U.S.-India Strategic Dialogue

Performer: Naval Postgraduate School
Project Lead: S. Paul Kapur
Project Cost: $205,000
FY15-16

Objective:
The risk of nuclear war in South Asia is among the highest in the world. India perceives its security to be undercut by U.S. support to Pakistan, lack of official recognition of India’s nuclear status, and acceptance of Chinese hegemony in the Indian Ocean. Although vast improvements have been made in the U.S.-Indian relationship since the Cold War, the areas of shared interests and values are not enough to minimize the nuclear and conventional dangers in the new environment. Recent changes to the Indian government, however, provide new opportunities for engagement and the potential for an improved U.S.-Indian relationship.

Specific topics of discussion in this dialogue will include the state of the U.S.-Indian strategic relationship; the nuclear arms race; the role of China; and developments in Pakistan, Iran, and Afghanistan. The dialogue will help to inform each side of the others’ views, identify joint strategic interests, and embolden participants to serve as resources in their respective security communities.

Approach:
This two-day Track 2 dialogue will convene Indian and American experts from academia, the policy arena, and the military for off-the-record discussions on the security implications of international and foreign policy developments. By comparing the findings with conclusions from previous years, it will be possible to determine the extent of the evolution and current direction of the U.S.-Indian relationship.