MISSION

Joint Task Force North supports drug law enforcement agencies in the conduct of counterdrug/counter narco-terrorism operations in the U.S. Northern Command theater of operations to disrupt transnational criminal organizations and deter their freedom of action in order to protect the homeland.

HISTORY

For nearly 30 years, Joint Task Force North (JTFN) has played an integral role in supporting law enforcement efforts in the nation's counter drug campaign along the U.S. border.

Based on Fort Bliss, Texas, JTFN serves as a joint service command comprised of active-duty and Reserve-component Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, Department of Defense (DOD) civilian employees, and contracted support personnel.

JTFN is the DOD organization tasked to support U.S. law enforcement agencies in the identification and interdiction of suspected transnational criminal organizations' activities conducted within and along the nation's southwest border and entries to the United States.

As an element of U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM), JTFN operates within NORTHCOM's entire area of responsibility – encompassing North America and the Caribbean and including air, land and sea approaches.

NORTHCOM, based in Colorado Springs, Colorado, was established Oct. 1, 2002, to provide command and control of DOD homeland defense efforts and to coordinate defense support to civil authorities. NORTHCOM anticipates and conducts homeland defense and civil support operations to defend, protect and secure the United States and its interests. NORTHCOM is also responsible for theater security cooperation with Canada and Mexico.

"For nearly 30 years, Joint Task Force North has provided unique capabilities in support of our law enforcement partners in the homeland. We are steadfast in our commitment to countering transnational organized crime threats and the illicit drugs that they bring in our country. Military units that support our headquarters gain invaluable, mission-focused training against an adaptive adversary. These DOD units are better trained in their mission-required tasks, and law enforcement partners can better complete their tasks to secure the homeland."

Army Brig. Gen. Kurt S. Crytzer
Commander, Joint Task Force North

JOINT TASK FORCE NORTH

"SERVICE TO THE NATION"

Joint Task Force North
Building 11603,
Old Ironsides Drive
Fort Bliss, Texas 79918-0058

To request support or to inquire about training opportunities, please contact:

JTFN Joint Operations Coordination Center
915.313.7777

Email:
n.nc.bliss.jtf.n.list-jocc-all-dl@mail.mil

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JOINT TASK FORCE NORTH

"SERVICE TO THE NATION"

JOINT TASK FORCE NORTH-SUPPORTED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES INCLUDE:

Department of Justice
- Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)
- El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC)

High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) programs

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)
- Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
- United States Coast Guard (USCG)
- DHS Joint Task Force – West (JTF-W)
- DHS Joint Task Force – East (JTF-E)
- DHS Joint Task Force – Investigations (JTF-I)

Regional Partnerships
- Caribbean Border Integration Group (CBIG)
- Corpus Christi Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RECOM)
- New Mexico/West Texas Alliance to Combat Transnational Threats (ACTT)
- Arizona Alliance to Combat Transnational Threats (ACTT)
- California Coastal Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RECOM)
- San Diego Regional Coordination Mechanism (RECOM)

NOTE: JTFN can support any Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security or High Intensity Drug Trafficking area organization or component.

MILITARY SUPPORT TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

JTFN missions support drug law enforcement agencies. All military support for homeland security is based on support requests and threat assessments. Support requests are submitted to JTFN by federal law enforcement agencies from the Department of Justice and High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) programs.

For support requests that are appropriate and in compliance with statutory guidelines for domestic employment of military forces, JTFN will seek military units to volunteer the requested operational support. Once a unit volunteers to support the drug law enforcement agencies, JTFN facilitates mission planning and execution with the unit and the supported agency.

JTFN is an effects multiplier assisting law enforcement agencies to secure the homeland by providing supplemental and unique capabilities.

MILITARY TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer units have repeatedly remarked in after-action reports that JTFN homeland security support missions provided them with the best training they have ever received. Missions yield significant real-world training values that enhance the volunteer unit's combat effectiveness against dynamic transnational threats.

Volunteer units are able to exercise 90 percent of their wartime mission tasks in unique training environments, which may include desert or mountainous terrain. Military support operations to law enforcement closely mirror duties that units will perform in contingency deployments, to include military combat structures that support civilian authorities.

While executing JTFN missions, units may also concurrently conduct additional training at some of the nation's best training ranges located near the mission sites. Moreover, flexibility in mission execution dates allows units to integrate JTFN missions into their pre-deployment training cycle.

To maximize training value to the unit, JTFN assigns field grade officers as mission planners to assist volunteer units throughout the entire mission planning and execution process.

To encourage volunteer units, JTFN normally funds most mission-related costs to include transportation of personnel and equipment, billeting and rations, expendable supplies, and service support contracts required for mission accomplishment.

JTFN'S SUPPORT TO FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES FALLS INTO THE FOLLOWING SIX CATEGORIES:

- **Operational Support**

Air, ground and maritime surveillance radar
Aviation support missions
Aviation reconnaissance
Ground sensor operations
Ground transportation
Unmanned aircraft systems

- **Engineering Support**

(Southwest border only)
Road/bridge construction and improvement
Border lights installation
Personnel/vehicle barriers

- **Intelligence Support**

Intelligence analytic support
Intelligence preparation of the operational environment
Geospatial intelligence support
Reserve intelligence analyst support

- **General Support**

Transportation
Tunnel detection
Sustainment

- **Interagency synchronization**

Cooperative defense – facilitating bi-national information sharing
Point of integration operations
Support interagency planning process

- **Technology Integration**

Biometrics
Ground/air/maritime sensor integration
Information efficiency and networks
Leverage Department of Defense science and technology investment