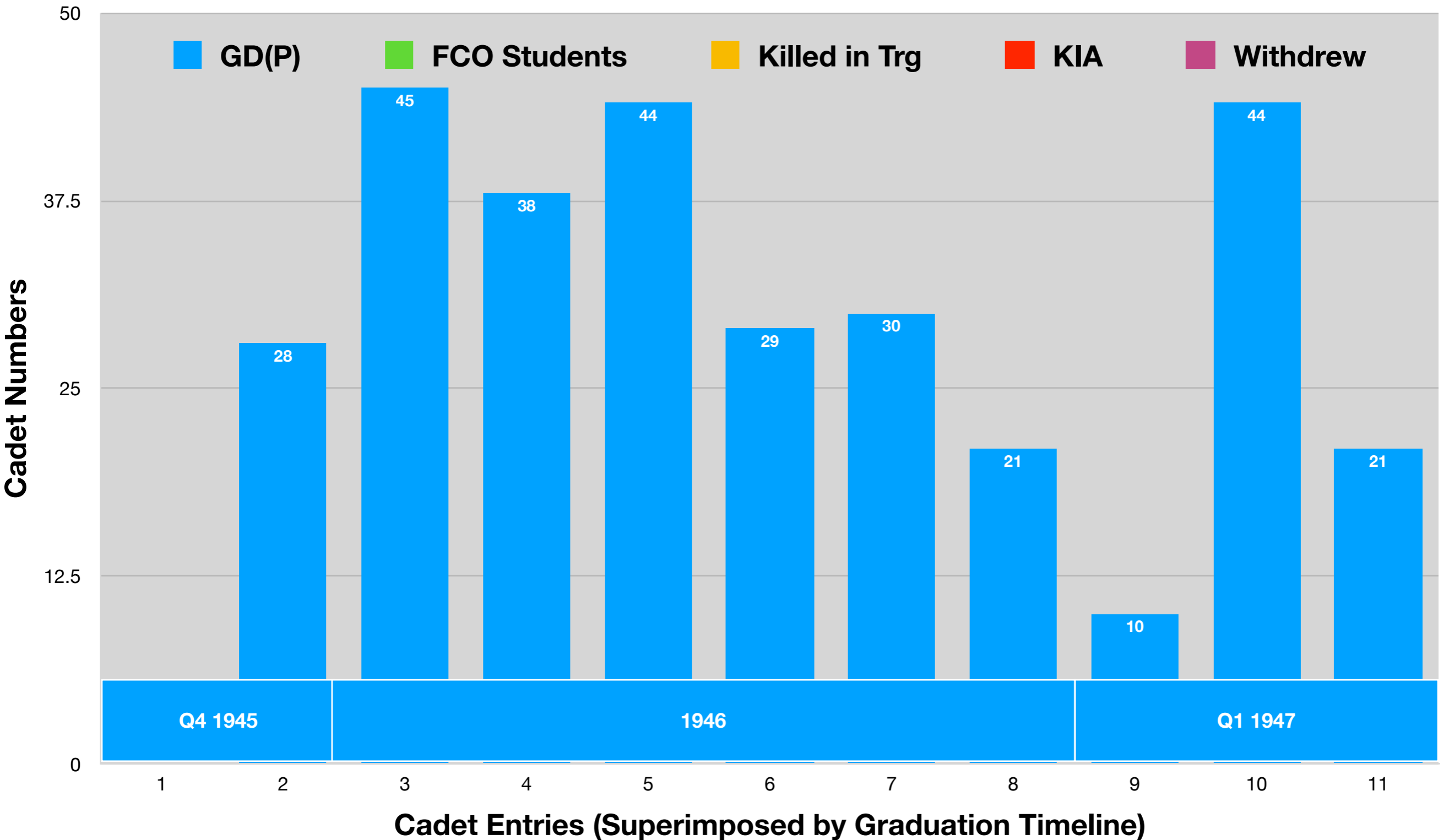
During the 1970s (also part of Era 3), university graduates received Initial Officer and Specialist Training - Pilot, Engineering, Supply and Secretarial - under the Graduate Entrant (GE) scheme; Navigators completed Initial Officer Training at Cranwell before moving to RAF Finningley (now Robin Hood Airport) for their Navigation Training.

In the 1980s (beginning of Era 4), the GE system ‘morphed’ into the IOT system, with the closure of RAF Henlow and the amalgamation of Officer Training schemes under an initiative known as the Single Gate Initial Officer Training scheme. This scheme and its replacement of July 2016 (IOTC) catered for Initial Officer Training of all branches prior to specialist training conducted at a variety of training bases elsewhere.

So, this album (covering Era 3 - 1945-1979) is offered with some circumspection. It is an insight and not a definitive record. Read on.

