

Counterland Operations



BOOK DETAILS

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U.S. Air Force

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Original publisher: [Washington, D.C.]: U.S. Air Force, [2006] OCLC Number: (OCoLC)232551131 Subject: Air power -- United States. Excerpt: ...fielded enemy surface forces and their supporting infrastructure. When planned and executed successfully, counterland operational effects will indirectly lead to strategic effects by denying the enemys ability to execute a coherent ground campaign. In cases where the enemy places strategic value on a specific portion of their ground combat force, counterland operations can produce more immediate effects at the strategic level. As witnessed during the recent conflicts in the Balkans, Iraq, and Afghanistan, Counterland operations apply across the range of military operations. Although they are usually associated with historys major wars, counterland operations have routinely taken place in stability operations characterized by insurgency, guerrilla tactics, and civil 1 strife. To be effective, however, counterland operations must adapt to the situation. Conducting counterland operations against an unconventional enemy with a primitive force structure differs from attacking a modern, highly mechanized army with heavy logistics requirements. Therefore, it is crucial to understand the nature of the conflict to properly apply air and space power during counterland operations. AIR INTERDICTION AND CLOSE AIR SUPPORT Counterland operations are supported by two types of air operations for engaging enemy land forces: AI and CAS. AI may operate as a supported part of the overall theater strategy or it may indirectly support the land component. CAS is normally considered direct support to surface components by the air component. AI and CAS missions can function under an overall theater posture of offense or defense and are typically coordinated with a ground scheme of maneuver to maximize the effect on the enemy. This section gives a brief overview of AI and CAS by discussing their definitions and purpose to provide a basic under...

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