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Letter from the Director

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Letter from the Director

The Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy (JGI), which is part of the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) at Florida International University (FIU), is launching *Global Security Review* in an effort to bridge the divide between academia and the policy world. The first issue addresses a wide range of threats that impact national security.

Some countries in the Americas have been plagued by high levels of drug trafficking and organized crime. States such as Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Colombia, and Brazil have experienced high levels of drug-related violence as transnational organized crime groups fight for control of drug routes and territory.

In addition to drug trafficking, countries in the Western Hemisphere confront challenges with regard to energy security and climate change. Some scholars contend that security begins with the environment.

Many governments are searching for alternatives sources of energy and new methods of extracting energy, such as hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. Practices such as fracking have been controversial in nature as some scholars argue that these techniques can lead to earthquakes and can contaminate water wells. Finally, other politicians and policymakers have sought to elevate the threat of terrorism and violent extremism on the security agenda. Fears exist that the Western Hemisphere is vulnerable to terrorist attacks, particularly from ISIS fighters who are returning home to their countries of origin in the Caribbean.

The first article by Dr. Robert Jervis of Columbia University addresses the threat of terrorism. Despite common perceptions and various recent terror attacks, Dr. Jervis contends that the U.S. is safer than people believe. Dr. Jervis's article is fol-

lowed by a piece by Dr. Jonathan D. Rosen (FIU) and Dr. Bruce Bagley (University of Miami) on Plan Colombia, a multi-billion dollar counternarcotics initiative financed by the U.S. government. The authors analyze the results of the initiative and provide insight as to whether Plan Colombia can be used as a model for other countries. The next article in the journal is by Dr. Marten Brienens of Oklahoma State University and examines energy security in the U.S. Dr. Brienens explores the energy profile of the U.S. as well as the major threats to energy security. This article is followed by Dr. Anthony Clayton's (University of the West Indies) article on terrorism in the Caribbean. He highlights the recent trends in terrorism, focusing on ISIS/Daesh, which he refers to as the "social media generation terrorists." Next, University of Miami scholar Dr. Daniel Suman's work begins with an analysis of ecosecurity and highlights the key trends and challenges in climate change in Florida. Finally, the journal concludes with an article on cybersecurity by Mark M. Deen of FIU that focuses on nation-state hacking.

In conclusion, we hope that you enjoy our first issue of *Global Security Review*. This journal will be published once per year and will attempt to publish articles from leading scholars and practitioners that address many of the pressing national security threats. In addition, JGI will continue hosting conferences and workshops and publishing policy papers, reports, books, and articles on pressing public policy and national security issues.

Sincerely,

Brian Fonseca, Director

The Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy
Florida International University