

PASCC

Research in Progress

FY17-18

U.S.-AUSTRALIA-JAPAN STRATEGIC DIALOGUE ON SECURITY, DETERRENCE, AND PROLIFERATION

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PROJECT SUMMARY:

In 2015, the Project on Advanced Systems and Concepts for Countering WMD (PASCC) funded a US-Australia-Japan research project to explore changing views of the international security environment and requirements for assurance and deterrence. The report found that both the United States and its allies perceive an adverse shift in the military balance in the Asia-Pacific region. The most consequential driver of this shift is the rise of China and Chinese military modernization. Moreover, U.S. allies are increasingly expressing doubts about the willingness and ability of the United States to continue to play its traditional role in the region. As a result, U.S. allies have increased their efforts both to guarantee their security unilaterally and to explore new partnerships to help them do so multilaterally.

The current project is intended to build upon the insights of this, and other previous research, to convene a trilateral (US-Australia-Japan) strategic dialogue on security, deterrence, and proliferation under the leadership of the Philip Merrill Center for Strategic Studies of the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). The project will bring together national-security scholars and practitioners from the United States, Australia, and Japan for a track-two dialogue amongst the United States, Australia, and Japan on international security in the Asia-Pacific region, nuclear deterrence and reassurance, and nonproliferation issues. It will contribute, moreover, to a consolidation of the key American alliance relationships in this critically important area, with the two countries that are strategically independent island states, capable of independent action. It will yield a report that will be circulated widely among national security leaders inside and outside of government in the three countries.

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