

## **Bryan Early**

### **Political Science**

**Sponsor:** U.S. Department of State  
**Dates:** April 16, 2014 through April 15, 2015  
**Amount:** \$85,000

### **Continuing Strategic Trade Control Consultations with Kosovo**

Kosovo is a small landlocked country in the Balkans region of Southeastern Europe. It shares borders with Albania, Montenegro, and Macedonia and a disputed boundary with Serbia that the latter does not recognize as an international border. Kosovo's political status is not yet fully resolved in the aftermath of its decision to declare independence from Serbia in February 2008. As of February 2014, the United States and 109 other countries recognize Kosovo's independence, but Serbia and many other governments, including five EU Member States, do not. The ambiguity of Kosovo's sovereignty for the past 13 years has had economic repercussions, contributing to high unemployment and encouraging smuggling and other criminal activities. Indeed, significant organized crime, corruption, Kosovo's proximity to the advanced economies of Western and Central Europe and Adriatic seaports, and its location on major international transit routes for both legal and illicit cargo magnify the risk that malicious actors could utilize Kosovo as a diversion point for proliferation-sensitive goods or materials.

The GOK must address the deficiencies in its licensing institutions, training, and awareness in order to more effectively combat the proliferation challenges it faces and continue to reduce its attractiveness as a diversion or transit/transshipment point for strategic commodities. CPR therefore proposes to conduct consultations with relevant GOK officials starting in the spring of 2014. The purpose of the consultations will be to assist MTI and the interagency Commission with respect to the following:

- Establishing the necessary statutory basis for the MTI Department for Strategic Trade Control;
- Reviewing Kosovo's NCL to ensure its compliance with international standards;
- Developing SOPs for classifying dual-use and munitions goods and technologies;
- Developing SOPs for evaluating dual-use and arms trade license applications;

- Gaining greater awareness and understanding of commodity classification, utilizing the NCL, and reviewing and making decisions on strategic trade license applications; and
- Determining the scope of future STC outreach and developmental activities.