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Assuring NATO-Europe as the Role and Number of U.S. Nuclear Weapons are Reduced

Center on Contemporary Conflict

Monterey, California. Naval Postgraduate School

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The Center on Contemporary Conflict 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.

The CCC's **Project on Advanced Systems and Concepts for Countering WMD** is a program planning and implementation office, research center, and intellectual clearinghouse for the execution of future-oriented studies and dialogues for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency.

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



Assuring NATO-Europe as the Role and Number of U.S. Nuclear Weapons are Reduced

Performer: National Institute for Public Policy
(NIPP)

Project Leads: Dr. Robert G. Joseph, Thomas K. Scheber & Kurt R. Guthe

Project Cost: \$151,258

Fiscal Year(s): 2012-2013

Demand:

The U.S. nuclear deterrent is in a state of flux. Nuclear modernization plans are on hold, the current administration is pushing for further weapon reductions, and even our NATO allies are reconsidering the status of their nuclear deterrents. Given these and other developments, NATO members are understandably concerned with a potential weakening of America's "supreme guarantee" of extended deterrence. The question is what specific means can reassure NATO that the U.S. nuclear deterrent remains credible?

Objective:

The project will examine steps the United States can take to ensure the credibility of its security commitments to allies in Europe, as reductions in the role and number of U.S. nuclear weapons are pursued in the years ahead.

Approach:

The report produced for the project will delineate the views of key NATO allies regarding issues that bear on the credibility of U.S. commitments. Where the analysis uncovers areas of allied concern, the report will provide options, nonmilitary as well as military, which national security decision makers might use to maintain or strengthen allied confidence. The NIPP will produce commissioned essays and a monograph, that will be briefed to relevant U.S. government agencies.

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