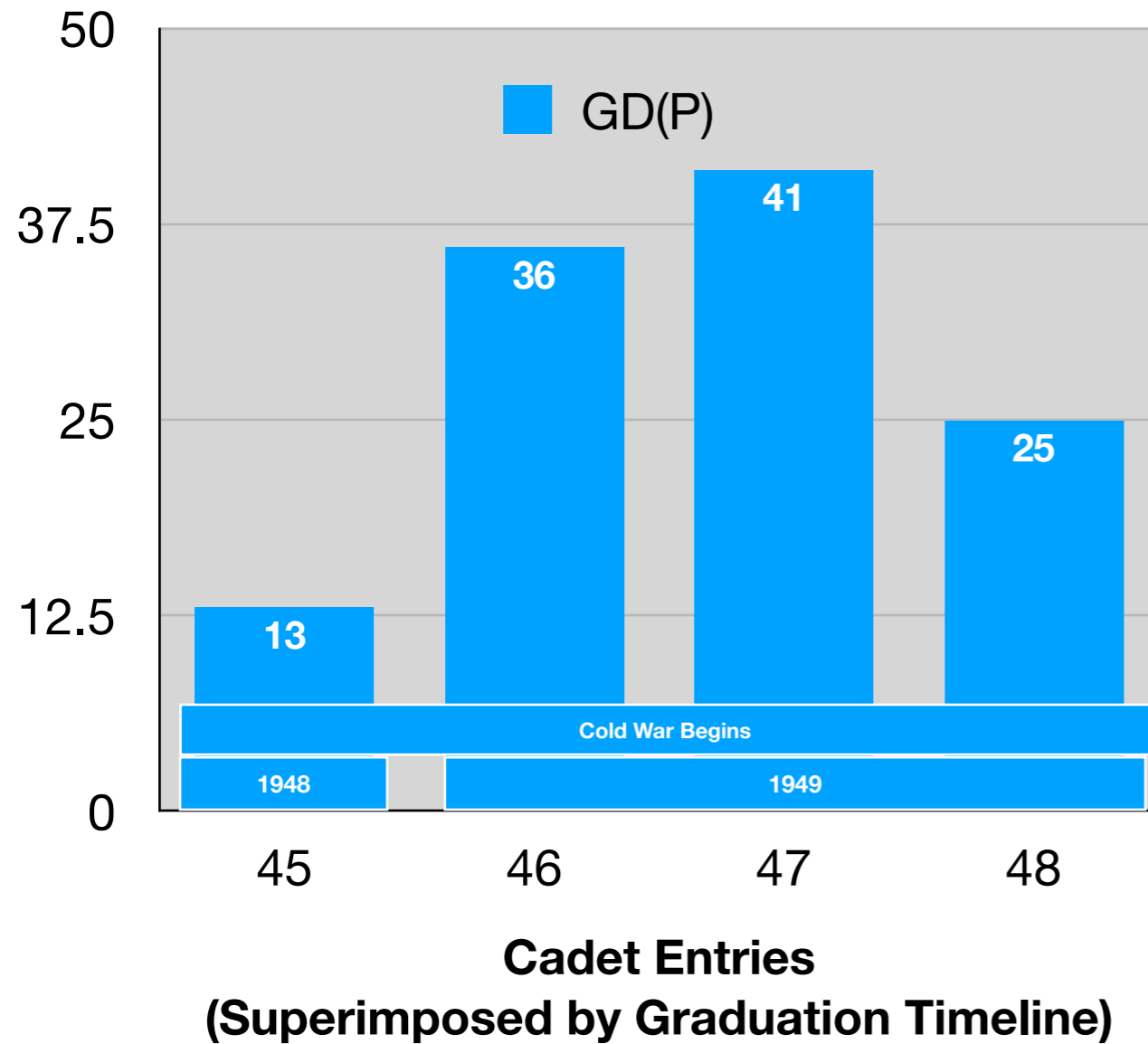
Immediate Pre & Post War Year Training Statistics

