

## Preface

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The 1990s have been a decade of rapid change and adaptation for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). As the Cold War came to a close and the Soviet Union collapsed, some called for an end to the alliance that had played a central role in countering Soviet military power for the previous 40 years. Others, impressed with the continuing need for transatlantic security cooperation, called upon NATO to adopt new missions, beyond its traditional role of territorial defense, aimed at meeting fresh security challenges.

Events have shown the need for a transformed NATO capable of undertaking a wide range of missions, including:

- Projecting stability into areas around the periphery of the NATO treaty area
- Intervening effectively in civil conflicts, such as those that have arisen in the former Republic of Yugoslavia
- Coordinating power-projection operations into areas such as the Persian Gulf region
- Countering weapons of mass destruction, both by impeding their proliferation and by preventing the use of such weapons.

An evolving consensus among the allies has led to a significant, if fitful, extension of NATO's mandate to encompass at least the first two of these missions. Over time, this expansion of NATO's area of regard and the scope of its missions is likely to continue, provided the Alliance's leading members have the political will to act when called upon to extend their influence outward. The questions that remain relate to the types of military capabilities most needed to make these missions a reality, and the rate and extent to which the United States and its allies are likely to field such capabilities. This report addresses these questions in the context of the Alliance's emerging strategy for advancing the interests of its members in peacetime, crisis, and war. It

points to the need for a heavy emphasis on enhancing the deployability of NATO's military forces, and it forecasts a growing need for effective defenses against weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

The research summarized here is part of a larger project on the implications of the changing strategic environment in and around Europe and its implications for the United States and NATO. The project, sponsored by the Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Air Forces in Europe, and by the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Headquarters, United States Air Force, was conducted in the Strategy and Doctrine Program of RAND's Project AIR FORCE. This report should be of interest to those engaged in policy toward, or the study of, European security in the post-Cold War setting. Although its focus is on air forces and military units that can support air operations, its broad conclusions are relevant to all future U.S. and European forces.

## PROJECT AIR FORCE

Project AIR FORCE, a division of RAND, is the Air Force federally funded research and development center (FFRDC) for studies and analyses. It provides the Air Force with independent analyses of policy alternatives affecting the development, employment, combat readiness, and support of current and future air and space forces. Research is carried out in four programs: Aerospace Force Development; Manpower, Personnel, and Training; Resource Management; and Strategy and Doctrine.