

# Knowing Your Partner: The Evolution of Brazilian Special Operations Forces

JSOU Report 12-7 Knowing Your Partner: The Evolution of SOF Pinheiro



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Alvaro de Souza Pinheiro  
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**On the cover:**

Top left: Members of the Commandos Actions Detachment/1st Commandos Actions Battalion conduct a counterterrorism urban terrain live fire tactical exercise. (Photo courtesy Brazilian Army Special Operations Brigade)

Top right: Peace Special Operations Detachment sniper in a fire position at the National Government Palace in Port au Prince, Haiti. (Photo courtesy Brazilian Army Special Operations Brigade)

Bottom left: Members from the Navy Combat Divers Group's Rescue and Retaking Special Group carrying out a counterterrorism tactical exercise. (Photo courtesy Tecnologia & Defesa)

Bottom right: Soldiers from the Special Forces Operational Detachment/1st Special Forces Battalion carrying out a Military Freefall infiltration in the Amazon region. (Author's collection)





*Knowing Your Partner:  
The Evolution of  
Brazilian Special  
Operations Forces*

Alvaro de Souza Pinheiro

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## Foreword

**R**etired Brazilian Army Major General Alvaro de Souza Pinheiro, in his monograph highlights the importance of knowing our partners. The United States and Brazil have shared an interesting history as allies in World War II and at times economic and geopolitical competitors, and will continue to partner in the future.

He begins by presenting a Brazilian point of view of the post-9/11 world, of irregular warfare, asymmetric warfare (recognized by Brazil as 4th Generation Warfare), and the importance of Special Operations Forces (SOF) as a tool of national power to address the challenges the world faces today. He also provides the reader an overview of Brazil's geography, the rich tapestry of its people, its economy, its government, and Brazilian policy toward the United States.

General Pinheiro then presents a history and overview of Brazilian SOF units from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force. Brazilian Army SOF tradition dates back to the 17th century during the colonial period where European powers competed for dominance in the New World. In Brazil, Native and Portuguese Brazilians teamed to wage war against the Dutch utilizing unconventional tactics carried out by small independent teams. National heroes of independence from the mid and late 1600's, Francisco Padilha and Antonio Dias Cardoso, are considered the inspiration for Brazilian Commandos and Special Forces. Modern day Brazilian Army SOF pioneers attended U.S. Army schools and founded Brazil's Special Operations Course in 1958, which later expanded to include Commando Actions, Special Forces, and Jungle Operations qualifications courses. In 2002 the Brazilian Special Operations Brigade (Brigada de Operações Especiais) was created by presidential decree.

The Brazilian Navy Combat Divers Group was founded at the end of World War II with the assistance of the U.S. Navy. Brazilian Underwater Demolition Team members were also among the first graduates of U.S. Navy SEAL training in 1964. The Special Operations Marine Corps Battalion also traces its roots back to the mid 19th century.

Brazilian Air Force units such as the Airborne Rescue Squadrons and Paratrooper Search and Rescue can be compared to U.S. special operations and rescue C-130, helicopter, and pararescue units.

In the U.S., SOF is inherently joint, and General Pinheiro wraps up with a recent history of joint operations carried out by Brazilian SOF units. He describes Joint Special Operations Task Forces (*Forças Tarefa Conjuntas de Operações Especiais*) and why they are the force of choice for Brazil today and for the future. As U.S. Special Operations Command looks to thicken the global SOF network, General Pinheiro's monograph is a must read for the American SOF operator in order to better know our partners.

Kenneth H. Poole, Ed.D.  
Director, JSOU Strategic Studies Department

## About the Author

**B**razilian Major General (Ret.) Alvaro de Souza Pinheiro is a Joint Special Operations University (JSOU) Associate Fellow and a member of JSOU's Editorial Advisory Board. He is a 1967 graduate of the Brazilian Army Military Academy and is a qualified paratrooper, jumpmaster, pathfinder, commando, Special Forces, and also SCUBA and military freefall qualified.

In 1973, he attended Special Forces operations and military freefall training at the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School and trained with the 7<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

As a major, he was an instructor at the Combined Arms School, and in 1983 graduated from the Command and General Staff Officer Course. He served as operations officer in a motorized infantry brigade before returning to the Command and General Staff School as a tactics instructor. In 1989, as a lieutenant colonel he was assigned commander of the 1st Special Forces Battalion, the Brazilian Army's unit specializing in special operations, unconventional warfare, and counterterrorism. Promoted to colonel, he was the Brazilian Army Special Forces commandant until he was assigned to the Policy, Strategy and Army's High Administration Course in 1992. After graduating from the Brazilian Army War College, he became a staff officer at the Land Operations Command.

From 1994 to 1996, he was the Brazilian Army Liaison Officer to the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center (CAC), Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, advising the CAC commandant on the Brazilian defense policy and Latin America security issues. At that time, he had the opportunity to support the Command and General Staff College, National Simulation Center, Foreign Military Studies Office, Center for Army Lessons Learned, and the Battle Command Battle Laboratory. He was also the consultant editor of *Military Review*, Brazilian Edition. At that time, *Military Review* published English, Spanish, and Brazilian Editions of his article: "Guerrillas in the Brazilian Amazon: The Past, the Present and the Future," in 1996.



Returning to Brazil, he served as chief of the Peacekeeping Operations Branch at the Brazilian Army General Staff from 1996 to 1998. In this position, he was in charge of numerous activities related to peace operations:

- a. General guidance, coordination, and control of the Brazilian Army contingents for the UNAVEM III and MONUA (Angola), MINUGUA (Guatemala), UNFICYP (Cyprus), MARMINCA (Demining Supervisors in Central America) and MOMEPE (Ecuador and Peru) missions
- b. Coordinator of the Brazilian Army Studies Group for the United Nations Standby Arrangements and Rapid Deployment Mission Headquarters
- c. Chief of the Brazilian Delegation on the Third United Nations Peacekeeping Training Assistance Team (III UNTAT) Seminar
- d. Co-director of the “United Forces 97,” peacekeeping training exercise involving the U.S. Southern Command, Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay, Venezuela, and the United Nations DPKO

Promoted to Major General in 1998, he was assigned, in sequence, commandant of the Brazilian Army Operational Test and Evaluation Center and the Combined Arms School (“Home of the Captain”). His last position before retiring in July 2002 was the Third Deputy Chief of Staff (Doctrine, Plans, and Strategy) at the Brazilian Army General Staff. In this position he was in charge of the conception and activation of the Brazilian Army Special Operations Brigade.

General Pinheiro was the Brazilian Army representative on the “Gen. Mark Clark-Gen. Mascarenhas de Moraes Lecture Exchange” in 2001, when he lectured about Brazilian Army issues at the U.S. Command General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth; the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York; and the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania. He was also chief of the Brazilian Delegation at the “XVIII U.S. and Brazilian Armies Staff Talks” in 2002 at Fort Benning, Georgia.

He has been guest speaker for the U.S. Air Force Special Operations School “Latin America Orientation Course,” Hurlburt Field, Florida; “Joint Operational Global Seminar” (U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command), May 2004, Williamsburg, Virginia; and “Brazil’s Defense Approach Toward a Changing Security Environment Workshop,” September 2004, Fort McNair, Washington, D.C.

In May 2005, he attended the JSOU “Strategic Studies Workshop,” in Hurlburt Field, Florida; in May 2006, he attended the JSOU First Annual Symposium – “Countering Global Insurgency;” in May 2007, he attended the JSOU Second Annual Symposium – “Irregular Warfare: Strategic Utility of SOF,” presenting the theme “Validity of Irregular Warfare as a Model for SOF.” In June 2007, in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and in June 2009, in Goiânia, Brazil, he was guest speaker on the Exercise *FUERZAS COMANDO* (U.S. Special Operations Command South). In April 2009, he attended the “Counterterrorism: The Colombian Experience” conference in Bogota, Colombia, presenting the theme “Brazil/Colombia Cooperation in the Amazon Region.” In March 2010, he was a JSOU Panel Coordinator at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Sovereign Challenge Conference, Key West, Florida.

General Pinheiro’s personal Brazilian awards and decorations include the *Pacificador com Palma* (Pacifactor with Leaf) Medal for bravery in action, and the *Ordem do Mérito Militar* (Military Merit Order), and he also has been awarded the U.S. Meritorious Service Medal and the U.S. Army Commendation Medal.

In retirement, General Pinheiro resides with his family in Rio de Janeiro and is a senior military analyst and security consultant.

His JSOU publications are *Narcoterrorism in Latin America, A Brazilian Perspective* (April 2006) and *Irregular Warfare: Brazil’s Fight Against Criminal Urban Guerrillas* (September 2009).





## 1. Introduction

If combined special operations are to be conducted effectively in the complex strategic environment of a post 9/11 world, then it is necessary to have a sound understanding of each nation's interests, defense policies, and Special Operations Forces (SOF) capabilities and practices. This monograph contributes to that goal by exploring avenues for U.S.-Brazilian SOF interaction and cooperation. It provides on an overview of Brazil, its national security and defense policy, and current relations with the United States. This monograph describes the history and present organization of Brazilian SOF and considers its future. To this end, the purpose of this monograph is to offer the U.S. Special Operations Forces (USSOF) community a portrait of Brazilian SOF in areas such as the Tri-Border Area of the Southern Cone, and other operational environments.

### **SOF and an Old Threat with a Dramatic New Face**

The tragic 11 September 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and the crash in Pennsylvania traumatically illustrated the deadly threat to international peace and security the global community faces today. Toward the end of the 20th century, the fall of the Berlin Wall and the dissolution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) created a new global security geopolitical environment. Cold War stability, with its clearly defined spheres of influence and interests, is no longer present; its characteristic predictability is completely defused. Contrary to expectations, a new era of peace and cooperation did not occur. The world was soon threatened by a sequence of crisis and conflicts based on ethnic, cultural, ideological, and religious confrontations. In this context, failed states, without the ability to fulfill the basic needs of their populations, became fertile fields for the proliferation of extremist violence. The end of the bipolar era in international politics saw the emergence of the United States as the global superpower.

The Gulf War of 1991 and military operations in the Balkans throughout the 1990s were follow-on developments that demonstrated the omnipotent nature of aerospace power and technology in warfare. Analysts from all continents began to discuss the rise of a revolution in military affairs, in light of what it represented, especially the dominance of information technology.

It seemed crystal clear that the leading actor in all these events, the United States, along with its traditional allies, was exponentially superior economically, military, and technologically to any potential enemy.

But the attacks of September 11 were a significant indication of how future conflicts were to be conducted around the globe. For those who saw the United States and its allies as enemies, the old strategic concept of asymmetric warfare conducted within the irregular warfare environment was a way to overcome their immense technological and military superiority. The tragic events of 9/11 that claimed more than 3,000 noncombatant lives showed the world that small extremist groups were capable of inflicting devastating aggression. This attack upon the homeland of the world's sole hegemonic superpower was unprecedented. This was the realization of an old threat with a dramatic new face: an enemy fanatical to the point of believing that assassinating people in God's name opens the entrance to paradise.

The U.S. responded immediately with what was originally coined the "Global War on Terror." Beyond unleashing the campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq, a series of measures were implemented, based on the lessons learned from the investigations that were the basis of the "9/11 Commission Report." This enabled a series of decisions at the Executive and Legislative branches of the U.S. Government. The Director of National Intelligence position and the Department of Homeland Security were created. The Patriot Act was approved by Congress, by which it was now possible to investigate suspicious individuals without formal judicial accusations. And importantly the role of the United States Special Operations Command was expanded as the leader in synchronizing the Department of Defense effort to counter Violent Extremist Organizations.

On the other hand, the successful terrorist attack by al-Qaeda, led by the late Saudi millionaire Osama bin Laden, produced a sense of vulnerability and fear within U.S. society. The unpredictable nature of asymmetric war and the use of terrorism by irregular actors employing well-financed, organized, and trained groups were seen as an intractable threat by a good portion of the public, as well as some national security authorities.

However, it was soon made clear that, in spite of the perverse threat, terrorist groups can be defeated. The beginning of the Afghanistan Campaign showed the world that effective and efficient SOF, correctly supported by reliable and timely intelligence, can constitute significant factors in

neutralizing the threats to stability and its maintenance. The image of SOF carried from World War II, and, moreover, from the Vietnam War, was of fierce commandos, whose sole specialization was the execution of high risk, violent raids, and selective eliminations. This image may be eminently fit for the Hollywood movie screens but is quite distorted; the performance and capabilities of these special operations professionals has evolved and expanded significantly. Today, the U.S. definition is also doctrinally adopted within Brazilian SOF as a well-established concept that:

[Special Operations] SO are conducted in all environments, but are particularly well suited for denied and politically sensitive environments. SO can be tailored to achieve not only military objectives through application of SOF capabilities for which there are no broad conventional force requirements, but also to support the application of the diplomatic, informational, and economic instruments of national power. SO are typically low visibility or clandestine operations. SO are applicable across the range of military operations. They can be conducted independently or in conjunction with operations of conventional forces (CF), other government agencies (OGAs), or host nations (HNs)/partner nations (PNs), and may include operations with or through indigenous, insurgent, and/or irregular forces. SO differ from conventional operations in degree of physical and political risk, operational techniques, modes of employment, and dependence on detailed operational intelligence and indigenous assets.<sup>1</sup>

Globalization has become the dominant characteristic of the strategic environment throughout the world, affecting economics, the military, and virtually every other aspect of human life. Adversaries have taken advantage of globalization, requiring a global network of SOF to successfully counter them.

## **SOF and International Cooperation**

In the face of contemporary threats and geopolitical realities, SOF have become an instrument of national power whose unique capabilities are essential for the defense of vital interests of modern nation-states. All states

with the capacity to preserve their sovereignty and national security possess or are developing elite troops of this nature, not only in the armed forces, but in law enforcement institutions as well. Their challenge is not only to create effective, professional SOF units, but to develop the capability to work effectively with SOF units from other nations in cooperative efforts.

The lessons from the USSOF experience in Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Philippines, as well as that of Brazilian SOF, can provide valuable input in these efforts. In the Southern Cone tri-border area—Foz do Iguacu, Brazil; Ciudad del Este, Paraguay; and Puerto Iguazu, Argentina—the Brazilian government’s counterterrorism (CT) strategy consists of deterring terrorists from using Brazilian territory to facilitate attacks or raise funds by aggressively monitoring and suppressing transnational criminal activities that could support terrorist actions.

Brazil accomplishes this strategy through effective partnership among its security entities and cooperation with its partners of the “3+1 Group”—Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, and since 2002, the United States. This unstable area may become critical to an extent that combined and coordinated deployment of SOF from the 3+1 Group countries may become inevitable.

Before exploring further U.S. and Brazilian SOF and CT cooperation it is useful to examine the strategic setting. The following chapter provides a brief country overview of Brazil’s natural and social elements of power and issues of national policy.

## 2. Brazil Country Overview

### Geographical Aspects

Located in the eastern central portion of South America, Brazil's land mass occupies almost half of the South American continent, making it the fourth largest continuous territorial extension in the world.<sup>2</sup> Brazil's borders extend for about 10,000 miles (16,885 kilometers), touching all South American countries except Chile and Ecuador. It is important to clarify that all countries involved recognize these borders, and Brazil has no pending borders disputes with any of its neighbors. The Brazilian coastline extends for about 4,600 miles (7,491 kilometers), and there are several openly navigable rivers that run to the Atlantic Ocean along that coast. It also contains some of the country's largest cities and ports.<sup>3</sup>

Brazil has five very different geographical regions. In the north lies the Amazon Jungle, with its immense biodiversity and significant natural resources; to the West there are extensive Wetlands, flooded each year during the six-month rainy season; to the South is found the *Pampas* region, an extensive and rich agricultural and ranching plain; and to the Northeast is the semiarid, with its unique vegetation and Brazil's closest point to Africa. The Northeast and the Island of Fernando de Noronha allow control of the South Atlantic Ocean and airways. This also enables the projection of power to the African continent's west coast, as was the case during World War II. Inside this zone, WWII Allied strategists drew a triangle encompassing the cities of Natal, Recife, and Fernando de Noronha, and called it "The Victory Springboard."<sup>4</sup> In the Southeast, there is a great plateau with a very fertile farmland and the largest industrial park in Latin America.

Looking at these physical features it is possible to see that there are no deserts or high mountains, and although the Amazon Jungle and Western wetland regions present some natural adversities to a comfortable living, most of the territory is suitable for human habitation. These different geographical regions, with their great diversity and complementary economic enterprises, support a great variety of crops, animal husbandry, and the development of a diversified industrial complex. This has allowed Brazil to internally meet a significant part of the nation's needs.

Geography is a very strong component of Brazil's National Defense Policy. Brazil's incalculable natural resources have been coveted by many

countries for a long time. There have been many international pressures on the area, including incursions by foreign powers starting as early as the 16th and 17th centuries. Brazil resisted the threats to its sovereignty in different regions.<sup>5</sup> There are still significant challenges to overcome as Brazil pursues the settlement and development of the Amazon region.



Figure 1. Map of Brazil. Created by U.S. Special Operations Command Graphics.

## Psychosocial Aspects

Brazil's population is composed of three main ethnic groups: native Brazilians (Indians), Africans, and Europeans, descended predominantly from the Portuguese, who discovered and colonized Brazil. Brazilians are very proud of their Portuguese ancestry. Because of their culture, customs, and religion, the Portuguese paved the way for the integration of these groups without racial tensions. In comparison, portions of South America under Spanish control split into some 20 different countries, and after their independence, some of them maintained grudges against each other. The Portuguese in Brazil became a large united nation, with a single language that transcends all diversities and regionalisms, allowing the people to understand each other easily.<sup>6</sup>

Brazil's population at 192.3 million is fifth largest in the world, and is notable for its diversity.<sup>7</sup> Since the beginning of the 20th century, Brazil has embraced an enormous number of immigrants (Portuguese, Spanish, Japanese, German, Italian, Arab, Jewish, Chinese, and Korean). The predominant religion is Roman Apostolic Catholic. With average population density of 27 inhabitants per square kilometer, much of the population is located in large cities such as: São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Belo Horizonte, Porto Alegre, Recife, Fortaleza, Salvador, and the capital, Brasilia/Federal District. Thus, with a strong feeling of unity and national identity, Christian inherited customs and values, along with a common language, Brazil has enjoyed centuries of societal cohesion, uniformity, and solidarity.

## Political Aspects

Brazil is a Federative Republic that comprises 26 States and a Federal District. Currently, Brazil is a great example of a stable representative democracy. The current Brazilian Constitution was promulgated in 1988. There is a clear division of power between the Executive, the Legislative, and the Judiciary branches, all of them working with a high level of integration.

In October 2010, there was a Presidential election, and Mrs. Dilma Rousseff was elected to a four-year term as President of the Republic with 56 percent of the valid votes. She replaced Mr. Luis Inacio Lula da Silva on 1 January 2011.<sup>8</sup> President Lula enjoyed high approval ratings resulting from a strong economy throughout most of his second mandate.



