

US WARPLANE AIRCRAFT NAMES

World War II

Airacobra	Bell P-39 Name reflects the cobra symbol of power and poise. Variations: Airabonita (XFL-1), Kingcobra (P-63).
Avenger	Grumman TBF / TBM A name which means to take revenge, in this case against the Japanese in the Pacific.
Banshee	Douglas A-24 USAAF version of the SDB Dauntless dive bomber. Derived from the Irish / Scottish mythological spirit of a wailing woman heard when one is about to die.
Black Widow	Northrop P-61 Name reflects the P-61's mission as a black painted night-fighter.
Bolo	Douglas B-18 ?
Boston	Douglas A-20 British assigned in accordance to American bomber aircraft being named after US cities. The A-20 Havoc is named here by the RAF for the city of Boston, Massachusetts.
Buffalo	Brewster F2A Named after the American city of Buffalo in the state of New York.
Canso	Consolidated PB1Y Follows a Commonwealth convention naming American patrol aircraft in RCAF service after Canadian towns, cities. A small fishing town in Eastern Nova Scotia, Canada.
Catalina	Consolidated PB2Y British assigned in accordance to American patrol aircraft being named after US coastal areas. Named after Santa Catalina Island off the coast of Los Angeles, California.
Commando	Curtiss C-46 Named after the elite type of soldier.
Constellation	Lockheed C-69 Follows Lockheed tradition of naming their aircraft after celestial objects. Constellation reflects elegance and beauty.
Cornell	Fairchild PT-19 / PT-23 / PT-26 RAF assigned name in accordance to American trainer aircraft being named after US educational institutions. Named here for Cornell University, New York.
Coronado	Consolidated PB2Y British assigned name in accordance to American Patrol-Bomber aircraft being named after US coastal areas. Not confirmed but most likely named for the Coronado Islands located a short distance off the California / Mexico border. Might also be named after the coastal city of Coronado near San Diego. The name itself comes from Spanish explorer Francisco Vasquez de Coronado (ca.1510-1554), who visited the US South-West in 1540-1542.
Corsair	Vought F4U A Corsair was a name given to a pirate or pirate ship, especially from the Barbary Coast. Variation: Super Corsair (F2G-1/-2).
Dakota	Douglas C-47 British assigned in accordance to American cargo aircraft being named after US locations. Named after the US States of North & South Dakota.
Dauntless	Douglas SBD A name which translates as intrepid (brave) and persevering.
Digby	Douglas B-18 Follows a Commonwealth convention naming American bombers in RCAF service after Canadian towns and cities. An old maritime town in Nova Scotia on Canada's east coast.
Dominator	Consolidated-Vultee B-32 Production name, original name was Terminator.
Dragon	Douglas B-23 Refers to the mythological creature depicted as a winged serpent or reptile.

