

# ICAR NEWS



SPECIAL ISSUE  
POINT OF VIEW

A Publication of the Institute for  
Conflict Analysis and Resolution

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

## SPECIAL ISSUE: Point of View Programming in Full Swing

In the seclusion of Belmont Bay, the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (ICAR) is building a research and retreat complex, the first in the world dedicated to conflict analysis and resolution. Nestled within 40 acres of pristine woodlands, Point of View is just 25 miles south of Washington D.C. and overlooks the spectacular 2,200-acre Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge, allowing parties in conflict to engage in the critical work of peacebuilding with privacy and safety.

Boosted by a \$5 million commitment by the state of Virginia, the complex will consist of three distinct areas that can

three phases, is already hosting substantive programming.

Point of View fills an emergent need. There is no other space in the world designed specifically for conflict analysis and resolution. Point of View is ideal for transformative conversations, dialogue, reflection and reconciliation, and is ICAR's clinical lab site, where groups in conflict come to address differences, engage in dialogue, and learn together. The theory and research developed at ICAR will provide the foundation for the practice at Point of View.

As part of George Mason University, Point of View enhances the University's standing in the international, diplomatic, and higher education community, and enriches the Northern Virginia area. Working with the international conflict resolution community, Point of View is designed to facilitate

conflict resolution and reconciliation processes, teach conflict analysis and develop curricular resources, and conduct research to support the development of theory and practice. This special issue highlights the work already started at Point of View. ■



Above: Birds-eye view image showing a complete installation of the Point of View master design.

### In This Special Issue...

- 2 Research Projects Move to Point of View: Local Zones of Peace
- 3 Solving the Problems with PSWs: The Future of Dialogue and Problem-Solving Workshops
- 4 Creating Consciousness Within Conflict Resolution Curriculum
- 5 Nuclear Nonproliferation at POV
- 6 Status of the "State of the Field" Plotted Out at Point of View
- 7 ICAR's 25th Anniversary Celebration

accommodate up to 100 people, including 35 overnight guests. The site will include an Integrated Practice Center, a Retreat Complex, and a Scholarly Research Center. The facility, which will be built in

# Research Projects Move to POV

By Christopher Mitchell, Ph.D., ICAR Emeritus Professor, cmitchel@gmu.edu

The Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (ICAR) is moving its research to Point of View (PoV) now that the Lynch House on the site has been reconfigured to include a small conference room, seminar rooms, and offices for the faculty and for visitors. One of the first to make the move from ICAR's Arlington offices is the "Local Zones of Peace" (ZoPs) project (photos below), which maintains its focus on local peace communities and the "Laboratories of Peace" in Colombia, and on the zones of peace on Mindanao in the Philippines.

The ZoPs Working Group has held several "brainstorming" meetings down at Point of View and it is planned to move all the research material for the project down to the Lynch House during this summer. Members of the Group are currently working on a number of new articles intended for publication in a special issue of the *Journal of Conflict Studies*, an issue that will include articles on women's roles in local peace-

building, the use of peace zones along disputed national borders, and a reconsideration of the Colombian peace communities in the context of the Colombian Government's strategy of "democratic security".

The second project to make the move is the "Parents of the Field" project which has been conducted over the past five years by ICAR Emeritus Professor Christopher Mitchell and Professor Jannie Botes of the University of Baltimore. The project has involved interviewing and videotaping over 40 "pioneers" of the field of conflict and peace research in North America, Britain, and Scandinavia, who were asked to look back and talk about the origins of the field in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s.

The resultant transcripts of the interviews will be available for consultation down at Point of View, while a number of the video interviews will be available for viewing on the ICAR and University of Baltimore websites, as well as on the website

run as part of their "Beyond Intractability" Project by Drs. Guy and Heidi Burgess at the University of Colorado in Denver.

Lastly, preparations are currently under way at Point of View for the housing of a "PoV Archive", which will contain records of a variety of real world, historical "Track Two" peace-making interventions carried out by scholar-practitioners active in the field in the last decades of the 20th Century. The archive already contains documents pertaining to some of the peace-making and peacebuilding work carried out by practitioners such as James Laue, John Burton, and Christopher Mitchell, while others such as Hal Sanders and Joseph Montville have indicated that they intend to deposit their own records at PoV.