The Congress as the Legislative power is composed of the Senate (upper house - 81 Senators) and the Chamber of Deputies (lower house - 513 Representatives). In both, all the States of the Federation are represented. All the Senators and Deputies are also directly elected: Deputies for a four-year mandate and Senators for a seven-year mandate.

The Electoral System is well designed and completely computerized. That means the probability of a fraud, even at the county level, is minimized. With 19 political parties, the Brazilian party system is highly fragmented. This makes policy implementation difficult and slow. The most prominent parties are: the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (center); the Workers' Party (center-left); the Brazilian Social Democratic Party (center-left); and the Democrats Party (center-right). In September 2011, one more political association was created, the Social Democratic Party (center). Notwithstanding Brazil's social problems, there are no threats against the established political order.

## **Economical Aspects**

Brazil's transition from an agricultural to an industrial economy began in the 1940s, and was consolidated between 1965 and 1980 when a diversified and solid economic structure was implemented during the period of military government. Brazil's natural regions are distinct and allow for the existence of a varied agriculture and animal husbandry, as well as a diversified industrial complex which meets the country's needs.

During late 1980s, an economic crisis with high inflation rates developed in Brazil. From 1994 to 1996, President Fernando Henrique Cardoso's government established a comprehensive economic plan that lowered the inflation rate from 45 percent per month to less than 1 percent.<sup>9</sup> President Cardoso's Real Plan brought stability to both the Brazilian economy and political system

Throughout the last two decades, Brazil's fiscal and monetary policies have focused primarily on inflation control. When President Lula took office in 2003, Brazil had an extremely high level of public debt, virtually necessitating that he adopt austere economic policies. Despite his leftist political origins, Lula maintained restrained economic policies, even surpassing the International Monetary Fund's fiscal and monetary targets. As a result, Brazil began to experience some benefits, including lower inflation and

achieving a lower credit risk rating. The government's overall foreign debt was reduced by 19.9 percent between 2003 and 2006.<sup>10</sup> In the past decade, fiscal discipline has been accompanied by large and growing agricultural, mining, manufacturing, and services sectors that have enabled Brazil to achieve a robust and diversified economy that ranks highest among all Latin American countries and eighth in the world, with an estimated Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of nearly \$2 trillion in 2008.<sup>11</sup>

Brazil is a major exporter of agricultural and industrial products and plays a significant role in the world trade system. Since 2002, Brazil has been the world's third largest exporter of agricultural products after the United States and the European Union. In 2009, Brazil was the world's leading exporter of coffee, orange juice, sugar, chicken, beef, soybeans and tobacco. Demand for Brazilian commodity exports in Asia is strong, as is global demand for Brazil's manufactured goods and services. Brazil is the world's second largest producer of ethanol after the United States, and its state-run oil company, *Petróleo Brasileiro* (PETROBRAS), a leader in deep-water oil drilling, has recently announced the discovery of what may be the world's largest oil field find in 25 years.<sup>12</sup>

The Tupi oil deposits are located offshore of the State of Rio de Janeiro (RJ) in the city of Santos, and it is estimated to hold between 5 and 8 billion barrels of recoverable medium-light crude oil, as well as natural gas. In order to reach the oil located at extreme depths, PETROBRAS must send the drills through 7,000 feet of water before drilling through 17,000 feet of mud, rock, and a dense layer of compressed salt.

Brazil's growing stature on the international energy scene can be attributed to major energy deposits—like Tupi and its sister natural gas field Jupiter—that have been discovered over the past couple of years. But it is also due to the technical and organizational prowess of PETROBRAS, which stands alone among state-owned energy companies as being highly competitive and capable.

Brazil's trading partners in 2008 included the European Union (24 percent of exports, 22 percent of imports), the United States (14 percent of exports, 15 percent of imports), China (8 percent of exports, 12 percent of imports), and Mercosur, a Latin American trade establishment (11 percent of exports, 9 percent of imports).<sup>13</sup> Brazil's exports reached \$198 billion, and its trade surplus was \$25 billion.<sup>14</sup>

President Lula launched the Program to Accelerate Growth in 2007 to increase growth rates to 5 percent per year. The plan was to decrease regulations, increase investment in infrastructure, and provide tax breaks and incentives.<sup>15</sup> This achieved success as Brazil's GDP growth reached 5.4 percent in 2008, and 5.1 percent in 2009.<sup>16</sup> In 2010, despite global economic difficulties, Brazil's GDP grew 7.5 percent, surpassing the 5 percent target.<sup>17</sup>

Despite its well-developed economy and large resource base, Brazil has had problems solving deep-seated social problems like poverty and income inequality. Brazil has had one of the most unequal income distributions in Latin America, a region with the highest income inequality in the world. A World Bank study reported that some 30 million Brazilians still live in poverty.<sup>18</sup> Improving the population's quality of life is a great challenge that Brazilian society has to face in this century. There is recent evidence, however, that the Lula government's family stipend program, combined with relative macroeconomic stability and growth over the past few years, has reduced poverty rates, particularly in the north and northeast regions of the country.<sup>19</sup> According to the Getulio Vargas Foundation, the level of poverty in Brazil during Lula's first term in government fell by 27.7 percent. Since 2002, the proportion of the Brazilian population who define themselves as middle-class has risen from 44 percent to 52 percent.<sup>20</sup> As explained by Stephanie Hanson of the Council on Foreign Relations:

Economists attribute Brazil's growth to sound economic management, which has reduced inflation and attracted foreign investment, and stabilized its currency, the *Real*. The country is well positioned to weather the current economy downturn; its population of roughly 195 million has become a burgeoning consumer market, and its banking system has largely escaped the credit crisis. After several banks failed in the mid-1990s, Brazil tightened bank regulations. Some small distressed private banks were taken over by the government, and troubled state-owned banks were closed or purchased by foreign investors. As a result, Brazil's banks are strengthening the economy and making it more resistant to fluctuations in local and international markets.<sup>21</sup>

## Brazilian Foreign Policy and Relations with the United States

The ascendant position of Brazil in Latin America has influenced how the country interacts with its neighbors. As described by Peter J. Meyer of the Congressional Research Service:

Brazil's foreign policy is a byproduct of the country's unique position as a regional power in Latin America, a leader among developing countries in economic cooperation and collective security efforts, and an emerging world power. Brazilian foreign policy has been based on the principles of multilateralism, peaceful settlement of disputes, and nonintervention in the affairs of other countries.<sup>22</sup>

In order to enhance political influence, Brazil engages in multilateral diplomacy through the United Nations (UN), the Organization of American States (OAS), and other regional organizations such as the Rio Group (established in 1986 at Rio de Janeiro, as a permanent mechanism of political consultation and coordination among Latin America and Caribbean States), the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), and Mercosur. Since the mid-1990s, Brazil has had much success in developing political cohesion and economic integration among its neighbors in the Southern Cone. Mercosur was established in 1991 by Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay. In 1996, Chile and Bolivia became associate members; Peru followed in 2003, and Venezuela and Mexico in 2004. Associate members have no voting rights and need not observe the common external tariff. In October 2004, after years of talks, Mercosur and the Andean Community of Nations signed a trade pact, giving all Andean countries—Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela—the equivalent of associate membership.<sup>23</sup>

Two months later, this initiative led to the creation of the South American Community of Nations (which later became UNASUR), in a pact that included 12 countries: those in Mercosur, the Andean Community, along with Chile, Guyana, and Suriname. In December 2005, after difficult negotiations, Mercosur agreed to the accession of Venezuela as a full member, though the Paraguayan Congress has yet to approve Venezuela's entry. In December 2006, Bolivia expressed its intention to join Mercosur as a full member, but critics say that its accession will be more difficult to achieve than Venezuela's. According to the Institute of Defense Analysis:

Since the beginning of the Lula administration in 2003, Brazilian foreign policy has been re-oriented towards a renewed and more extended approach to regional politics. Under Lula, Brazil's foreign policy approach to Latin America was outlined by a kind of "pragmatic solidarity" towards its neighbors of South and Central America. Brazilian diplomacy has delivered a number of "regional public goods" (both material and symbolic) to win over the support of neighbors traditionally reluctant to recognize Brazil's leadership role in the region. This foreign policy strategy had been known as "diplomacy of generosity."<sup>24</sup>

Sometimes, this strategy to expand Brazil's regional profile through established political and economic channels did not work. A remarkable example is that even though PETROBRAS had made extensive investments in Bolivia, the Lula government was caught off guard by Morales' May 2006 nationalization of his country's natural gas industry.<sup>25</sup>

One initiative that shows signs of success involves the use of so-called "ethanol diplomacy." Brazil has sought to reassert regional leadership vis-à-vis oil rich Venezuela by signing biofuel partnership agreements with countries that would otherwise be dependent on extensive oil imports.<sup>26</sup> The revival of "Bolivarianism" by Venezuela's Hugo Chavez as an alternative source of regional identity is a clear sign of a dichotomy of visions for regional development as advanced by Brazilian diplomacy and that of Venezuela. However, the attractive power of Brazil's economy and its pragmatic stance on regional and global politics have outflanked Venezuela's "Bolivarian Revolution" in the struggle for the hearts and minds of Latin American neighbors. Under Lula, the Brazilian government invested in the diversification of Brazil's already powerful industrial sector and spent political capital trying to establish new (and reinforcing old) regional institutions. Moreover, the recent discoveries of massive oil reserves in Brazil's southeastern coast allowed Lula to minimize Venezuela's regional influence.<sup>27</sup>

Bilateral diplomatic relations with the United States, the hemispheric hegemonic power, are also a key aspect of Brazil's regional engagement. It is a grave strategic mistake to believe that all Latin American countries are the same; they have different problems, different solutions, and most importantly, different potentials. It sometimes appears as though outside governments, including the U.S. government, do not recognize that they

must appreciate and deal with each of the 31 countries of Latin America as separate entities. A lack of understanding of the diversity of culture, language, historical contexts, and unique requirements has created some critical problems.

Notwithstanding ignoring Latin America as a global geostrategic priority, the United States has always seen Brazil as a significant regional powerhouse. In the last decade, due to Brazil's economic strength, its hemispheric leadership, and its growing geostrategic role through multilateral international forums, it has become an essential player in both regional and global politics. "U.S. officials tend to describe Brazil as a friendly country... governed by a moderate leftist government."<sup>28</sup> Bilateral links have been growing due to cooperation in the strategic area of biofuels. The U.S. has "...strongly invested in Brazil as an alternative source of regional leadership given the divisive role played by Venezuela in regional politics."<sup>29</sup> Brazil under President Lula helped diffuse potential political crises in Venezuela, Paraguay, Ecuador, Bolivia, Colombia, and Haiti. In 2004, a Brazilian two-star general commanded the 10,000-person UN Stabilization Force in Haiti.

Diplomatic relations between Brasilia and Washington have sometimes been marked by tensions, mostly as a result of the growing American military involvement in the Colombian conflict in the shared Amazon region. The protection of the sovereignty over the Brazilian Amazon has been traditionally a central aspect of the Brazilian National Military Strategy. The U.S. military presence in the Colombian Amazon is seen as a potential threat to regional stability by many Brazilians. Similarly, Lula's government strongly reacted to criticism by transnational environmentalists, backed by Western governments, who place responsibility for the protection of the so-called "Amazon Rainforest" beyond the authority of the Brazilian government. Another point of tension has been the increasing involvement of China and Russia in Latin America, which is perceived by Brazilian diplomacy as a positive development. China has become a major importer of Brazilian commodities, and global trade between the two countries grew five-fold between 2000 and 2003 to a value of \$8 billion. Similarly, in a recent trip to Brazil, Russian President Dimitry Medvedev affirmed Russia's interest in deepening political coordination with Brazil, India, and China to implement a new global financial structure.<sup>30</sup>

There is "...the issue of Brazil's apparent lack of concern regarding Iran's increasing penetration into Latin America through Venezuela. There are

now weekly flights between Caracas and Teheran that bring passengers and cargo into Venezuela without any customs or immigration controls. Venezuela has also signed agreements with Iran for transferring nuclear technology, and there is speculation it is giving Iran access to Venezuelan uranium deposits.<sup>31</sup> According to several Brazilian political analysts, "...Brazil is drawing closer to Teheran and hopes to expand its \$2 billion bilateral trade to \$10 billion in the near future."<sup>32</sup> In 2009, President Lula hosted Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in Brazil. Lula suggested that there is no evidence that Iran is in the process of developing nuclear weapons.<sup>33</sup> Notwithstanding those positions, Brazil never broke the rules imposed by the international community via UN Security Council Resolutions regarding Iran. Recently after becoming Brazil's new President, Dilma Rousseff made it clear that she disapproves of the Iranian government's human rights policy.<sup>34</sup>

The Bush administration came to view Brazil as a strong partner whose cooperation should be sought in order to solve regional and global problems; the Obama administration appears to view Brazil in a similar light. Current issues of concern to both Brazil and the United States include counternarcotics and CT efforts, energy security, trade, human rights, the fight against HIV/AIDS, and the environment.<sup>35</sup>

For example, in recent years, Brazil has cooperated extensively with neighboring countries in counternarcotics activities and implemented a law permitting the shooting down of civilian aircraft (with adequate safeguards) suspected of being engaged in the trafficking of illicit narcotics.<sup>36</sup> Brazil has also constructed a \$1.4 billion sensor and radar project named the Amazon Surveillance System in an attempt to control illicit activity in its Amazon region.<sup>37</sup> In 2008, Brazil's Federal Police captured 18 metric tons of cocaine, 514 kilograms of cocaine base, 430 kilograms of crack cocaine, 182 metric tons of marijuana, 12 kilograms of heroin, 125,706 dosage units of ecstasy, and 95,653 dosage units of LSD. In 2007, Brazilian security forces arrested a major Colombian-born drug trafficker and leader of the *Norte del Valle Cartel*. He was extradited to the United States in August 2008 to face charges of drug trafficking, money laundering, and murder. Brazil's Federal Police have since worked with Colombian authorities and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to seize more than \$700 million in cash from the cartel.<sup>38</sup>

Another example of effective U.S.-Brazilian cooperation is the biofuel industry where Brazil stands out as a net exporter of energy, partially by increasing its use and production of ethanol. On 9 March 2007, the United States and Brazil, the world's two largest ethanol producing countries, signed a memorandum of understanding to promote greater cooperation on ethanol and biofuels in the Western Hemisphere. The agreement involves: (1) technology-sharing between the United States and Brazil; (2) feasibility studies and technical assistance to build domestic biofuels industries in Third World countries; and (3) multilateral efforts to advance the global development of biofuels. The first countries to receive U.S.-Brazilian assistance were the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Haiti, and Saint Kitts and Nevis.<sup>39</sup> On 9 October 2007, the U.S. House passed House Resolution 651, recognizing the warm friendship and expanding relationship that exists between the United States and Brazil and the importance of U.S.-Brazil biofuel cooperation.<sup>40</sup>

Beyond its growing influence in the global environment, Brazil has interests and activities in the region that deserve careful management. The following chapter addresses the Tri-Border Area of the Southern Cone, where the U.S., Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay are working in a combined effort to staunch the flow of contraband through the region and disrupt support for terrorist activities.





### 3. Brazil, U.S., Counterterrorism, and the Tri-Border Area

The Tri-Border Area (TBA) of Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay has long been used for arms smuggling, money laundering, and other illicit purposes. Concerns about Islamic terrorist elements in the TBA date back to 17 March 1992, when a car bomb exploded at the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires. It killed 29 people and injured more than 200. With the embassy bombing still unsolved, on 18 July 1994, the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Jewish Center was bombed, killing 86 people. The investigation on both attacks implicated Hezbollah, the Lebanon-based Shiite Muslim militant organization. According to the Argentine authorities, both attacks had been planned and organized in the TBA region. The area has become a mutual concern for the U.S. and Brazil since then.

#### Counterterrorism Cooperation

In 2002, after the tragedy of 9/11, Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay invited the United States to create the “3+1 Counterterrorism Dialogue,” a mechanism focused on terrorism prevention, CT policy discussion, information sharing, increased cross-border cooperation, and mutual CT capacity building.



**Figure 2.** Tri-Border area map. Created by U.S. Special Operations Command Graphics.

Since then, the Organization of American States Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism has committed resources to build on the success of the “3+1” Dialogue.

The Regional Intelligence Center, with representatives of all the security agencies of the four countries involved, is located in the Brazilian TBA city of Foz do Iguacu. Several CT advances have occurred, and operations have been successful. Reports of the “3+1” Group state that there is no

credible information confirming an established al-Qaeda presence in the TBA, nor is there information that would confirm terrorist operational planning ongoing in this region. Terrorist supporters in TBA (some of whom have been arrested by Brazilian security agencies) are primarily engaged in fundraising for Hezbollah and Hamas. There is no doubt that these organizations have decreased their level of activity and transnational criminal activity has been curtailed.<sup>41</sup>

Notwithstanding the positive and auspicious results achieved, there are still very complex problems to deal with, and TBA remains a significant latent threat. Brazil is extremely concerned about security problems in TBA because, among other matters, the region has the largest hydro electric plant in the world, at Itaipu Lake. Built by the government of Brazil in the 1970s and managed by a Brazilian-Paraguayan company, *Itaipu Binacional*, this plant generates energy to supply Brasília and the whole southeast region of the country, including the São Paulo State industrial park (Brazil's most important industrial park and the largest in Latin America). Therefore, Itaipu's hydro electric complex is Brazil's most important strategic asset in the Southern Cone.

The 3+1 Dialogue demonstrates that the fight against terrorism and transnational crimes can be effective only through broad cooperation involving the relevant agencies of the countries concerned in an effective multi-national effort. And it must be underscored that it is not easy to get an efficient and effective multi-national effort of this nature.

## **Terrorist Groups and the Tri-Border**

According to the 2009 State Department Country Reports on Terrorism, the United States remains concerned that Hezbollah and Hamas are raising funds through illicit activities and from sympathizers in the sizable Middle Eastern communities in the region. Indeed, reports have indicated that Hezbollah earns over \$10 million a year from criminal activities in TBA.<sup>42</sup> It has been reported that al-Qaeda's operations chief, Khalid Shaikh Mohamed, lived in Foz do Iguaçu in 1995, and Brazilian security forces arrested Ali al-Mahdi Ibrahim (who was wanted by Egypt for his alleged role in the 1997 massacre of tourists at Luxor) in the TBA in 2003. The State Department report states that there have been no corroborated reports that any Islamic groups has an operational presence in the area.<sup>43</sup> U.S.-Brazilian

cooperation in the Southern Cone remains an important facet of both countries' CT interests as seen in the 2010 Department of State Country Report on Terrorism:

The Government of Brazil's counterterrorism strategy consisted of deterring terrorists from using Brazilian territory to facilitate attacks or raise funds, along with monitoring and suppressing transnational criminal activities that could support terrorist actions... During the year, multiple regional and international joint operations with US authorities successfully disrupted a number of document vendors and facilitators, as well as related human-trafficking infrastructures... [T]he Federal Police, Customs and the Brazilian Intelligence Agency, worked effectively with their US counterparts and pursued investigative leads provided by US and other intelligence services, law enforcement, and financial agencies regarding terrorist suspects. In July, the head of the Brazilian Federal Police intelligence division stated on the record during a Brazilian Chamber of Deputies hearing, that an individual arrested in April was in fact linked to al-Qa'ida.<sup>44</sup>

Brazil continues to improve its border control and law enforcement infrastructure as the United States continues to provide CT-related training courses in Brazil. While this chapter briefly examined U.S. and Brazilian issues of defense with respect to the terrorism threat, the following chapter widens the scope to address Brazil's national defense policy.