Duck	Grumman JF / J2F Named after the common aquatic water bird of the Anatidae family. Name may have been inspired by the fact the bird is an amphibian that can walk (roll), float and fly.
Expeditor	Beechcraft C-45 Named to reflect an aircraft that can take action quickly, get things done sooner.
Flying Fortress	Boeing B-17 Originally a nickname dubbed by the media because of the aircraft's extensive armament. Name later became official and the "Fortress" theme was used in later Boeing bombers.
Goose	Grumman JRF Named after the aquatic water bird of the Anatidae family. Males are known as Gander and the female of the species are known as Goose. Also an amphibian bird.
Gosling	Grumman J4F The British name for the Grumman Widgeon. A Gosling is a baby Goose as the Grumman Widgeon was a smaller version of the Grumman Goose. Gosling was later changed to the American Widgeon name to avoid confusion.
Grasshopper	Taylorcraft L-2 / Aeronca L-3 / Piper L-4 / Interstate L-6 Named after the small herbivorous insect of the Orthoptera Order for the aircrafts sprightly design and performance. Variations: Cub (L-18), Super Cub (L-18, L-21).
Harpoon	Lockheed PV-2 Maritime aircraft named after the spear-like cannon used to hunt large fish like whales.
Harvard	North American AT-6 RAF assigned name in accordance to American trainer aircraft being named after US educational institutions. Named here for Harvard University, Massachusetts.
Havoc	Douglas A-20 Aggressive name to reflect power and destruction.
Hellcat	Grumman F6F Continues Grumman's tradition of naming naval fighters with a "cat" theme.
Helldiver	Curtiss SB2C Named to reflect the aircraft's role as a dive-bomber and was also used on several previous Curtiss types.
Hudson	Lockheed Model 414 British assigned in accordance to American patrol aircraft being named after US coastal areas. Named after Hudson Bay which is really in Canada or maybe the Hudson River in New York.
Invader	Douglas A-26 Aggressive name to reflect power and destruction. Variation: Counter Invader (B-26K).
Kansan	Beechcraft AT-11 A Kansan is a term used to describe a local from the State of Kansas. Presumably the aircraft was named in honor of the local workers who built this type.
Kaydet	Boeing-Stearman PT-13 / PT-17 Believed to be coined by the Canadians in 1941 as the phonetic spelling of Cadet meaning a military trainee. A fitting name for a training aircraft.
Lexington	Lockheed B-34 ?
Liberator	Consolidated B-24 The bomber to "liberate" the occupied countries of Europe was the selling point for this aircraft. Variations: Liberator Express (C-87), Liberator Liner (R2Y-1).
Lightning	Lockheed P-38 Aggressive name to reflect power and speed. Variations: Chain Lightning (XP-58), Night Lightning (P-38M).
Lodestar	Lockheed Model 18 Follows Lockheed tradition of naming their aircraft after celestial objects. Navigation term defining the star used to find direction, similar to the Pole Star.
Marauder	Martin B-26 Aggressive name reflecting power and destruction.
Mariner	Martin PBM Maritime name reflecting the PBM's role as a naval patrol aircraft.
Martlet	Grumman F4F Royal Navy version of the F4F Wildcat, named after a mythological bird similar to a Swallow, often used in heraldry.

Mitchell	North American B-25 Named after US General Billy Mitchell (1879-1936), for his forward thinking views on aerial strategic bombing.
Mustang	North American P-51 Named after the feral horse of the rural western plains in the US. Variations: Twin Mustang (P-82), Apache / Invader (A-36A).
Navigator	Beechcraft AT-7 Reflects the aircrafts role as a navigation trainer.
Nighthawk	Douglas P-70 (A-20) Unofficial name of the A-20 Havoc conversion as a night-fighter.
Nomad	Consolidated PBN-1 PBY Catalina development, simply means to be on the move, travelling.
Privateer	Consolidated PB4Y-2 Privateer was a term used to describe a privately owned, armed vessel which held a government commission for war service.
Reporter	Northrop F-15 P-61 development, named to reflect the F-15's reconnaissance mission.
Sentinel	Stinson L-5 A sentinel is a sentry, guard or lookout – a fitting name for an observation / liaison aircraft.
Shrike	Curtiss A-25A USAAF version of the SB2C Helldiver named for the small predatory bird.
Skymaster	Douglas C-54 Another Douglas product using the "Sky" theme, however, this one seems to have become more popular among aircrew with the British adopting the same name for RAF service. It was also the first of the "master" names used by Douglas for their cargo aircraft. Variation: Rescuemaster (SC-54D).
Skytrain	Douglas C-47 Although the official name for the C-47, it never caught on and the aircraft has always been more popularly known by it's British name Dakota – "Dak" or nickname of "Gooney Bird".
Skytrooper	Douglas C-53 A C-47 follow on using the Douglas "Sky" theme, this one derived from the C-53's role as a troop transporter.
Stratoliner	Boeing C-75 The first use of the Boeing "Strato" name, this one to reflect the aircraft as a pressurized airliner which was drafted into service during World War II as the C-75.
Superfortress	Boeing B-29 / B-50 Boeing's second use of the "Fortress" name in it's next generation of strategic bombers. Variation: Superfortress II (B-50).
Tarpon	Grumman TBF / TBM Royal Navy name for the Avenger, Tarpon are a coastal fish prized by anglers for their large size and aggressive fighting spirit.
Terminator	Consolidated-Vultee XB-32 Prototype name to the B-32 Dominator.
Texan	North American AT-6 A native of Texas, maybe because of the mass production undertaken there?
Thunderbolt	Republic P-47 Aggressive name reflecting power and strength and specifically meaning to strike at one out of the sky. Republic retained the "Thunder" name on further fighter projects in the post World War II years. Variations: Doublebolt (TP-47G), Super Thunderbolt (XP-72).
Valiant	Vultee BT-13 / BT-15 Name translates as an act of brave or courageous conduct.
Ventura	Lockheed PV-1 Ventura is a short term for the coastal city of San Buenaventura in California.
Warhawk	Curtiss P-40 This name continued over from the Curtiss P-36 Hawk with the RAF variants also adopting the "Hawk" family name as the Tomahawk and Kittyhawk. Variations: Tomahawk (Model 81), Kittyhawk (Model 87).
Widgeon	Grumman J4F Named after the aquatic water bird of the Anatidae family. A Widgeon is a smaller version of the Duck. The original British name for this aircraft was Gosling.

