

**UNCLASSIFIED**

**AY 2017-2018 PROSPECTIVE RESEARCH TOPIC NOMINATION**

<b>*CLASSIFICATION:</b>	Unclassified
<b>*RESEARCH TOPIC TITLE:</b>	Threat Analysis: Foreign Terrorist Organizations and Transnational Criminal Organizations
<b>*TOPIC DESCRIPTION</b>	Analyze the potential for convergence of transnational criminal organizations (TCOs) and foreign terrorist organizations (FTOs) in the USNORTHCOM AOR. Are such links likely, and if so, how should the U.S. government counter them to defend the homeland?
<b>*DATE SUBMITTED (YYYY-MM-DD)</b>	2017-06-19
<b>*EXTENDED TOPIC DESCRIPTION</b>	Various types of transnational criminal organizations (TCOs) have already converged. Along the southern borders and approaches to the United States, the network of drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) and alien smuggling organizations (ASOs) demonstrate significant overlap, with the same cartels moving drugs and trafficking/smuggling human persons. Further, ASOs could potentially move members for foreign terrorist organizations (FTOs) into the United States. In other regions, insurgent and foreign terrorist organizations (FTOs) significantly overlap with illicit criminal networks. Examples include South American and Asian insurgents and terrorists who fund rebellion and terror by trafficking drugs. Some analysts have suggest that a similar convergence between TCOs and FTOs is likely in the USNORTHCOM are of responsibility, posing a serious national security threat to the homeland.
<b>*DESIRED OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH</b>	Develop a better understanding of the potential threat to the homeland of DTO/FTO convergence.
<b>*REQUESTING/SPONSORING ORGANIZATION:</b>	Joint Task Force North (JTF-N)
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<b>DESIRED RESEARCH COMPLETION DATE (YYYY-MM-DD):</b>	Standing topic – not time sensitive.
<b>AVAILABLE FUNDING, IF ANY:</b>	JTF-N may be able to support funding for TDY travel on a case-by-case basis.
<b>COMMENTS</b>	JTF-N can mentor students/researchers through refinement of this research topic and can assist with contacts with other interagency partners.