

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910798955003321
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Titolo	The evolving U.S. nuclear narrative : communicating the rationale for the role and value of U.S. nuclear weapons, 1989 to today // Rebecca K. C. Hersman, Clark Murdock, Shanelle Van
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington, District of Columbia ; ; Lanham, Maryland : , : Center for Strategic & International Studies : , : Rowman & Littlefield, , 2016 ©2016
ISBN	1-4422-7967-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (89 pages)
Disciplina	355.02170973
Soggetti	Nuclear weapons - Government policy - United States Military doctrine - United States United States Military policy
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	Executive summary. -- Introduction. -- Evolution of the historical nuclear narrative. -- Trends in the nuclear narrative: 1989 to present. -- Building and communicating a compelling rationale for U.S. nuclear weapons. -- A compelling rationale for U.S. nuclear weapons in the twenty-first century. -- Communicating a compelling rationale for U.S. nuclear weapons. -- Final thoughts. -- Appendices.
Sommario/riassunto	Over the last few years, many observers, including key Department of Defense (DoD) officials, have commented on the need for DoD to better communicate a more compelling rationale for why the U.S. nuclear arsenal remains essential to the post--Cold War strategy of the United States and to the security of the American people. Those airmen and sailors who comprise the nuclear workforce, and who are asked to dedicate their lives in service of their mission, deserve a persuasive explanation as to why their unwavering stewardship of the U.S. nuclear arsenal will matter as long as these weapons exist in the world. In the assessment of some, including this study's authors, a coherent narrative about the fundamental role of U.S. nuclear weapons has not been sufficiently stated and promulgated across the force. This is to the detriment of efforts to respond to the broader challenges facing the

nuclear enterprise, as a compelling rationale contributes to a healthier, more vibrant, and better motivated nuclear workforce. The three objectives of this study are: 1. Track the changing historical narrative for U.S. nuclear weapons as it has evolved from 1989 to the present. 2. Evaluate the current narrative's strengths and weaknesses. 3. Articulate a rationale that better meets the needs of the U.S. Air Force and Navy forces responsible for supporting and executing the U.S. nuclear mission, inclusive of the mid-level commanders, the junior officers, and the enlisted.
