

Editor's Note

Jan Goldman

Hanging on the wall of my office is the front page of the *New York Times* dated January 28, 2006. Above the fold (newspaper jargon for the top half of the page) is an article with the headline, "Outfitting Spies with New Tool: Moral Compass." The article describes a two-day conference in a small hotel on the outskirts of Washington, DC. The focus of the conference was on the role of ethics in intelligence operations. It was the first conference of its kind to be held anywhere, and it launched the beginning of a new era. Professional and ethical conduct in support of national security was associated with, if not mostly considered inherently, unethical work. The legitimacy of intelligence as a subject to be developed as an academic field of study greatly accelerated after reports of prisoner abuse during the U.S. conflict in Iraq during the post-9/11 era.

After the conference, the International Intelligence Ethics Association (see page 180 for more information) was formed, and several books have been published exploring the relationship between ethical and moral conduct in intelligence work. An annual conference on ethics and intelligence continues to be held every year sponsored by this association.

This journal is the result of the development and expansion of the field of knowledge, in both theory and practice, of the role of ethics in intelligence operations. Without a doubt, practitioners and academics from diverse and common backgrounds are interested in this topic. Those in professions either directly or indirectly related to the type of work done in intelligence operations—including sociology, psychology, public administration, law, and philosophy—as well as those working in or interested in national security will find this journal useful. Other professions have been equally vexed in applying ethics to their members. The intelligence profession is not alone, nor is any profession dependent on collecting and utilizing data. For

example, anthropologists and sociologists are concerned with the limits in their ability to conduct primary research without deceiving their subjects.

This journal is also intended for educated and interested citizens concerned with how intelligence is conducted, collected, and utilized on their behalf for their security. It is hoped that with this journal, we can begin to penetrate the fog of ethical ambiguity with a moral compass, even if this compass points us where we may not want to go. This journal has no "axe to grind" and shall always be nonpartisan and apolitical. Consequently, this journal will also be looking for well-researched articles that deem ethical conduct ill suited for this profession. The goal of this journal is to invite suggestions for articles, book reviews, and case studies that are multidisciplinary and academically oriented to a professional and well-informed audience, that will engage and challenge, and that are not polemic but supported by reason and substance. This journal represents an ongoing attempt to develop and expand the field of knowledge in ethics and intelligence, which has not been fully explored in a consistent manner anywhere else. It is my hope that discussion of ethics in intelligence operations will become common, so that it will no longer make the front page of any newspaper.