The Army Operating Concept (AOC) describes how future Army forces will prevent conflict, shape security environments, and win wars while operating as part of our Joint Force and working with multiple partners. The AOC identifies first order capabilities that the Army needs to support defense strategy. It provides the intellectual foundation for future force development, establishes a framework for learning, and guides the implementation of what we learn under Force 2025 and Beyond.

The AOC:

- Emphasizes the human, cultural, and political continuities of armed conflict as war remains a contest of wills.
- Considers the tactical, operational, and strategic levels of war, because modern conflict cannot be divided into discrete levels.
- Recognizes that American military power is Joint power and emphasizes the Army's unique contributions across the range of military operations.
- Describes the Army's contributions to winning, defined as achieving sustainable political outcomes consistent with U.S. vital interests.
- Accentuates the Army's role in shaping security environments, reassuring partners, and deterring aggression.
- Stresses the Army's critical role in deterring conflict or coercing adversaries because only land forces are capable of compelling outcomes without the cooperation of the enemy.
- Prioritizes the integration of advanced technologies with skilled Soldiers and well-trained teams to maintain differential advantages over enemies.
- Acknowledges that decentralized operations in complex environments require adaptive leaders, cohesive teams, and resilient Soldiers that are committed to the Army professional ethic and thrive in conditions of uncertainty.

Future Army Forces will:

- ***Engage regionally and respond globally***. Army forces ensure interoperability, build relationships, enhance situational awareness, assure partners and deter adversaries. When deterrence fails, the Army deploys task organized combined arms forces able to transition quickly and conduct operations of sufficient scale and ample duration to win.
- ***Develop situational understanding through action***. Army forces as part of joint teams fight, learn, and adapt operations across wide areas while maintaining close contact with the enemy and civilian populations.
- ***Conduct joint combined arms operations***. Army forces maneuver and integrate joint, interorganizational, and multinational capabilities to seize, retain and exploit the initiative over the enemy.

- ***Consolidate gains***. Army forces execute early and effective consolidation activities as a fundamental part of campaign design to achieve favorable outcomes in the shortest time.
- ***Project national power***. Army forces deploy and sustain land power with multiple partners rapidly and effectively in and from multiple locations and domains.

Army Forces Provide the President, Secretary of Defense, and Combatant Commanders with multiple options:

- Forward positioned forces and regionally aligned forces to demonstrate U.S. commitment and deter aggression.
- Foundational capabilities to set the theater such as logistics, communications, intelligence, long-range fires, and air and missile defense.
- Combinations of conventional and special operations forces, dynamically task-organized for missions across the range of military operations.
- Expeditionary joint task force headquarters capable of integrating and synchronizing the efforts of multiple partners.
- Wide area security that allows the projection of national power and the consolidation of gains.
- The ability to conduct expeditionary maneuver and joint combined arms operations to present enemies with multiple dilemmas.
- Forces that operate across multiple domains*,* projecting power from land across the air, maritime, space, and cyberspace domains to preserve joint force freedom of maneuver and action.

The Army Operating Concept is the intellectual foundation for learning and applying what we learn under Force 2025 and Beyond:

- Introduces Army Warfighting Challenges to provide an analytical framework to integrate force modernization efforts and ensure focused and sustained collaboration.
- Establishes force design and technological first principles to prioritize efforts and assist future force development decisions.
- Integrates experiments, wargames, exercises, and operational experience to ensure cumulative learning.
- Recognizes risk to forces as the Army implements the concept and develops the future force; recommends ways to mitigate risk.
- Integrates learning, analysis, assessment and implementation.
- Emphasizes combinations of technology with skilled Soldiers and well trained teams.
- Prioritizes the development of leaders capable of visualizing, describing, directing, leading, and assessing operations in complex environments and against adaptive enemies.