19 FTS Trainees 1945-47

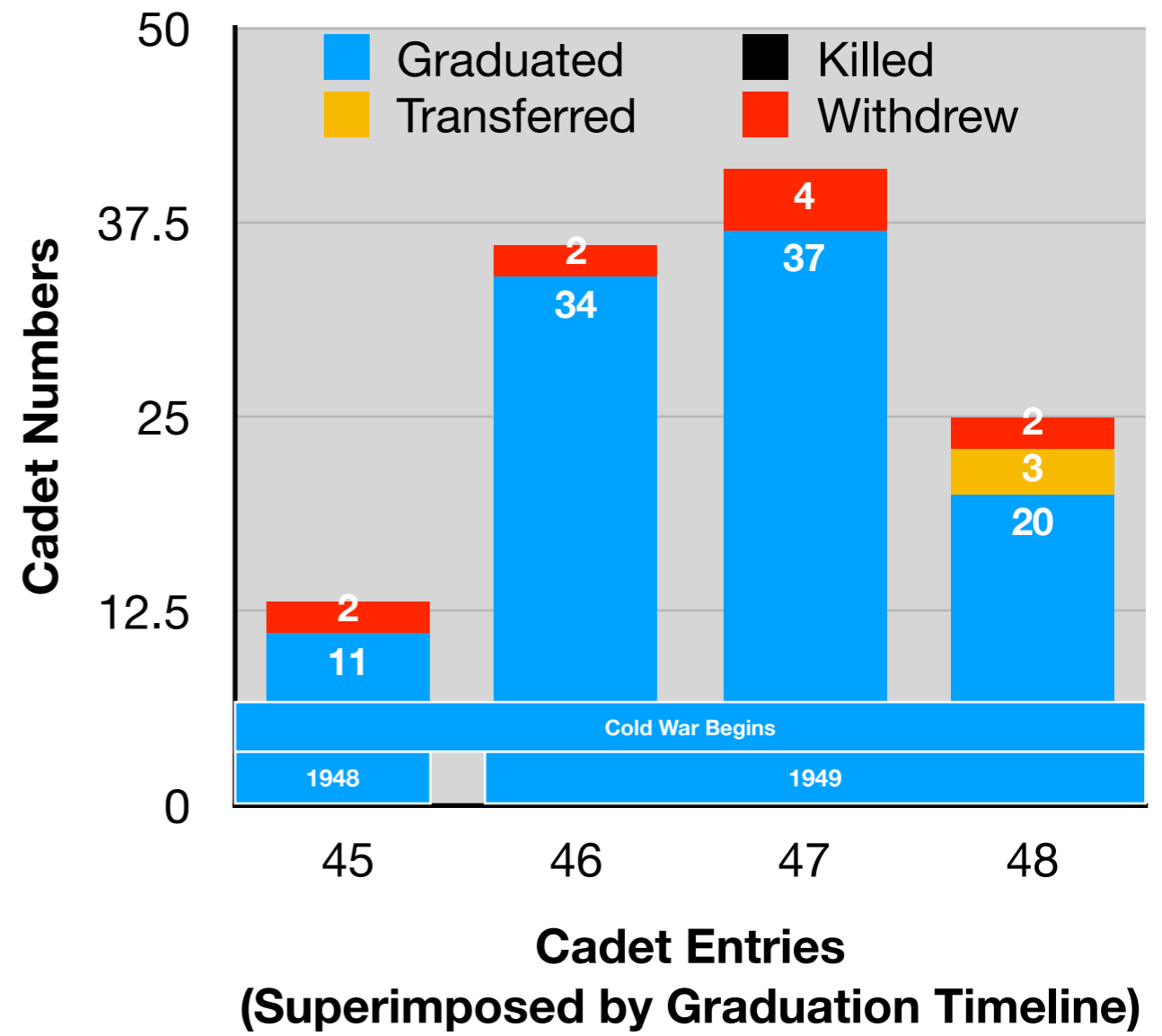


The College Re-opened - 1940s Statistics

Flight Cadet Intakes by Branch