## 4. The Brazilian National Defense Policy

### The Constitution

The mission of the Brazilian Armed Forces is clearly stated in the Constitution. The duties assigned to the Armed Forces have remained essentially the same since Brazilian political independence was established by the Imperial Constitution in 1824. Its assigned duties as stated in the Constitution are to defend the homeland, to guarantee constitutional powers, and to guarantee law and order. In addition, other tasks established by specific legislation and in presidential directives are to contribute to national development and civil defense and to participate in international operations according to Brazilian international obligations.<sup>45</sup>

If enacted, the Guarantee of Law and Order clause in the Constitution provides for internal intervention by Brazilian Armed Forces only as a last resort. Furthermore, the use of Armed Forces will only be approved if federal and state law enforcement agencies cannot maintain law and order, and chaos becomes an imminent threat. Therefore, the Brazilian Armed Forces are not primarily tasked to preserve public order. Constitutionally, this is a mission of the Federal Police Department, the National Public Security Force, the Federal Highway Police, the Federal Railroad Police, the States' Civilian Polices, the States' Military Polices, and the States' Firemen Corps.<sup>46</sup> Primarily, the Armed Forces' role is to provide law enforcement agencies with logistics, intelligence, and training support when needed.

The employment of the Armed Forces to guarantee law and order is an exclusive and narrowly defined responsibility of the President of the Republic. In this case, the preventive and repressive actions required to achieve positive results will be episodic, in well-defined geographic areas and for a limited time. There exists special legislation regarding public and official events, particularly those international summits involving foreign chiefs of state that demand security be provided by the respective Brazilian Army's Area Military Command. In these situations, the Brazilian Navy, Marine Corps (which falls under the Navy), and Air Force elements, when needed, as well as federal and state level law enforcement agencies, come under operational control of the regional Army commander. Specific legislation authorizes the Army to operate against transnational crime and illicit activities along borders, to include the Amazon or other remote areas.

## National Defense Policy

The objectives of the Brazilian National Defense Policy account for the strategic and regional environment, to include Brazil's strategic arch (the South Atlantic rim encompassing the Southern Cone and Africa), its productive population centers, its vast and resource rich northern region (Amazônia Legal, nine states in Brazil's north and west), and its leadership in South America's community of nations. These objectives are:

1. Warranty of sovereignty, of national patrimony, and territorial integrity;
2. Defense of national interests and people, of goods, and Brazilian resources overseas;
3. Contribution for the preservation of the cohesion and national unity;
4. Promotion of regional stability;
5. Contribution for the maintenance of the peace and of the international security; and
6. Projection of Brazil in the concert of nations and its broader insertion into the international decision making processes.<sup>47</sup>

The National Defense Policy for Brazil is primarily directed by the Brazilian Constitution and it is built around two central pillars: active diplomacy (peaceful resolution of conflict) and conventional deterrence. It's clear that military force will only be used in self defense. The Armed Forces are made up of the Navy, Army, and Air Force. They are permanent and regular national institutions, grounded in discipline and hierarchically organized under the supreme authority of the President of the Republic, the Minister of Defense, and the Chief of the Armed Forces Joint Staff. Military conscription is mandatory. The Constitution also created a National Defense Council with 10 permanent members to advise the president in all subjects concerning the threats to national interests.

Notwithstanding some budget restrictions, the Brazilian Armed Forces are the second largest and most powerful (after U.S. forces) in the Western Hemisphere. Though Brazil has the sixth largest economy in the world, according to GDP, and represents roughly half the GDP and half the population of South America, its defense budget, the fifteenth largest in the world,

accounts for only 1.5 percent of GDP, one of the smallest percentages in the world. As a consequence of the economic crisis in the United States and European Union in recent years, budget cuts in Brazil (in order to maintain rigid fiscal controls) have become routine. However, the Minister of Defense has publically stated a desired increase to 2.3 percent of GDP.<sup>48</sup>

Looking at foreseeable scenarios, it is possible to project that future operational environments may be characterized by: undefined threats; inadequate budgetary resources; continuing political, economic, and military integration with South American neighbors that result in increased military to military cooperation; the ongoing presence of internal problems, especially in the areas of land ownership, organized crime, and narco-trafficking; increased participation in non-traditional missions and international operations; and greater demand for professional troops, especially SOF, with their rapid reaction and strategic mobility capabilities.

The beginning of the 21st century is demonstrating that the present and the future are marked by undefined threats, in operational environments in which uncertainty and unpredictability require a force design suitable for many kinds of missions. Force readiness, therefore, must be based on the development of capabilities rather than on a specific configuration for a given threat. Versatility, flexibility, and mobility have become key concepts, particularly for a country like Brazil whose strategic geopolitical importance is increasing day by day and is a probable candidate for a permanent seat at the UN Security Council. President Dilma Rousseff stated this Brazilian intention in a speech opening the United Nations General Assembly, in September 2011: “Brazil is ready to shoulder its responsibilities as a permanent member of the Council,” she proclaimed.<sup>49</sup>

## **National Defense Strategy**

The Brazilian National Defense Strategy establishes concepts that address the near-, medium-, and long-term requirements of the nation’s security, particularly in regard to the Amazon, the South Atlantic, and transnational threats such as terrorism, drug trafficking, weapons smuggling, money laundering, refugee flows, environmental degradation, and political and religious radicalism.<sup>50</sup> Those unconventional threats require a great level of cooperation with law enforcement, intelligence, and other national government



agencies. This interagency cooperation involves international dimensions as well as intelligence issues.

Two priority strategic forces provide the capability for supporting core defense and international presence requirements outlined in the National Defense Strategy. These are the Brazilian Army's Strategic Rapid Reaction Force (*Força de Ação Rápida Estratégica*) and the Brazilian Fleet Marine Force (*Força de Fuzileiros Navais da Esquadra*), subordinated to the Brazilian Navy. Both are composed of professional troops, and both maintain a high level of readiness and modern equipment. Both forces are strategically and tactically mobile (supported by the Navy, Air Force, and Army Aviation) in order to ensure their deployment capability anywhere in the country, and their capability to serve as a ready response or core force in international commitments.

The Army's Strategic Rapid Reaction Force is composed of the Special Operations Brigade (*Brigada de Operações Especiais*, Goiânia, State of Goiás); Parachute Infantry Brigade; 11th Light Infantry Brigade (11a Brigada de Infantaria Leve, specializing in Guarantee of Law and Order operations, headquarters in Campinas, State of São Paulo); 12th Light Infantry Brigade (12a Brigada de Infantaria Leve, Air Assault, Caçapava, State of São Paulo); and the Army Aviation Command (*Comando de Aviação do Exército*), with its four battalions: 1st and 2nd Battalions located in Taubaté, State of São Paulo; 3rd Battalion in Campo Grande, State of Mato Grosso do Sul; and the 4th Battalion in Manaus, State of Amazonas.

The Brazilian Fleet Marine Force is composed of the Amphibious Division (*Divisão Anfíbia*), Reinforcement Troop (*Tropa de Reforço*), Special Operations Marines Battalion (*Batalhão de Operações Especiais de Fuzileiros Navais*), and the Disembarkment Troop Command (*Comando da Tropa de Desembarque*).

## **Brazil-U.S. Military Ties**

Guidelines in Brazil's Defense Policy charge the military establishment "To intensify the exchange among the armed forces of friendly nations..."<sup>51</sup> In this regard, Brazil-U.S. military ties go back many decades, with its zenith being the Brazilian Armed Forces' participation in World War II. Brazil was the only Latin America country to have its three armed services deployed in combat operations in the South Atlantic and in the Italian Theater of

Operations.<sup>52</sup> Overall, Brazilian-U.S. military ties are still strong. Reaching a low point in the 1970s, during the presidencies of Jimmy Carter and Ernesto Geisel, mutual trust and cooperation has been on the upswing since.<sup>53</sup>

One of the most important factors for that close relationship is the U.S. military's appreciation that Brazilian military institutions are not only the largest and most powerful in Latin America, but they are also capable, professional, and apolitical. During the Cold War, while much of Latin America was involved in the struggle against communist inspired subversion and terrorism, Brazil never hosted foreign military advisors or troops in its territory. Brazil's internal threats were neutralized by its own security forces. Since then, the U.S. military has come to appreciate the professionalism of Brazil's military and its distinction from military forces in other Latin American countries that relied on outside assistance.

Similar to the U.S. military, the Brazilian military forces enjoy the highest confidence rating of any public institution in their country, confidence ratings that surpass even those of the church.

Brazil-U.S. military ties are very important to the security of the whole Western Hemisphere, particularly at the current geopolitical environment. Brazil's leadership in the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti, and the "3+1 Dialogue" in the TBA are two significant examples of cooperation. The two most populous democracies in the Western Hemisphere, the United States and Brazil, enjoy an ever increasingly close bilateral relationship, including the area of defense. This is evidenced in the recently signed Brazil-U.S. Defense Cooperation Agreement that will enable U.S.-Brazil defense cooperation to deepen and expand into new areas of mutual interest. A copy of this agreement is found in Annex B.<sup>54</sup>

The Brazilian military is currently going through a major modernization program in which U.S. corporations are competing for major defense contracts. Also, Brazilian and U.S. military forces are conducting combined military exercises, personnel exchange programs, professional military education exchanges, visits, seminars, and conferences at different levels. Of special interest to this monograph is the long-standing relationship between U.S. Special Forces and Brazilian SOF, which have been training together since the late 1950s.

A strategic capability central to Brazil's National Defense Policy and Strategy are Brazilian SOF, which provide national leaders with great flexibility in defending national interests by employing direct and indirect

means—overtly or covertly. A detailed discussion of Brazilian SOF, its role in irregular warfare, employment, and historical evolution, are provided in following chapters.

## 5. Irregular Warfare and Brazilian SOF

Nowadays, an unsettling diversity of separatist wars, ethnic and religious violence, military coups, border disputes, civil uprisings and terrorist attempts provoke surges of miserable immigrants expelled by war (as well as drug dealers) through national frontiers.

In the context of a global economy, ever more connected, many of these conflicts, apparently limited, provoke meaningful secondary effects on neighboring countries (and eventually even on distant ones). Thus, a scenario of several small wars is taking military policymakers in many armies to give relevance to what is called “Special Operations” or “Special Forces”- the niche of tomorrow’s warriors. – Alvin and Heidi Toffler, *War and Anti-war: Survival at the Dawn of the Twenty-First Century*, 1993

### Brazil, the New World Order, and 4th Generation Warfare

The term “4th Generation Warfare” was introduced to military analysts, strategists, and international military policymakers in the late 1980s.<sup>55</sup> This community described the evolution of armed conflict, from the 17th century on, in four distinct stages. In the “1st Generation” (from the Peace of Westphalia treaty settled in 1648, which enabled the birth of international relations among sovereign states), war was waged by nation states and characterized by the preponderant employment of the “Mass Principle,” and had its climax on the epic Napoleonic campaigns. The intensive employment of “Fire” characterizes the 2nd Generation, which culminated in the tactics of the First World War. The “3rd Generation” was dominated by “Maneuver,” exemplified by the blitzkrieg tactic developed by the Germans at the outset of the Second World War. The main actors in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Generation Warfare scenarios were predominantly nation states.<sup>56</sup>

The “4th Generation” encompasses aspects of irregular warfare such as asymmetric warfare (war waged by the weak against the strong), with the goal of taking advantage of political, social, economic, and technological changes experienced since the Second World War.<sup>57</sup> Chinese Revolutionary leader, Mao Zedong’s defensive phase of his protracted war strategy illustrates the successful use of establishing an ideological model, a political base,

and guerrilla warfare as an asymmetric effort to attack the much stronger Chinese Nationalist Government lead by Chiang Kai-shek. It proliferated at the height of the Cold War, when the threat of nuclear holocaust consequent of the confrontation between the United States of America and the USSR threatened the world.

The current multi-polar strategic environment is characterized by the remaining superpower, the United States, and the rise of emerging regional powers, such as Brazil, whose political and strategic clout on the global scene are rapidly increasing. While nation states are sharing the global commons based on their economic interests, wide ranging confrontations are developing between governments, economies, cultures, ethnicities, religions, and populations in an ever increasingly competitive world. Today, there are more than 190 nation states, among which around 30 are defined as failed states as a direct consequence of weak and corrupt governments, incapable of meeting the minimum conditions of political and socioeconomic stability for its populations. These failed states have become a source of international instability, many becoming safe havens for the proliferation of transnational threats that haunt today's civilized world. Examples are political extremism, religious fundamentalism, terrorism, arms and drug trafficking, contraband, illegal immigration, piracy, money laundering, and environmental degradation.<sup>58</sup>

There is no doubt that violence on the transnational, national, or sub-national levels will continue; and the "Asymmetrical Conflicts of 4th Generation" will predominate. Along with nation-states, new actors are appearing. These are the non-state armed groups made up of irregular forces of different shades: separatists; anarchists; political, ethnic, or religious extremists; organized crime; and others whose primary form of action is based in the employment of tactics, techniques, and procedures of irregular warfare that have evolved to new forms of action.

## **A Brazilian Perspective on 21st Century Asymmetrical Warfare and SOF**

Brazil's forces, especially its SOF, must be prepared to carry out a wide range of diversified missions. Strategic scenarios will be more diffusely structured than in the past and will be characterized by uncertainty and unpredictability. Missions, both within and external to Brazil's territory, are likely in

order to: counter a broad spectrum of threats; defend vital national interests; maintain sovereignty and territorial integrity; guarantee law, order, and constitutional provisions; fulfill international commitments; cooperate with development and civil defense; and take action against illicit transnational and environmental crimes.

This complex spectrum may range from the capacity to face a conventional enemy at a certain moment, and, in the next, confront an irregular enemy. Brazilian forces will also have to engage in activities of humanitarian assistance and the reconstruction of institutions and basic infrastructure for local governance. These activities may have to be executed simultaneously and will most likely demand the interaction of combat forces (including SOF) with law enforcement agencies to address public security, as well as civilian organizations, both governmental and nongovernmental.<sup>59</sup>

## **Advanced Combat Skills are Required**

Operational environments that are characterized by great diversification in terms of terrain, weather conditions, and enemy increase the demands placed on combat skills. Urbanized areas may constitute scenarios of decisive battles, admitting the presence of friendly and enemy conventional and irregular forces. Brazilian forces must be especially skilled to handle guerrilla warfare with its attendant political undergrounds and auxiliaries that clandestinely operate among non-combatant civilian populations, and engage in subversion, terrorism, and sabotage.

Brazilian military operations must be characterized by centralized planning, a vigorous unity of command, and highly decentralized execution in order to operate in today's complex environment. Essential standards must demand a system of intelligence solidly structured at the strategic, operational and tactical levels, efficient and secure digitalized communications, and the dissemination of information in real time, aimed at quick results with minimal casualties.

The demanding need to deal with the growing influence of the media over national and international public opinion must be considered in the planning and conduct of operations. As immediate consequences of media influence, it has become imperative to address "civil considerations" as a relevant decision factor, and recognize the relevance of social communication activities and psychological operations over the population in the

affected area, sometimes referred to as the human terrain. The analysis of propaganda in its five factors—origin, content, target-public, vehicle, and resultant effect—should be permanently fulfilled. The winning of hearts and minds of the noncombatant civil population is an enduring goal.

The prevalence of asymmetric tactics on nonlinear fields of battle, even in conventional operations, will demand operations developed in a coordinated and controlled way, combining offensive and defensive approaches as well as the full synchronization of integrated means in diverse operational systems (command and control; intelligence, maneuver, and fire support; mobility, counter-mobility, and protection; air defense; and logistic support), in terms of time, space, and purpose.

Irregular forces and violent extremist organizations are also taking advantage of technological evolution. This is exemplified by Hezbollah, which in the last conflict in South Lebanon, innovated, and surprised the Israel Defense Forces. Hezbollah demonstrated an unprecedented capacity for saturating an area by fire, executed by batteries of missiles and rockets of short and medium range provided by Iran and Syria. In the same context, irregulars of different shades are engaged in the quest to perfect a capability for chemical, biological, and nuclear attacks, as well as launching cyber-infiltrations in digital nets controlling essential public services in great urban centers.

Irregular forces are more often collaborating and cooperating with organized crime organizations and are also benefiting from profits obtained by illicit means, to include money laundering. This nexus is an ever increasing transnational threat. An unequivocal example is the current connection between the Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC), presently engaged in all stages of refined cocaine production, with organized crime in Mexico, Venezuela, Suriname, Paraguay, Brazil, and Argentina. VEOs such as the FARC and Mexican drug cartels and their accomplices are constantly developing and refining techniques and procedures to covertly communicate and transfer resources, varying from the most sophisticated, such as the internet and telecommunications, to anonymous messages codified on daily newspaper ads and mere personal contact.

Recent events demonstrate that the 20th century conventional ways to face crisis and armed conflicts are no longer pertinent to prevent and combat current threats. Many countries acknowledge the need for international cooperation in joint and combined operations. The growing development

of multinational forces in diverse operational environments can involve national troops, international organizations, and temporary coalitions specifically established to achieve common goals. This typically requires establishing combined joint commands, involving all elements of the armed forces and civilian agencies from different countries. In this context, the increasing value of strategic mobility for global engagement is made evident. For these multilateral efforts there is an ever increasing demand for the presence of SOF, even on peacekeeping missions.

## **SOF as an Element of National and Coalition Power**

Governments on all continents are acknowledging the increasing importance of SOF in achieving and sustaining their national interests in today's complex environment. Beyond Brazil's recent development of its modern SOF organization, European nations have also created capable SOF commands (e.g., Poland, Croatia), and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has built up its training and command and control and capabilities to effectively operate in the irregular warfare environment by establishing the NATO Special Operations Headquarters.

Due to its special characteristics of thorough preparation for employment all over the world, SOF constitute a flexible, efficient, and effective response during developing crisis and/or conflict. SOF are especially useful in operational environments characterized by a high degree of political sensitivity, and great psychological and social complexity, where military action requires a high degree of secrecy. The successful execution of special operations is fundamentally based on the high level of technical and professional proficiency of small units. This is characterized by several specialized operational qualifications that assure high levels of innovation and flexibility in critical situations, thus avoiding the risk of crisis escalation and/or conflict normally associated with the employment of large and visible conventional forces.

