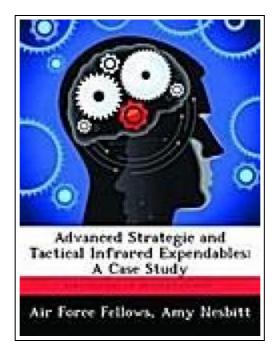
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(Destin Leffler)

ADVANCED STRATEGIC AND TACTICAL INFRARED EXPENDABLES: A CASE STUDY



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Biblioscholar Sep 2012, 2012. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 246x189x2 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware-Infrared (IR) flare design was not a strategic player in US defense until the mid 1990s. Prior to 1995 the primary focus was on radio frequency (RF) flares for piloted aircraft. 1993 saw the establishment of a funded Program Management Directive (PMD) explicitly directing the need for advanced IR capabilities implemented in 'field operations'. The program for Advanced Strategic and Tactical Infrared Expendables (ASTE) was formalized on 5 April 1995 with certification of an Operational Requirements Doctrine (ORD). ASTE set out to work with contractors to develop this emerging technology with aggressive vigor - quite possibly too aggressive for its own good. The design was a simple one, or so they thought. Previous models and dispensing systems were already in place. No one planned for the intensity of the next four years, achieving a Full Rate Production (FRP) contract for only one out of four flares being developed. The extreme complexity of technical mishaps experienced during the Engineering, Manufacturing, and Design phase (MS II, now early MS B) was not a foreseen performance obstacle for engineers and program schedulers. As the 1997 FRP date slipped farther and farther to the right, ASTE's ideal defense technology was not favorably looked upon, creating a ripple effect of significant cost growth and schedule slips throughout the program. This case study takes a look at the problems contributing to the delayed delivery of IR flares and its impact to meeting warfighter needs under constraints brought about by government acquisition policies. Funded with a modest budget, ASTE is only a small representation of the greater Electronic Warfare (EW) programs our military elects to fund over multiple years. Yet, even a small program can...



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