AY 2020-2021
PROSPECTIVE RESEARCH TOPIC NOMINATION

CLASSIFICATION:	UNCLASSIFIED
***RESEARCH TOPIC TITLE:**	Great Power Competition (GPC) in the Caribbean Information Environment (IE)
***TOPIC DESCRIPTION:**	This proposed project is a scalable, multi-faceted examination of Chinese and Russian malign influence activities, TCO trafficking networks, and HADR efforts in the Caribbean region through the construction and employment of Key Influencer (KI) networks starting with the six CRIOC partner nations: The Bahamas, Bermuda, Jamaica, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Turks and Caicos Islands. No systematic, sustained study has been conducted to measure (both qualitatively and quantitatively) the importance of the Caribbean to China, Russia and the TCOs. Specifically, resources spent by China and Russia on military equipment and training, infrastructure development projects, economic leverage, resource extraction, financial support to prominent politicians and divisive political movements, propaganda and disinformation campaigns, exploitation of social media platforms, corruption and bribery. Moreover, this project will measure the resources spent by the TCOs by gathering data from police arrests, seizures, media reports, court records, and NGO reports. More importantly, key information will be collected from KI networks of experts on the ground who have first-hand knowledge of trafficking networks (drugs, arms, human), illegal poaching, counterfeit products, and cybercrime (i.e., lottery scams).
***DESIRED OBJECTIVES:**	This project will provide a baseline assessment of the Caribbean information environment (IE) and leverage Key Influencer (KI) networks for expert advice on targeting, product/content development, messaging, and will measure the effectiveness of a Caribbean Information Operations Council (CRIOC) Military Information Support Operations (MISO) series.
EXTENDED TOPIC DESCRIPTION :	Note: CRIOC White Paper: Key Influencer (KI) Network Project in the Caribbean (26June 20) Available Measure and Track: • Resources spent by China and Russia on military equipment and training, infrastructure and development projects, and foreign aid • Document cases of Chinese and Russian economic leverage, resource extraction, financial support to prominent politicians and divisive political movements • Highlight Chinese and Russian propaganda and disinformation campaigns, exploitation of social media platforms, and cases of corruption and bribery • Resources spent by the TCOs by gathering data from police arrests, seizures, court records, media reports, and NGO reports • Document first-hand knowledge of trafficking networks (drugs, arms, human), illegal poaching, counterfeit products, and cybercrime (i.e., lottery scams) • Growing Chinese, Russian and TCO under-the-radar hotspots across the region • Chinese, Russian and TCO influence and attempts at political instability across the region • "Dual use" and other suspect economic investments that can have military and security applications (both offensive and defensive) • Expert and key influencer opinions on the emerging Caribbean defense and security threat environment • Timing, coordination and outcomes pertinent to Caribbean HADR initiatives Identify: • Chinese and Russian Caribbean policies, including formal and informal positions staked by government and non-government influencers • Potential political, legal, and physical challenges by China, Russia, their surrogates and TCOs to destabilize established governance structures and norms in the Caribbean • Shifts in Chinese, Russian and TCO objectives in the Caribbean, vis-à-vis economic development, shipping, arms spending, and governance initiatives • Chinese state-owned, Russian and TCO investments in the Caribbean, with a special focus on strategic resource extraction and illegal poaching
*** REQUESTING/SPONSORING ORGANIZATION:**	NORAD and USNORTHCOM/J39
***SUBMISSION DATE:**	August 4, 2020
DESIRED COMPLETION DATE:	January 9th, 2021
***POINT OF CONTACT:**	Dr. Ed Campbell
***MAILING ADDRESS:**	250 S. Peterson Blvd Peterson AFB, CO 80914-3285
***EMAIL ADDRESS:**	n-nc.peterson.n-ncj7.mbx.j72-education-team-omb@mail.mil
***TELEPHONE NUMBER (Commercial and DSN)**	719-554-9059
FAX NUMBER (Commercial and DSN):	
AVAILABLE FUNDING, IF ANY:	None
COMMENTS:	This project supports Global Integration (CJCSI 3050.01, 31 Dec 18) by providing USNORTHCOM, USSOUTHCOM, SOCNORTH, SOCSOUTH, JIATFS, MOD-UK, and CJOC the ability to proactively respond to Chinese, Russian and TCO malign influence activities in the Caribbean Information Environment (IE) . It gives the United States and its trusted allies the ability to counter Chinese, Russian, and TCO influence in the Caribbean region. This project offers in-depth analytical input from regional experts and ground-truth feedback from key influencers to place key Caribbean threats, propaganda and disinformation campaigns, and influence activities into perspective. Tracking of Chinese, Russian, and TCO activity in the region will quantify their interest and substantiate – or invalidate – security messaging from those adversaries. Likewise, finding opportunities for collaboration and synchronization with Caribbean militaries, police forces, and HADR first responders will help CRIOC members nations better respond to hurricanes and catastrophic natural disasters to save lives.

PLEASE NOTE: * DENOTES MANDATORY FOR SUBMISSION TO THE DATABASE