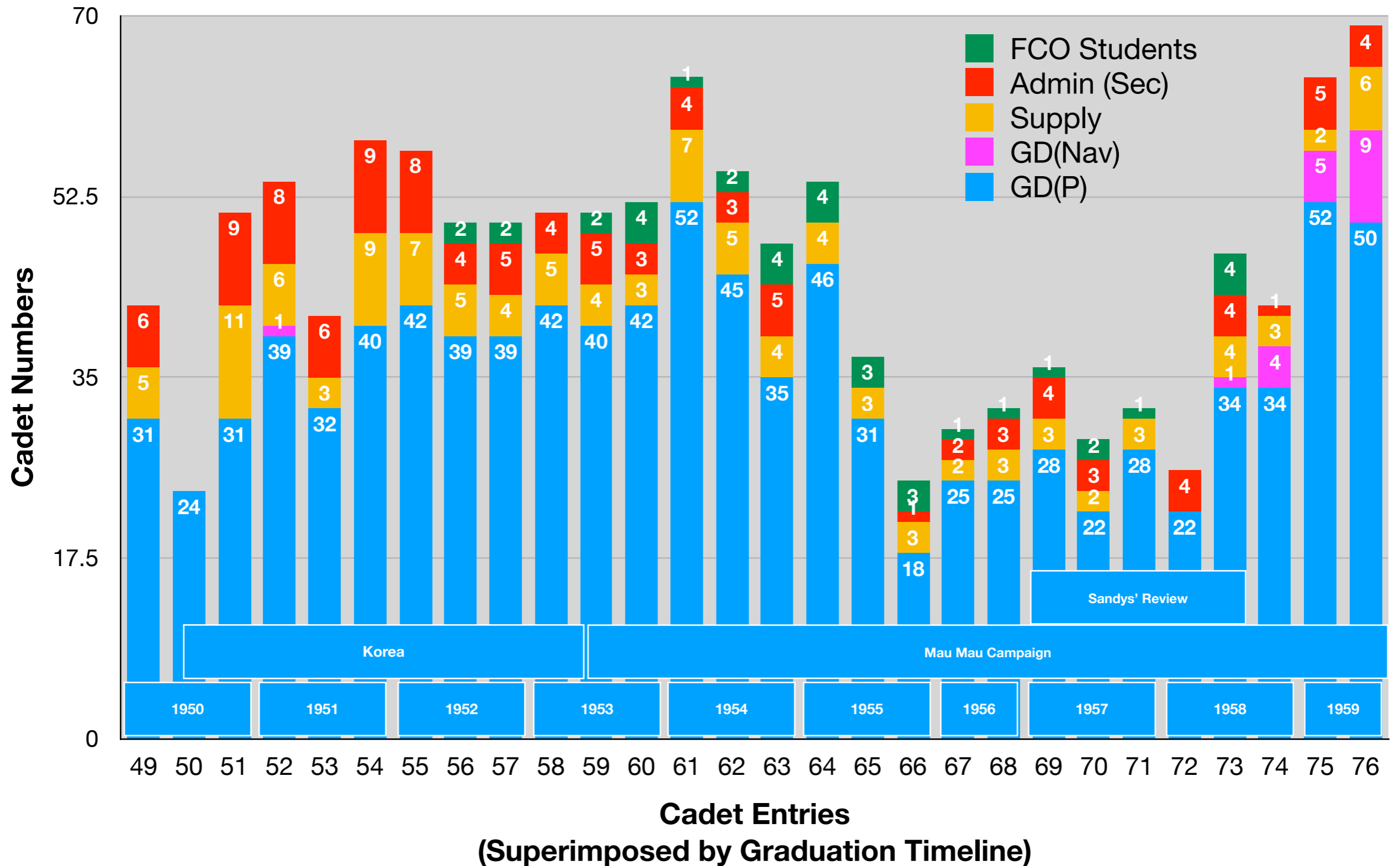


Flight Cadet Outputs



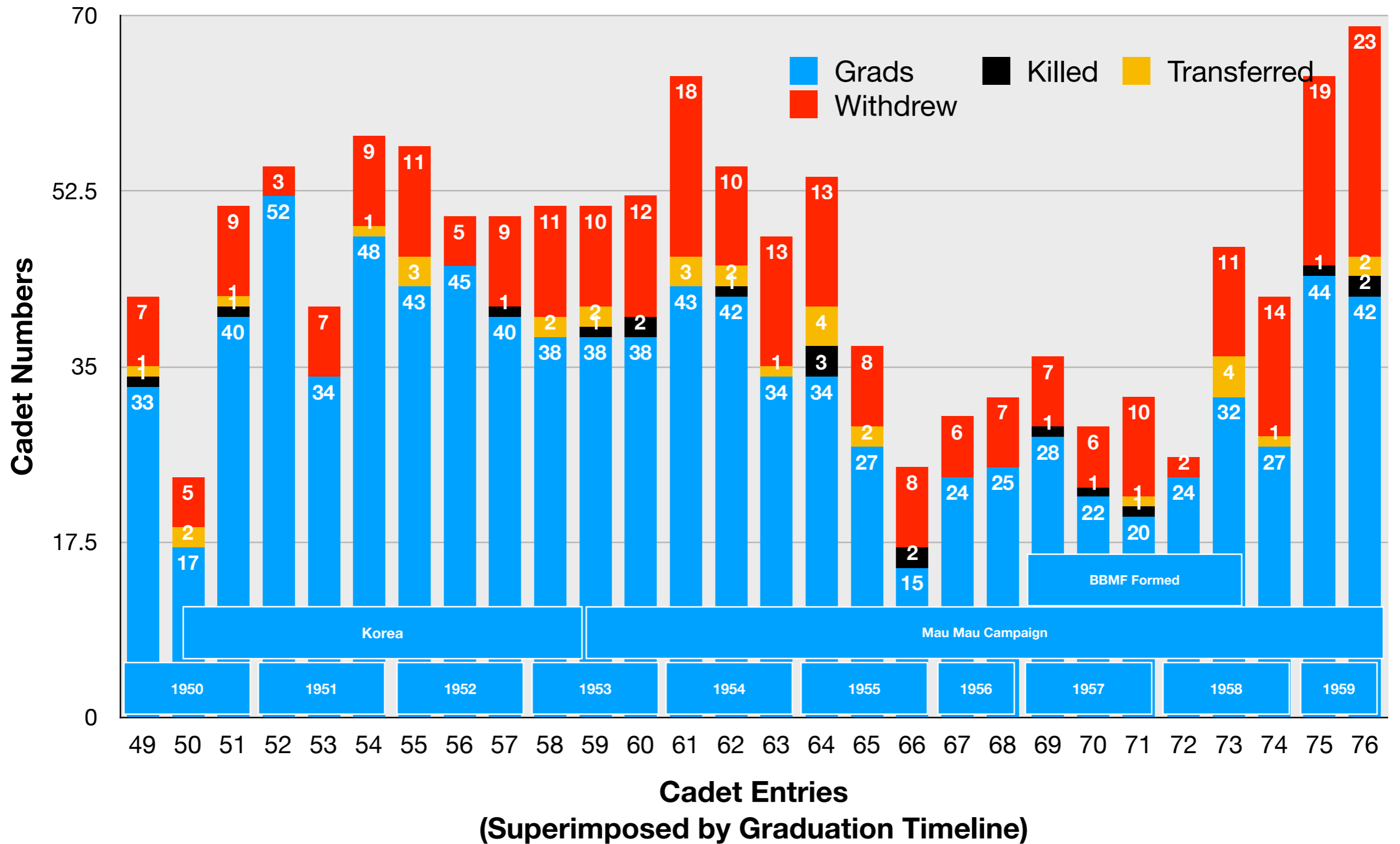
1950s Statistics

