This report presents results from work by an interdisciplinary team assembled by RAND to assist staff at Headquarters, United States Air Force, during a series of DoD-wide reviews of future U.S. military capabilities. The work was sponsored by Major General Charles D. Link, who was Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff, National Defense Review. We are indebted to General Link and his staff, headed by Colonel David Deptula and, later, by Lieutenant Colonel Stephen McNamara, who played important roles in helping to conceptualize the research as it proceeded and in focusing it on issues of greatest concern to analysts and decisionmakers in the joint arena. Colonel Rusty O’Brien and his team in the Air Staff’s Deep Attack Group were also intimately involved in helping shape our research, both as colleagues and in providing a window into ongoing joint studies.

The authors wish to thank a number of their colleagues at RAND—some members of the project team and some not—who contributed to the formulation and refinement of portions of this work. They include first and foremost Brent Bradley, who oversaw the project and provided careful guidance throughout, and Paul Davis, whose own work encompasses many of the areas addressed herein and who provided a thorough and thoughtful review of an early draft. Others at RAND who merit special mention are John Bordeaux and Daniel Norton, who contributed to the briefing based on the work documented in this report; Alex Hou, who reviewed many of our calculations; Bart Bennett, Brian Chow, Jeff Hagen, Steve Hosmer, Gary Lieberson, John Matsumura, and Donald Stevens, whose work has influenced ours in numerous ways; and Roger Brown, Carl
Builder, John Gordon, Richard Kugler, and Bruce Pirnie, all of whom commented on earlier versions of our work.

A number of people outside of RAND also gave freely of their time and talents to review and critique our work. Frank Lacroix, Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (Retired), now with Science Applications International, provided a thoughtful review of the report. Michael O'Hanlon of the Brookings Institution organized a panel of experts from Brookings to review our briefing and also commented extensively on the draft. E. B. Vandiver, director of the Army's Concepts Analysis Agency (CAA), along with members of his staff, reviewed our work. Price Bingham, formerly of the USAF and now with Northrop-Grumman, offered a number of helpful comments that strengthened the analysis.

Finally, John Godges and Jeanne Heller expertly reviewed and edited the text.