

PASCC

Research in Progress

FY17-18

US-CHINA STRATEGIC NUCLEAR DIALOGUES

Performer: Center for Strategic and International Studies, Pacific Forum

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The “US-China Strategic Dialogues” will continue the DTRA-sponsored Track-1.5 Strategic Dialogue sessions between US and Chinese military and civilian officials (in their personal capacity) and non-governmental experts and scholars. They build on over a decade of success in hosting these meetings, benefiting from the community building and shared understanding that this has generated.

The purpose of the Dialogue sessions, which will take place in Honolulu in the summer and Beijing in the fall/winter of 2017, is to build greater understanding between the United States and China on nuclear issues and strategic stability to prepare for and support more robust official Track 1 dialogue on these issues. These sessions will correct misperceptions, test assumptions, and stimulate new thinking and new research in the arms control and nonproliferation community. This is timely given that, as our latest dialogue session has revealed (Beijing, June 2016), the US-China relationship is approaching an inflection point as a result of the shifting regional balance of power and concerns over how to maintain and enhance, for lack of a better phrase, strategic stability, especially in the context of China’s military modernization program and the impending modernization of the US nuclear deterrent. The change in U.S. presidential administration will also raise the prospect of shifting policy to be communicated.

The Dialogues will, in this context, explore the differences in US and Chinese strategic thinking, reduce misperceptions, enhance mutual understanding of respective views on the role of strategic forces and how they will be employed and deployed, and help create confidence to build a stronger relationship between the two countries and their respective scholars, think tanks, and academic communities in general, with special emphasis on identifying and challenging next-generation scholars to challenge current thinking on such issues.

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