Flight Cadet Intakes by Branch



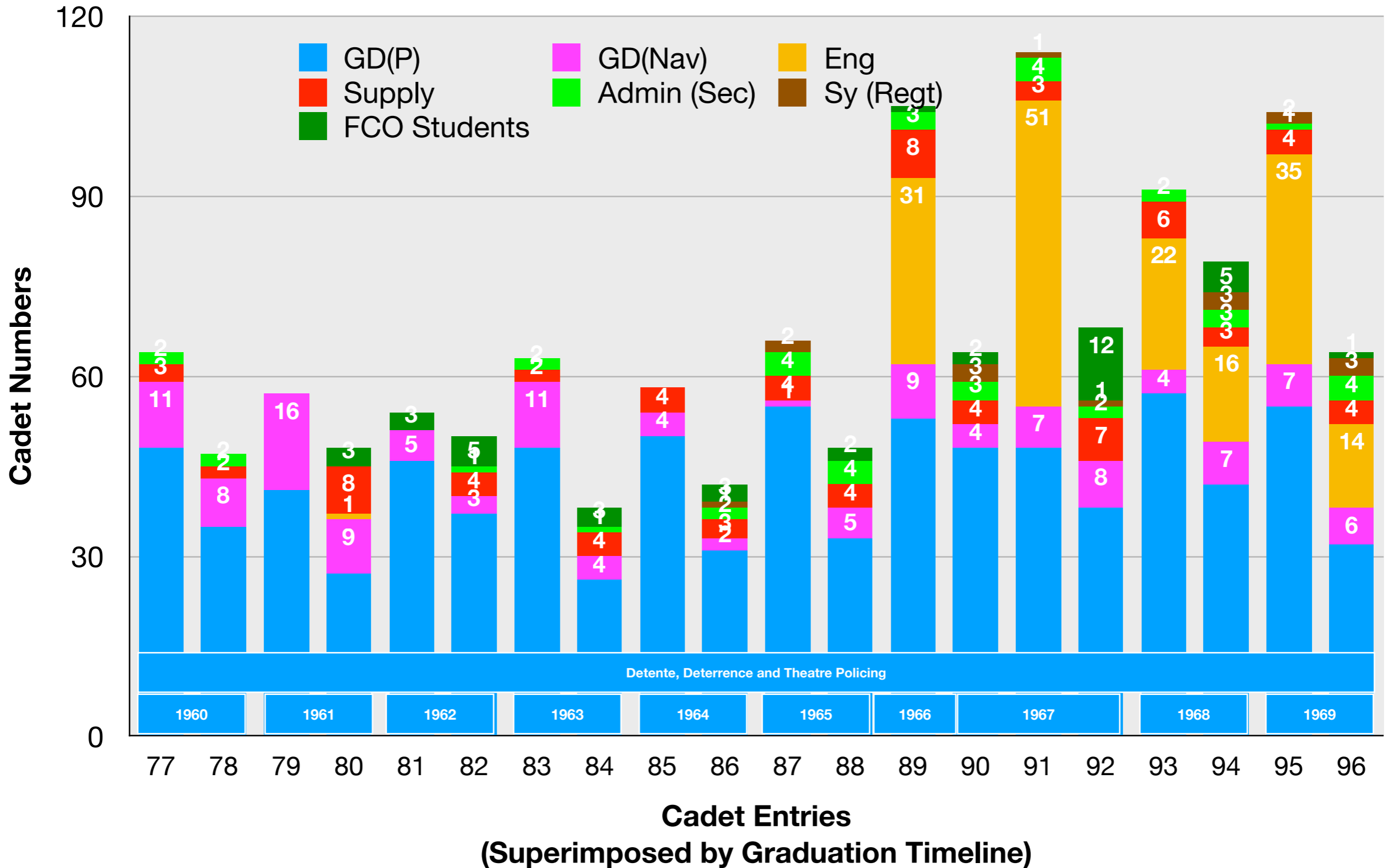
1950s Statistics

Flight Cadet Outputs



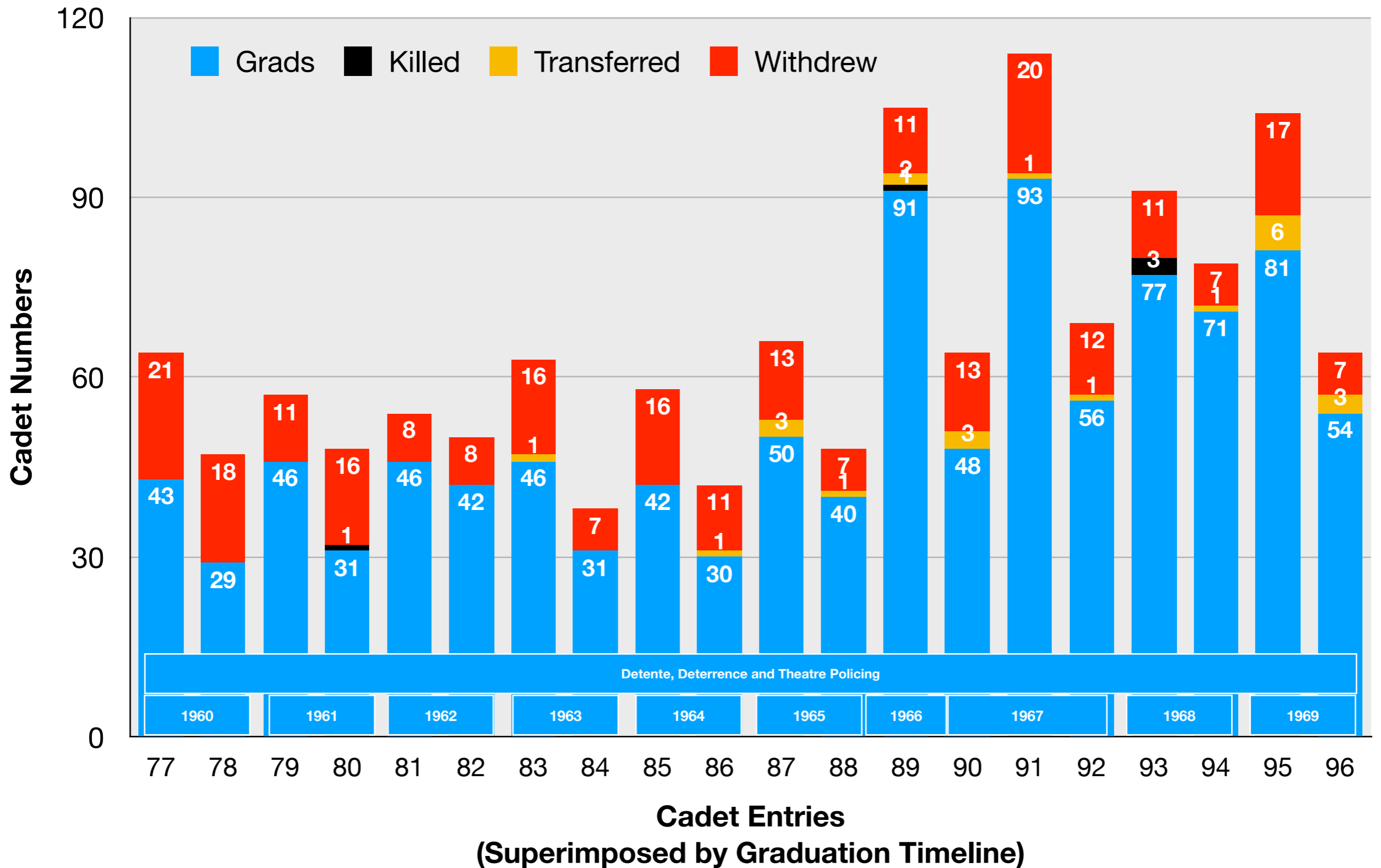
