



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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Saudi Arabia's Nuclear Future

Performer: King's College London

Project Lead: Matthew Moran

Project Cost: \$130,000

FY15-16

Objective:

In recent years, much attention has been devoted to the potential regional impact of a nuclear-armed Iran. In particular, Saudi Arabia has been of interest since it has been assumed that if Iran goes nuclear so too will Saudi Arabia. Previous analysis in this context has been framed by a debate that has oscillated between those who believe Iran is intent upon acquiring nuclear weapons and those who maintain this threat is exaggerated. This research will generate insights into Saudi Arabia's nuclear intentions and how these are influenced by Iran. In addition, it will explore measures that the West might adopt to strengthen Saudi Arabia's commitment to nuclear restraint. Additionally, this project will provide a new perspective on proliferation behavior in the Middle East, which could be applied by analysts and policy makers to develop new measures to undermine Saudi aspirations for nuclear weapons and strengthen its commitment to nuclear restraint.

Approach:

The research team will conduct an extensive literature review built around the themes of proliferation behavior and security issues in the Middle East. It will also garner information from the United Nations, International Atomic Energy Agency, and Saudi Arabia to establish a detailed picture of Saudi nuclear plans. Furthermore, the resulting analysis will explore concepts such as latent arsenals and latent proliferation and examine how these theories of behavior apply to the contemporary context in the Middle East. The research effort will also include a workshop around the theme of Saudi Arabia's nuclear future and the prospect of its proliferation.