

# Preventive Defense Project (PDP)

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## Research

"Now that an immediate peril is not plainly visible, there is a natural tendency to relax and to return to business as usual. . . . But I feel that we are seriously failing in our attitude toward the international problems whose solution will largely determine our future."

**George C. Marshall*****Washington's Birthday Remarks at Princeton University, February 22, 1947***

The Preventive Defense Project is a research collaboration of [Stanford University](#) and [Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government](#), co-directed by William J. Perry and Ashton B. Carter. Preventive Defense is a concept for American defense strategy in the post-Cold War era, premised on the belief that the absence of an imminent, major, traditional military threat to American security presents today's leaders with an unaccustomed challenge and opportunity to prevent future Cold War-scale threats to international security from emerging. While the U.S. defense establishment must continue to deter major regional conflicts and provide peacekeeping and humanitarian relief missions when necessary, its highest priority is to contribute to forestalling developments that could directly threaten the survival and vital interests of American citizens.

To this end, the Project focuses on forging productive security partnerships with Russia and its neighbors, engaging an emerging China, addressing the lethal legacy of Cold War weapons of mass destruction (WMD), and countering WMD proliferation and potential acts of catastrophic terrorism. Through intense personal interaction with political and military leaders around the world, the Project nourishes a highly informed but non-governmental "track-two" dialogue that explores opportunities for international innovation, agreement and cooperation. In doing so, PDP seeks to devise creative new policy approaches that reflect a preventive defense posture. The Preventive Defense Project is also examining the U.S. government's structural capacity to deal with security challenges of a new era. (Click here to view PDP's new book entitled, [Keeping the Edge: Managing Defense for the Future.](#))

The Project is a multi-year effort supported by the [Carnegie Corporation of New York](#), the [John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation](#), the [Packard Foundation](#), the [W. Alton Jones Foundation](#), the Nuclear Threat Initiative, the [Compton Foundation, Inc.](#), and private sources. The Project's Co-Directors are former Secretary of Defense William J. Perry and former Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Policy Ashton B. Carter. Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General John M. Shalikashvili and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Russia, Ukraine and Eurasia Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall serve as Senior Advisors. Additional contributors to the Project include member of President Clinton's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board Robert J. Hermann and former Deputy Secretary of Defense John P. White. The Project is pleased that the following experts have agreed to lend their expertise to our North Korea initiative: General John H. Tilelli, Jr., former Commander-in-Chief of the United Nations Command, Republic of Korea/United States Combined Forces Command, and United States Forces Korea; [Ambassador Stephen W. Bosworth](#), Dean of The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and former U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea; [Dr. Kurt Campbell](#), former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for East Asian and Pacific Affairs; and Dr. Michael H. Armacost, President of the [Brookings Institution](#) and former Undersecretary of State

and U.S. Ambassador to Japan and to the Philippines.



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