

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910778684803321
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Titolo	Death by moderation : the U.S. Military's quest for useable weapons // David A. Koplow
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2010
ISBN	1-107-20348-1 0-511-70060-1 1-282-46676-3 9786612466762 0-511-80481-4 0-511-65802-8 0-511-65857-5 0-511-65671-8 0-511-65586-X 0-511-65726-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xx, 263 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	355.80973
Soggetti	Military weapons - United States Weapons systems - United States Precision guided munitions - United States Tactical nuclear weapons - United States Land mines - United States Anti-satellite weapons - United States Nonlethal weapons - United States United States Armed Forces Weapons systems Case studies
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Revolutionary weapons and transformed war -- Deterrence and self-deterrence -- The law of armed conflict -- Precision-guided munitions -- Low-yield nuclear weapons -- Smart antipersonnel land mines -- Antisatellite weapons -- Nonlethal weapons -- What to do about useability.

Sommario/riassunto

This book addresses an important but little-noticed phenomenon in the revolutionary world of military technology. Across a wide range of otherwise-unrelated weapons programs, the Pentagon is now pursuing arms that are deliberately crafted to be less powerful, less deadly, and less destructive than the systems they are designed to supplement or replace. This direction is historically anomalous; military forces generally pursue ever-bigger bangs, but the modern conditions of counter-insurgency warfare and military operations 'other than war' (such as peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance) demand a military capable of modulated force. By providing a capacity to intervene deftly yet effectively, the new generations of 'useable' weaponry should enable the U.S. military to accomplish its demanding missions in a manner consistent with legal obligations, public relations realities, and political constraints. Five case studies are provided, regarding precision-guided 'smart bombs', low-yield nuclear weapons, self-neutralizing anti-personnel land mines, directed-energy anti-satellite weapons, and non-lethal weapons.
