

A Word from the Chairman

The Futures Working Group, an ongoing collaboration between the Society of Police Futurists International (PFI) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, continues to research and assemble numerous bodies of work relating to the future of policing. Many of these can be found at www.futuresworkinggroup.cos.ucf.edu. The entries in the present volume were initiated at a FWG meeting hosted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the Fall of 2006. I and the FWG wishes to thank all those at the Training Division of the FBI for their support during this endeavor.

During this time, a group of police managers and futurists as well as academics and military personnel gathered to consider the ongoing challenges of cybercrime. Their goal was to examine various dimensions in which the future of our dependence on computing and other electronic transactions could spell both challenges and opportunities for law enforcement.

At that time, we knew that computer crime was not only a timely topic but that it would continue to be an important issue in policing and public safety for the foreseeable future. To be sure, much has recently been written about this subject; however, little has concerned itself with the future of policing and cybercrime. Clearly, there is a need for law enforcement and public safety officials to continually enhance their knowledge, skills, and abilities to keep up with the adversaries that seem to be adopting these technologies at an ever-

growing pace. As the discussions progressed at this conference, it became clear that many possible futures exist with regard to this very important area. This volume is an attempt to reflect some of these deliberations and to articulate strategies to bring about what futurists refer to as “preferred futures.”

As you read the entries contained herein, remember the goal of futurists-- to make others think. As such, some entries are quite lengthy exploring various details of the complexities of cybercriminal behavior. In contrast, other entries are brief observations that we believe contribute to the discussion of policing and cybercrimes. All of these entries serve to introduce new, challenging, and at times disconcerting ideas. You may agree with some authors and disagree with others. You may even feel somewhat unnerved by what has been written. Often considerations of the future breed these emotions. As is constantly expressed in FWG volumes, ultimately, it is our fervent desire to devise ways to motivate individuals to create their own preferred future...-- “for yourself, for your agency, and for the communities you serve.”

That goal continues. We hope this latest volume and the efforts that went into it are helpful toward that end.

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