Brazil's modernized and fully capable SOF are organized to meet the demanding challenges of 4th Generation Warfare as previously described. Brazilian SOF have been designed for full interoperability with the special operations units of Brazil's coalition partners in order to meet the many types of threats that the irregular warfare environment might contain. The



next chapter addresses the characteristics of Brazilian SOF to include its specific missions and employment concepts.

## 6. Brazilian Special Operations Forces Concept of Employment

### Special Operations

Globalization is a phenomenon that impacts all fields of human endeavor, including the military. SOF's structure and doctrine provide meaningful examples that confirm the influence of the contemporary security environment. Doctrine used in professional military education systems from different countries since World War II typically used the adjective "special" to describe uniquely demanding operations such as night attacks, high risk raids, river crossing operations, and operations aiming the establishment of airheads (airborne or air assault) and beachheads on amphibious operations. Operations conducted in specific terrains such as the jungle, mountain, and snow, are also considered "special."<sup>60</sup>

With the end of the Second World War and the advent of 4th Generation Conflict and Revolutionary Warfare pioneered by Mao Zedong, armed forces worldwide began to adopt a new doctrinal construct in reference to special operations. It was a conception profoundly different from the former because of its eminently unconventional nature. Carefully considered through the years and through experiences in different operational environments, a global consensus has evolved (adopted in Brazil as well) that special operations are those conducted by military and/or paramilitary forces specifically organized, trained, and equipped, aiming the achievement of military, political, economic, or psycho-social objectives, in hostile environments and/or politically sensitive, in peacetime situations, crisis, or conflict. They may be conducted independently, in support of specific national objectives, or in coordination with operations of conventional forces in support of the strategic or operational higher echelon's theater campaign.<sup>61</sup> It is fundamental to have in mind that SOF do not compete with conventional forces and should not be used as conventional forces.

### Characteristics, Forms of Action, and Essential Missions of Brazilian SOF

The main characteristics of SOF should be highlighted: employment of small units made up by highly trained and specially equipped personnel;

operations developed in highly sensitive areas; launched at limited windows of opportunity, in terms of time, space, and purpose; and the need for specialized intelligence and counterintelligence.

In general, special operations are manifested in two forms of action: direct and indirect. Direct action is characterized by SOF missions that require direct and violent contact with the enemy. The indirect action is characterized when contact with the enemy is kept by friendly irregular forces specifically organized, trained, equipped, and led to a specific end. Depending on the characteristics of the current operational environment, aiming to optimize the possibilities of these forces and minimize limitations, and plan for integrating direct and indirect forms of action. Recent experiences in different operational environments have demonstrated that they do not exclude themselves. Besides being well integrated, a mutual cooperation between direct and indirect actions must be sought. The produced effect will be much superior to the one obtained when direct and indirect actions are materialized separately.<sup>62</sup>

As essential SOF mission doctrine and terminology differ among special operations organizations around the world, the following definitions from the Brazilian SOF perspective are highlighted:

Unconventional warfare (UW) is a broad spectrum of military and paramilitary operations conducted in territory controlled by the enemy or one politically sensitive. It is characterized by long lasting actions employing, predominantly, tactics, techniques, and procedures of guerrillas or surrogate forces, involving activities of subversion, sabotage, escape, and evasion. These surrogates are usually native to the area of operations, and are organized, trained, equipped, and led on different levels by Special Forces Operational Detachments (*Destacamentos Operacionais de Forças Especiais - SFOD*). These detachments can be augmented or reinforced by Commandos Actions Detachments whose primary mission is establishing UW operational areas. These missions demand that the SOF operators are qualified to survive and operate in remote and hostile environments for long periods of time with minimal direction and support. UW actions, when conducted inside the national territory of Brazil against foreign invaders are conducted in the context of resistance movements. When outside Brazil they are conducted in the context of sponsored revolutionary or insurgent movements. UW missions illustrate the indirect form of action.<sup>63</sup>

Direct actions/commandos actions are operations designed to conduct interdiction/destruction of critical objectives, capture/elimination of personnel, recover/rescue/evacuation of personnel and material, all evaluated as high value targets by the higher echelon present. Planned and conducted by SFODs and/or Commandos Actions Detachments, they are characterized by surprise, high intensity of shock action, and short duration. When an SFOD receives a Commandos Actions Detachment under operational control for such operations, the resulting detachment is called an Immediate Action Detachment.

Operations against Irregular Forces are conducted in the context of National Homeland Defense (external defense), Law and Order Maintenance (internal defense), or in support of international commitments (international operations), and involve counter-guerrilla/insurgent and CT operations. The SFOD, Commandos Actions Detachment, or Immediate Action Detachment can conduct these actions in urban or rural environments. Operations against irregular forces materialize the direct form of action. However, in the context of this kind of mission, the training and employment of conventional friendly forces against enemy irregular forces must be considered. The training and employment of friendly irregular forces against enemy irregular forces should also be considered. Both situations are normally developed by the long term presence of SFODs, using indirect action.

Strategic/special reconnaissance is an intelligence-gathering mission focusing strategic, operational, and tactical information about the terrain (including human terrain), weather conditions, and enemy. The SFOD, Commandos Actions Detachment, or Immediate Action Detachment engaged in these actions may use the obtained results immediately, resulting in the execution of direct or indirect action missions. The strategic/special reconnaissance mission currently is the most common and vital Brazilian Special Forces field mission.

Psychological Operations Teams aim to motivate allied, neutral, and hostile target publics to adopt favorable behaviors in order to achieve political and/or military objectives established by the higher echelon in presence.

## **Maintenance of Secrecy and Intelligence**

Whatever the mission, the special operations are realized by ostensive activities and low-visibility covert and clandestine operations. On covert operations, total secrecy is maintained about the identity of the sponsor. And on clandestine operations, the objective is to preserve secrecy of the operation itself. Covert operations are those operations “that never happened” and that, consequently, never had a sponsor. In the same way, whatever the mission, SOF in presence will always be in a position to engage in intelligence operations to coordinate actions throughout the phases of the mission, including missions to support large operations conducted by conventional forces.

## **Vulnerabilities and Limitations of SOF**

In assigning missions to SOF, one should also have in mind the attendant vulnerabilities and limitations, among which are:

- vulnerability when located inside hostile territory, or one controlled by the enemy, due to the SOF characteristic employment of infiltration as a form of maneuver (land, aquatic, aerial, or mixed);
- sensitivity to electronic warfare countermeasures or to the enemy’s counterintelligence;
- limitations on the availability of fire support, usually limited to aerial fire support;
- difficulty in maintaining the logistic flow because of the need for secrecy, which demands special processes for sustaining SOF in the field;
- great sensitivity to personnel losses and difficulties of replacement because of the long lead time required to train qualified SOF combatants.

## **Operational Standards of Employment**

When deciding the assignment of missions to SOF, military planners should answer five important questions, which constitute the basic operational standards to its employment. These should be answered according to the

following sequence: Is the mission appropriate for SOF? Does the mission support higher level campaign/operations plans? Is the mission operationally possible? Are the needed resources available to support the mission's accomplishment? Do the consequent end results of the mission justify the risks? Experience has demonstrated that a negative answer to any of these questions is a strong indicator that the mission should not be assigned to SOF.

Brazilian special operations concepts of employment and its doctrinal view of the complex irregular warfare environment dovetails with the doctrinal constructs of USSOF, NATO SOF, and most others around the world. In this regard, Brazilian SOF are fully interoperable with those of the international community. But what is clearly unique and particular to Brazil is the history of Brazilian SOF. The next chapter addresses historical basis for the evolution of Brazil's special operations units.



## 7. History of Brazilian Army Special Operations Forces

### Historical Roots

... They spent nights and days without rest or sleep. They lived and slept without a roof. They fed precariously on flour. They suffered routinely, cold, hunger and thirst. Lack of ammunition was part of the job. They obtained it from the powerful enemy itself, by something they were masters—the ambushes... – Priest Antonio Vieira (1648)<sup>65</sup>

Brazilian Army Special Operation Forces history dates back to the 17th century, when Brazil was a Portuguese colony, during an era of Dutch invasions. The first Dutch invasion occurred on 8 May 1624, in the city of Salvador, State of Bahia, then capital of Brazil's General Government. On 29 March 1625, a year after their successful conquest of the capital, the Dutch were surrounded on land by guerrilla forces organized and led by the Bishop of Salvador, D. Marcos de Mendonça; and by sea by a Portuguese fleet under the command of D. Fradique de Toledo Osório. Entrapped by land and sea, restricted to the city's urban area, the Dutch invaders capitulated. The forces of D. Marcos were commanded by combat leaders identified as 'assault captains,' responsible for the conduct of ambush companies.

Among them was Brazilian-born Captain Francisco Padilha who received recognition for the execution of a number of successful offensive actions, characterized by shock and surprise. In one of them he was personally responsible for the elimination of the Dutch Governor Van Dorth. Francisco Padilha. In that historical moment he demonstrated a singular qualification for the conduct of what is today identified as "Commandos Actions."

In 1640, during the second Dutch incursion on Brazilian territory, Antonio Dias Cardoso, a Portuguese professional soldier, son of a humble family from the city of Porto, was sent to the State of Pernambuco by the Colony's General Government, with the mission of organizing and instructing Portuguese-Brazilian civilians. He undertook the formation of a resistance force that would enable the expulsion of the invaders. Dias Cardoso accomplished a mission that nowadays is a specific mission of SOF. After an impressive infiltration, crossing the countryside of the states of Bahia and Pernambuco



and overcoming dangers of natural obstacles and hostile actions of alien forces, Dias Cardoso achieved mission success. Therefore, standing beside combat leaders such as João Fernandes Vieira, Portuguese farmer, and political leader of the resistance from the State of Pernambuco; the Brazilian Andre Vidal de Negreiros, from the State of Paraiba; Felipe Camarão, an indigenous native Brazilian from the State of Rio Grande do Norte; and Henrique Dias, African-Brazilian from the State of Pernambuco; Antonio Dias Cardoso became an important historical figure in his own right. He contributed to the success of the native forces in several battles, including the Mount of Tabocas (3 August 1645), the First Battle of Guararapes (19 April 1648) and the Second Battle of Guararapes (19 February 1649). All of them were fundamental to the Dutch invaders' defeat.

On 26 January 1654, the Dutch signed the Capitulation of Campina do Taborda, withdrawing decisively. In this way, the Portuguese, Brazilian born settlers, Afro descendents, native Brazilians, and mixed race peoples, employing tactics, techniques, and procedures of irregular warfare, faced and defeated the more powerful foreign forces in campaigns that would come to materialize the dawn of Brazil's national identity.

Francisco Padilha and Antonio Dias Cardoso were protagonists in a series of historic events that demonstrated their exceptional skills of leadership, courage, determination, creativity, and selflessness, are excellent examples for the modern day Brazilian Army Commandos Actions specialists and Special Forces operators. In homage to these memorable campaigns and to these magnificent native combatants, the Brazilian Army selected 19 April (First Battle of Guararapes) as "Brazilian Army Day" and in 1991, the traditional 1st Special Forces Battalion received the historic designation as the "Antonio Dias Cardoso Battalion." In the same way, in 2006, the recently activated 1st Commandos Actions Battalion received the historical denomination as the "Captain Francisco Padilha Battalion."

## **History of Current Brazilian Army SOF**

The history of current Brazilian Army SOF resumed in December, 1957, when Infantry Paratrooper Major Gilberto Antonio Azevedo e Silva, initiated a pioneering effort full of determination and idealism to develop a Brazilian special operations capability. Gilberto is considered Special Operator Number One of the Brazilian Army. The first Special Operations

Qualification Course was carried out, planned, and conducted by a team of officers and noncommissioned officer (NCO) instructors of the then Airborne Pathfinder Qualification Course, at the then Airborne Special Training Center, today known as the Parachute Training Center *General Penha Brasil*. At that time, the current Parachute Infantry Brigade was called “Nucleus of the Airborne Division.” Major Gilberto’s initiative was based on the knowledge he had received visiting the U.S. Army; in 1956 he trained for four months at Fort Benning, Georgia and three months at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

This first Special Operations Course concluded in July 1958, with the qualification of 16 SOF operators (12 officers and 4 NCOs). It would become the seed of future Commandos Actions, Special Forces, and Jungle Operations Qualification Courses, and greatly influence the future preparation of Brazilian Army units in special operational environments like mountain, *caatinga* (typical semi-arid rugged terrain in the northeast of the country), and lowland swamps of the western border.

In 1961, a small group of paratroopers, officers, and sergeants who graduated from the Special Operations Course traveled to the U.S. to gain current knowledge about Army Rangers and Special Forces employment with the purpose of adapting the concepts to the Brazilian Army. In 1966, the Special Operations Course lasted 24 weeks and was divided into the Commandos Qualification Course and the Special Forces Qualification Course, with 9 and 21 weeks duration respectively. Both courses are still conducted at the Airborne Special Training Center.

In May 1965, Brazil deployed the FAIBRAS Detachment to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, as a significant contingent of the Inter American Peace Force. The deploying unit consisted of a Brazilian Army Infantry Battalion from the traditional Infantry School Regiment, and a Brazilian Marine Corps Company. Upon their return to Brazil in 1966, after a well accomplished mission accompanied by international recognition, officers and NCOs of the Infantry School Regiment decided to create a Commandos Qualification Course, utilizing the valuable lessons they had learned. Thereby, at that moment, the Brazilian Army came to have two formations of specialized combatants in Commandos Actions: one in the Airborne Special Training Center and the other in the Infantry School Regiment (not Airborne). Neither unit was officially recognized. It is important to note that since the beginning of Brazilian Army special operations

activities, the volunteers who wish to qualify as Special Forces Operators must first qualify at the Commandos Actions Course.

In 1967, at the Brazilian Army Military Academy, a Special Operations Division, was created in order to introduce SOF training to the Corps of Cadets. The positive results of that decision remain significant today.

An Army Ministerial Decree dated 12 August 1968 directed two decisions critical for the history of Brazilian SOF. By this administrative act, the Commandos and Special Forces Qualification Courses developed at the Airborne Special Training Center were officially recognized (the other one from the Infantry School Regiment was disestablished). The second decision was the activation of the first Brazilian Army SOF unit—the Special Forces Detachment (*Destacamento de Forças Especiais*). It was a company sized unit organized with a coordination and control detachment and two SFODs with 12 men each: 4 officers (commander, deputy, operations, and intelligence) and 8 sergeants (2 weapons, 2 communications, 2 demolitions, and 2 medical). It was initially billeted at the *Colina Longa*, a traditional site on the rear of the Airborne Special Training Center edifications, initially subordinate to that center. Since its activation, the Special Forces Detachment adopted a motto born from the former Special Operations Qualification Course, which has been established as the motto of the Brazilian Army Special Forces: “Any mission, at any place, at any time, in any way!”

During the later half of the 20th century, much of Latin America was facing the Marxist-Leninist revolutionary threat. In Brazil, the Armed Forces and other security organizations were experiencing, in a context of internal defense, a continuous struggle against subversion and terrorism. The newly activated Special Forces unit engaged decisively in this counterinsurgency effort that also included the outstanding performance of the paratroopers and the jungle infantry battalions. This provided significant combat experience in operations against irregular forces in a rural environment (jungle operations). The experience developed between 1969 and 1974 was institutionally recognized because of the unequivocal results obtained. It cannot be forgotten that the achievement of these results, on many occasions was paid for with blood.

During this period Brazil managed its counterinsurgency efforts on its own and never had the presence of foreign advisors or troops to resolve its internal security problems. The members of the Brazilian Armed Forces—particularly those who experienced that period including the Special Forces

operators—are extremely proud of their contributions to that effort. The lessons learned in those military operations against irregular forces remain valid up to now.

In 1972, in fulfillment of a decision of the then Commander of the First Army, the Special Forces Detachment came to periodically carry out Commandos Actions training (three weeks), with the aim of improving the capabilities of selected civilian and military police personnel who were members of organizations of the Secretary of Public Security of the then State of Guanabara (today State of Rio de Janeiro). This training constituted the seed of the formation of the current Special Police Operations Battalion (*Batalhão de Operações Policiais Especiais*), State of Rio de Janeiro Military Police, and of the Special Resources Coordination (*Coordenadoria de Recursos Especiais*), the current special weapons and tactics (SWAT) unit of the State of Rio de Janeiro Civilian Police.

In June 1973, the Special Forces Company, then subordinate to the Airborne Brigade, traveled to the U.S. to carry out a three-month Special Forces Operations Training course at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School with the support of the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), both based at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. This training was executed in three phases: the first phase included different specialties (operations, intelligence, military freefall, SCUBA, demolitions, communications, psychological operations, medical, and weapons); second phase was cross training; and third phase was the UW field tactical exercise.

The Special Forces Company/Airborne Brigade was transported to the United States in two C-115 *Búfalo* aircraft of the Brazilian Air Force, from one of the squadrons based at the *Afonso* Air Force Base (neighbor to the paratroopers quarters, in Vila Militar, Rio de Janeiro). Its crews operated the Brazilian aircraft in parallel with the Brazilian Army Special Forces training, and participated in Special Aerial Operations training in conjunction with the United States Air Force at Pope Air Force Base, neighbor to Fort Bragg. They supported the Brazilian Army Special Forces in diverse tactical activities, day and night, with full success.

The outcome of this mission abroad was a success and resulted in an increase in training readiness and material readiness. As a result of this training, by 1974 the Brazilian Army Special Forces had procured airborne and oxygen equipment. The Special Forces Company with the dedicated support of Brazilian Air Force tactical airlift squadrons from the V (5th) Air

Force Command became fully qualified in techniques of aerial infiltration by means of military freefalls, including high-altitude low-opening jumps, and high-altitude high-opening jumps. Brazilian special operations personnel continue this qualification today, which distinguishes operational units of this nature all around the world.

On 30 September 1983, the Special Forces Company was disestablished and replaced by the 1st Special Forces Battalion (*1o. Batalhão de Forças Especiais*). The activation of the new unit was due to the pressing need, already evident at the time, to qualify the Brazilian Army with a battalion-level operational military organization specialized in special operations, irregular warfare, and CT. The then 1st Special Forces Battalion was structured on a Command and General Staff, a Command and Services Company, a Special Forces Company, and a Commandos Actions Company. This brand new Special Forces unit was directly subordinate to the Parachute Infantry Brigade. All members were volunteer paratroopers and had at least a year of military service. The Commandos Actions and Special Forces Qualification Courses continued to be conducted by the Airborne Training Center. After establishment, the 1st Special Forces Battalion was directed to relocate to the *Estrada do Camboatá* in an area neighboring the Brazilian Army *Gericinó* Training Field.

The transfer to this new location of the recently activated Battalion, still roughly the size of the former Special Forces Company, proved to be an extremely demanding task. All officers and soldiers had to participate in the construction of the new installation since very few of the remaining buildings from the logistics command were of use. Finally, on 27 September 1984, after an intense period of construction, the new 1st Special Forces Battalion completed this task and officially occupied its new installation. In a demonstration of its members' commitment to operational readiness, the first Commandos Qualification Course for corporals and soldiers was successfully accomplished that same year.

