PREFACE

This report describes research that was conducted (1) to help the U.S. Air Force identify potential interoperability problems that may arise in NATO Alliance operations or in U.S. coalition operations with NATO allies over the next decade; and (2) to suggest nonmateriel and technology-based solution directions to mitigate identified shortfalls. The focus of the research is on command, control, communications, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (C3ISR) systems and on out-of-NATO-area operations.

The research was sponsored by the Air Force Director of Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (USAF/XOI), the Air Force Director of Command and Control (USAF/XOC), and the commander of the Aerospace Command, Control, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Center (AC2ISR/CC). The research was performed within the Aerospace Force Development program of Project AIR FORCE (PAF), and it builds on two recent PAF study projects: "Investment Guidelines for Information Operations—Focus on ISR" and "Developing Future Integrated C2 and ISR Capabilities."

This report should be of interest to policymakers, planners, and program managers involved in interoperability issues and programs of U.S. and NATO allies' air forces. It should also be of interest to planners and operational commanders involved in the employment of coalition C3ISR and combat capabilities.

Project AIR FORCE

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