

PASCC

Research in Progress

FY17-18

TRILATERAL COOPERATION TO STRENGTHEN EXTENDED DETERRENCE IN NORTHEAST ASIA

Performer: Center for Strategic and International Studies, Pacific Forum

Project Lead: Brad Glosserman

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Strengthening the US extended deterrent in Northeast Asia is becoming more urgent and more difficult. Pacific Forum CSIS seeks to build on its previous work with “Trilateral Cooperation to Strengthen Extended Deterrence in Northeast Asia,” a unique initiative that brings together US national security specialists and counterparts from Japan and South Korea (ROK) to probe opportunities for and obstacles to the three countries’ collective efforts on deterrence, extended deterrence, and nonproliferation. The US-Japan-ROK Trilateral Strategic Dialogue will build on the results of a trilateral meeting that the Pacific Forum CSIS held (with PASCC support) in August 2016, to explore questions about the credibility of the US deterrent, the concordance of goals and objectives among the three countries in a Northeast Asian crisis, and their ability to work together to reinforce deterrence, control the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and deter and defeat an enemy in the event of a conflict.

This project will identify ways the three countries can work together to secure their national interests and reinforce the US deterrent and extended deterrence. It will probe each country’s specific concerns about the US extended deterrent in a changing regional security environment, as well as the concerns they have regarding the security policies of the other ally; it will explore ways to surmount problems in Japan-ROK relations that hinder trilateral cooperation on issues of shared concern; and it will examine and compare their responses to regional contingencies in Northeast Asia to ensure that the three governments work together to resolve any crisis. This project will help harmonize allied approaches to perceived WMD/WME threats emanating from elsewhere in the region. Conducting the “Assurance of US Allies” strategic dialogues, including the preparation of both summaries of Key Findings and the submission of more comprehensive analytic reports summarizing the results of the dialogues, supports the mission of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) to safeguard the US and its allies from global WMD threats by integrating, synchronizing, and providing expertise, technologies and capabilities. The initiative will be led by Brad Glosserman, Executive Director, Pacific Forum CSIS, from Jan. 1, 2017 to Dec. 31, 2017.

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