



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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Next Steps toward a Middle East Free of Chemical Weapons: Strategic Dialogue, Research, and Report

Performer: Arizona State University

Project Lead: Orde Kittrie

Project Cost: \$218,000

FY15-16

Objective:

Since World War II, there have been a number of chemical attacks in the Middle East by state and non-state actors. Today, there is a significant risk that chemical weapons could be used against the United States or its allies by several regional terrorist groups. This research project aims to develop lessons learned and recommendations from past Middle Eastern experiences with chemical weapons. Researchers will examine regional responses to Libyan and Syrian chemical weapons and Egypt's and Israel's behavior in regard to the Chemical Weapons Convention. They will also look at cooperative Middle Eastern efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to chemical attacks by terrorists and how the international community can more effectively encourage Middle Eastern governments and civil societies to deter and constrain chemical weapons acquisition and use by non-state actors. Findings from this research will enable regional analysts and states to better plan for cooperative efforts and share information.

Approach:

The project will start by examining the relevant literature and conducting background discussions with current U.S. and allied government officials as well as subject matter experts. The principle investigator will organize and lead a Middle East Chemical Weapons Task Force and organize two research workshops. These efforts will include participation from Egypt, Israel, and other regional stakeholders. The task force will produce and disseminate a consensus document, as well as a research monograph, which specifies the types of regional capacity-building and cooperation efforts that are achievable in order to prevent, detect, and respond to chemical attacks by terrorist groups.