

## Joint Operating Environment 2008

Authored by the U.S. Joint Forces Command (USJFCOM), the *Joint Operating Environment (JOE 2008)* outlines a strategic framework and forecasts possible threats and opportunities that will challenge the future joint force.

It is intended to spark discussions with the widest set of national security and multinational partners about the nature of the future international environment and its potential military requirements.

JOE 2008 examines changes/trends in the geopolitical and military landscape such as:

- Demographics
- Energy
- Climate change and national disasters
- Globalization
- Cyber and space
- Economics
- Pandemics
- Resource scarcity

JOE 2008 also examines the contexts of the future security environment which the joint force of the future will face in areas such as:

- Competition and Cooperation Among Conventional Powers
- Potential Challenges and Threats
- Weak and Failing States
- The Threats of Unconventional Power
- Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction
- Technology
- The Battle of Narratives
- Urbanization

In the broadest sense, the *Joint Operating Environment* examines three questions:

- What future trends and disruptions are likely to affect the joint force over the next quarter century?
- How are these trends and disruptions likely to define the future contexts for joint operations?
- What are the implications of these trends and contexts for the joint force?

By exploring these trends, contexts, and implications, the *Joint Operating Environment* provides a basis for thinking about the world a quarter of a century from now. Its purpose is not to predict, but to suggest ways leaders might think about the future.

The JOE 2008 is available for download at

<http://www.jfcom.mil/newslink/storyarchive/2008/JOE2008.pdf>.