

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910957300903321
Titolo	Protecting our forces : improving vaccine acquisition and availability in the U.S. military // Stanley M. Lemon ... [et al.], editors ; Committee on a Strategy for Minimizing the Impact of Naturally Occurring Infectious Diseases of Military Importance: Vaccine Issues in the U.S. Military, Medical Follow-up Agency, Institute of Medicine
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington, D.C. ; ; [Great Britain], : National Academy Press, c2002
ISBN	9786610183364 9780309169158 0309169151 9781280183362 1280183365 9780309500791 0309500796
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xxi, 133 pages) : color illustrations
Altri autori (Persone)	LemonStanley M
Disciplina	355.3450973
Soggetti	Vaccines - United States Vaccines industry - United States United States Armed Forces Medical care
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.
Nota di contenuto	""Front Matter""; ""Preface""; ""Acknowledgments""; ""Reviewers""; ""Contents""; ""Boxes, Figures, and Tables""; ""Abbreviations and Acronyms""; ""Executive Summary""; ""1 Introduction and History""; ""2 Resources, Responsibilities, and Dynamics in the Military's Vaccine Mission""; ""3 Current Status of Vaccines for Military Personnel""; ""4 Recommendations with Accompanying Analysis of Limitations Imposed by Current Department of Defense Structure for Managing Acquisition of Vaccines Against Infectious Diseases""; ""References"" ""Appendix A Urgent Attention Needed to Restore Lapsed Adenovirus Vaccine Availability""""Appendix B Open Meeting Agendas""; ""Appendix C Committee and Staff Biographies""

**Sommario/riassunto**

Infectious diseases continue to pose a substantial threat to the operational capacity of military forces. Protecting Our Forces reviews the process by which the U.S. military acquires vaccines to protect its warfighters from natural infectious disease threats. The committee found that poorly aligned acquisition processes and an inadequate commitment of financial resources within the Department of Defense vaccine acquisition process " rather than uncleared scientific or technological hurdles " contribute to the unavailability of some vaccines that could protect military personnel and, implicitly, the welfare and security of the nation. Protecting Our Forces outlines ways in which DoD might strengthen its acquisition process and improve vaccine availability. Recommendations, which include combining all DoD vaccine acquisition responsibilities under a single DoD authority, cover four broad aspects of the acquisition process: (1) organization, authority, and responsibility; (2) program and budget; (3) manufacturing; (4) and the regulatory status of special-use vaccines.

**2. Record Nr.****Autore**

UNISA996643172803316

**Titolo**

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**Pubbl/distr/stampa**

Napoles hispanico / Francisco Elias de Tejada

Madrid, : Montejurra, 1958-

**Descrizione fisica**

volumi ; 22 cm

**Disciplina**

945.7

**Soggetti**

Regno di Napoli &lt;1266-1815&gt; - Sec. 15.-17. - Storia

**Collocazione**

X.1.B. 802/1 (V E 181/1)

**Lingua di pubblicazione**

Spagnolo

**Formato**

Materiale a stampa

**Livello bibliografico**

Monografia

**Nota di contenuto**

&lt;&lt;1.:&gt;&lt;&lt;La&gt;&gt; etapa aragonesa (1442-1503). - 1958. - 399 p.