

UNCLASSIFIED

AY 2017-2018 PROSPECTIVE RESEARCH TOPIC NOMINATION

*CLASSIFICATION:	Unclassified
*RESEARCH TOPIC TITLE:	Countering Criminal and Drug Trafficking Organizations in the Cyber Domain
*TOPIC DESCRIPTION	Is there a role for Department of Defense cyber capabilities to combat transnational criminal organizations and drug trafficking? If so, what is that role and how should DoD operationalize it?
*DATE SUBMITTED (YYYY-MM-DD)	2017-06-19
*EXTENDED TOPIC DESCRIPTION	Transnational criminal organizations (TCOs), and more specifically drug trafficking organizations (DTOs), use numerous internet tools to facilitate their criminal enterprises. Further, the narcotics market is growing in the “dark web” underground internet. Given that TCOs/DTOs make use of the cyber domain to facilitate their illicit activities, it is imperative to examine if and how U.S. government cyber capabilities might be used to counter TCO/DTOs in that domain. Do US-based distributors use cyber means to communicate a demand signal back to Mexico-based suppliers?
*DESIRED OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH	Countering Criminal and Drug Trafficking Organizations in the Cyber Domain
*REQUESTING/SPONSORING ORGANIZATION:	Joint Task Force North (JTF-N)
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DESIRED RESEARCH COMPLETION DATE (YYYY-MM-DD):	Standing topic – not time sensitive.
AVAILABLE FUNDING, IF ANY:	
COMMENTS	JTF-N can mentor students/researchers through refinement of this research topic and can assist with contacts with other interagency partners.