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

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The Impact of Disruptive Technologies in Northeast Asia

Performer: Stimson Center
Project Lead: Yuki Tatsumi
Project Cost: \$225,000
FY16–17

Objective:

The project will investigate the development of disruptive technologies in Northeast Asia to assess the impact of these technologies on the United States' management of regional alliances and military strategy. The United States and China are both pursuing development of a full range of disruptive technologies, including hypersonic vehicles, cyber warfare capabilities, counterspace capabilities, and unmanned systems with state-of-the-art robotics technology. Simultaneously, emerging perceptions that the United States is losing its capacity as a security guarantor in the region have caused uncertainties in Japan and South Korea regarding the reliability of U.S. defense commitments. The increased risk of conflict makes it urgent that political and military leaders in these nations consider how disruptive technologies may affect the stability of Northeast Asia's security environment.

Approach:

The proposed project will be executed in three phases. The first phase will be a detailed literature review of the U.S. strategic community's thinking on the emergence of disruptive technologies. In particular, it will review how such technologies may affect U.S. threat perceptions in various parts of the world, how they affect U.S. views on long-term trends in the security environment in the Asia-Pacific region, and how they may affect U.S. relations both with its allies and with China. The second phase will consist of small-group meetings with academics and researchers in Japan, South Korea, and China. Meetings with government officials in the three countries will be used to supplement and enhance understanding of the policy discourse in these countries. In the third phase of the project, the research team will convene both private and public meetings in Washington, DC, to discuss the findings from the research trip.

NPS Center on Contemporary Conflict