Wildcat	Grumman F4F Named to reflect a potent fighter, began a Grumman tradition of naming naval fighters with a "cat" theme. Variation: Wildcatfish (F4F-3S).
Wirraway	North American BC-1 Australian built version of the North American BC-1 trainer. Aboriginal name which translates as "Challenge."
Yale	North American BT-9 / BT-14 RAF assigned name for the RCAF in accordance to all British trainer aircraft being named after educational institutions. Named here for Yale University, Connecticut.

Post World War II & The Modern Era

Aardvark	General Dynamics F-111 Dutch word meaning "earth-pig", named for the medium sized African mammal of which it's nose and that of the F-111 have a very close resemblance. Originally coined as a nickname by the RAAF it strangely, did not become USAF official until after the aircraft retired in 1996.
Albatross	Grumman SA-16 / UF (HU-16) Named after the large coastal sea-bird. Variation: Pelican (XJR2F-1).
Banshee	McDonnell F2H (F-2) Derived from the Irish / Scottish mythological spirit of a wailing woman heard when one is about to die.
Bearcat	Grumman F8F Continues Grumman's tradition of naming naval fighters with a "cat" theme.
Bird Dog	Cessna L-19 Named as a result of a competition held among Cessna employees to name the aircraft. The winner was one Jack A. Swayze whose entry was – bird dog, a type of gun dog or hunting dog used by game hunters to retrieve birds. They are also used to observe and search out prey for the hunters, much the same as the battlefield role of the L-19.
Blackbird	Lockheed SR-71 Unofficial name, no official name has ever been assigned.
Blackspot	Fairchild NC/AC-123K C-123 Provider conversion, no further details.
Bronco	North American (Rockwell) OV-10 A US term for an untrained horse.
Buckeye	North American (Rockwell) T-2 A type of plant, specifically the large nut of the chestnut tree. It is also a slang term used to describe residents of the US state of Ohio.
Cargomaster	Douglas C-133 Follows the Douglas "master" theme for their cargo aircraft.
Caribou	DeHavilland Canada C-7 Named after a species of large migratory deer found in North America but mostly Canada.
Chickasaw	Sikorsky H-19 Follows US Army tradition of naming helicopters after North American Indian tribes / nations. The Chickasaw tribe mostly comes from the South-Eastern US.
Choctaw	Sikorsky H-34 Follows US Army tradition of naming helicopters after North American Indian tribes / nations. The Choctaw mostly comes from the South-Eastern US and is closely related to the Chickasaw.
Corsair II	Vought (LTV) A-7 Named in honour of the famous World War II F4U Corsair.
Cougar	Grumman F9F (F-9) The big cat of the Puma family found throughout the Americas, the swept wing version of the F9F.
Crusader	Vought F8U (F-8) Name stems from the medieval European expeditions to the Holy Lands and can also mean any individual on a relentless mission in favour of a cause. Variation: Crusader III (XF8U-3).
Convair	XB-36H Commonly referred to as the "Convair Crusader."