In 1987, the Brazilian Army General Staff in Brasília created a working group with the goal of studying special operations activities, visualizing possible organizational structures, and considering the preparation and planning needed for the employment of Special Forces, Commandos Actions, and psychological operations. This study made recommendations about the availability, adequacy, integration, and the need of creating a Special Units Operations Command. The study's conclusions influenced the activation

of the Brazilian Army Special Operations Brigade that would be realized some 15 years later.

From 1988 on, directives from higher levels to further develop the 1st Special Forces Battalion made this the highest priority for the Brazilian Army Land Force. Directives were issued to improve operational capacity through the orderly selection of volunteers—officers, sergeants, corporals, and soldiers—specifically for the Commandos Actions Qualification Course.

Beginning in 1989 the responsibility for executing the Commandos Actions and Special Forces Qualification Courses was transferred from the Airborne Training Center to the 1st Special Forces Battalion. To accomplish the new mission, the battalion incorporated the human resources, weapons, and equipment from the Special Operations Section of that Training Center.

These measures enabled the 1st Special Forces Battalion to reach its full potential in terms of personnel, allowing the fulfillment of its brand new organization's goals. The unit was organized with the following elements: Command and Staff; a Command and Services Company; two Special Forces Companies, the 1st Special Forces Company composed of a Coordination and Control Detachment and four SFODs, and the 2nd responsible for the mission of conducting the qualification courses. Each SFOD consisted of four officers and eight sergeants. Also the Commandos Actions Company had a Command Section and four Commandos Actions Detachments, each led by a lieutenant with 4 sergeants and 37 soldiers.

In 1990, the then recently created Brazilian Army Land Operations Command (headed by four-star general), based at the Brazilian Army Headquarters, Brasília, formally approved the 1st Special Forces Battalion Training Plan with its four phases: individual, detachment, company, and battalion. This plan, among other highly specialized aspects, incorporated training exercises in different areas of strategic employment on the national territory. In the same way, an intense doctrine reevaluation enabled the development of field manual *IP 31-95, The Special Forces Battalion, 1st Edition*, that was approved in 1991 by the Brazilian Army General Staff.

At the same time the Special Forces Battalion Training Program enjoyed a quality leap forward with joint training with the 5th Air Force Command. In order to take advantage of 1st Special Forces Battalion field tactical exercises to train its air crews on Special Air Operations in many diverse

operational environments the 5th Air Force Command established a very specialized flying and parachute dropping (airborne) program, including different types of aerial infiltration with various types of aircraft. Another highly positive aspect was the close connection established with the then Army Aviation Brigade, headquarters in Taubaté, State of São Paulo. This relationship was developed particularly with the Army Aviation Training Center. The first Helicopter Combat Pilot Qualification Course developed in 1990 had its final field tactical exercise carried out with the support of the 1st Special Forces Battalion. There were outstanding benefits for both units because different types of special tactics, techniques, and procedures were developed and extensively practiced. Highlights of this training included different types of exfiltration and infiltration (including semi automatic and freefall jumps in different altitudes, day and night), helicopter landing zone operations for different types of air assaults, helocasting (aquatic low altitude dropping), helicopter transportation of sniper teams, and air resupply of combat patrols.

New operational vehicles (of 0.25, 1.5, and 2.5 tons), and latest generation specialized equipment were received by the unit. Improved weapons and ammunition were received, including: Heckler Koch German-made submachine guns, sound suppressing equipment, laser sights, night vision devices, sniper rifles of different ranges and calibers, grenades of sound and light, and so on. In regard to military freefall, U.S. modern parachutes MT1-XX and Mach III were received with oxygen consoles, oxygen portable bottles, oxygen masks, and helmets. For maritime operations, the unit received pneumatic boats, stern engines, oxygen bottles, neoprene clothes, et cetera. Communications equipment received included several radio sets of diversified range to include the *ERC 620 P* radio set with counter-electronic measures, manufactured in Brazil. Enhanced with solar charged batteries, this radio set had an excellent performance record in very demanding operational environments where reliable connections are necessary for short-, medium-, and long-range communication.

Along with the specialized equipment received, new construction was rapidly completed for a command pavilion. It included a large mess hall with kitchens equipped with solar heat. New facilities were also constructed for each of the companies. The fort provided state of the art training facilities to meet the Special Forces Battalion specific needs. Specialized compounds were also updated (urban close quarter combat, multiple firing ranges, a

military pentathlon obstacle track, grenade launching ranges, and explosive detonation ranges). A tactical pool seven meters deep that enabled the conduct of basic training for underwater operations with autonomous diving equipment was constructed in 1992. A renovation of the battalion's kennel for combat dogs was also performed.

In 1990, the Army General Staff announced its decision that the 1st Special Forces Battalion would be designated the Brazilian Army's CT unit. A new installation was rapidly built at the *Camboatá* quarters. The command pavilion was named *Pavilhão General Luis Paulo Fernandes Almeida* and facilitated the practice of close quarter battle tactics, techniques, and procedures in terrorist occupied buildings, capable of live firing. In addition, assault teams began to train CT actions with commercial companies' fleet of aircraft, normally at night, when the planes were in their maintenance hangars. Extremely realistic exercises with participation of crew and mannequin passengers were conducted. In exchange, the battalion provided survival training to those commercial air companies' personnel.

Fulfilling decisions from the Eastern Military Command, the Special Forces Battalion began to develop specific annual training programs for Federal Police agents and Federal Mint House security agents. But the high point of this period of high operational tempo was the great number of real world missions that the 1st Special Forces Battalion carried out in support of the Area Military Commands, particularly, under operational control of the South Military Command and the Amazon Military Command. All these operations developed in diversified environments and highly sensitive strategic areas. The lessons learned on these missions consolidated the operational identity of the Brazilian Army Special Forces. And they became a pillar of basic guidance for the preparation and employment of the 1st Special Forces Battalion, which in a short time, became one of the key elements of the Strategic Rapid Action Force (*Força de Ação Rápida Estratégica*) of the Brazilian Army, activated by the Land Operations Command in 1990. A key lesson learned from these diversified missions was the necessity to integrate the SFODs and Commandos Actions Detachments, constituting the Immediate Action Detachments that were destined to become the hallmark of Brazilian Army SOF employment.<sup>66</sup>



## International Conference on the Environment - ECO 92

In 1992, the International Conference on the Environment (ECO 92) was held in Rio de Janeiro. It brought the presence of 120 Heads of State from different countries. The Security Area Coordination of this large international event was assigned to the Eastern Military Commander (four-star general). It involved the three armed forces and all the Brazilian Public Security Agencies (civilian). The 1st Special Forces Battalion was in charge of all planning, coordination, and execution of the CT operations. The security preparations for this remarkable event were set in motion in 1991. The specific tasks for the 1st Special Forces Battalion included reconnaissance missions and working meetings held with elements of foreign SOF and with different national and international security organizations. Standard operating procedures, general norms of action, and other control and coordination measures were established. The CT operational teams consisting of operators of the Brazilian Army Special Forces Battalion received the support of Brazilian Army Aviation aircraft. As a result of realistic training and careful rehearsals exhaustively conducted, the Special Forces Battalion operators and the helicopter crews integrated their actions flawlessly.

*ECO 92* was carried out with great success, and the work conducted by the 1st Special Forces Battalion *Batalhão Antonio Dias Cardoso* was the recipient of many complimentary references, nationally and internationally. The battalion's experience afforded the collection of many lessons learned that remain valid today. For example, these lessons were used to prepare for the June 2012 "RIO + 20" conference, held in Rio de Janeiro, with 150 heads of state in attendance.

The intent of this brief history of Brazilian SOF provides a better understanding of the gradual development of Brazil's special operations capabilities. It also serves as prologue to a more detailed discussion of current organization and activities. The following chapter provides a thorough review of the Brazilian Army Special Operations Brigade.



**Top left:** Antonio Dias Cardoso Battalion Brazilian Flag Guard of Honor (Photo: BdaOpEsp)

**Center left:** The Commandos Actions Fire Support Team/Francisco Padilha Battalion carries out a counterterrorism urban terrain operation. (Photo: BdaOpEsp)

**Bottom left:** Tactical Team/1st Special Forces Battalion supported by an Army Aviation HM-1 Pantera helicopter; "Operation ASPA" May 2005, Brasilia/Federal District (Photo: Tecnologia & Defesa)

**Top right:** Amphibious Commandos carry out a maritime infiltration supported by an S34-Tikuna submarine. (Photo: Tecnologia & Defesa)

**Bottom right:** Peace Special Operations Detachment/Sniper Team in a fire position over shanty town at Port au Prince, Haiti (Photo: BdaOpEsp)

**Top left:** Psychological Operations Mobile Tactical Team/Brazilian Battalion's Peace Special Operations Detachment walk in Port au Prince, Haiti's shanty towns. (Photo: BdaOpEsp)

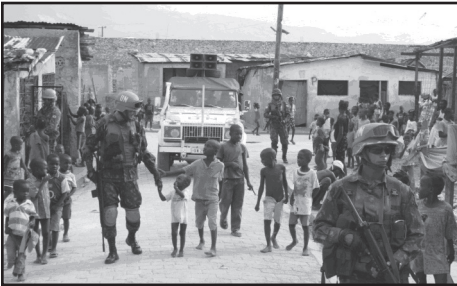
**Top right:** Commandos Actions Qualification Course students in aquatic operations. (Photo: BdaOpEsp)

**Center left:** The 1st Chemical, Biological, and Nuclear Platoon's Tactical Team carry out a radiological sweep of Angra dos Reis Nuclear Plant personnel, during a tactical field exercise "Op Angra" in 2009. (Photo: BdaOpEsp)

**Center right:** Commandos carrying out helocasting from an Army Aviation HM-1 Pantera helicopter (Photo: BdaOpEsp)

**Bottom left:** Commandos Actions Detachment on a deployment readiness inspection (Photo: BdaOpEsp)

**Bottom right:** Amphibious Commandos/Marine Corps Special Operations Battalion, Amphibious Reconnaissance Company Tactical Team (Photo: Tecnologia & Defesa)





**Top:** The 1st Special Forces Battalion on an urban terrain counterterrorism training operation (Photo: BdaOpEsp)

**Second from top:** Ivory Coast Brazilian Embassy security Special Forces Operational Detachment (Photo: BdaOpEsp).

**Third from top:** Tactical Team carrying out a maritime CT exercise on a Brazilian Oil Exploration Platform (Photo: Tecnologia & Defesa)



**Bottom left:** Amphibious Commandos/Rescue and Retaking Special Group Tactical Team (Photo: Tecnologia & Defesa)

**Top right:** Commandos Actions Detachment carrying out infiltration jump from a Brazilian Air Force C-105A Amazonas during “Op Laguna”, 2009. (Photo: Tecnologia & Defesa)



**Bottom right:** Brazilian Air Force aircraft: R-99A, R-99B, and A-29 supporters of the Amazon Surveillance System (Photo: Tecnologia & Defesa)





## 8. Brazilian Army Special Operations Brigade – Brigada de Operações Especiais

After the dramatic events of 9/11, it became clear that terrorism perpetrated by violent extremist groups was a serious threat to democratic societies around the globe and that robust SOF would be required to counter the threat. Faced with a transnational irregular enemy, employing the tactics, techniques, and procedures of suicidal terrorism, countries would require SOF—and plenty of it. This was recognized by security experts in many countries, and was especially true in Brazil where then Brazilian Army Commander, General Gleuber Vieira, in spite of facing some controversial opposition, was responsible for the Brazilian Army's qualitative leap, with the creation of its Special Operations Great Unit (a senior headquarters). Presidential Decree Nr 4289, of 27 June 2002, created the Special Operations Brigade (*Brigada de Operações Especiais*), headquartered in Rio de Janeiro.

On 3 September 2003, Presidential Decree Nr 4828 moved the Brigade Headquarters, from Rio de Janeiro, RJ to Goiânia, State of Goiás, and the 3rd Motorized Infantry Brigade (*3a. Brigada de Infantaria Motorizada*), then in Goiânia, State of Goiás, to Cristalina, also in the State of Goiás. On 16 December in that same year, the Command of the Army Special Operations Brigade effectively initiated its activities, occupying installations that previously were under the command of the 3rd Motorized Infantry Brigade. On 1 January 2004, the subordinate military organizations officially began working at their new quarters with most of the construction underway.

Besides its Command and General Staff, the Brigade is comprised of the following: the Special Operations Training Center; the 1st Special Forces Battalion (*1o. Batalhão de Forças Especiais*), *Batalhão Antonio Dias Cardoso*; the 1st Commandos Actions Battalion (*1o. Batalhão de Ações de Comandos*), *Batalhão Capitão Francisco Padilha*; the 3rd Special Forces Company (*3a. Companhia de Forças Especiais*); the Psychological Operations Battalion (*Batalhão de Operações Psicológicas*); the Special Operations Support Battalion (*Batalhão de Apoio às Operações Especiais*); the 1st Chemical, Biological and Nuclear Defense Platoon (*1o. Pelotão de Defesa Química, Biológica e Nuclear*); the 6th Army Police Platoon (*6o. Pelotão de Polícia do Exército*); and the Special Operations Brigade Administrative Base.

The Brigade Command and all subordinate military organizations are based in Goiânia, State of Goiás, with the exception of the 3rd Special Forces Company, based in Manaus/State of Amazonas, and the Special Operations Training Center, which stayed in Rio de Janeiro, RJ, at the former Camboatá area, and since August 2011, have occupied an excellent installation at the historic Fort Imbuhy, City of Niterói, RJ.

The Special Operations Brigade's Command and General Staff is responsible for the preparation, coordination, and employment of its subordinate elements. This operational unit is always ready to be deployed on short notice to any part of the national territory, or out of it. Currently, this headquarters is made up of the commander, chief of staff, and six staff sections (personnel, intelligence, operations, logistics, social communication, and planning), a general support section and an information section. The Special Operations Brigade is subordinate to the *Planalto* Military Command, Brasília/Federal District, and linked for preparation and employment matters to the Land Operations Command, Brasília/Federal District. The Brazilian Army SOF soldiers are extremely proud to keep in mind their motto: "The Ideal as Motivation, Selflessness as a Routine, Danger as a Brother and Death as a Companion!" The Special Operations Brigade's motto is: "Loyalty as a Belief, Discipline as a Value, Courage as a Habit, Mission as Destiny!"<sup>67</sup>

## **1st Special Forces Battalion – 1o. Batalhão de Forças Especiais**

The 1st Special Forces Battalion, *Batalhão Antonio Dias Cardoso*, is the central pillar of the brigade. It is the Special Operations Brigade's elements of maneuver and it is organized with a Commander and Staff, a Command and Support Company, 1st and 2nd Special Forces Companies, and the Counterterrorism Detachment (*Destacamento de Contraterrorismo*).

The Battalion's mission is to organize, develop, equip, train, and direct paramilitary forces in UW operations. It establishes UW operational areas, involving guerrilla warfare, subversion, sabotage, evasion, and escape. It executes operations against Irregular Forces, in urban and/or rural environments, involving counter-guerrilla and CT initiatives. It also executes special reconnaissance operations focusing on search, location, and strategic target attacks. All of this aims to contribute toward the achievement of political, economical, psychosocial, and military goals of Brazil's national strategy.

Each of the Special Forces Companies, identified as Force 1 and Force 2, is organized with a coordination and control detachment and four SFOD. Each SFOD is organized with four officers (commander, deputy, operations, and intelligence) and eight sergeants (two weapons, two communications, two demolitions, and two medical). All personnel are volunteers, paratroopers, and qualified in the Commandos Actions and Special Forces Operations Qualification Courses. Although the SFOD is the basic element of employment, the battalion has the flexibility to configure its detachments according to the mission and the operational environment characteristics in which they will be deployed, and it is able to infiltrate and exfiltrate them by land, air, water, or by a combination of these.

Its high level of readiness and the availability of air support (fixed and/or rotary wing) gives the battalion adequate strategic and tactical mobility and rapid deployment, enabling it to be employed in short time in any area of the national territory or out of it. Possessing advanced weapons and latest generation equipment, the 1st Special Forces Battalion employment demands a high level of secrecy, and its operations present considerable risk since they are executed in hostile territory or highly sensitive situations. The capability to survive and operate in remote and hostile environments for long periods of time with a minimum direction and support is a traditional characteristic of the Special Forces Operators and an important objective to be achieved in its training program.

Because of its special capabilities and characteristics, the 1st Special Forces Battalion can conduct a number of SOF activities:

- planning and execution of intelligence operations on the strategic, operational and tactical levels;
- supporting in its deployment areas, especially in the established UW operational areas, conventional forces, in the achievement of land operations objectives (offensive and defensive), airborne or air assault, amphibious or river crossing, and air strategic operations. Normally, the basic support action in these contexts will be the establishment of Special Forces Reception Committees;
- supporting, by means of Mobile Training Teams, conventional forces on special operations tactics, techniques, and procedures;
- carrying out, when directed, direct actions/commandos actions special operations;



- planning and conducting psychological operations, particularly to support SOF operations, as is the case of the UW operational areas;
- operating as forward observers in the conduct of land and naval fire support, as well as forward air controllers, in the conduct of aerial fire support.

The 1st Special Forces Battalion maintains relationships with SOF units from several friendly countries including, among others, South American neighbors, the Portuguese speaking community, and the United States, which enables a productive exchange. The traditional motto of Brazilian SOF is: “Any Mission, at any place, at any time, in any way!”

### **1st Commandos Actions Battalion – *1o. Batalhão de Ações de Comandos***

The current 1st Commandos Actions Battalion, *Batalhão Capitão Francisco Teixeira*, has its roots in the former Commandos Actions Company of the former 1st Special Forces Battalion, as discussed in the previous chapter on Brazilian Army SOF history. It is organized with a Commander and Staff, a Command and Support Company; three Commandos Actions Companies; and the Reconnaissance and Snipers Detachment.

Each Commandos Actions Company is organized with a Command Section and three Commandos Action Detachments. Each Commandos Action Detachment has 1 officer, 4 NCOs and 37 Soldiers. The Reconnaissance and Snipers Detachment is organized with a Command Group, a Reconnaissance Group, and a Snipers Group.

The 1st Commandos Action Battalion’s missions are to carry out commandos actions/direct actions, high risk capture, rescue, elimination, and interdiction of strategic and tactical targets in hostile enemy controlled territory in peacetime, crisis, or during conflict. These actions are aimed to contribute to the achievement of political, economical, psychosocial, or military goals. Because of its operational characteristics, the 1st Commandos Actions Battalion is organized to carry out a wide range of activities:

- land, air, aquatic, or mixed infiltrations;
- operations in any kind of terrain, particularly semi-arid regions, mountain, jungle, or lowland swamp;

- operations against irregular forces, particularly counter-guerrillas and CT;
- forward observers in the conduct of land and naval fire support, as well as forward air controllers;
- join with the 1st Special Forces Battalion in UW operations;
- special reconnaissance operations, aiming the search, location and strategic target attacks;
- combat intelligence operations;
- advise conventional forces on commandos employment.