Hopefully, more practitioners will prove willing to donate their records to the Archive, which will thus prove a rich resource for research into the practice of "Track Two" peacemaking in recent decades. ■

## Local Zones of Peace: Colombia and the Philippines



Above: Photo from a training on civil resistance and nonviolence. Right: Photo of a banner mourning victims of violence.

Photos, left and below, are from the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution's work with the "Local Zones of Peace" project, which is focused on local peace communities and the "Laboratories of Peace" in Colombia, and on the zones of peace on Mindanao in the Philippines.

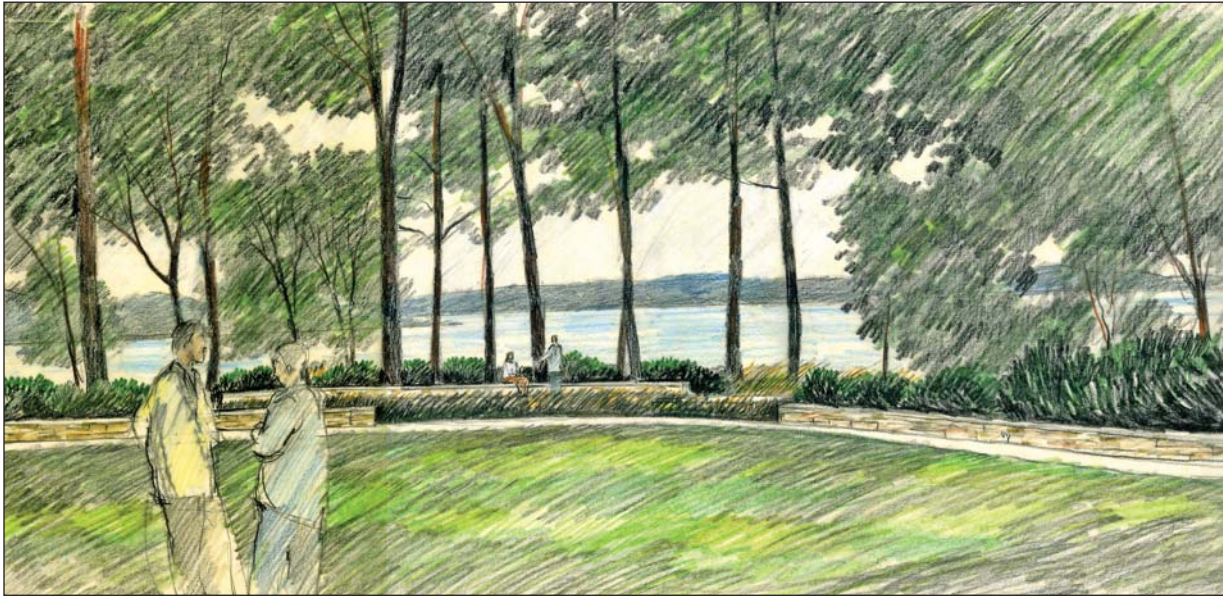




# Solving the Problems with PSWs

## The Future of Dialogue and Problem-Solving Workshops

By Monica Flores, Assistant to Nadim Rouhana, [mflores1@gmu.edu](mailto:mflores1@gmu.edu)



Practice

Above: Image from the Point of View design showing persons in dialogue on the property overlooking Belmont Bay.

The Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (ICAR), in cooperation with the International Peace and Conflict Resolution Program at American University, held a one-day workshop titled "The Future of Dialogue and Problem-Solving Workshops" at Point of View. The workshop was held on Friday April 25, 2008, and was organized by Professors Ron Fisher at AU and Christopher Mitchell and Nadim Rouhana from ICAR.

As a first in a planned series of workshops on improving the state of theory and practice in the methods of dialogue and problem solving, the workshop emerges from an interest in cultivating the next generation of practitioners for problem-solving workshops (PSWs) and dialogues. The workshop was intended to assess the current state of problem solving, identify knowledge currently lacking, discuss issues limiting the development of practice, and chart future directions, including the training of practitioners and the application of the methods.

The workshop was divided

into three sessions and included presentations by Dr. Fisher, Dr. Mitchell, Dr. Rouhana and Dr. Susan Allen Nan. Each session was followed by discussions by all workshop participants. Presentations focused on the current state of practice, questions and critiques on knowledge that is lacking, constraints and improvements, and training and application possibilities.

