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nations around the world are uncertain and anxious about iran s intentions in the middle east and the wider global arena its current president mahmoud ahmadinejad has made no secret of his opposition to western society particularly israel and his desire to acquire nuclear weapons however as anthony h cordesman and martin kleiber point out ahmadinejad does not necessarily speak for the iranian clerical regime who operate in a cloud of secrecy and also directly control iran s military given the ambiguous nature of iran s global objectives this new study focuses on the tangible aspects of iran s military forces and takes an objective look at the realistic threats that iran poses to the region and the world the authors systematically assess each aspect of iranian military forces from their conventional armies to their asymmetric threat via proxy wars in the region much attention in national security debates is paid to iran s intentions without first understanding its capabilities lacking such a fundamental understanding much of this speculation tends to be wasted and irrelevant to what could actually happen in the event of a conflict cordesman and kleiber s study provides in meticulous detail a basis for understanding the realistic threat that iran poses to the northern gulf

foreword this manual takes a general approach to coin the army recognizes that every insurgency is contextual and presents its own set of challenges you cannot fight the taliban the way you would fight the former soviet union the application of principles and fundamentals to deal with each vary considerably nonetheless all insurgencies even today s highly adaptable strains remain wars amongst the people employ variations of standard themes and adhere to elements of a recognizable revolutionary campaign plan this manual therefore addresses the common characteristics of insurgencies it strives to provide those carrying out a counterinsurgency campaign a solid foundation on which to build in seeking to understand and address specific insurgencies a counterinsurgency campaign is as described in this manual a mix of offensive defensive and stability operations conducted along multiple lines of operation it requires soldiers to employ a mix of both familiar combat tasks and skills more often associated with nonmilitary agencies with the balance between them varying depending on the local situation this is not easy leaders at all levels must adjust their approach constantly ensuring that their elements are ready each day to be greeted with a handshake or a hand grenade to be nation builders as well as warriors to help reestablish institutions and local security forces to assist in the rebuilding of infrastructure and basic services and to facilitate the establishment of local governance and the rule of law the list of such tasks is a long one and involves extensive coordination and cooperation with a myriad of intergovernmental indigenous and international agencies indeed the responsibilities of leaders in a counterinsurgency campaign are daunting and the discussions in this manual endeavor to alert them to the challenges of such campaigns and to suggest general approaches for grappling with those challenges conducting a successful counterinsurgency campaign thus requires a flexible adaptive force led by agile well informed culturally astute leaders it is our hope that this manual provides the necessary guidelines to succeed in such a campaign in operations that inevitably are exceedingly difficult and complex our soldiers deserve nothing less

under mandate of section 253 study and report on effectiveness of air force science and technology program changes of the fiscal year 2002 national defense authorization act the u s air force contracted with the national research council nrc to conduct the present study in response the nrc established the committee on review of the effectiveness of air force science and technology program changes composed of academics active and retired industry executives former air force and department of defense dod civilian executives and retired general officers with acquisition and science and technology s t backgrounds the committee was to review the effectiveness of the air force s t program and in particular the actions that the air force has taken to improve the management of the program in recent years in response to concerns voiced in numerous study reports and by congress the committee's principal charter was to assess whether as a whole the changes put in place by the air force since 1999 are sufficient to assure that adequate technology will be available to ensure u s military superiority the committee conducted four open meetings to collect information from the air force and its scientific advisory board sab the us navy the us army and dod a great many factors influence any judgment of the st program's sufficiency in supporting future warfighter needs these factors include threat assessment budget constraints technology opportunities workforce and program content given the relatively short time available for this study and considering the detailed reviews conducted annually by the sab the technical content of the st program was necessarily beyond the committee s purview rather the committee focused on s t management including areas that have been studied many times in depth by previous advisory groups besides addressing technical content those prior studies and congressional concerns highlighted four overarching s t issues advocacy and visibility planning workforce and investment levels in response the air force instituted changes in s t management the nrc is requested to conduct a study to determine how changes to the air force science and technology program implemented during the past two years affect the future capabilities of the air force effectiveness of air force science and technology program changes reviews and assess whether such changes as a whole are sufficient to ensure the following a that concerns about the management of the science and technology program that have been raised by the congress the defense science board the air force scientific advisory board and the air force association have been adequately addressed b that appropriate and sufficient technology is available to ensure the military superiority of the united states and counter future high risk threats c that the science and technology investments are balanced to meet near mid and long term needs of the air force d that the air force organizational structure provides for a sufficiently senior level advocate of science and technology to ensure an ongoing effective presence of the science and technology community during the budget and planning process this report also assess the specific changes to the air force science and technology program as whether the biannual science and technology summits provide sufficient visibility into and understanding and appreciation of the value of the science and technology program to the senior level of air force budget and policy decision makers

this new study considers military space strategy within the context of the land and naval strategies of the past showing its limitations and pointing towards new strategic directions

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