

---

## **PREFACE**

---

This book brings together three regional security assessments, along with an overview of global trends in the strategic environment. Each of the regional assessments—covering Asia, the greater Middle East, and Europe and the former Soviet Union—examines key trends and potential sources of conflict through the year 2025, and identifies the implications for the U.S. Air Force and for U.S. national security policy more broadly.

The chapters in this volume reflect research undertaken in 1996 for a study on “Sources of Conflict and Their Implications for Air Force Operations,” conducted within the Strategy and Doctrine Program of RAND’s Project AIR FORCE. The study, sponsored by the Deputy Chief of Staff, Plans and Operations, was intended to serve Air Force long-range planning needs. The findings are also relevant to broader ongoing debates within the Department of Defense and elsewhere, especially in the context of the Quadrennial Defense Review. Our analyses and conclusions should be of interest to a wide foreign and security policy audience.

### **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 aerospace forces.

**Research is performed in three programs: Strategy and Doctrine, Force Modernization and Employment, and Resource Management and System Acquisition.**