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Science Needs For Microbial Forensics: Developing an Initial International Roadmaps

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. 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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Performer: National Academy of Sciences

Principal Investigator: Jo Husbands

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Objective:

Given the possible hostile use of biological agents, the broader scientific community must be engaged in building microbial forensic capacity. The development of microbial forensics illustrates how global life science research can support the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) and create better tools to investigate and discriminate between natural and deliberate disease outbreaks.

The technical objective is to support the development of the field of microbial forensics by fostering international collaborations on major research challenges among leading scientists in key countries. The policy objective is to take advantage of existing collaborations in the scientific community to create a greater international understanding of the current capabilities and limitations of microbial forensics to support U.S. nonproliferation objectives and the implementation of the BWC.

Approach:

An international symposium will be held to convene scientific researchers and security policymakers. A findings report from an international committee under the auspices of the U.S. National Research Council (NRC) will provide an international roadmap for the scientific research and collaboration needed to develop the field of microbial forensics.