

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910787688603321
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Titolo	Commanding Lincoln's navy : Union naval leadership during the Civil War // Stephen R. Taaffe
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Annapolis, Maryland : , : Naval Institute Press, , [2009] ©2009
ISBN	1-61251-517-7
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (364 p.)
Disciplina	973.7/5 940
Soggetti	Command of troops - History - 19th century United States History Civil War, 1861-1865 Naval operations
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages 305-313) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Table of Contents; Acknowledgments; Introduction ; 1. Scraping the Barnacles; 2. Atlantic Storms ; 3. The Mighty Mississippi; 4. Hammers on Anvils ; 5. The Peripheries; 6. Turning the Tide; Conclusion ; Notes; Bibliography ; Index
Sommario/riassunto	The Union Navy played a vital role in winning the Civil War by blockading Confederate ports, cooperating with the Union Army in amphibious assaults, and controlling the Mississippi River and its tributaries. President Lincoln understood, however, that the Navy was not as important, militarily and politically, to the war effort as the Army, so he delegated authority to his Secretary of the Navy, Gideon Welles, who divided the Navy into six squadrons and hand-picked their commanders. This book examines Welles selections and why he appointed them. While noting that the officers records, character