

UNCLASSIFIED
AY 2017-2018 PROSPECTIVE RESEARCH TOPIC NOMINATION

*CLASSIFICATION:	Unclassified
*RESEARCH TOPIC TITLE:	Homeland Joint Interagency Task Force (JIATF) to Combat Transnational Organized Crime (CTOC)
*TOPIC DESCRIPTION	Would a domestic Joint Interagency Task Force (JIATF) focused on combatting transnational organized crime (CTOC) better deliver planning, coordination, and information sharing protocols to counter transnational criminal threats to the homeland? If so, develop options for the creation of such a JIATF that account for (existing and required) resources, authorities, and policies and for the equities of participating organizations.
*DATE SUBMITTED (YYYY-MM-DD)	2017-06-19
*EXTENDED TOPIC DESCRIPTION	In 1989, President Bush established three Department of Defense counter-drug (CD) Joint Task Forces (JTFs): JTF-4, JTF-5, JTF-6. JTFs 4 and JTF 5 have since transitioned into Joint Interagency Task Force (JIATF) South and JIATF West, responsible for counter drug efforts in the Pacific and in South and Central American, respectively. However, JTF-6, now named JTF-North and responsible for the homeland and approaches, has remained a DOD JTF – <i>one without a permanent CD interagency coordinating mechanism</i> . On the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) side, DHS has lacked both operational level commands and the centralized authority and unity of effort among its numerous components that the Goldwater-Nichols Act provided the Department of Defense. DHS attempted to remedy these issues in part through DHS’s 2014 <i>Southern Borders and Approaches Campaign Plan</i> (SBACP), which created three DHS Joint Task Forces (Joint Task Force West, responsible for the southwest border; Joint Task Force East, responsible for the southeastern U.S. and maritime approaches; Joint Task Force Investigations). In 2017, DHS Secretary Kelley directed the DHS JTFs to focus on transnational counter-threat network (CTN) operations, while leaving daily “steady state” operations to individual DHS components. However, these JTFs are DHS specific (though with DOD liaisons and partnership). The creation of these DoD and DHS JTFs was in part the result of a need for joint, cross service coordination within the respective departments, but countering transitional drug and criminal networks requires whole of government coordination. In light of President Obama’s <i>2011 Strategy to Counter Transnational Organized Crime</i> , DHS’s creation of JTFs, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff CD/CTOC Execute Order (26APR16), and President Trump’s “Executive Order on Enforcing Federal Law with Respect to Transnational Criminal Organizations and Preventing International Trafficking” (9FEB17), would a CTOC or CTN-focused JIATF for the homeland better deliver planning, coordination, and information sharing protocols to counter transnational organized crime threats to the homeland? If so, develop options for the creation of such a JIATF that account for resources, authorities, and policies and for the equities of participating organizations. If not, recommend other mechanism for enhancing whole of government synchronization and unity of effort for CD, CTOC, and CTN.
*DESIRED OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH	Advance a whole of government approach to countering transnational criminal organizations and counter threat networks.
*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 and can provide access to operational level leaders for interviews and research.
COMMENTS	JTF-N can mentor students/researchers through refinement of this research topic and can assist with contacts with other interagency partners.