

UNCLASSIFIED
AY 2017-2018 PROSPECTIVE RESEARCH TOPIC NOMINATION

*CLASSIFICATION:	Unclassified
*RESEARCH TOPIC TITLE:	Southwest Border Training Lessons for Overseas Contingency Missions
*TOPIC DESCRIPTION	Evaluate the southwest border as a training environment for overseas operational contingency environments. What training objectives can DoD units meet in southwest border counter-drug/counter-transnational organized crime focused missions that increase their readiness for overseas deployments?
*DATE SUBMITTED (YYYY-MM-DD)	2017-06-19
*EXTENDED TOPIC DESCRIPTION	Joint Task Force North (JTF-N) provides training opportunities for military units that simultaneously support federal law enforcement agencies in countering drug trafficking and trans-national criminal threats. Examples of these training missions in the subterranean, ground, air, and maritime domains include: detection and monitoring (aviation reconnaissance, air and maritime surveillance radar, unmanned aircraft system missions, ground surveillance radar, listening posts/observation posts, ground sensor operations, etc.); mobility support to include road construction for DoD horizontal engineer units; and intelligence analysis. Many of these missions take place along the southwest border of the United States and the adjacent littorals, in a wide variety of austere terrains, and against adaptive, thinking adversaries. Units performing these missions report a high correlation between the training and their mission essential tasks (approx. 90%). Given this correlation, a systematic study of training along the southwest border may present larger lessons that the Department of Defense and the services can apply to operations and contingency missions overseas. It may also suggest modifications to JTF-N missions to allow them to improve volunteer unit training and readiness.
*DESIRED OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH	Identify readiness objectives and determine how to optimize southwest border training to prepare units for overseas contingency missions
*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 provide AARs and points of contact from units that have conducted training missions for JTF-N. It can also provide points of contact to interagency law enforcement partners involved in these missions.