

SECURING NORTH KOREA'S NUCLEAR FACILITIES: REQUIREMENTS FOR U.S.-CHINA COOPERATION

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ABSTRACT:

The National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR) is pleased to submit a technical proposal to the United States Air Force Academy Project on Advanced Systems and Concepts for Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction (PASCC) for a dialogue project to identify the policy and operational requirements for the United States and the People's Republic of China (PRC) to jointly secure North Korea's strategic sites and nuclear weapons, under conditions short of war, arising from unforeseen changes in North Korea. This project will contribute to the prospects for peace and stability by bolstering consequence management capabilities in a contingency for which the United States and China may otherwise find themselves dangerously unprepared.

The time is ripe for such a dialogue. The risk of a nuclear accident on the Korean Peninsula looms, with North Korea finalizing a full-fledged nuclear weapons program even as the potential for a historic agreement emerges. Meanwhile, Chinese interlocutors have demonstrated increasing willingness to discuss the North's nuclear program and the possibility of a crisis. To seize this opportunity, NBR seeks to establish a Track 2 dialogue between US and PRC interlocutors on the requirements for controlling North Korean strategic sites and nuclear weapons, the possibilities for cooperative crisis management, and new approaches to joint consequence management. The project will include a basic tabletop exercise to test assumptions and strategies identified in the dialogue.

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