A Word from the Chairman

Since our first meeting at the FBI Academy in the winter of 2002, the Futures Working Group (FWG) has been going strong. In addition to several articles, numerous training and conference appearances, and two books, the group continues to probe the outer fringes of what futurists call "possible, probable, and preferable" futures.

The articles in the present volume were initiated at a FWG meeting hosted by the University of Phoenix, in the spring of 2005. During that gathering, we were privileged to have John Smart of the Acceleration Studies Foundation (http://www.accelerating.org/) share some of his thoughts about the future. We thank the University for its gracious hospitality and John for his stunning insights; nothing could have better prepared us for embarking upon this volume.

Given the state of the world and the policing profession in early 2005, we could not have imagined a more timely topic than that of homeland security. To be sure, much has been written about that subject; however, little has concerned itself with the future of homeland security and its nexus with policing. As our discussions progressed, it became clear that many possible futures exist with regard to this very important area. This volume is an attempt to consider some of them and, further, to articulate strategies to bring about the best of all possible futures.

As you read the articles contained herein, remember that the goal of futurists is to make others think. This is generally accomplished by introducing 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. That is all to the good. As expressed in a prior volume: "Ultimately, it

is our fervent desire that this slim volume will motivate you to devise ways to create your own preferred futures—for yourself, your agency, and the communities you serve."

That goal hasn't changed. We hope you enjoy our efforts.

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Quantico, Virginia December, 2005

The opinions and statements contained in this volume are those of the individual authors and should not be considered an endorsement by the FBI or the Department of Justice for any policy, program, or service.