Among the points addressed in the workshop were the following:

- While there has been a proliferation of conflict resolution and dispute resolution graduate programs, there appear to be fewer opportunities for gaining the expertise necessary to carry out dialogues and PSWs.

- An assessment of the current state of problem-solving workshops recognizes the need for the field to track projects occurring at various levels and categorize, define, and evaluate interactive conflict resolution work, starting with a clarified distinction between problem-solving workshops and dialogues.

- A critique of the theory-to-practice nexus in problem-solving workshops, as well as the constraints of basic human needs theory, demonstrates a need to revisit new theories supporting interactive conflict resolution.

The workshop began what is hoped will be a series of continuing programs to provide professional development opportunities for new practitioners of dialogue and problem-solving workshops, and to apply these methods to violent and intractable conflicts between identity groups.

The rich conversation among conflict resolution scholars and practitioners reinforced the need to train new practitioners in problem-solving workshops or interactive conflict resolution. In concluding the workshop's agenda, the workshop organizers proposed future opportunities for a linked training and practice program.

A report of "The Future of Dialogue and Problem-Solving Workshops" is now online at <http://icar.gmu.edu/pov.html>. ■

# Creating Consciousness Within Conflict Resolution Curriculum

By Susan Allan Nan, Ph.D., ICAR Faculty, snan@gmu.edu

The Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (ICAR) held a one-day symposium at Point of View on April 7, 2008, on "Consciousness and Conflict Resolution". The event featured presentations by ICAR Faculty Andrea Bartoli, Susan Allen Nan, Jamie Price, and Solon Simmons. The presentations stimulated lively discussion among additional participating ICAR Faculty, ICAR Advisory Board Members, ICAR doctoral students, the ICAR Director, faculty from other universities, and leading conflict resolution practitioners. A generous grant from the One Foundation made the symposium, and the research that informed it, possible.

Susan Allen Nan presented a research paper arguing that at its core, conflict resolution is about increasing consciousness. Consciousness can be seen as the base of conflict resolution theory and practice. Conflict resolution practices are effective to the extent that they support shifts in consciousness. Consciousness-raising spreads awareness of the existence of oppression, exploitation, or other lack of respect for the human dignity of an individual or group, and then conflict becomes visible.

Through conflict resolution, participants in conflicts can develop increasing awareness of their own needs, the needs of others, and ways of meeting

everyone's needs. In conflict resolution processes, we can shift our understanding of self and other so that we shift from dehumanization to rehumanization, from hatred to compassion, and from a focus on self-in-isolation to self-in-relationships within an interrelated whole.

In conflict resolution processes, we can shift our understanding of self and other so that we shift from dehumanization to rehumanization, from hatred to compassion, and from a focus on self-in-isolation to self-in-relationships within an interrelated whole.

Discussion at the symposium was wide ranging. Many comments focused on conflict resolution practices that support shifts in consciousness, as well as the ways shifts in consciousness can shape concrete changes in the material suffering of those involved in conflicts. Solon Simmons highlighted four aspects of consciousness at work in conflict contexts: theoretical, evaluative, narrative, and associative consciousness.

The symposium conclusions outlined many areas for practical research aimed at improving our abilities to resolve conflicts and increase consciousness. Next steps include publishing papers presented at the symposium and planning a broader symposium to engage more diverse perspectives in a deepening of this emerging conversation.

Interested friends of ICAR are invited to join the Consciousness and Conflict Resolution working group to participate in future related activities. Email Susan at snan@gmu.edu for more information on the concept of consciousness. ■

