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Speaking Truth to Nonproliferation: Improving the Intelligence and Policy Nexus

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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Speaking Truth to Nonproliferation: Improving the Intelligence and Policy Nexus

Performer: Nonproliferation Policy Education
Center (NPEC)

Project Lead: Henry Sokolski

Project Cost: \$92,000

FY15-16

Objective:

The success of U.S. nonproliferation efforts has most often resulted from actions beneath the public radar. Policy makers have acted on early indications of proliferation and were able to take modest measures that proved effective. It is important to know how policy is influenced by intelligence and intelligence-led policy. This two-year project will produce detailed histories of how U.S. intelligence officers and policy makers have worked together on several challenging proliferation cases. It will distill practical lessons for the improvement of future collaboration in this area. The project will also include research to evaluate past U.S. intelligence and policy collaboration aimed at countering proliferation in India, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan, Taiwan, South Korea, and a set of other nuclear and missile cases.

Approach:

NPEC will develop a series of unclassified histories of some of the most challenging proliferation cases U.S. officials have addressed. Authors will be commissioned for each case study. Additionally, NPEC will organize plenary sessions and workshops to review papers and solicit feedback to refine drafts and prepare some general lessons and recommendations. It will also develop a critical history of how policy and intelligence have worked together on proliferation cases. Finally, results of the project will be shared with policy makers, military planners, academics, and non-governmental organizations.