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International Biosecurity: Engagement between American and MENA Scientists

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Monterey, California. Naval Postgraduate School

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International Biosecurity: Engagement between American and MENA Scientists

Performer: American Association for the Advancement of Science, Center for Science, Technology, and Security Policy (CSTSP)

Project Lead: Norman Neureiter, Ph.D.

Project Cost: \$237,138

Fiscal Year(s): 2012-2013

Demand:

Many in the security and terrorism studies community are concerned with the diffusion of biological knowledge, tools, and techniques. As the U.S. government expands biosecurity efforts, it has the opportunity to develop sustainable engagement with local scientific communities that cultivates local threat prevention and response programs. There is unmet need for such efforts in the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region, where states have increased funding for the biological sciences at the same time as the Arab Spring generates uncertainty and insecurity.

Objective:

CSTSP will provide guidance concerning the development of scientific engagement approaches to MENA countries. This will encourage partnerships on bio-surveillance or infectious disease response between the United States and regional scientific stakeholders and address gaps in scientific engagement initiatives in the region across U.S. agencies.

Approach:

Two 2-day meetings will be held in North Africa and the Middle East with influential scientists who work on infectious disease research, bio-surveillance and response, and laboratory biosafety and biosecurity. Two sub-grants to forge final reports will also be issued. These reports will identify regional security and capability gaps, effective methods of increasing biosecurity training, and areas for further biosecurity cooperation.

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