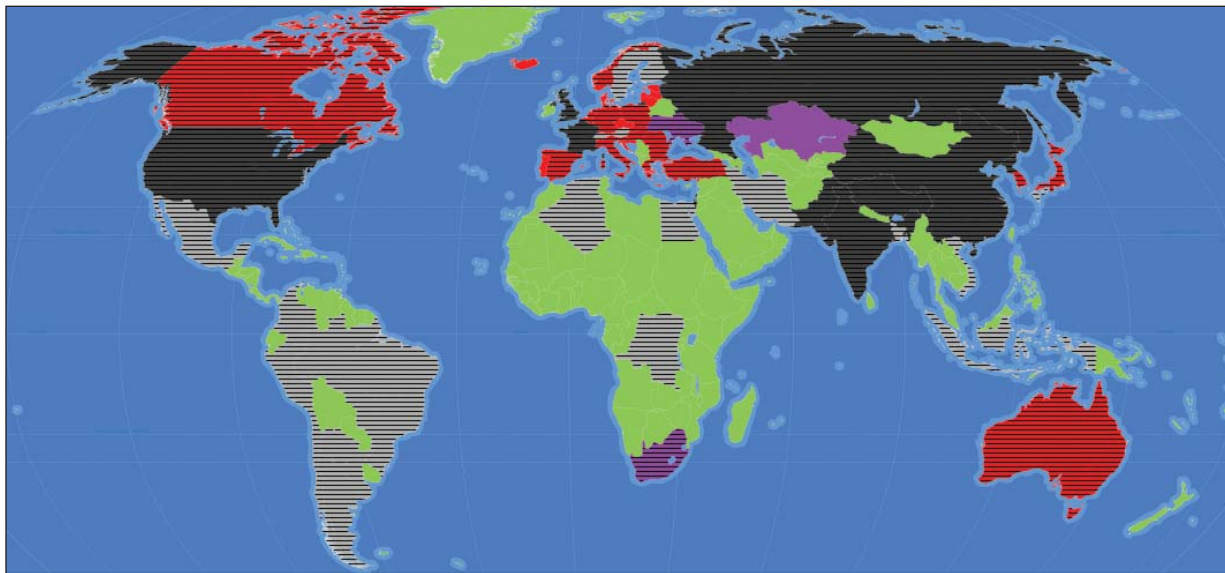


Above: ICAR Professor Jamie Price presents on the concept of consciousness with other ICAR professors (pictured here) Susan Allen Nan, Solon Simmons, and Advisory Board member Ambassador John McDonald. Photo: Tetsushi Ogata.



# Nuclear Nonproliferation at POV

By Christopher Mitchell, Ph.D., ICAR Emeritus Professor, [cmitchel@gmu.edu](mailto:cmitchel@gmu.edu)



Above: Map of Nuclear Weapons States. *Black Color:* Nuclear weapons possessors. *Red Color:* Umbrella states. *Grey Color:* Reactor states. *Purple Color:* Former possessors. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

March 15, 2008, at Point of View, saw the second session of a small task group set up to discuss the organizational capacity of the United States to deal with the increasing challenges in the field of nuclear nonproliferation. The spread of nuclear weapons has become an even more important issue with the increasing number of actual and potential nuclear armed states and the likely "privatisation" of nuclear capabilities in non-governmental hands.

The task group was convened by Ambassador Norman Wulf, Special Representative of the President for Nuclear Nonproliferation from 1999-2002, and Professor Barclay Ward, a long time adviser to the former Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and to the Department of State. It was hosted by ICAR's Associate Director, Dr. Kevin Avruch, and Emeritus Professor Christopher Mitchell, while students Gina Cerasani, Saira Yamin, and Aneela Shamshad acted as rapporteurs.

Much of the discussion at this and an earlier meeting held

last December, focused on ideas for reconstructing the State Department's capacity for dealing in an effective and timely fashion with the growing complexities of the nuclear world in the early 21st Century. The issues and dilemmas awaiting the new U.S. Administration at the start of 2009 are not merely those that had been discussed as early as the 1960s and 1970s under the label of "the *Nth* country problem". Today, in addition, we must deal with violation of norms, renegade procurement networks, and "loose nukes", to name a few. Traditional tools such as the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty remain central to this effort, but the regime is being adapted to deal with new challenges.

For President McCain or Obama, 2009 will necessitate having an administration that has the skills, the knowledge, and, above all, the organizational capacity to confront the immediate problems of Iran and North Korea, of protection against theft or diversion of nuclear materials, of strengthening export control and interdiction activities, of

securing and disposing of fissile material, and of advising about "nuclear terrorism", as well as dealing with verification tasks that include monitoring compliance with existing international agreements and regimes. Each of these candidates has also supported renewed efforts toward nuclear disarmament, including further reductions in U.S. nuclear forces.

Ultimately, countries like the U.S. and Russia cannot succeed in having others give up their nuclear weapons or weapons ambitions while these two continue holding large stockpiles. Nuclear disarmament, or at least meaningful progress toward that objective, is essential to successful nonproliferation efforts. In turn, success in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons also is essential for disarmament.

