



The Project on Advanced Systems and Concepts for Countering WMD (PASCC) is run at the Center on Contemporary Studies (CCC) and sponsored by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA). PASCC awards and supports strategic studies and dialogues that anticipate and try to reduce the threat of WMD capabilities.



The CCC has a respected track record for providing research and timely analysis on a variety of topics to leading decision makers in the U.S. national security community. Located in the Naval Postgraduate School, the CCC is the research wing of the Department of National Security Affairs.

Research in Progress describes ongoing PASCC research. For more information, please contact pascc@nps.edu.

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U.S.-China Strategic Dialogues

Performer: Pacific Forum CSIS and
Naval Postgraduate School

Project Leads: Ralph Cossa, Christopher Twomey,
and Michael Glosny

Project Cost: \$400,000
FY15-16

Objective:

China is currently modernizing its military capabilities, including its nuclear arsenal, and there remains a lack of official discussions on these issues. This communications gap increases the risks to strategic stability and the potential for inadvertent escalation. This project's goal is to build greater understanding between the United States and China on strategic issues to prepare for or support official discussions. This dialogue project will build upon previous PASCC-sponsored U.S.-China Track 1.5s to achieve a deeper understanding of the issues. Less-official dialogues such as this one, while not a substitution for official dialogues, can be used to help identify and clarify agenda items for official talks as well as delve more deeply into sensitive issues. Expected topics to be addressed include nuclear postures, nonproliferation policy, no first use, mutual vulnerability, missile defense, strategic stability, long-range conventional weapons, and confidence-building measures.

Approach:

This project will involve two dialogue sessions, one in Hawaii and one in Beijing, for a select group of multidisciplinary experts with knowledge about regional nuclear dynamics and national decision-making. The first dialogue will maximize the opportunity to engage in a free discussion of ideas. The second session in Beijing will allow participation from a greater number of Chinese, including those from the General Staff and weapons laboratory community who are not normally able to go abroad. Discussions will be summarized into key findings, PowerPoint briefs, and more comprehensive narrative reports (translated into Chinese) and distributed in hard and soft copy to academics, government officials, subject matter experts, and the public.