

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910219988203321
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Titolo	Air power against terror : America's conduct of Operation Enduring Freedom // Benjamin S. Lambeth
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Santa Monica, CA, : RAND Corp., 2005
ISBN	0-8330-4053-7
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (456 p.)
Disciplina	958.104/6
Soggetti	Afghan War, 2001-2021 - United States Afghan War, 2001-2021 - Aerial operations, American War on Terrorism, 2001-2009
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	"MG-166."
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 371-411).
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Preface; Figures; Summary; Acknowledgments; Abbreviations; Chapter One - Introduction; Chapter Two - A Nation Girds for War; Chapter Three - The United States Strikes Back; Chapter Four - A Shift in Strategy; Chapter Five - Operation Anaconda; Chapter Six - Distinctive Aspects and Achievements; Chapter Seven - Problems in Execution; Chapter Eight - Conclusions; Bibliography
Sommario/riassunto	The terrorist attacks of 9/11 plunged the United States into a determined counteroffensive against Osama bin Laden and his al Qaeda terrorist network. This report details the initial U.S. military response to those attacks, namely, the destruction of al Qaeda's terrorist infrastructure and the removal of the ruling Taliban regime in Afghanistan. The author emphasizes several distinctive achievements in this war, including the use of precision air-delivered weapons that were effective irrespective of weather, the first combat use of Predator unmanned aerial vehicles armed with Hellfire missiles