

PASCC

Research in Progress

FY19

US-JAPAN-ROK EXTENDED DETERRENCE DIALOGUE

Performer: Pacific Forum

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ABSTRACT:

Pacific Forum will use the “US-Japan-ROK Extended Deterrence Dialogue” to build upon previous DTRA-sponsored Track-1.5 discussions and bring together US, Japanese, and South Korean military and civilian officials, non-governmental experts, and scholars to examine how they would and should deal with regional nuclear crises. Our initiative builds on six years of constructive and penetrating trilateral meetings, which were preceded by nearly a decade of bilateral dialogue with each ally. The trilateral meetings have helped expose divergences among the three countries that threaten to jeopardize trilateral coordination and cooperation to reinforce deterrence and deter and defeat an enemy in the event of conflict.

Scheduled to take place in Hawaii in spring or summer 2019, this dialogue will use a simulation exercise (if still thought to be the best methodology) to compare perspectives among the three countries regarding extended deterrence in Northeast Asia, and probe how each assesses and responds to nuclear challenges in that region. Each ally has a Track-1 extended deterrence dialogue with the United States, and there are trilateral initiatives, ranging from high-level meetings to trilateral military exercises. Nevertheless, there is no venue for officials and experts from all three countries to engage on these issues, nor is there a Japan-ROK bilateral conversation like those of the United States with each ally. Those are two shortcomings that, judging from previous meetings, can prevent the United States and its partners from successfully responding to crisis escalation. Conducting the “US-Japan-ROK Extended Deterrence Dialogue” will help address that problem.

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