Delta Dagger	Convair F-102 Aggressive name also reflecting the delta wing shape.
Delta Dart	Convair F-106 Aggressive name also reflecting the delta wing shape.
Demon	McDonnell F3H (F-3) Follows McDonnell tradition of naming their aircraft after supernatural phenomena / beings.
Destroyer	Douglas B-66 USAF version of the A3D Skywarrior, fitting name for a bomber.
Dragonfly	Sikorsky H-5 Named after the winged insect of the Odonata family.
	Cessna A-37 / T-37 Tweety Bird development. Also known as the Super Tweet .
Flying Boxcar	Fairchild C-119 What was a nickname to the C-82 Packet became USAF official for the C-119, although Fairchild and the USMC still kept the Packet name as official for this aircraft. Variations: Packplane (XC-120), Skyvan (YC-119H).
Freedom Fighter	Northrop F-5A / B The F-5 was designed as a foreign export fighter to US allies with the name reflecting the "sales pitch" angle offered by the US government.
Fury	North American FJ (F-1) US Navy version of the F-86 Sabre, originally with straight wings.
Globemaster	Douglas C-74 / C-124 Follows the Douglas "master" theme for their cargo aircraft. The C-74 was known as the Globemaster I . The C-124 was known as the Globemaster II . The C-17 is the Globemaster III (see below).
Guardian	Grumman AF An appropriate name for an anti-submarine protector and defender of the fleet.
Huskie	Kaman H-43 Name is derived from "Husky" which is a general term for several breeds of sled dogs known for their strength and stamina.
Hustler	Convair B-58 The term "hustle" refers here to one that hurries or rushes to be somewhere, a fitting term for the first US supersonic bomber.
Intruder	Grumman A-6 Aggressive name to reflect the attack role of the A-6. Variation: Intruder II (A-6F).
Kiowa	Bell OH-58 Follows US Army tradition of naming helicopters after North American Indian tribes / nations. The Kiowa are a tribe mainly from the West Texas region of the US. Variations: Combat Scout (MH-58D), Kiowa Warrior (OH-58D).
Liftmaster	Douglas C-118 Follows the Douglas "master" theme for their cargo aircraft.
Marlin	Martin P5M (P-5) Popular large game fish with a long snout.
Mentor	Beechcraft T-34 Named after the term for an experienced and trusted advisor or teacher, an appropriate name for a training aircraft. Variation: Turbo-Mentor (T-34C).
Mohawk	Grumman OV-1 North American Indian tribe found in North-Eastern United States.
Mojave	Sikorsky H-37A Follows US Army tradition of naming helicopters after North American Indian tribes. The "Mojave" or "Mohave" were a tribe native to the Western United States.
Neptune	Lockheed P2V (P-2) Follows Lockheed tradition of naming their aircraft after celestial objects. Named with a maritime theme as the Roman god of the sea.
Nighthawk	Lockheed F-117 The official name for the F-117, however it's more commonly referred to as the Stealth Fighter.
Nightingale	Douglas C-9A Named for the pioneering nurse Florence Nightingale (1820-1910), to reflect the C-9's role of aero-medical evacuation.

