

A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Since its inception, the Futures Working Group, 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 <http://futuresworkinggroup.cos.ucf.edu>. The entries in the present volume were initiated at a FWG meeting held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in the fall of 2007. I wish to thank Jeri Roberts and all of the attendees for making this meeting and endeavor fruitful in the short time we had to discuss and outline these contributions.

In doing so, a group of police managers and futurists as well as academics and military personnel gathered to consider the challenges and opportunities of continually fostering leadership in law enforcement. Their goal: to draw upon past experiences, recent research and publications, and lessons learned to examine various dimensions and associated dynamics of leadership in policing. The resulting issues and answers to fostering future leadership efforts by law enforcement are what is contained herein.

At that time, we could not imagine a timelier topic in light of the potential necessities that would become realities in the economic difficulties that the world has experienced since this meeting. To be sure, much has been written about that subject; however, little has concerned itself with the future of leadership in law enforcement organizations. As discussions of this topic 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 detailed exploring various aspects of the complexities of leadership in policing. In contrast, other entries are brief observations of what we believe contributes to the discussion of the future of leadership in policing. 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...--perhaps central to the idea of leadership...- 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.

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