

## USAWC lecture explores cartels, gangs and governance

By Curt Keester 23 February 2018



*Army War College professor Dr. Paul Kan discusses cartels, gangs and governance, with students of the Army War College here, Jan. 29. The Global Issues Noontime Lectures is a new war college program that complements the Regional Studies Program.*

**CARLISLE, Pa. (Feb. 5, 2018)** – How does organized crime affect the study of strategy and defense? An Army War College expert in crime explains how criminal organizations influence international security issues.

The Mafia, gangs and other criminal organizations are responsible for illegal activities that threaten national security including murder, human trafficking and extortion, as Army War College students learned from Dr. Paul Kan, a professor of National Security Studies, in a **Global Issues Noontime Lecture here, Jan. 29.**

“There are other national security issues ... that are equally, if not more important, to countries and regions and don’t involve internal conflict, or wars across borders, but can be just as destabilizing,” said Kan.

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Organized crime is essentially a business, Kan explained, dedicated to generating illicit profit through various means including the sale of drugs, counterfeit goods and weapons.

Organized criminals often use violence strategically to enforce contracts, to protect their internal security or to promote their prestige and reputation. Kan used the example of Pablo Escobar's practice of influencing through violence or corruption. "Lead of the bullet or silver of the bribe," Kan said.

"Organized crime is in fact a powerful force, and it adds a greater complexity to the international security environment that we as national security professionals need to be aware of," said Kan. "Organized crime does shape many societies and U.S. national security in some profound ways. Think about Russian organized crime, North Korea and, even, terrorist attacks.

"So finding ways to understand organized crime is going to be a key part of the future when it comes to looking at the strategic environment," he added.

**Learn more from Kan in his podcast with War Room's Jacqueline Whitt: "Organized Crime, not what you see on TV."**

A war college professor since 2005, Kan holds a Ph.D. from the Josef Korbel School of International Studies of the University of Denver. He authored three books on the topic include, "Drug Trafficking and International Security (Peace and Security in the 21st Century)," published in 2016, "Cartels at War: Mexico's Drug-Fueled Violence and the Threat to U.S. National Security," published in 2012, and "Drugs and Contemporary Warfare," published in 2009, as well as server monographs for the USAWC Press.

Global Issues Noontime Lectures is a new war college program that complements the Regional Studies Program,

according to Regional Studies director Col. Ian Lyles, about the lecture series that explores regionally-based issues with global implications.