Night Intruder	Martin B-57B Generic name for the aircraft's night-mission role.
Nomad	Hiller H-23 (CH-112) Canadian version of the Raven helicopter. Means to be on the move, travelling.
North Star	Canadair Model CL-2 (C-54GM) The North Star is a navigational aid being the star best suited to find one's way North. Civil variation: Argonaut (Model CL-4).
Packet	Fairchild C-82 Officially named after the 18th & 19th Century British "Packet ships" which carried mail to the far reaches of the British Empire. This name was recognized as official by Fairchild and the USAF but was far more commonly referred to as the "Flying Boxcar" because the cargo hold was in equal capacity to a railway boxcar.
Panther	Grumman F9F (F-9) Generic term for the big cats of the Felidae family, the straight wing version of the F9F.
Peacemaker	Convair B-36 America's post World War II "big stick" was named in a historical sense after the classic Colt Peacemaker six-shooter revolver from days of the Wild West.
Phantom II	McDonnell F-4 Follows McDonnell tradition of naming their aircraft after supernatural phenomena / beings. Original USAF version was to be named as Spectre.
Provider	Fairchild C-123 Generic term to "provide", in this case troops or cargo. Variation: Avitruc (XCG-20).
Raven	Hiller H-23 Large black bird of the Corvus family similar to the crow. General Dynamics EF-111A F-111 Aardvark conversion.
Rescuer	Piasecki (Vertol) HRP-1 H-21 Shawnee relative. Named for the SAR role performed for the US Navy / USMC.
Sabre	North American F-86 A European military sword with a large hand guard around the grip. Mainly used as part of a naval officers uniform and as a symbol of military honor. Variation: Sabre Dog (F-86D).
Samaritan	Convair C-131 Name means an individual that is charitable and helpful.
Seabat	Sikorsky HSS-1 H-34 Choctaw relative. The "Sea" name reflects use by the US Navy.
Seahorse	Sikorsky HUS-1 H-34 Choctaw relative. The "Sea" name reflects use by the USMC and USCG.
Sea King	Sikorsky H-3 The "Sea" name reflects the use of the aircraft by the US Navy. "Jolly Green Giant" began as a nickname for the USAF and later became official. Variation: Jolly Green Giant (HH-3E).
Seasprite	Kaman H-2 The "Sea" name reflects the use of the aircraft by the US Navy. "Sprite" is a name that can refer to an elf, fairy or goblin – nimble and fast. Variation: Super Seasprite (SH-2G).
Scorpion	Northrop F-89 Named after the well known and potent eight-legged invertebrate.
Shadow	Fairchild AC-119G C-119 Flying Boxcar conversion. Reflects the role of stealthy night time missions.
Shawnee	Piasecki (Vertol) CH-21C Follows US Army tradition of naming helicopters after North American Indian tribes. The Shawnee were a tribe native to the Eastern / North-Eastern parts of the United States.
Shooting Star	Lockheed P-80 (F-80) / T-33 Follows Lockheed tradition of naming their aircraft after celestial objects. Shooting Star reflects a fighter of great speed. Variations: SeaStar (T2V-1), Starfire (F-94), Silver Star (RCAF).
Sioux	Bell H-13 Follows US Army tradition of naming helicopters after North American Indian tribes / nations. The Sioux were a significant nation of North American Indians. Variations: Sioux Scout / Warrior , Bellairus (Model 47H), Ranger (Model 47J).

Skyhawk	Douglas A4D (A-4) Follows the Douglas "Sky" theme tradition. Variations: Skyhawk II (A-4M/N), Super Skyhawk (A-4SU), Fightinghawk (A-4AR).
Skyraider	Douglas AD (A-1) Follows the Douglas "Sky" theme tradition. Variation: Dauntless II (XBT2D-1).
Skytrain II	Douglas C-9B Named in honour of the famous World War II C-47 Skytrain.
Skywarrior	Douglas A3D (A-3) Follows the Douglas "Sky" theme tradition.
Spooky	Douglas AC-47D C-47 Skytrain conversion, named to reflect the AC-47D's role of stealthy night time missions.
Starfighter	Lockheed F-104 Follows Lockheed tradition of naming their aircraft after celestial objects. Starfighter creates a science fiction image which was the trend of the 50's and 60's.
Starlifter	Lockheed C-141 Follows Lockheed tradition of naming their aircraft after celestial objects. Name reflects the aircraft's role as a heavy lifter.
Stinger	Fairchild AC-119K C-119 Flying Boxcar conversion. Reflects the role of stealthy night time missions.
Stratofreighter	Boeing C-97 Boeing's "Strato" name this time used to reflect the aircraft's use as a freighter. Civil variation: Stratocruiser (Model 377).
Stratojet	Boeing B-47 Boeing's "Strato" name applied to the USAF's first all jet bomber.
Super Constellation	Lockheed C-121 C-69 development, aircraft looked much the same so the name stayed much the same. Civil variation: Starliner (Model 1649).
Super Sabre	North American F-100 Aircraft and name are a development of the F-86 Sabre.
Super Skymaster	Cessna O-2 Adopted from Cessna's naming of light aircraft with a "sky" theme – skywagon, skylane etc. The use of "Super" was later dropped from the name.
Super Transport	Convair XC-99 B-36 Peacemaker development, appears to be a generic name only.
Tarhe	Sikorsky CH-54 Follows US Army tradition of naming helicopters after North American Indian tribes. Named after the leader of the Wyandot Tribe of Ohio – Tarhe (1742-1818), whose nickname was "The Crane." Civil variations: Skycrane , Aircrane .
Thunderjet Thunderstreak Thunderflash	Republic F-84 Continues Republic's "Thunder" theme – Thunderjet was the straight wing version of the F-84, Thunderstreak was the swept wing version and Thunderflash was the photo reconnaissance version of the Thunderstreak.
Thunderchief	Republic F-105 Continues the Republic "Thunder" theme.
Tiger II	Northrop F-5E / F Upgraded F-5 Freedom Fighter, name indicates a second generation of development after the original evaluation of the "Skoshi Tiger" program F-5C's in Vietnam. Variations: Tigereye (RF-5E), Tigershark (F-20A).
Tigercat	Grumman F7F Continues Grumman's tradition of naming naval fighters with a "cat" theme.
Tomcat	Grumman F-14 Continues Grumman's tradition of naming naval fighters with a "cat" theme. Variation: Super Tomcat (F-14D).
Tracer	Grumman WF-2 (E-1) S2F Tracker development, reflects the aircraft's role as an AEW platform.
Tracker	Grumman S2F (S-2) Generic term for the S2F's role as an anti-submarine aircraft.
Trader	Grumman TF-1 (C-1) S2F Tracker development, reflects the aircraft's role as a cargo carrier.

