

## ABSTRACT

### *“The War on Terror: Is a Military or Police Response More Appropriate?”*

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Global terror is a new form of international security problem for the world's nations. It is new because of its non-territorial but global scope, its decentralized organization but over-arching philosophy, its ambiguous overlapping with insurgents/militias/organized crime, and the possibility that small groups – even individuals – may come to possess the ability to cause mass destruction. There is currently much confusion about terminology, strategic doctrine, tactics and the overall mental attitude required for effective action to secure populations against this growing menace. Until now, this confusion has hampered the development of a coordinated global response to the problem.

International security is still seen mainly through a military lens, and most nations are still preparing to fight the last war. Yet international wars are far less likely to happen today and in the future for a number of reasons, and even intra-state wars are diminishing in scope and number. The effect of the rapid disappearance of these “traditional” forms of warfare is, paradoxically and psychologically, to enhance global terrorism's ability to create world-wide insecurity, mainly for three reasons: (1) the lack of other major security problems to draw attention away from terrorism; (2) the fear (carefully cultivated by terrorist groups) that no place and nobody is secure; and (3) the visible difficulty in developing appropriate strategies to deal with this new security problem.

As more attention is focused on global terrorism, however, some solutions are beginning to emerge. The world is getting close to an agreed definition of terrorism, which is important for improving the ability to coordinate actions against it. Military forces in a number of countries have begun to adapt their training and doctrine to counter more effectively the guerilla-like aspects of global terrorism. Furthermore, many countries are beginning both internally and internationally to coordinate and even integrate their security-related activities far beyond what was done before. Existing security elements are being recombined in new ways, new counter-terrorism tactics and legal regimes are being developed, and new security organizations are being created, all as a result of fear-generated political pressures to do something.

By beginning a process of combining the various elements of sovereign state security in new and flexible ways, the international community is groping towards an approach to dealing with global terrorism through an innovative and adaptive security matrix. While many mistakes are being and will be made, there appears to be growing confidence among governments that global terrorism can be acceptably managed and even contained, even if this sense of confidence has yet to be communicated to their populations.

## Curriculum

John H. King

Mr. King graduated in 1962 from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and served over six years as a U.S. Army officer in the Corps of Engineers. He undertook graduate studies at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, receiving a Ph.D. degree in International Relations in 1971. He then entered the U.S. Foreign Service and served in various posts in Buenos Aires, Washington, Madrid and Brussels, specializing in European political military affairs, especially NATO.

In 1986, Mr. King joined the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency as the Deputy Assistant Director for Multilateral Affairs. In this position he was responsible for preparing negotiating instructions for a number of arms control negotiations such as the Chemical Weapons negotiations, the Threshold Test Ban negotiations, and the Conventional Forces in Europe talks. In 1989 he joined the U.S. Delegation to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva as Executive Secretary and Disarmament Counselor, where he had major negotiating responsibility for the Chemical Weapons Convention and later on, the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. He was also a member of the U.S. Delegation to various NPT meetings, including the indefinite extension of the NPT in 1995.

In 1996, Mr. King joined the faculty of Webster University in Geneva as an adjunct professor of International Relations, focusing on world political and foreign policy issues as well as the future of warfare. After leaving the U.S. Government in December 2000, he became the Director of the Business Humanitarian Forum, an NGO that seeks to raise the level of cooperation between business and humanitarian organizations in post-conflict areas. He also continued to serve part-time as a special adviser to the U.S. Delegation to the Conference on Disarmament. In addition, he is the Vice-president of the MacJannet Foundation, a grant-making institution that funds international scholarships for exchange students between the United States and France and Switzerland.

Mr. King's more recent publications include:

"The Military and Humanitarian Action," *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, Oxford University Press, Volume 21, Number 3, 2002.

"The New Warfare and Cooperative International Security," *Foresight*, Emerald Group Publishing Limited, Volume 6, Number 4, 2004.

"The Atlantic Community: New Traditions, New Roles," *Foresight*, Emerald Group Publishing Limited, Volume 6, Number 4, 2004.

"The New Warfare and the Need for an Interactive Military," *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, Oxford University Press, Volume 23, Number 4, 2004.

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