

From the Editors: Proceedings of the Global Security Summit with Admiral Bob Inman

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Michael Lauderdale, Michael Kelly, and Noel Landuyt

The Issue of Security

Regional and community security have been topics of substantial national concern since September 11, 2001 when terrorists commandeered commercial aircraft and flew 2 planes into the World Trade Center in New York City and a third plane into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. A fourth plane crashed killing all in central Pennsylvania as passengers fought the terrorist for the control of the plane. It is assumed that the intent of the attackers on that plane was to fly it into either the White House or the Capitol Building. We have to go back to the opening of World War II with the attack of the Japanese on the Naval Base in Pearl Harbor and then various threats in the Gulf, Atlantic and in Mexico to find a comparable time of American concern about foreign threats and the manifestation of those threats in American lands and waters.

In the decade since September 11 many efforts at the national, state and local levels have begun to respond to such concerns. In the summer of 2010 Professor Inman began to work through the Greater Austin Crime Commission, the LBJ Library and the LBJ School to secure resources for a one-day program to examine these actual and potential threats from a global and regional perspective. In this issue are some of the selected papers presented that day, Wednesday, March 23, 2011 and prepared since then for publication. The papers represent both the perceptions of highly experienced professionals operating in the field and academics with current research on these topics.

In This Issue

The topics in this issue, Volume 13, Number Three, reflect these important perspectives on threats to public safety for the United States with a focus upon the border with Mexico. It opens with Professor Inman's overview of the day's presentation and their relevance to national and regional security concerns. Adam Hamilton provides a perspective on long term efforts of public and private groups in both countries to contain

and, in some instances, eradicate disease vectors of humans, crops and animals. This basis of cooperation that goes back to early years in the 20th century is an important social resource for many current concerns. Ricardo Ainslie focuses upon one of the border's storied "twin cities", Juarez and its descent into violence during the years from 2007 until today. He chronicles the heroic efforts of Mayor José Reyes Ferriz of Ciudad Juarez and President Felipe Calderon to wrest control of the city from the grasp of two warring cartels seeking to control access through El Paso into the United States. Resident Agent Gregory Thrash from his role in the Drug Enforcement Administration details the movement of illegal drugs from the Caribbean to routes through Mexico and into the United States. He then provides an examination of the ways that the Mexican Drug Cartels or Drug Trafficking Organizations work to use a city like Austin, Texas as a "command and control center" as well as a regional warehouse and distribution center. The final paper by Michael Lauderdale examines global and national forces in Mexico and how these serve to make the Mexican state vulnerable to forces such as the cartels and how growing instability in Mexico will impact the United States.

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