

ILLICIT NETWORKS AND THE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE

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ABSTRACT:

This project's aim is to understand how illicit networks might proliferate nuclear materials and technologies by tapping into legitimate nuclear energy and other fuel cycle ventures as they spread globally. Through an innovative economic geographic framework, the project conceptually integrates terrorists, criminals, and companies into potential nuclear material and technology trade networks, and uses quantitative analytical methods to assess the nuclear proliferation threat posed by these illicit networks in emerging civil nuclear states. This pilot project will use Southeast Asian case studies as a proof of concept. The framework is intended to produce outputs informative to the minimization of proliferation risk and the facilitation of secure commerce primarily by way of highlighting how strategic trade controls and nuclear materials security measures might be improved by both government and industry actors.

Research in Progress describes ongoing PASCC research. For more information please contact INSS@usafa.edu.