

PASCC

Research in Progress

FY19

EVALUATING PARTNER COOPERATION ON COUNTERING WMD PROLIFERATION

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FY19

ABSTRACT:

RAND's National Security Research Division proposes to evaluate current U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) cooperation with foreign partners on counter proliferation initiatives. This research is intended to address one of PASCC's FY19 priority focus areas: the effectiveness of current multilateral partnerships to prevent and counter weapons of mass destruction (WMD) proliferation. Our goal is to determine areas of strength in current partnerships and where further investment may be needed, with a priority on U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) involvement in their role as DoD's Coordinating Authority for Countering WMD.

Although DoD engages in regular cooperation through established initiatives like the Cooperative Threat Reduction program, there are many more forums where U.S. leaders engage on related issues that may not be communicated broadly throughout DoD's counter-WMD enterprise. This not only leads to potential duplication of effort within DoD, but could create confusion or the appearance of inconsistency among key allies. Many of these countries have smaller civilian and military communities who manage their counter proliferation efforts and could be working with multiple parts of the U.S. Government without DoD's awareness. Thus, we intend to provide a framework for evaluating current partnerships, including how to incorporate USSOCOM's relationships from their enduring mission areas, to ensure coordinated, productive partnerships for preventing and countering WMD proliferation.

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