

Themes and Suggested Topics

A silhouette of a person rappelling down a rope against a bright sun in a blue sky. The person is positioned in the center-right of the frame, facing left. The sun is a large, bright, glowing orb on the left side, creating a lens flare effect. The background is a clear blue sky. The rope is a dark line extending from the top of the frame down to the person. The person's shadow is cast onto the rope on the right side.

An Army Air Assault School candidate rappels during an assessment 17 May 2017 at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia. Twenty-six airmen attended the assessment, which measured candidate aptitude in air assault operations, completion of equipment layouts, and rappelling. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Zachary Wolf, U.S. Air Force)



The Changing U.S. Army

- Are U.S. Army rotational units as effective as permanently assigned, forward-deployed units?
- Does the Army need designated security force assistance brigades? How should they be organized?
- Is there a role for the Army in homeland security operations? What must the Army be prepared for?
- How is gender integration changing the Army and how it operates?
- How does Army doctrine need to change to incorporate the cyberspace domain?
- Have associated units helped or hindered readiness?

Global Challenges

- What nations consider themselves to be at war or in conflict with the United States? How are they conducting war, and what does this mean for the Army?
- What are the ramifications of increased Russian military presence in the Middle East?
- What are the military implications of China's economic penetration into Latin America, Africa, and broader Asia?
- What must the U.S. military do to prepare for possible contingency operations in the South China Sea?
- What are the security implications of the growing Islamic presence in Europe? Elsewhere in the world?
- What must the Army do to prepare to fight in urban terrain or megacities? What are the ethical challenges to operating in this type of environment?
- What operational and logistical challenges arise from domestic and foreign infrastructure limitations and how can we mitigate them?
- How can we better prepare soldiers to operate against atypical combatants (i.e., nonuniformed or child warriors) and under conditions where noncombatants are difficult to distinguish?