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## U.S.-Australia Strategic Dialogue

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](mailto:pascc@nps.edu).

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## U.S.-Australia Strategic Dialogue

Performer: NPS

Principal Investigator: Thomas-Durell Young

Cost: \$150,000

Fiscal Year(s): 2013-2014

### Objective:

The Obama Administration's Pivot to Asia and the rise of Chinese power in the region greatly influences the U.S.-Australian alliance. To meet the regional security challenges, the United States will station Marine Corps forces in the North Territory; however, the Australian domestic debate is dominated by a narrative of defense "self-reliance." The sometimes contradictory relationship and the shifts in the region provide the United States an opportunity to reengage the Australian domestic debate.

The project will initiate a dialogue regarding Australia's policy on international non-proliferation policy and analyze the view of domestic groups in Australia towards the U.S. Pivot to Asia. It will also identify emerging problems and opportunities in the areas of bilateral defense relations, U.S. basing, and the coordination of efforts to stem the growth of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Enhanced Conventional Weapons (CBRNE) proliferation in the region.

### Approach:

Given the limited academic literature on Australia's strategic debate, the research project will bring together a small group of highly influential Australian and U.S. academics and analysts to outline how both countries' policy can best navigate these actual and potential challenges.