

UNCLASSIFIED

AY 2017-2018 PROSPECTIVE RESEARCH TOPIC NOMINATION

*RESEARCH TOPIC TITLE:	Countering “Narcoculture” Ideology
*TOPIC DESCRIPTION	Can the U.S. government play a role in developing and implementing (or assisting partners to develop and implement) a strategy to counter ideology/culture that promotes and shelters drug trafficking and transnational criminal organizations? If so, what is the appropriate role of the Department of Defense?
*DATE SUBMITTED (YYYY-MM-DD)	2017-06-19
*EXTENDED TOPIC DESCRIPTION	Some drug trafficking transnational criminal organizations (TCOs) have built public support for their activities both domestically and within source and transit zones. For instance, in Mexico, Sinaloa Cartel drug trafficking organization (DTO) leader Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman developed popular support and a “Robin Hood” image within his home state of Sinaloa, “narcocorridos” praise cartel leaders in popular songs, and parts of Mexican society have developed a “narcoculture” cultures that celebrates cartels. Some analysts have suggested that this narcoculture has developed adherents within the United States as well. The President’s “Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime” calls TCOs “...a significant and growing threat to national and international security, with dire implications for public safety, public health, democratic institutions, and economic stability...” Countering a culture that promotes and provides sanctuary to TCOs/DTOs would advance efforts to counter the threats these organizations provide to the United States and to the domestic stability of their home countries.
*DESIRED OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH	Advance counter-transnational organized crime (CTOC) efforts by countering ideology/culture that shelters criminal and drug-trafficking organizations.
*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.
COMMENTS	JTF-N may be able to provide contacts for relevant personnel for discussion within the interagency. As an example of pro-DTO public sentiment, see: Christopher Woody, “‘We are cheerful’: Drug Lord El Chapo Guzman Remains a Fugitive, and Some People in Mexico Like it that Way,” <i>Business Insider</i> (September 29, 2015), available at http://www.businessinsider.com/el-chapo-popularity-in-mexico-2015-7 ; also see Tom Wainwright, <i>Narconomics: How to Run a Drug Cartel</i> , (New York: PublicAffairs, 2016) for an explanation of how drug trafficking organizations build popular support.