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Nota di contenuto Intro -- TABLE OF CONTENTS -- ABSTRACT -- DETERMINATION AND

EFFECTIVENESS OF WWII STRATEGIC BOMBING STRATEGY -BACKGROUND -- EVENTS LEADING TO CONFLICT -- EVENTS LEADING
TO STRATEGY ADOPTION -- STRATEGY ANALYSIS -- CROWL'S
QUESTIONS -- What is it about? -- Is the national military strategy
tailored to meet the national political objective? -- What is the limit of
military power? -- What are the alternatives? -- How strong is the
home front? -- Does strategy overlook points of difference and
exaggerate points of likeness between past and present? -- AIR
CAMPAIGN EXECUTION -- DESCRIPTION -- EXECUTION HIGHLIGHTS -1942 -- 1943 -- 1944 -- 1945 -- OVERALL RESULTS -- AIR
CAMPAIGN EVALUATION -- PRINCIPLES OF WAR -- Mass -- Objective
-- Offensive -- Maneuver -- Surprise -- Security -- Simplicity -- Unity
of Command -- Economy of Force -- SUMMARY AND DOCTRINAL
IMPLICATIONS -- SUMMARY -- DOCTRINAL IMPLICATIONS -BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Sommario/riassunto

With the collapse of France in 1940, American (US) and British (UK) leadership became keenly aware that the continued security of their nations required the defeat of the Axis powers, particularly Germany. The Allies chose a strategy utilizing a combination of various military actions, most notably a combined bomber offensive (CBO). The CBO would be carried out through a combination of US daylight precision and UK night area bombing. The purpose of this paper is to show why the Allies chose this strategy and evaluate its success. To accomplish this task, the paper will first describe the events that brought about the conflict and the strategy. Crowl's Questions are used as a framework to analyze the factors that influence strategy development and adoption and will illustrate why Allied leaders chose this path. This is followed by a detailed description of the campaign. The principles of war (mass, objective, offensive, maneuver, surprise, security, simplicity, unity of command, and economy of force) are accepted as proven methods for employing forces in combat and are used to evaluate the CBO's effectiveness The paper closes with a summary of the findings and doctrinal implications. The paper will show the Allies adopted US daylight precision and UK night area bombing based on leadership's belief that it could most effectively reduce Germany's means of war and hasten its earliest possible defeat. The Allies successfully achieved this objective primarily through adherence to the principles of mass, objective, offensive, and maneuver.