Trojan	North American T-28 Name originally stems from the wooden horse said to have been used by the Greeks to enter Troy. It has since come to mean someone who works or fights courageously. Variation: Fennec (T-28S).
Tweety Bird	Cessna T-37 Named after the Warner Bros. "Looney Tunes" yellow canary type character whose famous line was: "I tawt I taw a puddy tat!" Name is also commonly abbreviated to just Tweet.
Vigilante	North American A3J (A-5) Name refers to an individual who acts outside the law.
Viking	Lockheed S-3 Ship-borne raiders of the 8th to 11th Centuries known for their expert navigation techniques.
Voodoo	McDonnell F-101 Follows McDonnell tradition of naming their aircraft after supernatural phenomena / beings.
Warning Star	Lockheed RC-121 / WV-2 Follows Lockheed tradition of naming their aircraft after celestial objects. Name reflects the AEW role of this aircraft.
Washington	Boeing B-29 British assigned in accordance to American bomber aircraft being named after US cities. Named here after the US capital city, Washington D.C.
Wessex	Sikorsky H-34 RAF / Royal Navy name for the Sikorsky H-34 Choctaw.
Whirlwind	Sikorsky H-19 RAF / Royal Navy name for the Sikorsky H-19 Chickasaw.
Workhorse	Piasecki (Vertol) H-21 An H-21 Shawnee relative. Named by the USAF for its troop / cargo role.

Present Day

Apache	McDonnell Douglas AH-64 Follows US Army tradition of naming helicopters after North American Indian tribes / nations. The Apache was a collective name for several groups of Native American Indians. Variations: Apache Longbow (AH-64D), Apache Guardian (AH-64E).
Arcturus	Lockheed CP-140A CAF name for a P-3 Orion development. Arcturus is the third brightest star in the Northern night sky.
Aries / Aries II	Lockheed EP-3E P-3 Orion conversion, Aries the Ram is one of the constellations of the Zodiac.
Aurora	Lockheed CP-140 CAF name for a P-3 Orion development, the mythological Roman goddess of Dawn.
Black Hawk	Sikorsky UH-60 Follows US Army tradition of naming helicopters after North American Indian tribes / nations. Named after the Sauk Native American Indian tribe leader – Chief Black Hawk (1767-1838), who led many battles on the side of the English. The UH-60 helicopter derivatives retained the "Hawk" name with another name added to the front to reflect the mission: Desert Hawk, Ocean Hawk etc.
Cayuse	Hughes OH-6 Follows US Army tradition of naming helicopters after North American Indian tribes / nations. The Cayuse were a tribe from the Oregon State region of the US.
Chinook	Boeing-Vertol CH-47 Follows US Army tradition of naming helicopters after North American Indian tribes / nations. The Chinookan were a tribe from the Pacific-Northwest US.
Clipper	Boeing C-40 Named after the 18th and 19th Century fast sailing ships that sailed the world's largest oceans. Assigned to the US Navy in honor of the original Boeing Model 314 Clipper.
Cobra	Bell AH-1 Named after the venomous snake of the Elapidae family. General use names are the: HueyCobra (US Army) and SeaCobra (USMC). Variations: KingCobra (Model 309), SuperCobra (AH-1W).