All members are volunteers, paratroopers, and qualified by the Commandos Actions Qualification Course. The 1st Commandos Actions Battalion has advanced weapons and the latest generation equipment. Its training is characterized by maximum realism during execution. Its motto is: “The maximum confusion, death, and destruction on the enemy rear!”

### **3rd Special Forces Company – *3a Companhia de Forças Especiais***

The 3rd Special Forces Company, known as Force 3, is an independent sub-unit, subordinate to the Special Operations Brigade Command for preparation and training, and assigned operationally to the Amazon Military Command for deployment. It is based in Manaus, State of Amazonas. The actions of the Brazilian Army Special Forces in the Amazon throughout its more than 50-year history have been effective and frequent. As a consequence of the lessons learned in the past, Force 3 came to constitute the forefront of the Special Operations Brigade, already deployed in that Land Force strategic priority area. Its mission is to provide the Amazon Military Command considerable readiness for special operations actions, as well as collaborating on the planning and deployment of SOF. Beyond enabling improved operational capabilities for the Amazon Military Command, Force 3 contributes decisively by preparing the way for the optimal employment of other SOF elements which may be deployed in that region.

In order to carry out its mission, the 3rd Special Forces Company commits itself to train in jungle operational environments, to study the Amazon’s complex environment (including the familiarization with key terrain and decisive points), and to understand the diversified regional culture.

Besides its organic SFODs, Force 3 has elements capable of providing adequate command and control support, communications and logistical support to its operations.

Its regional strategic and tactical mobility is provided by the 4th Army Aviation Battalion (*4o. Batalhão da Aviação do Exército*) based in Manaus; by the transport aircraft and helicopters of the Brazilian Air Force, at Manaus Air Force Base; and by the support of ships and boats of the Amazon Military Command and the Brazilian Navy at the Manaus Naval Base. Aerial fire support is provided by Brazilian Air Force Fighter Squadrons located in the North region. However, it should be underscored that its major characteristic is the capability to act as a combat power multiplier.

Notwithstanding the fulfillment of isolated missions, and the 3rd Special Forces Company's capacity to operate independently, its concept of deployment demands integration with the Jungle Infantry Brigades' units, aiming to maximize both units' potential and operational capability. The nature of the 3rd Special Forces Company and its deployment flexibility make it particularly apt to carry out joint operations with elements of other Armed Forces as well as to cooperate with different government agencies operating in the North region of Brazil.

### **Psychological Operations Battalion – *Batalhão de Operações Psicológicas***

The Psychological Operations Battalion is one of the Special Operations Brigade combat support elements. It is organized with a Command and Staff; Planning Section; Command Support Company; and two Psychological Operations Companies. Each Psychological Operations Company has a Command Section, Production/Dissemination Section, and Tactical Group. Its mission is the planning, conduct, and execution of psychological operations in support of the Special Operations Brigade and all the great Area Military Commands of the Brazilian Army Land Force in the context of external defense, the guarantee of law and order, UW, operations against irregular forces, and CT.

Beyond advising the Psychological Operations Battalion Command on the areas of personnel, intelligence operations, logistics, and social communication, the staff incorporates a Planning and Doctrine Section that enables the battalion to conduct studies, research, and activities to develop

a Brazilian doctrine of psychological operations. In order to optimize campaign planning, the Psychological Operations Battalion divides its responsibilities in five specific military operations: jungle, guarantee of law and order, conventional, peace, and support to special operations.

The Psychological Operations Companies are in charge of the creation, production, and dissemination of psychological operations material. They are organized with personnel who are specialists in the creation of printed products, audio and audiovisual, Internet, other than the technical requirements to execute tactical psychological operations actions such as personal contact and loud-speaker use. This Brazilian Army specialized unit uses psychological operations as a nonlethal weapon whose employment will be vital in the development of diverse campaigns throughout the 21st century. They must be conducted before, during, and after the beginning of the hostilities, aiming to affect the behavior of three target publics: friendly forces, enemy forces (including irregular forces), and the noncombatant civilian population.

By deploying tactical teams organized in detachments, the Psychological Operations Battalion is able to develop a great variety of products and actions to manage its target public perception. This may vary from the simple information of procedures to be adopted (through radio, printed pamphlets, television, loudspeakers, internet, et cetera) up to dissimulation operations to break enemy resistance. Its personnel are highly specialized officers and soldiers. They are graduates of the Psychological Operations Qualification Course developed at Special Operations Training Center, and they have diverse backgrounds from the social and human sciences.

### **Special Operations Support Battalion – *Batalhão de Apoio às Operações Especiais***

The Special Operations Support Battalion is a mixed combat and logistical support element of the Army Special Operations Brigade. It is organized with a Command and Staff and four companies: command, communications, logistics, and infiltration support. Its mission is to support the Army Special Operations Brigade with personnel and material; provide security; install, operate, and maintain the brigade's communications system; deploy and operate the Special Operations Brigade Operational Base; provide limited transportation support to the Army Special Operations Brigade units;

support the infiltration and exfiltration of the Army Special Operations Brigade's elements by air and aquatic means; provide parachute packing and maintenance and air supply; and provide for unit health support.

The Special Operations Support Battalion is a vital element be it for preparations or for the deployment of the Special Operations Brigade's units. Its soldiers are all volunteers, from different branches because its broad field of activities requires elements with different specializations, such as Special Forces operators, commandos actions specialists, pathfinder paratroopers, jungle operations, parachute packing and maintenance specialists, air supply specialists, jump masters, and combat divers.

### **1st Chemical, Biological and Nuclear Defense Platoon – 1o. *Pelotão de Defesa Química, Biológica e Nuclear***

The 1st Chemical, Biological, and Nuclear Defense Platoon is a combat support element of the Army Special Operations Brigade. It is structured to operate in small teams along with detachments for operational employment. It is organized with a Chemical, Biological, and Nuclear Support Team and a Chemical Counterterrorism Team.

The platoon's mission is based on the risk analysis resulting from a confrontation within an environment contaminated by chemical, biological, or nuclear agents. From this analysis, the chemical, biological, and nuclear specialist evaluates the troops' and the non-combatant civilians' vulnerability level in the designated operational area. This vulnerability is reduced due to the guidance given about protection postures, decontamination procedures, and protection equipment to be used against chemical, biological, or nuclear agents.

The Chemical, Biological and Nuclear Support Team's mission is to carry out the supported unit's vulnerability monitoring, to provide protection equipment, and perform the decontamination of these elements. The Chemical Counterterrorism Team's mission is to operate with the Counterterrorism Detachment/1st Special Forces Battalion to provide an immediate response force aiming to contain possible damage caused by the release of chemical, biological, and nuclear agents over the troops and over the civilian population. In summary, the 1st Chemical, Biological, and Nuclear Defense Platoon constantly monitors the contamination levels with chemical, biological, and nuclear agent detection equipment and carries

out decontamination efforts of all the material and personnel involved in a suspected area of contamination.

### **6th Army Police Platoon – *6o. Pelotão de Polícia do Exército***

The 6th Army Police Platoon is the Special Operations Brigade's Army Police element. It is organized with the following groups: Chief and Police, Escort and Guard, and Security and Traffic. Its mission is to support the Special Operations Brigade with its specific Army Police activities; provide security to the Special Operations Brigade base when deployed; to carry out traffic control and military crime investigation; and perform escort and guard duty for the Special Operations Brigade.

### **Special Operations Brigade Administrative Base – *Base Administrativa da Army Special Operations Brigade***

The Army Special Operations Brigade acquired administrative autonomy on 1 January 2004. With this autonomy, it became responsible for the Brigade's Military Organizations financial management, budget, property, and personnel. Therefore, a close administrative bond was created between the Special Operations Brigade Administrative Base and the supported units, enabling them to concentrate on operational goals, preparation, and deployment.

### **Special Operations Brigade and Modernization**

The motivation that led to the Special Operations Brigade activation in the Brazilian Army structure was the existence of a 21st century scenario characterized by undefined threats, uncertainty, and unpredictability. Establishing the Army Special Operations Brigade enabled the Brazilian Land Force stronger means, versatile, efficient, and effective, to assure a ready response to crisis and conflict, through the deployment of small, highly trained teams, especially motivated and equipped with the best modern equipment.

The Construction Directive Plan, aiming to retool the Special Operations Brigade with modern and functional installations, encompassed all units and was completed in 2007. The last installations inaugurated were

the Support Infiltration Company pavilion of the Special Operations Support Battalion and a wind tunnel freefall simulator. This operational freefall simulator is the only one in Latin America and one of the few in the Western Hemisphere. It can accommodate up to four military personnel equipped with rucksacks and one instructor. This enables an important improvement for freefall training, with a meaningful increase in safety and operational qualifications to accomplish aerial infiltrations.

For the conduct of training and operational deployment, a significant amount of resources were allocated for the Special Operations Brigade's acquisition of specialized military equipment. In addition to other equipment already in use by several units, operational kayaks for aquatic infiltrations and closed circuit diving equipment (which does not produce bubbles) were procured. Weapons used for various operational environments are: the Colt M4 Commando rifle, Remington M-24 sniper rifle, HK G-36 compact rifle, Minimi Commando and MAG FN machine guns, Franchi SPAS-15 12 gauge shotgun, the Barrett 12.7 mm (.50 cal.) anti-material rifle, HK series SD 9mm sub machine guns, and Glock G-17 pistols. Also acquired were night vision devices, holographic sights for rifles and pistols, recoilless 84 mm cannons with night vision devices; satellite communications material with cryptography and frequency leaping; militarized computers; training simulation devices adapted to individual weapons; ballistic vests; Nomex flame retardant uniforms; low altitude (250 feet-80 meters) static line parachutes for personnel and material, plus the most modern operational freefall parachutes and high altitude jump equipment currently available.

The recently created Army Special Operations Brigade has its operational units filled with professional personnel (officers, NCOs and soldiers) and its training year provides for deployments in the most critical areas of Brazil. It is postured for action in all of the country's operational environments: jungle; *pantanal* (lowland swamps); *caatinga*; mountain; *pampa* (Southern plains); and urban areas. Undoubtedly, the activation of the Special Operations Brigade was a remarkable Brazilian Army leap into modernity.

## The Brigade and Counterterrorism

The Army Special Operations Brigade is the only Brazilian Army Major Command that has troops exclusively focused upon CT actions. The Counterterrorism Detachment of the 1st Special Forces Battalion is composed

exclusively of officers and NCOs who graduated from the Commandos Actions and the Special Forces Qualification Courses. Those soldiers focus their specific training upon updated doctrine and techniques for terror prevention and CT. This is a proactive doctrine that aims to preempt and neutralize terrorism threats. Thus, what is sought is tactical, technical, and procedural excellence, necessary for terrorism prevention, based on the previous neutralization of the threat and the immediate use of data obtained by an effective, proactive intelligence collection effort. When crisis situations occur, it is imperative to minimize their effects by means of a solid capability to liberate installations and rescue hostages.

For situations in which the demand for tactical assault troops and sniper teams exceeds the capabilities of the Counterterrorism Detachment, the Army Special Operations Brigade maintains its readiness to deploy other Immediate Action Special Operations Detachments (integrating SFODs and Commandos Actions Detachments). The Special Operations Brigade's Command and Staff, along with the 1st Special Forces Battalion, 1st Commandos Actions Battalion, Psychological Operations Battalion, and other units' commands keeps a decision making process updated and a C4ISR System<sup>68</sup> capable of synchronizing command and control activities with intelligence operations, and the Counterterrorism Detachments maneuver, in terms of time, space, and purpose. In addition to its elite personnel, high levels of professional training, and specialized equipment, proficiency in the decision making process makes the Army Special Operations Brigade the most prepared specialized organization in Brazil to face contingencies of this nature.

During the training year, the 1st Special Forces Battalion, 1st Commandos Actions Battalion, Psychological Operations Battalion, Special Operations Support Battalion, 1st Chemical, Biological, and Nuclear Defense Platoon, and other units when needed, participate in realistic field tactical exercises, coordinated by the Special Operations Brigade, exploring diversified situations of terrorist threat neutralization. These tactical exercises are conducted in different operational environments all over the Brazilian national territory. They include the participation of specialized CT units of the other services and law enforcement agencies. Some of these joint tactical exercises are sponsored by the Ministry of Defense or the Brazilian Army Land Operations Command, and they are conducted by the Area



Military Commands. They constitute excellent opportunities to strengthen the tactical ties with the other SOF units.

In June, 2007 a team of the Counterterrorism Detachment participated for the first time in the renowned *FUERZAS COMANDO*, a CT training competition organized by the U.S. Special Operations Command South, in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, along side teams from 16 countries from North, Central, and South America. This participation was repeated in June 2008, in San Antonio, Texas, and again in June 2009 in the city of Goiânia, Brazil, this time with 23 countries. In June 2010, it was held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. In all these opportunities, the Brazilian CT assault and sniper teams have been highly professional ratifying the high quality standards of the Brazilian Army CT troops. In 2009, the Brazilian CT Team won the event.

## **Forging the Specials**

The high level of complexity inherent to CT special operations, the need for exceptional standards of physical conditioning, the keen individual technical preparation, the critical operational qualification of teams, as well as the necessary psychological preparation, demand that the training activities are conducted with the maximum possible realism. The intensive employment of live fire and high degree of risk demand rigorous discipline and professional procedures intensively practiced by all of the individuals involved. This explains why a vigorous and demanding training program is critical for the success of Brazilian SOF.

At the Special Operations Training Center, currently based in Niterói, RJ, at the historic Fort Imbuhy, the Commandos Actions, Special Forces, and Psychological Operations Qualification Courses are held, qualifying officers and soldiers to serve at the Special Operations Brigade's units.

## **Commandos Actions Qualification Course**

The Commandos Actions Qualification Course is designated only for highly qualified volunteer Army career officers (Category A) and sergeants (Category B), who are ready to join the 1st Commandos Actions Battalion. However, officers and sergeants from friendly nations may also attend the course, as well as military personnel from the Brazilian Navy and Air Force.

This is unequivocally the most physically and psychologically demanding Brazilian Army specialization course.

The selection process occurs in two phases. The first, called Preliminary Selection, takes place six months before the beginning of the course. It aims to evaluate the candidate's character and physical condition. Special Operations Training Center personnel conduct these rigorous tests at the diverse Area Military Commands throughout Brazil. The second phase, called Complementary Selection, happens two weeks before the beginning of the course at the Commandos Actions Qualification Course. It checks the psychological and physical condition of the candidates who are already under psychological pressure and stress in anticipation of the demanding activities that will happen throughout the course.

During the 12-week course the students are subjected to simulated combat situations in different operational environments. Students are tested in continuous operations where they are under psychological pressure, and where hunger, cold, sleep deprivation, and high fatigue levels are inseparable companions. They get to know themselves profoundly as they test their abilities under these demanding conditions. Qualities and virtues such as leadership, decision making, initiative, emotional balance, courage, determination, self-confidence, persistence, and resistance to intense and prolonged physical effort, among others, are required of those who wish to conclude the course successfully. Throughout its 12 weeks, the Commandos Actions Qualifications Course amounts to a total 1,338 hours of instruction, focused on application, with emphasis on the following disciplines: Commandos Actions (517 hours) and Special Techniques (217 hours).

In addition, volunteer professional soldiers, upon conclusion of their obligatory military service, with good evaluation, serving at any Brazilian Army Unit, and approved for the medical, physical, and psychological selection, can participate in the eight-week Commandos Formation Soldier Course. This course has an initial period carried out at the Special Operations Training Center and a final phase at the 1st Commandos Actions Battalion.

## **Special Forces Qualification Course**

The Special Forces Qualification Course is available only to Brazilian Army career officers (Category A) and sergeants (Category B). Its prerequisite is

to be qualified at the Commandos Actions Qualification Course. The non-paratrooper students must attend a specific phase in the Special Forces Course the Paratrooper Basic Course held at the Parachute Training Center. Students who already possess parachute qualification attend in this period the Diving and Rescue Course. After the Special Forces Qualification Course conclusion, personnel assigned to a SFOD that conducts sub aquatic operations will attend the Closed Circuit Diving Course held at the Commandos Actions Qualification Course.

The Special Forces Qualification Course lasts 23 weeks for a total 2,146 hours of instruction. After receiving the theoretical fundamentals, the students are submitted to the most varied situations in the most diversified operational environments. The emphasis is on the disciplines of: revolutionary warfare (870 hours) and resistance warfare (424 hours).

## **Psychological Operations Qualification Course**

The Psychological Operations Qualification Course is for Brazilian Army career officers and sergeants. Developed initially in 2005 at the Psychological Operations Battalion, the course came to be held at the Special Operations Training Center from 2006 on. The course lasts 16 weeks, aiming to enable students to conduct Psychological Operations situations studies; plan its campaigns and products; integrate them with social communications and intelligence; analyze, foresee, identify, and evaluate impact indicators pertinent to the activity; employ the diverse instruments and tools at hand; and integrate the Psychological Operations Battalion and its teams in support of the diverse levels of the Army.

The course curriculum for officers includes the study and practice of subjects such as: technical-scientific fundamentals involving human and social sciences, psychology, anthropology, sociology, international relations, international law of armed conflicts, and civil affairs. On the specific field of psychological operations, the following subjects are studied: doctrine and regulations, propaganda and counterpropaganda, dissemination platforms, planning, employment, and negotiation. The so-called interrelated systems complete the qualification of the psychological operations officer; these are topics such as intelligence, social communications, electronic warfare, and military physical training.

The course designed to sergeants, also 16 weeks long, has the objective of qualifying them to integrate psychological operations teams in support of various levels of the Army to support the planning, elaboration of technical documents and the development and dissemination of its products. Throughout the course's 16 weeks, the sergeants study subjects such as production (photography, video, radio diffusion, and graphic and electronic media), psychological operations, interdisciplinary projects, and military physical training.

As emphasized throughout this monograph, because of the demanding combat challenges it routinely faces, special operations are typically joint activities involving more than one service. The following chapter will examine the Brazilian Navy's approach to special operations, with a look at its combat divers and Marines.



## 9. Brazilian Navy Special Operations Forces – *As Forças de Operações Especiais da Marinha do Brasil*

Special operations are extremely relevant to the Brazilian Navy's role in national defense. As addressed earlier in this monograph, Brazil's National Defense Policy accounts for Brazil's strategic arch, a maritime area encompassing the South Atlantic rim. Important too, much of the Legal Amazon is a fluvial region where naval presence, especially on the international waterway of the Amazon River, is essential for national security. Because of uncertainties in the complex international environment and the environmental diversity found in Brazil's jurisdictional waters, the Naval Force keeps two specially trained units fully prepared for action. They are capable of conducting unconventional operations against high value targets that necessarily involve calculated risks in seeking strategic results.

