

Empowering militaries. Improving operations. Protecting national security.



Microsoft is dedicated to bringing advanced technology, process, and cultural enablers to defensive workforces and organizations around the world. As a defense and intelligence expert, we're uniquely positioned to know the security trends facing the modern world and the challenges they present.

Here are the six global trends shaping defense organizations:

1.

Global threats

Today, global threats are more complex and unpredictable than ever before, coming from established nations and non-state actors alike. Defensive forces still need to be agile enough to combat "gray zone" tactics like sharp power, irregular warfare, and more.



"Geopolitical competition is increasingly playing out in **the space beyond diplomacy and short of conventional war**, sometimes referred to as the gray zone."

—CSIS¹

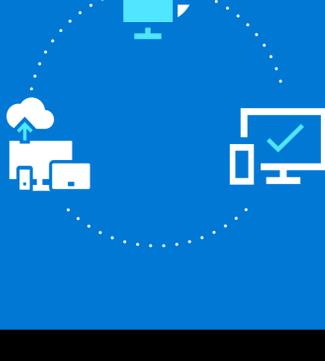
2.

Regional instability

Regional instability can come from long-term conflict, economic disputes, global pandemics, or any number of issues, resulting in nationalism and disruptions to alliances and economic security. Agencies need to prioritize national and economic security in order to combat these serious and growing issues.

"To defend future generations of Americans... [US] forces must remain dominant by increasing modernization, technological adaptation, and readiness."

—US House of Representatives Committee on Armed Services²



3.

Emergency response

Natural disasters (floods, earthquakes, drought) and crime (human trafficking, poaching, drug trade) are serious threats to security and safety. To maintain peace and security, defense and intelligence organizations must be able to respond quickly.



"Over 10 DOD bases were impacted by natural disasters and extreme weather events from 2017-2021, [resulting in] **more than \$13B in damages.**"

—US Department of Defense³

4.

Hybrid warfare

The use of unconventional methods to disrupt or disable an opponent—the targeting of infrastructure, business, economy, media, or individuals—is growing. Defending against these new attacks takes resilience, agility, and a sophisticated, multidomain response.

"Recent events show that security has become a major and growing challenge ... **in an era increasingly dominated by hybrid warfare.**"

—NATO Review⁴



5.

Nation-state cyberattacks

Cybercrime continues to escalate. In fact, in the first six months of 2019 alone, data breaches compromised 4.1 billion records. Defense and intelligence agencies need to be prepared to fight large-scale, sophisticated nation-state attacks.



"The number of significant nation-state cyberattacks doubled between 2017 and 2020."

—MeriTalk⁵

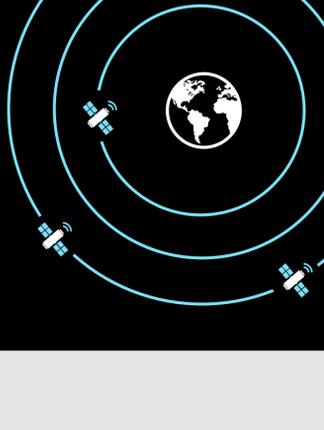
6.

Space

A nation's space-based assets can provide everything from communication and weather information to surveillance. With attacks like GPS jamming and signal interference on the rise, agencies need to manage their evolving space-based missions efficiently while countering a variety of attacks.

"Space has become **the fourth battlespace environment**, after the land, oceans, and air."

—Deloitte⁶



Learn more about Microsoft's dedication to fighting security threats

Download our white paper: "Defense & Intelligence"



¹ Kathleen Hicks and Melissa Dalton, "By Other Means Part II: Adapting to Compete in the Gray Zone," CSIS, August 2019.

² National Security Challenges and US Military Activities in the Greater Middle East and Africa," US House of Representatives Committee on Armed Services, March 7, 2019.

³ "Tackling the Climate Crisis," US Department of Defense, accessed September 1, 2021.

⁴ Dr. Arnold Dupuy, Dr. Dan Nussbaum, Vytautas Butrimas, and Alkman Granitsas, "Energy Security in the Era of Hybrid Warfare," NATO Review, January 13, 2021.

⁵ "Increasing Nation-State Cyber Aggression Prompts Urgent Calls for Reinforcement," MeriTalk, June 15, 2021.

⁶ Justin Reed, Adam Routh, and Joe Mariani, "Information at the Edge," Deloitte, November 16, 2020.