1960s Statistics

Flight Cadet Intakes by Branch

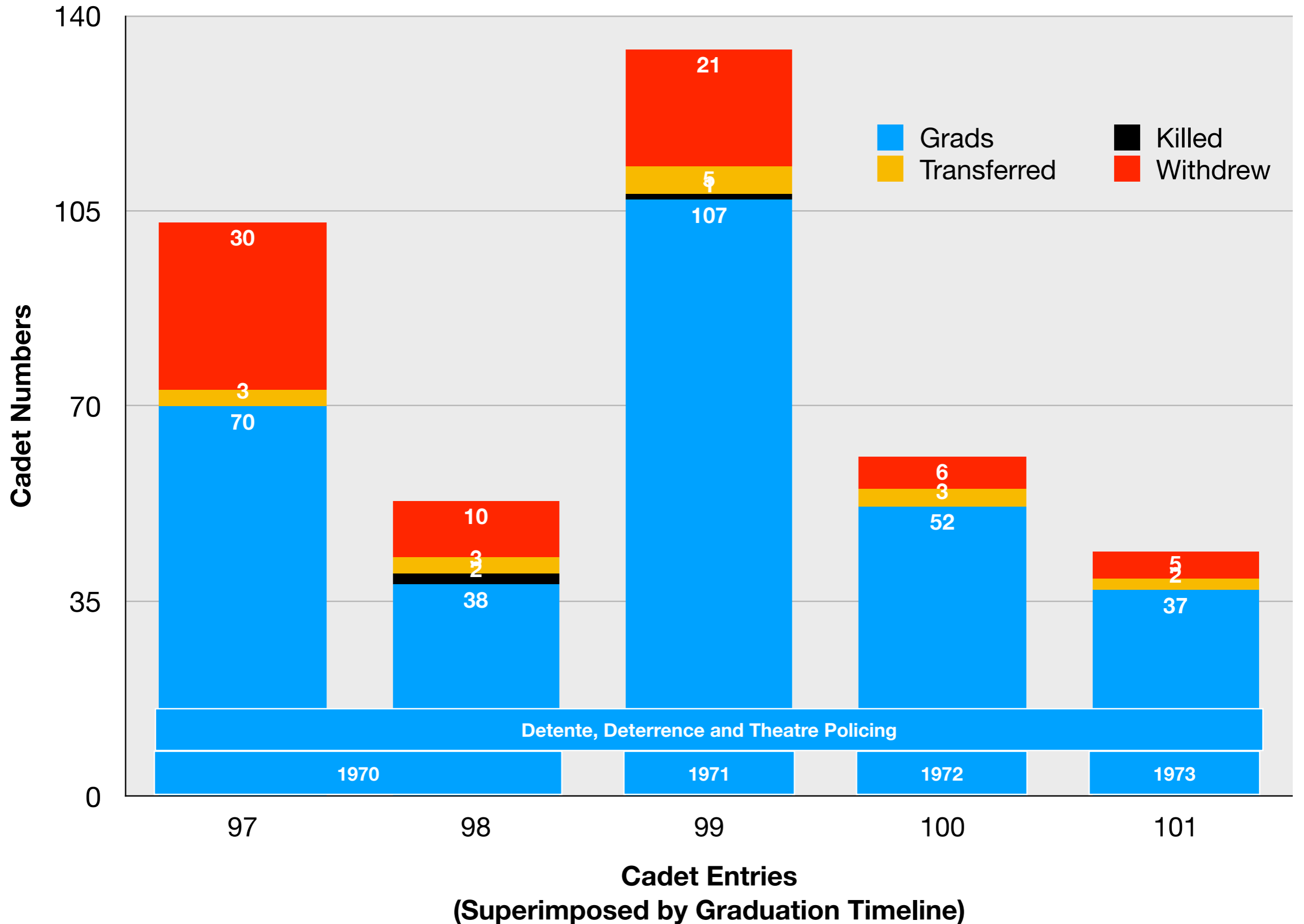


1960s Statistics