Commando	Sikorsky H-3 Westland's non-amphibious version of the Sea King.
Creek	Bell TH-67A Follows US Army tradition of naming helicopters after North American Indian tribes / nations. The Creek tribe came from the South-Eastern US, original name was "Muscogee."
Defender	Hughes Model 500 (military export version) Generic name reflecting the role as an attack helicopter.
Dragon Lady	Lockheed U-2 Unofficial name, mainly applied to the U-2S and TU-2S variants.
Eagle	McDonnell Douglas F-15 Named after the large and powerful bird of prey. Variations: Strike Eagle (F-15E), Slam Eagle (F-15K).
Extender	McDonnell Douglas KC-10 Named for it's role as an aerial tanker "extending" the mission time of other aircraft.
Fighting Falcon	General Dynamics F-16 Named after the bird of prey from the Falconidae family. Variations: Desert Falcon (F-16E/F), Night Falcon (F-16C/D).
Galaxy	Lockheed C-5 Follows Lockheed tradition of naming their aircraft after celestial objects. Name reflects the aircraft's role as a heavy lifter. Variation: Super Galaxy (C-5M).
Ghostrider	Lockheed AC-130J A "ghostly apparition" which reflects the stealth-type mission of this aircraft.
Globemaster III	McDonnell Douglas C-17 Follows the McDonnell-Douglas "master" theme for their cargo aircraft, the "III" defines it was named in sequence after the C-74 and C-124.
Goshawk	McDonnell Douglas T-45 Medium to large bird of prey from the Accipitridae family.
Greyhound	Grumman C-2 Named after the popular racing dog in recognition of it's swiftness.
Growler	Boeing EA-18G Aggressive name.
Harrier	McDonnell Douglas AV-8 Named after the small bird of prey which flies low over the ground during the hunt and also because of this birds ability to hover in flight. Variations: Harrier II (AV-8B), Kestrel (XAV-6A).
Harvard II	Raytheon (Beechcraft) CT-156 CAF name for the T-6 Texan II in honour of the World War II trainer.
Hawkeye	Grumman E-2 Named for the sharp "eyes" of the E-2 technology.
Hercules	Lockheed C-130 Follows Lockheed tradition of naming their aircraft after celestial objects. Named after the Greek mythological hero known for his strength and courage. Variation: Super Hercules (C-130J).
Hornet	McDonnell Douglas F/A-18 The largest of the eusocial wasps from the Vespidae family famous for its powerful sting. Variations: Super Hornet (F/A-18E/F).
Iroquois	Bell UH-1 Follows US Army tradition of naming helicopters after North American Indian tribes / nations. Named after the six North American Indian tribes which unified under the name of the Iroquois Confederacy. Although widely known as the official name for the UH-1, Iroquois never stuck and it was soon mostly accepted by it's nickname of Huey which came from the original designation of HU-1. Bell Helicopters even printed it on the rudder pedals of the helicopter. Variation: Huey II (UH-1HP).
Labrador	Boeing-Vertol CH-113 CAF name for a CH-46 Sea Knight development. Named for the Labrador region of Pacific Canada and for the breed of dog – apt as a water rescue dog, the CH-113's main role.
Lancer	Rockwell B-1 The official name of the B-1 stems from "Lance" which was a long spear like weapon used by horseman in the charge. It's a name that has never really stuck with the unofficial name of Bone being far more prevalent.