Capacities to deal effectively with all these issues have been badly eroded in recent years, a development that led to the Point of View discussions of how best to rebuild U.S. capacity to

*Continued on Page 8*

# Status of the "State of the Field" Plotted Out at Point of View

By Monica Flores, Assistant to Nadim Rouhana, mflores1@gmu.edu

**O**n November 30, 2007, the *Point of View: Center for Advanced Studies in Conflict Dynamics and Intervention* hosted a workshop titled "Towards Defining the State of the Field: A Research Agenda for Conflict Resolution". The workshop, organized by Professors Nadim Rouhana and Andrea Bartoli at the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (ICAR) at George Mason University, brought together an impressive roster of scholars, practitioners, students, and guests.

The workshop's main objective was to help further define the boundaries of the field of conflict resolution, sharpen its definition, and set a research agenda for the field. The daylong workshop consisted of three panels, two hours each, and began with welcoming remarks by the Associate Director of ICAR, Kevin Avruch, and workshop organizers.

Each panel featured three speakers that were followed by discussion among all participants. The first panel focused on the issue of conflict resolution boundaries, definitions, and new approaches. It also addressed the questions of the relationship between conflict resolution and other fields and the distinguishing aspects of conflict resolution from other fields.

The first panel was facilitated by

Ho-Won Jeong and included the following presenters: Ron Fisher from American University, Nadim Rouhana from ICAR, and Marc Ross from Bryn Mawr College.

The second panel, facilitated

The workshop's main objectives was to help further define the boundaries of the field of conflict resolution, sharpen its definition, and set a research agenda for the field.

by Sandra Cheldelin, focused on conflict resolution practice, such as the range of practice methods and the requirements for appropriate practice. Panelists included Mohammed Abu-Nimer from American University, Eileen Babbitt from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, and Andrea Bartoli from ICAR.

The third panel focused on perspectives for setting a

research agenda for the next ten years. The panel was facilitated by Christopher Mitchell and included the following panelists: Terrence Lyons from ICAR, Tamra Pearson d'Estrée from the University of Denver, and Anthony Wanis-St. John from American University.

The response of the participants was enthusiastic. A comprehensive written workshop report is now available in print and online. This event is just the first in a series of workshops on the state of the field of conflict resolution.

ICAR graduate students and alumni that assisted with this event were Karolyn Bina, Scott Cooper, Mónica Flores, Karen Grattan, Samuel Rizk, Pamela Struss, and Mark Stover.

Please visit the *Point of View: Center for Advanced Studies in Conflict Dynamics and Intervention* website at <http://icar.gmu.edu/pov.html> to download "Towards Defining the State of the Field: A Research Agenda for Conflict Resolution" and to view a listing of future events. ■



Above: ICAR Professor Nadim Rouhana speaks with workshop participants in the board room at Point of View's Lynch House. Photo: Monica Flores.



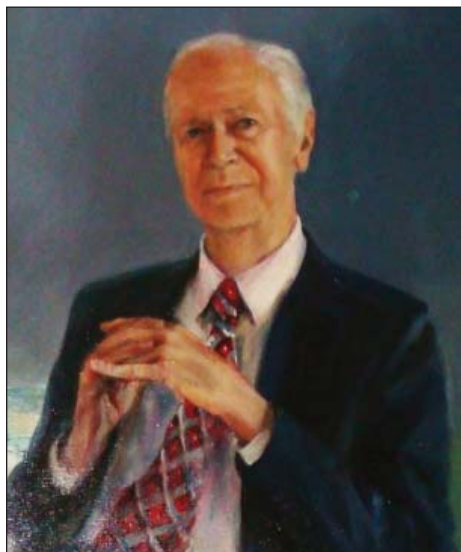
# ICAR's 25th Anniversary Celebration

By Christopher Mitchell, Ph.D., ICAR Emeritus Professor, cmitchel@gmu.edu

May 14, 2008, saw the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (ICAR) celebrating its first 25 years with a gathering of over fifty faculty, staff, advisors, and alumni, at Point of View for an evening of stories and reminiscences of the early days when GMU's new Masters program was being taught at the Center for Conflict Resolution (CCR), which a few years later became the Center for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (CCAR).