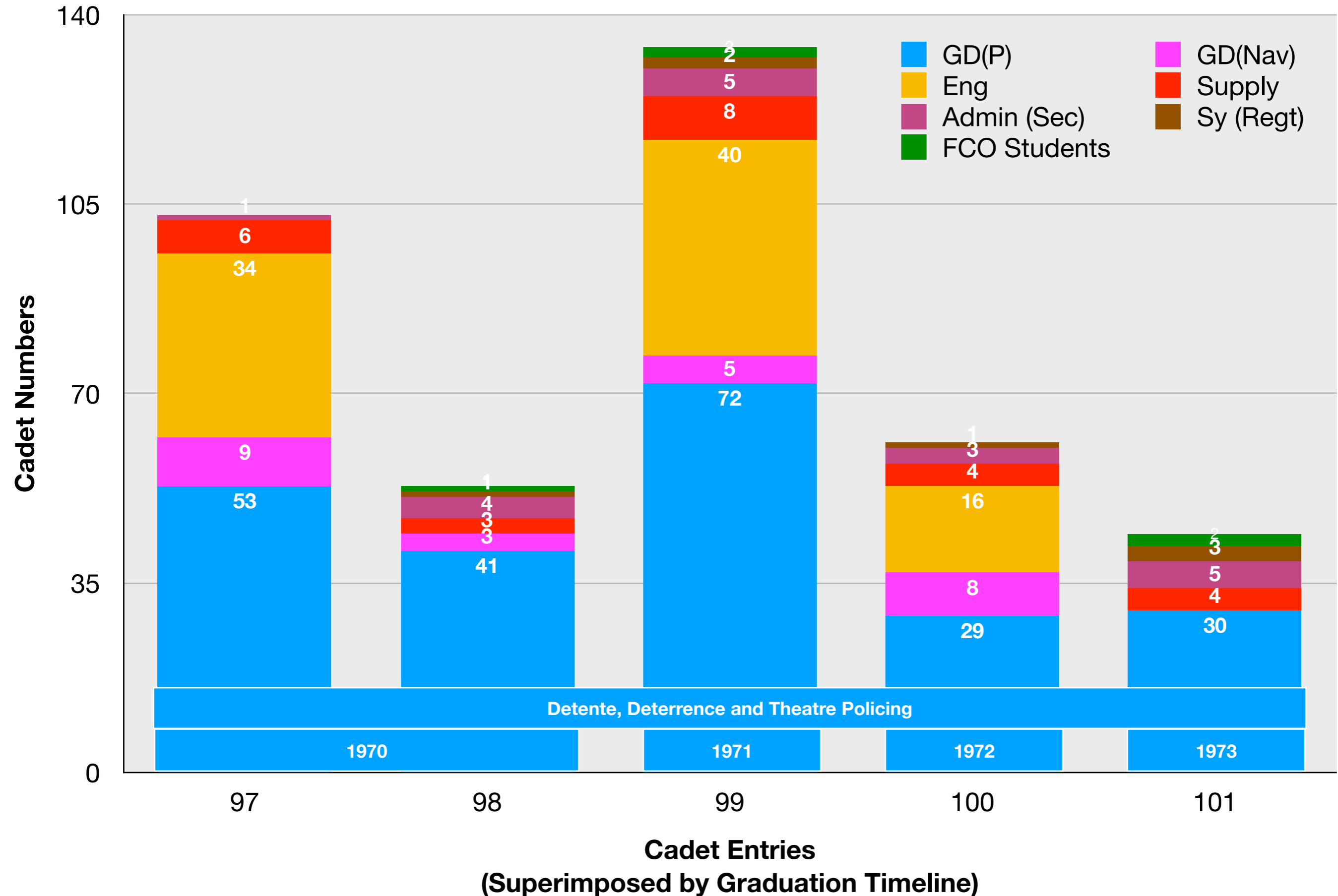
Flight Cadet Outputs



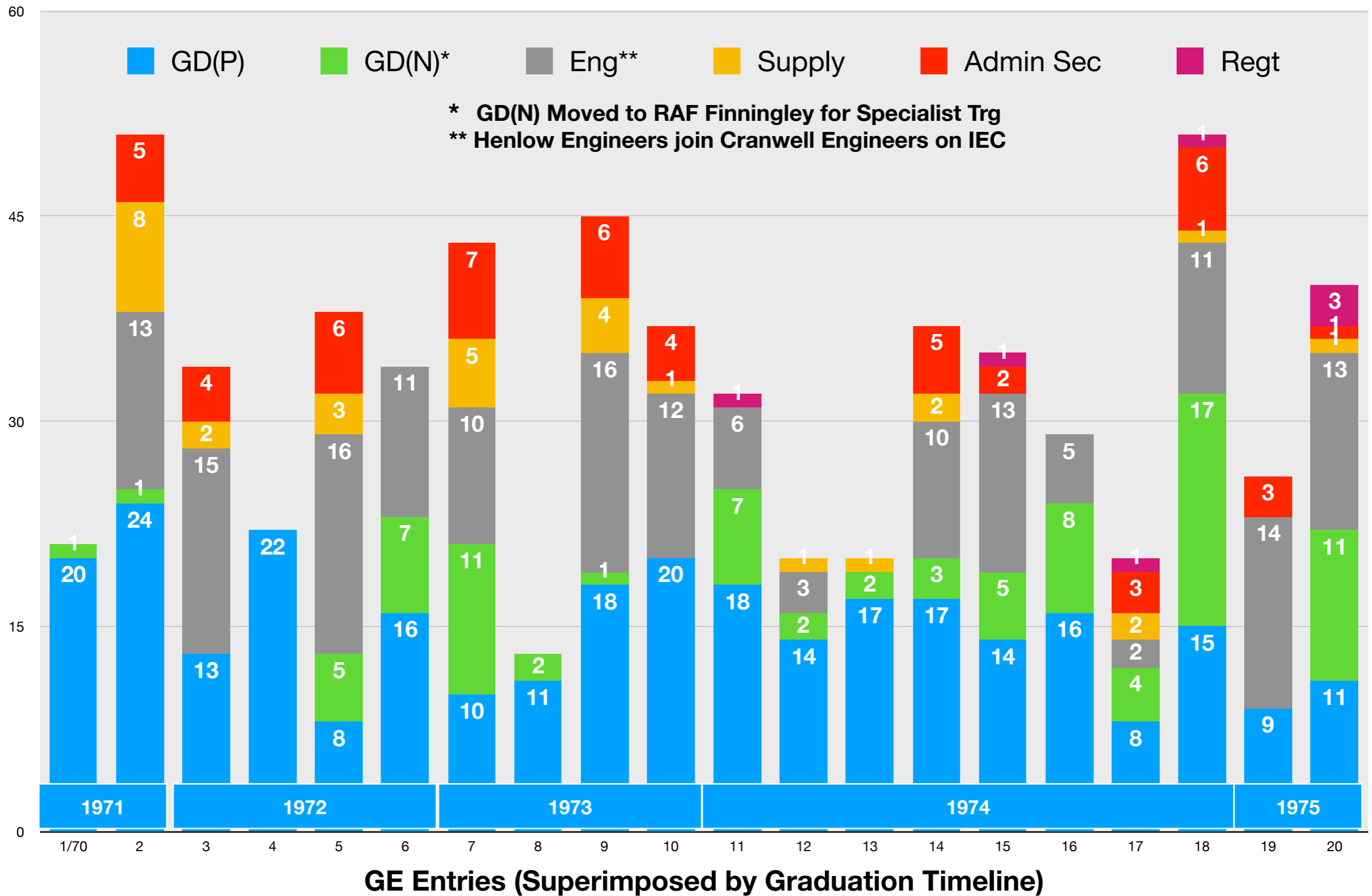
End of Flight Cadet Era - 1970s Statistics



