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Improving Security through International Biosafety Norms

Center on Contemporary Conflict

Monterey, California: Naval Postgraduate School

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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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Improving Security through International Biosafety Norms

Performer: University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Center for Health and Security

Project Lead: Gigi Gronvall

Project Cost: \$150,000

FY15-16

Objective:

The lack of national security norms and guidance governing research on highly transmissible pathogens (e.g., SARS and engineered influenza strains) poses a grave global security threat. Though norms exist at the research level, there is a lack of clear expectations and guidance at the national level for what constitutes biosafety norms. This project seeks to address the threat by providing the essential components for developing international biosafety norms.

Approach:

To achieve its objectives, this project will create a synopsis of biological safety and security arrangements. Researchers will draft a white paper on the current state and variability of national biosafety approaches based on case studies, interviews, and a two-day workshop. A final report will gather all data outlining biosafety norms for international consideration. The project will also investigate and identify which norms are needed components of a national biosafety program and examine how to build confidence among states researching high-consequence pathogens.