The two Brazilian Navy units that plan and execute special operations are the Navy Combat Divers Group (GRUMEC), the Brazilian Sea Air Land (SEAL) operators, and the Marine Corps Special Operations Battalion (*Batalhão de Operações Especiais de Fuzileiros Navais*, or *Batalhão Tonelero*). The basic difference between these two special operations units is the primary field of action. While the Marine Corps Special Operations Battalion's Amphibious Commandos deployment priority is the land environment, the GRUMEC is the aquatic. The Brazilian Navy keeps these two units at the highest operational level, conducting constant high-risk training exercises throughout the year, in different operational environments, in order to acquire experience, test procedures, and correct them in the search for operational excellence.<sup>69</sup>

### **Navy Combat Divers Group – *Grupamento de Mergulhadores de Combate***

GRUMEC had its beginning in the years following World War II, when the Brazilian Navy kept close cooperation with its American counterpart, the U.S. Navy. In this context, the first Brazilian Navy combat divers unit had its basic formation in the United States. In 1964, two officers and two NCOs concluded the recently created U.S. Navy SEAL Training Course, at that time made up of students from the Underwater Demolition Team.

As a result of this initial military experience, the Commander of the Fleet Submarines Force issued Service Order Nr 012/70, 3 April 1970, creating the Navy Combat Divers Division, at the *Almirante Castro e Silva* Naval Base in Niterói, RJ.

In 1971, two more officers and three NCOs, from the Brazilian Navy were qualified by the French Navy as *Nageurs de Combat*. Three years later, the first Combat Diver Special Course was carried out in Brazil by then Submarines School, today called the Instruction and Training Center *Almirante Áttila Monteiro Aché*, in the city of Niterói. By mixing the French course's techniques with the U.S. SEAL course techniques, a curriculum especially suited to the needs of the Brazilian Navy was established.

Aiming to attend adequately to the growing Fleet and Naval Districts' requests, in 1983 the Combat Diver Division from the *Base Almirante Castro e Silva* was transformed into the Combat Divers Group, subordinate to the Submarines Force Command. Later on, ministerial directives issued in 1996 decided to create the Combat Divers Improvement Course for officers. The first team qualified in December 1998.

On 12 December 1997, the Navy Minister created the current GRUMEC, replacing the former unit. Officially activated on 10 March 1998, this military organization enjoys partial administrative autonomy and it is directly subordinate to the Fleet Submarines Force Command, Ilha do Mocanguê, Niterói. It is organized with three Special Operations Basic Teams (Alfa, Bravo, and Charlie) plus a CT element, the Rescue and Recovery Special Group.

The Combat Divers Group's primary mission is to conduct a wide range of UW actions in maritime and fluvial (riverine) environments. In fact, the GRUMEC is an indispensable element during the complex amphibious operations where they support the Amphibious Task Force Command at sea and on the beach. Among the vital elements of information that GRUMEC can provide for a successful amphibious operation are the chosen beach's exact gradient (inclination, from a seven-meter depth up to the vegetation line around the sand), a cartographic representation with information about the kind of soil, and the presence of demolitions and mine fields. Equally important is reconnaissance on the enemy situation, which typically demands infiltrating days before the "D Day/H Hour."

The combat divers are also employed to destroy or sabotage ships and vessels, harbor installations, and bridges, capture and rescue personnel or material, conduct combat intelligence operations, and interdict communication

lines on rivers or canals. Moreover, in support of the United Nations International Ship and Port Facility Security Code, the combat divers perform the initial approach on suspect or potentially hostile ships, verifying conditions and, when necessary, determine the need for Maritime Area Control Operations. The GRUMEC is ready, on short notice, to provide security for Brazil's strategic oil platforms in the South Atlantic. The Brazilian Navy Combat Diver formation trains to the best standards of its international counterparts, such as the U.S. SEALs, the British Marines Special Boat Service, and the French Underwater Interdiction Operational Detachment.

The Combat Diver Course is conducted at the Instruction and Training Center *Almirante Áttila Monteiro Aché*. The course is aimed at career and reserve Navy officers, and the initial prerequisites include approval on psychological and medical exams, an isobaric chamber test, and demanding physical tests. The Combat Diver Improvement Course, for officers, is 41 weeks long, divided into four stages. The officers train to employ diving equipment, weapons and explosives; and to use unconventional, low-intensity conflict tactics, techniques, and procedures, enabling them to execute diverse special operations missions. Male sergeants and corporals under 30 years of age meeting the stringent physical requirements to apply can enroll in the Special Combat Diver Course, 42 weeks long, with the same prerequisites as the Combat Diver Improvement Course for officers. During the course, the combat diver candidates undergo extreme physical and psychological demands, with emphasis on leadership, common sense, objectivity, improvisation and emotional stability. Realistic exercises routinely expose the students to high risk situations that simulate actual combat situations. After graduation, the professional is assigned to GRUMEC, where he will engage in additional training programs in a number of diverse areas such as explosive devices deactivation, basic paratrooper, jumpmaster, military freefall, parachute packing and maintenance, and air supply. Many of these courses are held at the Parachute Infantry Brigade's Parachute Training Center.

Although only active for nine years and in spite of its small number compared to its international counterparts, GRUMEC has already established a national and international reputation as a highly professional specialized military unit. The Combat Divers Group must prepare for a variety of potential operational scenarios. Beyond its traditional missions previously mentioned, the combat diver teams can also be deployed into



deep infiltration actions. Strategic intelligence collection, sabotage, and the capture or elimination of high value targets are other missions that are part of the combat divers operational repertoire.

Rigorous selection and formation processes, state of the art weapons and equipment, and priority resourcing levels all assure this Brazilian Navy elite unit the necessary readiness to fulfill its complex and risky assignments. GRUMEC's motto is: "May Luck Always Follow the Audacious!"

### **Special Operations Marine Corps Battalion – *Batalhão de Operações Especiais de Fuzileiros Navais***

The Special Operations Marine Corps Battalion has the historical name of *Batalhão Tonelero*. Its history began with the so-called "War against Oribe and Rosas," South-American military chiefs that, at the mid 19th century, headed autocratic regimes in Uruguay (Manuel Oribe) and Argentina (Juan Manuel de Rosas) respectively. The *Passo Tonelero* Battle on 17 December 1851 was one of the important military actions that had decisive Brazilian Imperial Navy participation. This included the Naval Battalion, a naval infantry unit that would become the seed of the current Brazilian Marine Corps (*Corpo de Fuzileiros Navais*). That battle resulted on the assurance of free passage for Brazilian Navy ships along the Paraná River.<sup>70</sup> As homage to heroes of that time, the Brazilian Marine Corps Special Operations unit received the historic moniker of *Tonelero* Battalion.

Although the Marines are already considered a special unit because of their expeditionary characteristics, at the end of the 1960s the highest Navy leadership directed the Marine Corps to develop a more specialized elite unit. The Vietnam War made clear that the conventional forces were not exactly the appropriate response to specific threats such as the ones experienced in that conflict. And, even during conventional conflict, it was imperative to have specially trained and equipped troops to perform strategic infiltration and deep tactical missions in support of the major conventional commands. Thus, the Navy Ministerial Decree 0751, of 9 September 1971, created the Marine Corps Special Operations Battalion headquartered at the Rio Guandu do Sapê region in Campo Grande, RJ. Its headquarters were transferred to the former Marine Recruit Center on Marambaia Island in March 1972. A jump tower to aid with paratrooper initial train-

ing (performed by the unit itself at that time) and other construction was incorporated between 1976 and 1978.

At the time of its creation, the *Toneleiro* Battalion was organized according to the current force structure of that time, combining the Marine Corp interest in possessing an unconventional or guerrilla warfare and also incorporating it as a fourth infantry battalion with the already existing three: the Marine Corps 1st Infantry Battalion (*Batalhão Riachuelo*), the 2nd (*Batalhão Humaitá*), and the 3rd (*Batalhão Paissandu*), all named for historic naval battles of the *Guerra da Tríplice Aliança* (War of Triple Alliances). All were based in the Brazilian Marine Corps' compound at the Ilha do Governador, Rio de Janeiro. As a result of this situation, the Marine Corps Special Operations Battalion was organized with a Command and Services Company and a Special Operations Company that was structured as a typical Infantry Marine Company of that time.

From the time of its creation, the *Toneleiro* Battalion focused its training on the special operations missions. In this context, in 1972, the first class of officers from the Naval School was qualified in the Counter Guerrilla Course. Throughout the years, this course has experienced modifications in its content and structure, coming to be identified as the Amphibious Commandos Training Course and, later, being divided into a Special Amphibious Commandos Course and a Special Course on Special Operations. From 1998 on, the Amphibious Commandos preparation came to be carried out in only one course, the Special Amphibious Commandos Course.

On 1 January 1991, the Amphibious Reconnaissance Company was transferred from the Reinforcement Troop, to the *Toneleiro* Battalion. In March 1991, the Land Reconnaissance Company was also transferred from the Amphibious Division Command to the *Toneleiro* Battalion consolidating all Marine Corps' Special Operations activities within the one command.

The *Toneleiro* Battalion was later transferred from the Reinforcement Troop Command to the Fleet Marine Corps Force Command in December 1995. Its current organization encompasses a Command and Services Company and three Special Operations Companies. The 1st Special Operations Company specializes in Reconnaissance Actions; the 2nd Special Operations Company, in Commandos Actions; and the 3rd Special Operations Company, constituting the Rescue and Retaking Special Group, specializes in CT actions.

This organizational structure allows assigning specific tasks to the operational groups and detachments to fulfill any special operations mission of Naval interest, including those related to retaking vessels, buildings, and aircraft and personnel rescue. In general terms, the Special Operations Marine Corps Battalion's mission is similar to that of the Army's 1st Commandos Actions Battalion discussed previously. Because of the Special Operations Marine Corps Battalion's specific capabilities, typical combat capabilities might include: land, aquatic, aerial, or mixed infiltration in any kind of terrain; beach reconnaissance; specialized reconnaissance; river crossing, demolition of bridges, tunnels, obstacles, and critical points; river navigation; helicopter landing zone activities; area observation posts; fire support forward observation; setting sensors for land vigilance systems; setting and operation of chemical, biological, and nuclear alarm equipment; selection, reconnaissance, and marking of disembarkation zones; parachute drop zone activities; and troop route guidance for riverine operations based on previous reconnaissance. In order to be ready to perform effectively this broad spectrum of assigned special operations tasks, the Marine Corps Special Operations Battalion leverages scientific-technological developments to acquire a wide range of up-to-date specialized and diverse equipment. At the same time, the Navy provides the unit with its highest priority for training.

The current Amphibious Commandos Special Course is conducted at the *Almirante Sylvio de Camargo* Training Center at Ilha do Governador, RJ. Its duration is 20 weeks, with the first two weeks aimed at student adaptation to the rigorous training system. There are two distinct periods: the first is focused on special operations basic training; and the other period teaches a higher level of specialized subjects. In spite of the fact that the Special Amphibious Commandos Course is for the preparation of Marines, students who meet Marine Corps criteria are accepted from the military, civilian, and Federal Police. From 1974 to 2006, the Brazilian Navy has graduated 587 officers and enlisted personnel as Amphibious Commandos.

Aiming to specialize its teams in different operational environments, the *Tonelero* Battalion sends its Amphibious Commandos to different Brazilian Army Training Centers: the Infantry Parachute Brigade's Parachute Training Center General Penha Brasil, in which the amphibious commandos are qualified in the basic paratrooper course; jump master, parachute packing and maintenance, and air supply; pathfinder; and military freefall. They

also can attend the Jungle Warfare Training Center in Manaus, State of Amazonas, where they specialize in jungle warfare, and the 11th Mountain Infantry Battalion, in São João del Rey, State of Mato Grosso, where they qualified in the Basic and Advanced Mountain Qualification Course.

The *Toneleiro* Battalion's participation in Marine Corps field exercises has been intense and uninterrupted since its creation. It also maintains a training exchange program with foreign special operations, such as the SOF of Argentina, Chile, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom, Uruguay, and the United States. This program provides valuable professional experience, and it contributes to the excellent international reputation the Brazilian Marine Corps Amphibious Commandos. Having reviewed Army, Navy, and Marine Corps special operations and organizations, the following chapter discusses the important support role of the Brazilian Air Force.



## 10. **Brazilian Air Force Special Operations - *As Operações Especiais da Força Aérea Brasileira***

**A**lthough the Brazilian Air Force (*Força Aérea Brasileira*) does not possess squadrons exclusively focused on Special Air Operations, they are included in the spectrum of tactical tasks to be performed by the operational aerial units. The Brazilian Air Force equips and trains its squadrons (Fighters, Reconnaissance, and Air Transportation) to support SOF as one of its top priorities.

Some Brazilian Air Force aircraft routinely engaged in support to SOF are: C-130 and CASA C-295 (transport); F5-E, AMX A-1, and Brazilian manufactured A-29 *Super Tucano* (fighters); R-99A (airborne early warning) and R-99B (sensor); UH-60 Blackhawk, CH-34 Super Puma; and the recently arrived Russian Attack Mi-35 (helicopters).

On 26 April 2011 the Brazilian Air Force activated the 1st Squadron assigned to the 12th Aviation Group, based at the Santa Maria Air Force Base, State of Rio Grande do Sul. It is the first Brazilian Air Force unit equipped with unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). The HERMES 450 UAV is manufactured by the Israeli Elbit Company. This squadron is already operating throughout Brazilian territory, with emphasis on critical border regions, including the Amazon. The HERMES 450 capability to fly at 15,000 feet for 24 hours over an area of interest, transmitting data and videos in real time, makes it a magnificent tool for SOF.

Related to the SOF missions, the Brazilian Air Force possesses the Rescue Airborne Squadron and Special Operations Platoons from the Air Force Infantry Battalions. These Special Operations Platoons are specifically trained for air base security.

### **Airborne Rescue Squadron - *Esquadrão Aeroterrestre de Salvamento***

The Airborne Rescue Squadron (*Esquadrão Aeroterrestre de Salvamento*) specializes in search and rescue (SAR). It is operationally subordinate to the II (2nd) Air Force Command and administratively subordinate to the Afonsos Air Force Base, RJ. Its history begins in 1943, when the legendary Charles Astor introduced paratrooper training to the Brazilian Air Force

at the then *Escola da Aeronáutica*, now the Air Force Academy in Rio de Janeiro. Charles Astor was an acrobatics and gymnastics instructor and an expert sky diver who was a pioneer of this sport in Brazil. At that time, the paratroopers were of great interest to the Brazilian Armed Forces.

In 1944, Infantry Captain Roberto de Pessoa was sent to Fort Benning and became Brazil's first qualified paratrooper. In the next few years 28 other Brazilian Army officers and 18 sergeants qualified at the Fort Benning Airborne School. Captain de Pessoa and these men were the pioneers of the airborne paratroopers in Brazil, and they soon developed Brazil's Paratrooper Training and Formation Center (jump school).

In 1946, the International Civil Aviation Organization proposed that paratrooper capabilities be employed in SAR missions, making this activity important on an international level. At the beginning of the 1950s, the Airborne Special Training Center, then of the Brazilian Army Airborne Division, added Pathfinder Teams. The Pathfinder mission included support to the Brazilian Air Force for its aerial accident rescue missions. From 1958 on, with the growing use of paratroopers in remote area accident rescue missions, the then Brazilian Air Force Aerial Routes Directory decided to initiate a project involving the creation of an Air Force Unit to that end. In 1959, beginning with a small group of volunteers, with a course carried out at the Brazilian Army Airborne Special Training Center, they began to conduct aviation accident response and special recovery missions from *Campo dos Afonsos*. The experience proved positive and, because of that, the Air Force Ministerial Decree Nr. 52432 on 2 September 1963 created the 1st Airborne Rescue *Esquadrilha* (small squadron). It was the first Brazilian Air Force unit specializing in SAR missions.

The creation of an autonomous structure gave the Air Force SAR activity a new dimension also becoming indispensable in locating and rescuing crash and disaster victims. For example, a Brazilian Air Force C-47 crash occurred on 16 July 1967 during a flight between Belém, and Serra do Cachimbo, both in the State of Pará. The accident became a milestone event because it mobilized more than 35 aircraft and 250 men (including an Army paratrooper team). More than 1,000 SAR flying hours were expended. After 11 days, the aircraft was found near Tefé, State of Amazonas, with 5 survivors from the 25 passengers and crew.

This seminal event positively established the unit's history; it became known as PARA-SAR (paratrooper search and rescue), the oldest and

traditional designation of the Brazilian Air Force paratrooper unit specialized in SAR.

By Decree Nr. 73174 on 20 November 1973, the Air Force High Command re-designated the 1st *Esquadrilha* as the Airborne Rescue Squadron. There was not a radical change, and the unit, now at the squadron level, kept its base. This evolution reflected the unit's growth in terms of additional personnel and operational capability. The reorganization as a squadron significantly improved its ability to fulfill its SAR missions.

Throughout the last 40 years, the Airborne Rescue Squadron has undergone changes a result of the SAR equipment evolution and even of the mission itself; but the unit's essence has remained the same. Through many training and actual missions, the PARA-SAR have been first responders to all significant aerial accidents that have occurred in the country. PARA-SAR has engaged actively in several emergency and disaster relief situations such as: the flood in the State of Santa Catarina, 1983; the 1985 earthquake in Mexico; and the heavy rains in Rio de Janeiro, 2001. Response to aerial accidents is important to the squadron's history due to their exceptional performance. This was the case of VARIG (Brazilian airline company) flight 254, a Boeing 737 that, on 3 September 1989, crashed in the Amazon jungle, near São José do Xingu/MT. In this accident, 42 survivors were rescued by the PARA-SAR. In September 2001 PARA-SAR responded to a Brazilian Air Force C-130 crash on the Pedra do Elefante Mountain at Serra da Tiririca, near Niterói, Rio de Janeiro, with nine military members on board. There were no survivors. Recently, in 2007, the PARA-SAR had an important role in the retrieval of 154 victims of a collision between a Brazilian commercial airliner and a private aircraft near the Air Force Base in Cachimbo, State of Mato Grosso.

Currently, the tasks prescribed as the Airborne Rescue Squadron mission are SAR, humanitarian missions, and special operations. Additionally the Airborne Rescue Squadron trains Brazilian Air Force SAR teams and Army and Marine paratroopers on basic and advanced levels of SAR. The Airborne Rescue Squadron also provides emergency jump and survival training for Brazilian Air Force basic training schools and academy graduates. Military personnel qualified as SAR operators receive the title *Pastores* (Shepherds), after the pure bred dogs that have the personality attributes of a SAR professional: loyal, vigilant, friendly, and aggressive if necessary.



For training and support the Airborne Rescue Squadron has close ties with the 3rd Squadron (assigned to the 8th Aviation Group) a CH-34 Helicopter squadron located at Afonsos Air Base. In the Land Force, the PARA-SAR's tactical ties are with the Parachute Infantry Brigade's Parachute Training Center, the Special Operations Brigade's Special Operations Training Center, and the 1st Special Forces Battalion.

