

UNCLASSIFIED
Joint Task Force North
AY 2017-2018 PROSPECTIVE RESEARCH TOPIC NOMINATION

*CLASSIFICATION:	Unclassified
*RESEARCH TOPIC TITLE:	DOD Counter-Drug Effectiveness
*TOPIC DESCRIPTION	How should DoD measure the “effectiveness” of its counter drug efforts?
*DATE SUBMITTED (YYYY-MM-DD)	2017-06-19
*EXTENDED TOPIC DESCRIPTION	Currently, U.S. government agencies target all aspects of the drug trade, from crop eradication to transit zone interdiction to demand reduction and treatment of addicts. Much of DoD’s effort has focused on assisting law enforcement agencies in interdiction through the provision of military unique capabilities. However, the causal effects of these efforts on drug trafficking organizations, partnered governments, larger interagency efforts, and American drug abuse levels is complex and difficult to measure. In short, more acres of drug growing fields eradicated or more pounds of drugs seized in interdiction does not necessarily correlate to less domestic drug use. What measures of performance and measures of effectiveness should DoD (and DoD subordinate organizations) adopt to determine the effectiveness of its counter-drug contributions? How should DoD measure the effectiveness and quality of its supporting role contribution to other agencies when it is not the main effort? How should policy makers measure the value of DoD’s contribution to the whole of government counter-drug fight?
*DESIRED OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH	Identify clearer measures of effectiveness for the range of DoD counter-drug activities in order to facilitate better-informed decisions regarding resource allocation.
*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 can mentor students/researchers through refinement of this research topic and can assist with contacts with other interagency partners.