

UNCLASSIFIED
AY 2017-2018 PROSPECTIVE RESEARCH TOPIC NOMINATION

*CLASSIFICATION:	Unclassified
*RESEARCH TOPIC TITLE:	Interagency Coordination
*TOPIC DESCRIPTION	Using whole of government counter-drug (CD) efforts as a case study, what is the best way to navigate and synchronize efforts of multiple agencies with different visions, objective, and incentives to create unit of effort (countering illegal drugs)?
*DATE SUBMITTED (YYYY-MM-DD)	2017-06-19
*EXTENDED TOPIC DESCRIPTION	The counter-drug (CD) fight presents an excellent microcosm of the larger challenges to developing a whole of government, interagency approach to national level problems. The Department of Defense (both Title 10 and Title 32), Department of Homeland Security, and Department of Justice have all acknowledged a role in the CD enterprise, as do state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies, but each has separate and sometimes conflicting short-term equities, incentives, and bureaucratic interests. As one example, the measures of effectiveness by which one member of the interagency are judged by policy makers sometimes disincentives them from fully cooperating or sharing information with other members of the interagency. Agencies measured based on drug interdictions have a disincentive to cooperate with each other based on the fear that they may lose “credit” for interdictions. If only one organization can be “credited” for a seizure, and “assists” are not credited, cooperation can harm bureaucratic organizational interests. Similarly, investigative agencies must build legal cases against drug traffickers, reducing their incentives to share case sensitive information across the interagency, despite the fact that better information sharing might facilitate greater success for interdiction agencies. Investigative and interdiction focused agencies may seem themselves as in competition for funding with those focused on demand reduction and treatment. Organizational cultures may also preclude full cooperation. Identifying major barriers/disincentives to interagency cooperation and potential solutions to those barriers would advance a whole of government approach to the counter-drug fight and would provide larger lessons for other interagency efforts. Could “Goldwater-Nichols” type legislation overcome structural and cultural differences within DHS and DOJ?
*DESIRED OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH	Advance a whole of government approach to the counter-drug fight; derive generalizable lessons for other whole of government efforts
*REQUESTING/SPONSORING ORGANIZATION:	Joint Task Force North (JTF-N)
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FAX NUMBER (Commercial)	
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.
COMMENTS	JTF-N can mentor students/researchers through refinement of this research topic and can assist with contacts with other interagency partners.

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