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Letter from the Editor

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

This issue of the sixth volume of the *National Security Law Brief* focuses on the ongoing discussion of which laws apply and how they are applied in the newest frontier, cyberspace. The *Transiting the Seas of Cyberspace* article addresses the concept of sovereignty in cyberspace and the technological and theoretical requirements, benefits, and hindrances of remaining neutral in cyberspace during cyberwarfare. This article contends that States should not avoid utilizing offensive cyber operations for fear of violating the law of neutrality. The *Law of Armed Conflict and Cyber Attacks* article furthers the dialogue to consider the application of the United Nations Charter and unconventional warfare in the context of cyberspace. The *“Black” Hawala* article steps away from cyberspace to discuss terrorist financing through unregulated, disguised mediums while acknowledging the deeply ingrained cultural significance of hawalas in the Middle East. The *National Security Law Brief* continually seeks innovative ways to stay up-to-date on current topics in national security. This issue previews a new format of publication by highlighting two blog posts written by staff members. Each blog post addresses terrorism in the context of cyberspace. The *Internet Terrorism and Individual Privacy* blog post focuses on how far the First Amendment Freedom of Expression reaches when the speech regards radicalism, while the *Creating an iPhone Backdoor* blog post addresses creating technology to circumvent privacy protections when the subject matter relates to national security.

At our Spring 2016 Symposium, the *National Security Law Brief* was honored to host distinguished scholars to explore the topics of cyber backdoors and whether legal justification exists for their use when law enforcement seeks to retrieve access to a suspect’s iPhone. In a rich discussion, the speakers focused on the crossroads of the State’s need to access records regarding terrorism in a timely manner and an individual’s right to privacy.

Through the determination and dedication of our members and supporters, the *National Security Law Brief* continues to grow in reach and influence in the cutting-edge field of national security law. With great thanks to the members and advisors of the *National Security Law Brief*, I am proud to present this insightful and refreshing look at the current state of national security law.

Sincerely,



Desiree Hanssen
Editor-in-Chief

American University National Security Law Brief