

Key Findings

The Relationship between Regional Stability and International Security

- o Many serious challenges to achieving international peace and security have sprung from regional instability and insecurity.
- o Regional capabilities to acquire weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and advanced delivery systems such as ballistic missiles are of particular concern.
- o “Regional Threat Reduction”¹ may constitute the preferred method for defusing potential crises before they erupt.

The Role of Ballistic Missiles in Regional Instabilities

- o Countries in troubled regions of the world have been increasing the numbers and types of ballistic missiles in their inventories; some are also establishing their own missile production facilities. This is a matter of particular concern when those missiles are capable of serving as delivery systems for WMD.
- o Ballistic missiles have become the delivery platforms of choice because of their short flight times, their capability to strike with little or no warning, a lack of effective missile defences in most areas of the globe, and thus, their virtually-assured penetrability. The psychological impact of a ballistic missile capability can be almost as destabilizing as its military utility.
- o The technologies used in these delivery systems are becoming increasingly easier and cheaper to develop indigenously or acquire elsewhere.
- o Regional Threat Reduction is particularly appropriate and needed in regions with complex histories of tension and rivalry, such as the region of South Asia. If India and Pakistan were to continue to develop and deploy their ballistic missile

¹ In this paper, “Regional Threat Reduction” is defined as assistance offered by countries which reduces regional threats from ballistic missiles capable of carrying weapons of mass destruction. This term is similar, of course, to “comprehensive threat reduction,” a program in which the new independent states of the former Soviet Union are being assisted by the United States in the process of dismantlement and elimination of weapons of mass destruction and the delivery systems capable of carrying these weapons. It is assumed that Regional Threat Reduction would involve the diplomatic efforts of a number of countries or other trusted third parties.