

## **A Word from the Chairman**

The Futures Working Group (FWG) was created over 5 years ago. Since that time the FWG has been very successful in its effort to examine current and emerging issues confronting the future of law enforcement. In addition to regular meetings of this group, several articles, at least two books, numerous training events, and many conference appearances have been devoted to examining future challenges confronting law enforcement. Through these efforts, the FWG has continually examined what futurists term the “possible, probable, and preferable” futures in an effort to achieve a singular mission: to promote the notion that by examining future possibilities we may be able to “create” the future rather than simply waiting for it to unfold.

The present work represents the third volume of proceedings inspired by the many activities of the Futures Working Group. Like previous volumes, this work found its roots in the numerous discussions, white papers, and thought-provoking works that the FWG has produced since its creation. Its aim is to examine social, economic, political, and cultural challenges that accompany mass casualty events to which law enforcement responds. While these events are always traumatic, heart-wrenching, challenging, and always difficult in their aftermath, the police and other emergency services personnel are the one constant that the public inevitably relies upon to help make things alright. The lives of the survivors are never the same but these first responders, sometimes in the smallest of ways, make the path to normalcy a little easier for folks to traverse.

This work explores these dynamics and the role of the police in foreseeing the possibility that such events may occur in your jurisdiction. It is in this spirit that this volume was pursued and, like other volumes in this series, we hope that the essays that are offered herein assist not just the police but communities nationwide to envision what

is not just possible but preferable when first responders once again are called to action to do whatever is necessary to assist when mass casualty events occur.

Lastly, many works contained herein are not so much predictions or remedies for responding to mass casualty events, as they are discussions of what pathways may be promising for law enforcement to pursue in responding to such events. Given the inevitable challenges of responding to various kinds of mass casualty events that seem to strike all over the world with some frequency, we could not have envisioned a timelier topic than that of this volume.

As you read the works contained herein remember that the goal of futurists is to inspire thought and provocative ideas that these works encourage. These arguments may both challenge your consciousness and confirm your sensibilities pertaining to appropriate responses to events of this nature. Contemplating future courses of action often yields these outcomes. In the end, you may agree with some perspectives offered and disagree with others. As is often expressed in these volumes: “Ultimately, our fervent desire is that this work will motivate you to devise ways to create your own preferred future.” By doing so, we hope that not only you, but also the communities within which you work and live, will benefit from the exercise of considering future responses to mass casualty events that unfortunately occur all too frequently.

John P. Jarvis, Ph.D.  
Senior Scientist  
Behavioral Science Unit, FBI Academy  
Chairman, Futures Working Group

Quantico, Virginia  
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**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.**