A Track II Dialogue on U.S.-Russian Crisis Stability

Performer: Center for Strategic and International Studies
Project Lead: Sharon Squassoni
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Project Summary:

CSIS proposes to catalogue Russian and American security community concepts of crisis stability, identify and explore approaches to address differences in those perspectives, and identify and establish channels for on-going engagement in this area. The public purpose is to enhance crisis stability by identifying measures to lengthen the time available for U.S. and Russian decision-makers in periods of crisis. Between two nuclear-armed competitors, adding time for proper assessment of threats and options can be crucial to prevent undesirable escalatory responses. Creating an ongoing venue for identifying challenges and opportunities in crisis stability could help facilitate continued official dialogue on strategic stability.

The dialogue will examine cross- and multi-domain threats to crisis stability, challenging experts to improve existing crisis stability measures with the aim of lengthening warning and response times, particularly in the nuclear realm. At the end of the grant period, expected results include:

- A catalogue of Russian and American security community concepts of crisis stability, including common key elements;
- Creation of a channel for U.S. and Russian experts to collaboratively discuss official and unofficial approaches in this area;
- Identification of confidence-and-security-building measures with aim of enhancing crisis stability;
- Sharing of recommendations with U.S. and Russian government officials as well as the wider expert community as appropriate.

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