

Communications

The Communications Department helped garner unprecedented attention this year for the Council's projects and programs. Mentions of the Council in the press were five times higher than last year, with Council-sponsored Independent Task Forces receiving more than 1,000 citations. Council fellows contributed to the international debate through thousands of television, radio, print, and online interviews and hundreds of articles and op-eds in leading media outlets.

In a television first for the Council, "Wargame: Iraq," a two-hour MSNBC special, featured Council President Leslie H. Gelb and Council fellows and members in mock National Security Council sessions gaming out possible scenarios leading up to the war. The Communications Department, working closely with the Outreach Program, posted an Iraq Resource Center on the Council's website well before the war broke out to give the press and the public an in-depth, easy-to-use source of information and analysis on U.S. policy on Iraq. The section was featured in the *International Herald Tribune's* "Editor's Choice" column for "Best Web Bets."

Website traffic also jumped dramatically as the press and the public sought out measured, reliable information on the war on terrorism, the war in Iraq, and other key foreign policy issues this year. Total traffic for the Council's websites, including *Foreign Affairs*, nearly doubled from the beginning of the program year, with more than half a million visitors viewing two million pages of Council content during busy months.

