

A Word from the Chairman

Since its inception, the Futures Working Group (FWG), an ongoing collaboration between the Society of Police Futurists International (PFI) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has assembled numerous bodies of work relating to the future and 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 University of Central Florida in the spring of 2006. I thank both Jay Corzine and this institution for its wonderful hospitality in this endeavor.

During this time, a group of police managers and futurists as well as academics and military personnel gathered to consider the challenges and opportunities of fostering further relationships between the police and the military. Their goal: to examine various dimensions in which the future missions of both the military and the police could be enhanced by examining the opportunities for collaboration and borrowing from lessons learned to confront the challenges and opportunities that each institution currently confronts.

At that time, in light of the natural disaster of Hurricane Katrina and other world events, we could not have imagined a timelier topic that could draw upon needed cooperation between the military and the police. To be sure, much has been written about that subject; however, little has concerned itself with the future of policing and the need for the military to engage in policing operations. 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 what futurists refer to as “preferred futures.”

As you read the entries contained herein, remember that the goal of futurists is to make others think. As such, some entries are quite lengthy, exploring various details of the complexities of policing and military operations. In contrast, other entries are brief observations that we believe contribute to the discussion of policing and the military. 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 emotive responses. As expressed in prior FWG volumes, ultimately, it is our fervent desire to devise ways to motivate individuals to create their own preferred future...whether military or policing or both...“for yourself, for your agency, and for the communities you serve.”

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

John P. Jarvis, Ph.D.
Senior Scientist
Behavioral Science Unit, FBI Academy
Chairman, Futures Working Group
Quantico, Virginia
June, 2008