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Nota di contenuto	1. An Emerging National Security Challenge: Introduction -- Purpose of This Research -- Research Methodology -- How This Report Is Organized -- 2. Bringing the Challenge into Focus: The Blurred Nuclear Threshold -- Third-Party Considerations -- These Factors Increase Risks of Conflict Escalation -- Dilemmas for U.S. Decisionmakers -- 3. Assessing the Neutralization Options: The Adversary's Range of Options -- Potential Ways to Neutralize an Adversary's Nuclear Capabilities -- Concluding Observations 4. Managing Escalation in

Crisis and War -- The Principles of Threshold Management --  
Managing Escalation in Three Geostrategic Challenges -- Looking at  
the Larger Picture -- 5. Meeting the Challenge -- The Regional Nuclear  
Paradox -- Crafting Strategies for Escalation Management -- Putting  
These Observations in Today's Geostrategic Context --  
Recommendations for the U.S. Air Force -- Appendix A. The Second  
Nuclear Age -- Appendix B. The Inadequacy of Cold War Concepts.

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Sommario/riassunto

This report discusses the challenges associated with potential confrontations between the United States and hostile states with small nuclear arsenals. It examines prospects for neutralizing their nuclear capabilities via combinations of offensive and defensive options at varying levels of opponent nuclear development and managing escalation risks in conventional wars with them across a range of scenarios.

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