

UNCLASSIFIED
AY 2017-2018 PROSPECTIVE RESEARCH TOPIC NOMINATION

*CLASSIFICATION:	Unclassified
*RESEARCH TOPIC TITLE:	Institutionalizing the President’s “Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime”
*TOPIC DESCRIPTION	Has the interagency, and more specially, the Department of Defense, adequately operationalized, funded, and institutionalized Presidential and executive branch guidance on combatting transnational organized crime (CTOC) and countering threat networks (CTN). If not, why not? Recommend a way forward based on your analysis.
*DATE SUBMITTED (YYYY-MM-DD)	2017-06-19
*EXTENDED TOPIC DESCRIPTION	In 2011, President Obama released his “Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime” (CTOC), calling transnational organized crime “...a significant and growing threat to national and international security, with dire implications for public safety, public health, democratic institutions, and economic stability...” ¹ DoD did not publish a CJCS CD/CTOC Execute Order until April 2016, almost five years later. According to one journalist/author, members of many relevant U.S. government defense and law enforcement agencies are not even familiar with the term CTOC, much less the larger CTOC strategy. ² On 9 February 2017, President Trump signed an Executive Order on “Enforcing Federal Law with Respect to Transnational Criminal Organizations and Preventing International Trafficking.” Although focused on the Departments of State, Homeland Security, and Justice, the Executive Order calls for “a comprehensive and decisive approach” that will “maximize the extent to which all Federal agencies share information and coordinate with Federal law enforcement agencies...to identify, interdict, and dismantle transnational criminal organizations and subsidiary organizations.” ³ In a world of competing international threats, both DoD and its interagency partners have arguably failed to fully operationalize, fund, and institutionalize the CTOC mission despite a major issue for two Presidents. What have been the major impediments to advancing a whole of government CTOC approach? In light of competing requirements, how should DoD prioritize and contribute to CTOC? What further concrete steps should DoD take to fund and execute CTOC in coordination with its interagency partners?
*DESIRED OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH	Advance a whole of government approach to countering transnational organized crime and better define DoD’s appropriate role in that effort.
*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:	JTF-N may be able to support funding for TDY travel on a case-by-case basis.

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COMMENTS	<p>JTF-N can provide contacts for relevant personnel for discussion within the interagency.</p> <p><u>SOURCES CITED IN THE EXPANDED TOPIC DESCRIPTION ABOVE:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The White House, "Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime: Addressing Converging Threats to National Security," (Washington, D.C.: July 2011), 5.2. On the lack of familiarity with the CTOC concept within relevant government agencies and the public, see Tom Wainwright, <i>Narconomics: How to Run a Drug Cartel</i>, (New York: PublicAffairs, 2016).3. The White House, "Presidential Executive Order on Enforcing Federal Law with Respect to Transnational Criminal Organizations and Preventing International Trafficking," (Washington, D.C.: 9 February 2017). Available at https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/02/09/presidential-executive-order-enforcing-federal-law-respect-transnational. <p>JTF-N can mentor students/researchers through refinement of this research topic and can assist with contacts with other interagency partners.</p>
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