Prominent among those present were members of the original Advisory Board that, together with Ed and Helen Lynch, helped to launch the new Center and the idea of conflict resolution in Northern Virginia. Mary Lynn Boland, the first administrator of the Center could not be present but sent greetings, as did Mary Clark—the first to be appointed to the Drucie French Cumbie Chair

at ICAR—from the West Coast. Dr. Dennis Sandole, the very first faculty appointed to the then-new Center spoke about the late Dr. Bryant Wedge, the founder and first



Above: Portrait of John Burton, painted by Helen McInnes, is now on display at Point of View. Photo courtesy of Christopher Mitchell.

Director of the Center. A plaque in Dr. Wedge's memory, which had originally been placed outside ICAR's old offices on the Fairfax campus, was re-sited on the Point of View grounds close to the Lynch house.

Dr. Sara Cobb, the present ICAR Director, introduced the Australian Ambassador, the Honorable Dennis Richardson A.O., who unveiled a portrait of Dr. John Burton, Associate Director of CCAR between 1986 and 1991. The full length portrait of Dr. Burton, painted by the Australian artist Helen McInnes, had been donated to ICAR by Mrs. Betty Nathan Burton who was present at the event and brought a message from John Burton from Canberra encouraging the expansion of the work of



Above: ICAR Advisory Board member Ambassador John McDonald pictured here with Betty Burton. Photo courtesy of Christopher Mitchell.

education and conflict resolution.

In many ways, the event—while enjoyable for those present—was a small and low key one, particularly given the number of individuals from all over the world that had graduated from CCR, CCAR, and ICAR, over the last 25 years. ICAR graduates, now numbering over 400, are currently working in over 35 countries in all regions of the world, applying their skills to problems of local, environmental, inter-ethnic, and international conflicts. Clearly, the challenges posed by such conflicts will remain to be tackled by the next generations of ICAR faculty and graduates during the next 25 years. ■



Above: ICAR doctoral alumna and adjunct professor Marsha Blakeway pictured here with former ICAR professor Frank Blechman. Photo courtesy of Christopher Mitchell.

History of the Field

## Point of View Program Overview

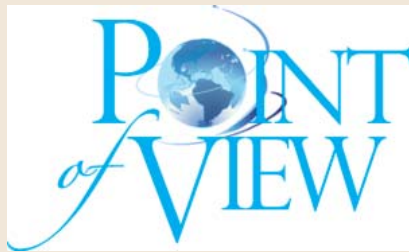
The program at Point of View will be three-fold:

*Practice.* Point of View will enable parties with deep differences to engage in conflict resolution and reconciliation processes through dialogue, negotiation, mediation, and strategic planning. The site will accommodate day meetings, workshops, conferences, day-and-overnight retreats, events, private dialogues, and international meetings.

*Teaching.* Point of View will anchor educational programs for students and professionals in advanced theory and method for conflict resolution. Workshops, seminars, certificate programs and short courses will provide venues for learning.

*Research.* Point of View will support the development of the field of conflict resolution by providing a place where the theory of conflict intervention can be studied in practice, developing research and practice in tandem.

Contact: If you are interested in learning more about Point of View, or if you are interested in reserving the facilities for a conference, please go to <http://icar.gmu.edu/pov.html> or call ICAR at 703.993.1300. ■



## Nuclear Nonproliferation at POV

Continued from page 5

deal with this complex tangle of problems. How should the Department of State's capacities be strengthened to ensure that nuclear nonproliferation is afforded a much higher priority and status? What are the arguments for a new, separate agency along the lines of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency? How might it be possible to maintain or recruit a cohort of physical scientists, knowledgeable about nuclear technologies?

How do you ensure that information and ideas on nuclear issues reach the ear of the new President? What should be the most effective system for ensuring cooperation and policy coherence among the Departments of State, Energy, Defense, and Homeland Security?

These and many other issues were raised at the two meetings of the task group and the conveners have drafted a Report from the Point of View meetings that they hope will have an impact on the Presidential campaign, the thinking of the transitional team that becomes active after November 2008, and on policy-making after January 2009—a result which could be the first of many such to emerge from meetings and working groups at ICAR's new research, retreat, and conference center on Mason Neck.

The entire report on "Securing the Nonproliferation Capability at the Department of State" can be downloaded off the internet at <http://icar.gmu.edu>. ■



**Institute for Conflict  
Analysis and Resolution**

3401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS 4D3, Arlington, VA 22201

Non-profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Fairfax, VA  
Permit No. 1532