

UNCLASSIFIED
AY 2017-2018 PROSPECTIVE RESEARCH TOPIC NOMINATION

*CLASSIFICATION:	Unclassified
*RESEARCH TOPIC TITLE:	COG Analysis of Drug Trafficking Organizations
*TOPIC DESCRIPTION	Applying center of gravity (COG) analysis to both drug trafficking transnational organizations (DTOs) and to the U.S. government (USG), how can the U.S. government better counter the narcotics threat, and how can DoD best contribute to that effort.
*DATE SUBMITTED (YYYY-MM-DD)	2017-06-19
*EXTENDED TOPIC DESCRIPTION	Drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) are an important subset of transnational criminal organizations (TCOs) and have already demonstrated significant overlap with other TCOs (i.e. human and alien smuggling organizations – ASOs). Classic center of gravity analysis of the USG and of various DTOs such as Mexican drug cartels could serve an important function in informing U.S. strategy to counter these organizations. Of note, analysis of multiple DTOs or cartels may produce different centers of gravity and critical strengths/vulnerabilities/requirements for each.
*DESIRED OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH	Use center of gravity analysis to maximize U.S. government and DoD effectiveness in countering drug trafficking organizations (DTOs).
*REQUESTING/SPONSORING ORGANIZATION:	Joint Task Force North (JTF-N)
*POINT OF CONTACT:	Ms. Lauren Schindler, Mr. Steve Wilke, & Dr. Ed Campbell
*MAILING ADDRESS:	250 S. Peterson Blvd, Peterson AFB, CO 80914-3820
EMAIL ADDRESS:	n-nc.peterson.n-ncj7.mbx.j72-education-team-omb.mail.mil
*TELEPHONE NUMBER (Commercial and DSN)	719-554-6357; 719-554-6843; 719-554-9059 (respectively)
FAX NUMBER (Commercial and DSN)	
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.