



"It is a tremendous honor and privilege to serve alongside the Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen, and Civilians of Joint Task Force-North. They are America's greatest asset, and provide the critical link between Defense Department capabilities and our law enforcement and homeland security partners. Together, we continue to disrupt the illicit drug trade and its associated violence along our southern border and Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs) are the leading driver of the illicit drug trade in the United States, fueling our opioid epidemic. Overdoses from these illicit drugs continue to be the leading cause of deaths among Americans under the age of 50, contributing to over 70,000 estimated deaths in 2017. The illicit drug trade remains pervasive and is eroding the safety and health of American communities. Further, the potential exists for terrorist or other threat organizations to partner with TCOs and threaten our national defense.

Joint Task Force-North provides 30 years of experience and unique capabilities to overcome these challenges. Active duty, National Guard, and Reserve military personnel optimize the interagency partnership by providing invaluable support to our law enforcement partners that leads to effective counter-drug operations. Supporting units have the additional benefit of training mission essential tasks in an austere environment and increasing wartime mission readiness.

Joint Task Force-North has proudly served America since it was established in 1989, and will work tirelessly to increase interoperability among our partners to strengthen our border and protect the homeland."

"Guardian 6"

MG Reginald G. A. Neal, US Army
Commander, Joint Task Force-North

PROTECTING THE HOMELAND

HISTORY

For 30 years, Joint Task Force North (JTF-N) has played an integral role in supporting law enforcement efforts in the nation's counterdrug campaign along the U.S. border.

Based on Fort Bliss, Texas, JTF-N 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.

JTF-N provides DoD active-duty support to U.S. law enforcement agencies in the identification and interdiction of transnational criminal organizations' activities within and along the nation's borders and entries into the United States.

As an element of U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM) and under operational control of U.S. Army North (ARNORTH), JTF-N operates within NORTHCOM's entire area of responsibility – encompassing most of North America and the Caribbean and including air, land and sea approaches.

Over its history, JTF-N has conducted more than 6,400 missions in support of law enforcement agencies. In the last 16 years, it has assisted these agencies in the seizure of over \$15.2 billion in illegal drugs, keeping them off American streets.



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**To request support or to
inquire about training
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JOINT TASK FORCE NORTH PROTECTING THE HOMELAND



MISSION

Joint Task Force North supports federal law enforcement agencies in the conduct of counter drug/counter transnational organized crime operations and facilitates Department of Defense training in the USNORTHCOM area of responsibility to disrupt transnational criminal organizations and deter their freedom of action in order to protect the homeland and increase DoD unit readiness.

JOINT TASK FORCE NORTH PARTNERS

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)

Department of Justice (DoJ)

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

High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program

Regional Partnerships

- Caribbean Border Interagency 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)

National Guard

- National Guard Bureau (NGB)
- States' National Guard Counter Drug Programs

MILITARY SUPPORT TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

JTF-N missions support counter drug law enforcement agencies with active-duty and Reserve military forces. JTF-N works closely with the National Guard Bureau and states' National Guard counter drug programs to synchronize active-duty and National Guard counter drug support maximizing DoD's contribution. Federal law enforcement partners from the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, and High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) programs submit support requests to JTF-N. JTF-N provides operational support based on these requests and a comprehensive threat assessment.

Once a military unit agrees to participate, JTF-N facilitates mission planning and execution with the unit and the supported agency.

JTF-N is an effects multiplier, assisting law enforcement agencies to secure the homeland by providing supplemental and unique capabilities.

NOTE: JTF-N can support any DoJ, DHS or HIDTA organization or component.

BENEFITS TO MILITARY UNITS

In after-action reports, participating military units have repeatedly remarked that JTF-N homeland security support missions are among the best readiness opportunities in which they have ever participated. Missions yield significant real-world operational experience that enhance unit's combat effectiveness against dynamic transnational threats.

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

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

To maximize value to the unit, JTF-N assigns field grade officers as mission planners to assist participating units throughout the mission planning and execution process.

JTF-N 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.



"I wish we had conducted this ground recon mission before our CTC rotation. Our troopers would have performed area reconnaissance and security operations at a higher level,"
- Commander, 6-1 CAV

CATEGORIES OF JTF-N SUPPORT TO FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

PROTECTING THE HOMELAND

Operational Support

- Air, ground and maritime surveillance radar
- Aviation support missions
- Aviation reconnaissance
- Ground sensor operations
- Ground reconnaissance 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
- Mobile Training Teams/Table Top Exercises

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