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Landscape and Dynamics of a Multi-Polar Strategic BMD World

Center on Contemporary Conflict; Ferguson, Charles

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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Landscape and Dynamics of a Multi-Polar Strategic BMD World

Performer: Federation of American Scientists (FAS)

Project Lead: Charles Ferguson

Project Cost: \$134,598

FY16–17

Objective:

Until recently, the United States has been the only state successfully pursuing ballistic missile defense (BMD) capabilities. However, Russia, China, and India have made strides toward their own strategic BMD systems, opening up a range of understudied questions. This research will improve scholarly and public understanding of the implications of a multi-polar strategic ballistic missile defense world. The project will investigate the strategic landscape and dynamics of a multi-polar strategic ballistic missile defense world in order to understand the potential impact of such a world on offense-defense dynamics, countermeasures, regional stability, cross-domain deterrence, alliance planning, and global arms control efforts.

Approach:

This project proposes to address this growing and challenging set of strategic and geopolitical issues through DC-based and in-country discussions and small group meetings with key experts and government officials from the United States, Russia, China, and India. Furthermore, it will assign experts to write working papers on China, India, and Russia (two papers per country for a diverse set of views) and convene a small DC-based workshop devoted to the subject of a multi-polar missile defense strategic environment. The final publicly released report will be a substantial analytic work that will include detailed observations and findings to stimulate public debate on this important set of issues.