Lightning II	Lockheed-Martin F-35 Official name in honor of the famous World War II Lockheed P-38 Lightning.
Mercury	Boeing E-6 The mythological Roman god of trade and commerce known for his speed.
Orion	Lockheed P-3 Follows Lockheed tradition of naming their aircraft after celestial objects. The Greek mythological figure known as "Orion, The Hunter." Civil variation: Sentinel (P-3 AEW&C).
Osprey	Bell-Boeing V-22 Named after the large fish-eating bird of prey (Pandion Haliaetus), well known for its powerful wing-stroke giving it the ability to lift vertically from the water. A fitting name for a VTOL aircraft.
Pelican	Sikorsky HH-3F USCG H-3 Sea King development, named after the water bird of the Pelecanidae family.
Poseidon	Boeing P-8 Named after the Greek Mythological god of the sea.
Prowler	Grumman EA-6B A-6 Intruder development, a name reflects the aircraft's ECM role of "creeping around" unseen.
Raptor	Lockheed / Boeing F-22 Named after the dinosaur made famous in the motion picture <i>Jurassic Park</i> (1993), the Velociraptor, which translates as "swift thief."
Sea Knight	Boeing-Vertol CH-46 The "Sea" name reflects the use of the aircraft by the USMC. "Knight" refers to the medieval horseman.
Sea Ranger	Bell TH-57 The "Sea" name reflects the use of the aircraft by the US Navy. "Ranger" refers to the original Bell Jet Ranger name.
Sea Stallion	Sikorsky H-53 The "Sea" name reflects the use of the aircraft by the USMC. "Stallion" refers to power and size. Super Jolly Green Giant was a USAF name. Variations: King Stallion (CH-53K), Super Stallion (CH-53E), Sea Dragon (MH-53E), Super Jolly Green Giant (HH-53B/C).
Sentry	Boeing E-3 To "guard" against, reflects the E-3's role as an AEW platform.
Shadow	Lockheed ES-3A S-3 Viking conversion, suitable name for an ELINT aircraft.
Spectre	Lockheed AC-130E / H C-130 Hercules conversion, a "ghostly apparition" which reflects the night-role of this aircraft.
Spirit	Northrop B-2 The official name for the B-2, however it's more commonly referred to as the Stealth Bomber.
Spooky II	Lockheed AC-130U C-130 Hercules development, named in honour of the Vietnam-era AC-47D Spooky.
Stratofortress	Boeing B-52 Boeing's "Strato" name this time combined with the "Fortress" name for the longest serving bomber of all time. The aircraft is most commonly, simply referred to as the BUFF – Big-Ugly-Fat-Fellow.
Stratolifter	Boeing C-135 Boeing's "Strato" name this time used to reflect the aircraft's use as a cargo mover.
Stratotanker	Boeing KC-135 Boeing's "Strato" name this time used to reflect the aircraft's use as an aerial tanker.
Talon	Northrop T-38 The claws of a bird of prey, unusual name for a trainer apparently following a convention of naming trainer aircraft with names beginning with the letter "T". Variation: Talon II (T-38C).
Texan II	Raytheon (Beechcraft) T-6 Named in honor the famous World War II AT-6 Texan.

Thunderbolt II	Fairchild-Republic A-10 Official name in honor of the famous World War II P-47 Thunderbolt. This name however, did not catch on in general use, the nickname of Warthog being so widely accepted that it has virtually become a semi-official name.
Venom	Bell UH-1Y UH-1 Iroquois conversion, named for a variety of toxins used mainly by snakes for defense or hunting prey.
Viper	Bell AH-1Z AH-1 Cobra conversion, named after the venomous snake of the Viperidae family.
Voyageur	Boeing-Vertol CH-113A CAF name for a CH-46 Sea Knight development. French word for "traveller." Named here from Canadian mythology for someone who can carry anything, anywhere.
Wedgetail	Boeing E-7 Began as an RAAF name for the 737-700 AEW&C aircraft but appears to have become semi-official for international sales as well. Named for the Australian "Wedgetail Eagle" bird.