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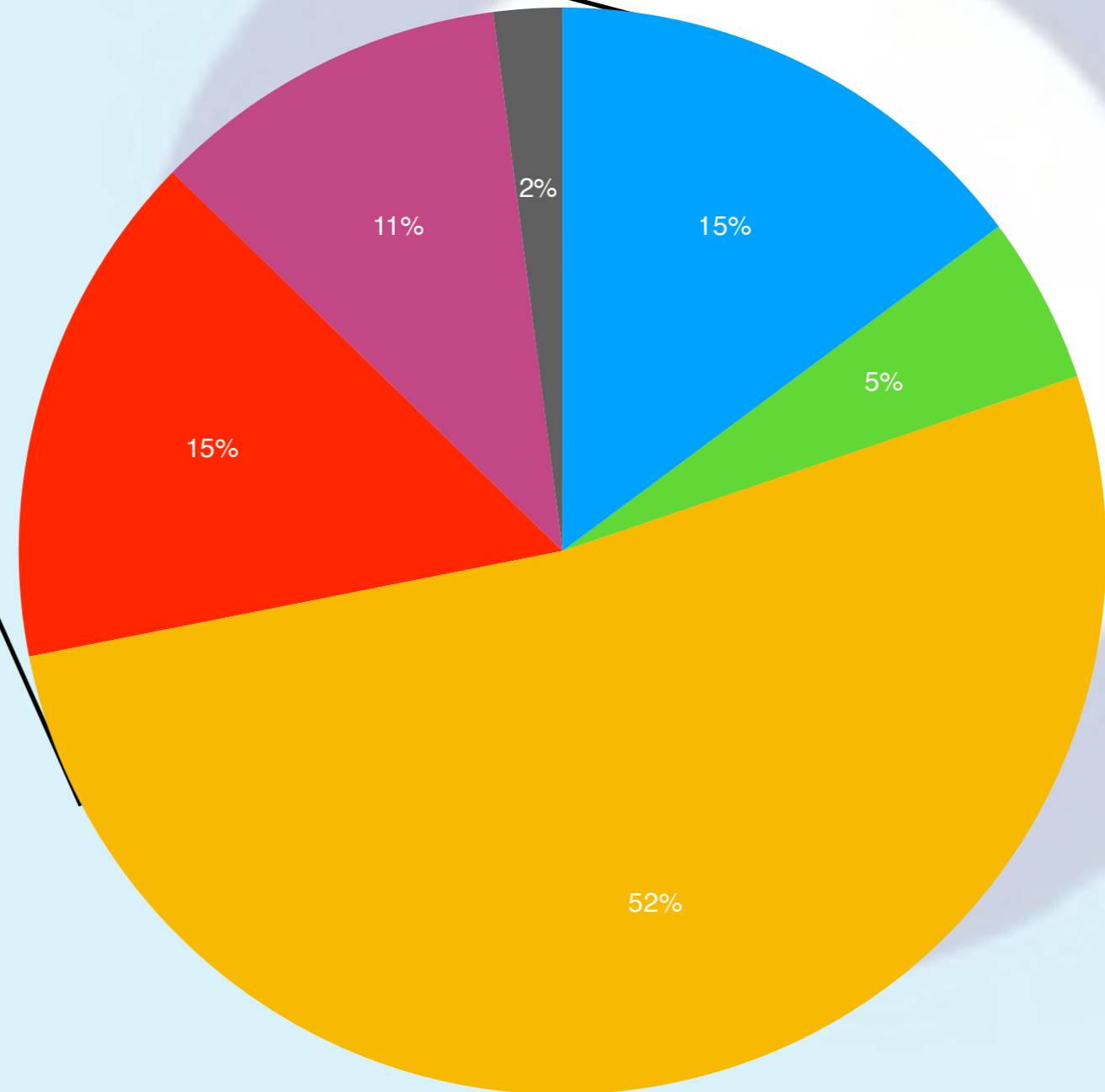


GE Era of 1970s - Phases 1 & 2 Trg (1 GE to 20 GE)



An Overview

Training Scheme	Total Numbers
Flight Cadets	4,354
GE System	1,459
IOT	15,311
IOTC (Verified)	4,520
Total Officer Cadet Records Held	25,644
SFTS War Years	3,142
SERE Recorded	428
Projected IOTC/SERE (Data awaited)	630
Total Number Recorded	29,844



● Flight Cadet Sub-Total
 ● GE Sub-Total
 ● IOT Sub-Total
 ● IOTC Sub-Total
 ● SFTS Sub-Total
 ● Data awaited