In order to fulfill its assigned tasks, the PARA-SAR has approximately 150 military personnel, a limiting capacity when considering Brazil's continental dimensions. Daily, two teams are on alert during working hours and on standby after hours. One stand-by SAR team is on alert with a CH-34 helicopter from the 3rd Squadron, 8th Aviation Group; and the other team is provided with a C-130 from the 1st Troop Transport Group, whose squadrons are also located at *Campo dos Afonsos*. During the day and on alert, the response time in case of deployment is 20 minutes for the CH-34 and 2 hours for the C-130. Because of the capabilities of the C-130, it is also deployed on SAR missions at sea. When on standby, the time for both teams' deployment is two hours. The start of the mission is given by the 2nd Air Force Air Operations Center, which keeps a 24-hour standby and is informed of any regional danger by the seven existing Rescue Centers in Brazil, one in each Air Force Regional Command.

It is by design that the Rescue Airborne Squadron is deployed quickly throughout the country. All supporting helicopter units and the 2nd Squadron from the 10th Aviation Group are qualified to fulfill SAR missions. In the case of deployment, the respective Air Operations Center will initially deploy the unit nearest to the disaster. The PARA-SAR units will be deployed based upon the dimension of and difficulties imposed by the accident. When PARA-SAR personnel are deployed, it is because the situation requires a high level of competency.

In addition to SAR missions, the Rescue Airborne Squadron is the only Brazilian Air Force unit at squadron level that conducts special operations missions. Used also in combat search and rescue (CSAR), hostage rescue, terrain preparation, reconnaissance, raids, and others, the PARA-SAR's special operations are only executed by personnel qualified in a Special Operations Course. For the squadron, this mission is considered a graduate study, in which, after fulfilling all the SAR operational formation courses, the operator may opt to attend one of the Special Operations Courses: Commandos Actions Qualification Course at the Commandos Actions

Qualification Course/Brazilian Army Special Operations Brigade, and Jungle Operations at the Jungle Warfare Training Center. Both courses are known by their demanding curricula which make successful completion extremely arduous.

On combat missions, the teams possess a variety of special weapons and equipment, including high accuracy sniper rifles, as well as the usual SAR equipment. The Rescue Airborne Squadron is well equipped for its missions. In addition to conducting special operations for the Brazilian Air Force, the PARA-SAR also operates in cooperation with the 1st Special Forces Battalion, the GRUMEC, and the Marine Corps Special Operations Battalion.

The Rescue Airborne Squadron is unequivocally an outstanding Brazilian Air Force unit. Its professionals are highly specialized and extremely dedicated to their mission. The “Shepherds” will continue to be ready to accomplish their mission and honor the PARA-SAR motto: “Our effort, Your life!”

Previous chapters have looked at the organization, training, and operations of Brazil’s SOF from the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines. Joint operations of the services, along with police and civilian agencies, are the means for gaining maximum effectiveness. The next chapter investigates the issue of interoperability—how SOF elements work together.<sup>71</sup>



## 11. Brazilian Special Operations Forces Interoperability

Although special operations may be executed by specialized elements of a single Armed Force, recent experiences demonstrate that the success is most fully achieved when those operations are joint. SOF have become especially relevant because of the growing irregular warfare threat, the characteristics of 4th Generation Warfare, and international effort by nations to prevent and counter transnational terrorism. To maximize efficiencies, many countries have established Joint Special Operations Commands that are responsible for the command and control, training, planning, and joint employment of land, naval, and aviation SOF.

In the countries where joint commands were not activated, as Brazil for example, interoperability has been manifested by creating Joint Special Operations Task Forces (JSOTF) or *Forças Tarefa Conjuntas de Operações Especiais* which are organized to accomplish specific missions and composed of elements from Army, Navy, and Air Force SOF. When established in a combat situation, the JSOTF will operate in support of a Theater of Operations campaign, directly subordinate to the theater command, including during the planning and the initial phase of a campaign.

In Brazil, when constituted for a crisis (non-war operational environment), in which there is no activation of a Theater of Operations, the JSOTF will remain directly subordinate to the highest echelon present. When operating independently, the JSOTF will be directly subordinate to a Joint Special Operations Command specifically activated for a particular mission.

Undoubtedly the similarities that characterize the preparation and the employment of different organizations' SOF significantly facilitate their interoperability. However, one should have in mind that each SOF unit has priority missions. The SFODs from the Army are uniquely skilled for establishing UW operational areas. In the same way, direct actions taken against elements that come to threaten Brazilian maritime oil exploration platforms are almost exclusively GRUMEC missions. When incrementing interoperability the intention is not to lose or minimize the expertise of these specially trained groups. On the contrary, the cumulative effect of joining the different SOF skills and capabilities enhances SOF power. Brazil's continental physical area and the diversity of its operational environment demand a diverse SOF organization with integrated operations.

This is an indispensable condition for the successful accomplishment of SOF missions.

It is in the preparation that seeds are sown which allow an abundant harvest when employing the force. Well developed joint special operations are organized around the possibilities and limitations that mutual knowledge and understanding. In this regard, regularly held special operations symposia conducted by the Army Special Operations Brigade have been critical for growing interoperability among Brazil's services and with international partners. Beyond enabling doctrinal exchanges among military and law enforcement SOF units, these meetings encourage integration and joint training in specific areas, and provide opportunities for advancing joint special operations and facilitating joint acquisitions programs.

It is the practice of planning and executing joint special operations in different operational environments that obtain the best results for developing interoperability. The directives issued by the Brazilian Joint Armed Forces General Staff guide joint operations training. This was the case in different versions of Operations *Timbó*, *Ajuricaba*, and *Poraquê*, where a Joint Amazon Command was established based on the Amazon Military Command structure. In these exercises significant lessons learned were gathered because of the vigorous joint employment of forces. In these cases, the highest echelon present was a Joint Command, based on a Land Force Great Command (regional command), responsible for actions in a Land Theater of Operations. While accounting for the difficult operational environments and demanding missions in these exercises, the JSOTF had its command and control carried out by elements of the Brazilian Army's Special Operations Brigade, and it was supported by a Joint Special Operations General Staff involving personnel from the different services' SOF.

In another joint training exercise called *Operação Leão*, the highest echelon activated was the Joint Atlantic Command, based on the Naval Operations Command responsible for actions in a Maritime Theater of Operations. Here the JSOTF was made up of Navy and Army SOF and was commanded by elements of Brazilian Navy SOF.

In all these Brazilian experiences, because of the careful preparation and realistic execution, relevant lessons were learned, which contributed to understanding the roles of the different services' SOF when conducting joint operations. Some examples of cooperative efforts are provided to illustrate the interoperability of Brazilian SOF of equipment and tactics

and procedures. These are Operation ASPA of May 2005; the field exercise Operation Black October in 2010; and the 5th Military World Games of July 2011.<sup>72</sup>

## **Operation ASPA – The South America/Arab Countries Conference Summit**

Operation ASPA is a good example for evaluating the current level of integration among the different Brazilian military and law enforcement SOF. Public security is an area of great sensitivity and complexity in Brazil, where the federal, military, and state civilian police have established their own Special Police Operations elements. Although the selection processes, equipment, and training qualification are heterogeneous among civilian police, their average operational level is considered good. And some police SOF (especially those of the largest urban centers) have enjoyed training and operational experience under the military's SOF operational control.

In May 2005 the South American-Arab Countries Conference Summit was conducted in Brasília, with the participation of 32 heads of state: 12 South American and 22 Arab.<sup>73</sup> The Army's Planalto Military Command was designated responsible for the security area coordination and, as usual in events of this relevance, it installed its Integrated Security Operational Coordination Center. This center was organized with intelligence, operations, logistical, communications, and social communication cells. It had an Integrated Tactical Coordination Center whose purpose was to coordinate and control the military and police SOF assigned to the operation. The focus of their effort was planning and executing special operations, particularly the conduct of CT operations, emphasizing VIP protection and rescue and terrorist cell neutralization.

As usual, the coordination and control of this Integrated Tactical Coordination Center was a responsibility of the Army's Special Operations Brigade, which established a JSOTF. This Task Force was composed of the Army's SOF Special Operations Brigade units (1st Special Forces Battalion, 1st Commandos Actions Battalion, Psychological Operations Battalion, Special Operations Support Battalion, and 1st Chemical, Biological, and Nuclear Platoon); the Navy's SOF (GRUMEC and Marine Corps Special Operations Battalion); and the following police SOF: Federal Police Department's Tactical Operations Command, Federal District Military Police Special Police

Operations Battalion, and the Federal District Civilian Police Special Operations Group. Also participating in the Integrated Tactical Coordination Center were elements from Army Aviation, the Brazilian Airspace Defense Command, the Brazilian Intelligence Agency, and the Federal District Civil Defense.

Under the operational control of the Army's Special Operations Brigade, the Integrated Tactical Coordination Center was supported by a Joint Special Operations General Staff (with representatives of all organizations present). The Integrated Tactical Coordination Center conducted the planning and execution of special activities such as: electronic, anti-bomb, and radiologic sweeps; aerial escorts (with assault teams on board); and positioning sniper and CT tactical teams. It deployed 14 helicopters (Army, Air Force, and Federal Police) that were operated by specially trained crews in direct support of SOF.

There were many lessons learned from the Integrated Tactical Coordination Center activation, constitution, and operations. These included command and control, communications, logistics, and tasks (specified and implied) for the different Special Operation Forces. Task definition was the most critical topic in a situation of this nature because it requires sound mutual knowledge among the different SOF involved. The importance of conducting detailed rehearsals in complex scenarios was identified as well as the need to establish standard procedures for the diverse joint organization.

Operation ASPA constituted an intensive, realistic, and complex test for the military and police SOF. The integration level of joint operations was extremely professional, and high performance standards were reached. Results were highly positive, and the international meeting was clearly a success.

The Integrated Tactical Coordination Center activation involving elements of the diverse Brazilian SOF has become routine when supporting high-level political events whose security responsibility is assigned to the Area Military Commands. Similar events have been the visit to Brazil in 2006 by U.S. President George Bush; the visit of His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI in 2007; and U.S. President Barack Obama's visit in 2010.

## Operation Black October 2010

To reach adequate levels of proficiency in terrorism prevention and combat, it is imperative to develop a well-planned training program with the participation of all organizations involved. In order to get an adequate level of realism, this training program must be closely supported by the Intelligence System. Operation Black October 2010 is a good example of this kind of field tactical exercise.<sup>74</sup>

In accordance with the Special Operations Brigade's Advanced Training Program, the 1st Special Forces Battalion planned and conducted Operation Black October 2010. The operation held 17-28 October 2010 was a field tactical exercise focused on the practice of terrorism prevention and combat tactics, techniques, and procedures in urban areas and the periphery of the cities of Goiânia and Anápolis, State of Goiás, and Brasília/Federal District.

The units of the Special Operations Brigade involved were from: the 1st Special Forces Battalion—Command and the CT Detachment; the 1st Commandos Actions Battalion—the Commandos Actions Detachment; and the Psychological Operations Battalion; Special Operations Support Battalion; and the 1st Chemical, Biological, and Nuclear Platoon elements. Army Aviation provided two helicopters, an HM-3 Cougar and HA-1 Fennec, both from the 2nd Army Aviation Battalion, based in Taubaté, State of São Paulo. The crews were trained for special air operations.

Navy SOF units that participated were the Marine Corps Special Operations Battalion's elements of the Rescue and Recovery Special Group, and elements of the Rescue and Recovery Special Group and the Amphibious Reconnaissance Company.

Elements of the Special Police Operations Battalion/Bomb Squadron from the Federal District Military Police also participated. The State of Goiás provided special civilian police stations agents; Goiás also provided for Civil Defense with specialized agents of the Firemen Corps.

The exercise scenario postulated a G-20 International Meeting to be conducted in Brasília/Federal District, with the presence of the 20 heads of state from countries with the world's largest economies. In the context of the security measures, the Planalto Military Commander was designated area security coordinator, and as usual he established the Integrated Security Operations Coordination Center. The Integrated Security Operational Coordination Center's structure had an Integrated Tactical Coordination



Center in charge of the different SOF deployments. The 1st Special Forces Battalion Commander was responsible for SOF command and control of the employed forces.

The JSOTF named *Surucucu*<sup>75</sup> was established and initially developed a training program aiming to bring all of its assigned tactical assault and sniper teams to a uniform level of competency. The task force practiced different techniques of assault, including helicopter assault by fast rope, surveillance procedures, close quarters battle techniques with live fire, and guidance to carry out intelligence operations including interviews and immediate interrogation procedures.

During exercise planning and execution a special emphasis was placed on the continued development tactics, techniques, and procedures involving Brazil's Proactive Counterterrorism Concept which emphasizes preventing and neutralizing terrorist actions. Within the Brazilian Security Community, the Army Special Operations Brigade is the most prepared institution to carry out operations in the context of this modern concept.

The final event of Operation Black October 2010 was securing an installation occupied by a terrorist cell that was holding hostages. This action was carried out employing live fire (including flash bang grenades) and the simultaneous employment of all the assault and snipers teams. JSOTF *Surucucu* carried out this complex and risky action in an expeditious and precise manner validating their process for planning and rehearsing. As a result of this CT tactical field exercise there were important lessons learned. Once again it was ratified that it is mandatory to maintain unity of command in CT operations. The exercise provided quality training for the 1st Special Forces Battalion commander and his staff as they conducted the scheduled events, acting as the JSOTF *Surucucu* commander and CT action coordinator.

The activation process for the JSOTF is a procedure that is indispensable for situations portrayed in the exercise. Even during the preliminary training program it was highly profitable to establish the Joint Task Force in order to integrate all the CT assigned and attached units, creating solid tactical ties among all the units. Another interesting lesson learned was the high level of military and technical capability of the terrorist cell, and that more technical competencies will be demanded of military CT units as they face a strong adversary in the future. The exercise confirmed the importance at each echelon of the military decision making process in contingency

operations as a critical procedure necessary for successful command and control.

A proactive CT concept demands that the intelligence system provides the JSOTF timely intelligence based on intelligence-essential requirements. This should focus on the terrorist cell leadership; its financial sources; its political, religious, or ethnic motivations; its recent and current activities; and especially the tactics, techniques, and procedures routinely employed in its attacks. This information should be complemented by tactical intelligence operations carried out by the special operations units that will be the foundation for its retaliatory actions based on immediate exploitation of the data obtained. Finally it was agreed that the Command and Control System must be made flexible enough to synchronize all the maneuver elements present in terms of time, space and purpose.

Operation Black October 2010 was a very complex, extremely realistic, and highly specialized field tactical exercise. The execution of training events like this demonstrates that Brazilian SOF, under the leadership of the Brazilian Army Special Operations Brigade, are on the right track to accomplish the demanding international tasks of the future.

## **The 5th Military World Games**

This important international event was conducted 16-24 July 2011 in several cities of Rio de Janeiro State, involving 6,000 athletes from 114 countries. This is the third most relevant sporting event in the world, behind only the Olympic Games and the Soccer World Championship. The event demanded two years of preparation and has become a solid demonstration of Brazil's sporting and security competence, particularly that of its military. The final results showed an outstanding performance of the Brazilian Delegation which overall earned first place with 114 medals: 45 gold, 33 silver, and 36 bronze.

To provide security for the 5th Military World Games a presidential directive was transmitted by the Minister of Defense, ordering the Brazilian Army Eastern Military Command as responsible for the event's security. This authority designated the Commandant of the 1st Army Division as the Security Executive Coordinator. He established an Operations Coordination Center involving personnel, intelligence, operations, logistic, and social communication cells. Furthermore, a Justice Advisory team was established.

The division commander's maneuver elements were two infantry brigades: Parachute Infantry Brigade and the 9th Motorized Infantry Brigade (*9a. Brigada de Infantaria Motorizada*), both based in the City of Rio de Janeiro. For preventing and combating terrorism, the Security Executive Coordinator received under his operational control, a JSOTF led by the Commander of the Brazilian Army Special Operations Brigade.

The task organization for the JSOTF included: a Counterterrorism Detachment from the 1st Special Forces Battalion; 1st Commandos Actions Company from the 1st Commandos Actions Battalion (*Destacamento de Contraterrorismo, 1a. Companhia de Ações de Comandos do 1o. Batalhão de Ações de Comandos*); elements from the Psychological Operations Battalion; elements from the Special Operations Support Battalion (*Batalhão de Apoio às Operações Especiais*); and the 1st Chemical, Biological and Nuclear Platoon. In addition, indispensable air mobility, maneuver, attack, and reconnaissance helicopters from all the institutions involved were present and ready with crews trained for air special operations.

Brazilian Navy participants included elements of the Rescue and Recovery Special Group from the Combat Divers Group and elements from the Rescue and Recovery Special Group from the Marines Special Operations Battalion (*Grupo Especial de Retomada e Resgate do Batalhão de Operações Especiais de Fuzileiros Navais*).

The Tactical Operations Command Elements from the Department of Federal Police, elements from the Special Police Operations Battalion Elements from the State of Rio de Janeiro Military Police, and Special Resources Coordination elements from the State of Rio de Janeiro Civilian Police also made up part of the JSOTF.

This JSOTF gathered in advance under the leadership from the Brazilian Army Special Operations Brigade personnel to develop tactical exercises on the ground for both assault tactical teams and snipers teams. During the event, these teams were dispersed on the ground at strategic points in Rio de Janeiro State, ready around the clock to be deployed to specific objectives in both proactive and reactive situations.

The 5th Military World Games were a validation of the security structure's operational capability. Like the South America/Arab Countries Conference Summit and the Black October 2010 events, the World Games provided similar useful lessons learned. These are being applied to security planning underway for future large international events like the Ecological

Conference RIO+20 in 2012; the Pope Benedict XVI's Youth Festival in 2013; the Soccer Federations Cup in 2013; the Soccer World Championship in 2014; and the Olympic Games in 2016.

This chapter has provided insights about the integration of Brazil's various SOF into effective task forces. After much planning and exercising, the Brazilian military along with police and civilian agencies achieved a high level of interoperability expected of world class special operations organizations.



## 12. Conclusion

**B**razil is a country in which the formation of nationality, customs, tradition, and military values possess historical roots closely connected to special operations activities and to irregular warfare. These are meaningful elements in the country's history of order and progress.

In the way they are organized today, the various Brazilian SOF units have common characteristics. SOF members are all volunteers, and selection processes expose them to rigorous psychological and physical evaluations, whose standards are undoubtedly the Armed Forces' most demanding. SOF's training emphasizes physical strength, the creation of strong emotional bonds among the members of its diverse units, and a high level of motivation and self confidence. Qualification is based on a careful application of tactics, techniques, and unconventional procedures; on the employment of diversified weapons and ammunition, explosives, and demolitions; and on navigation techniques in any sort of terrain, infiltrating by land, sea, and air, in any weather conditions.

Special operations activities in Brazil began in the Brazilian Army in the mid-1950s. Since then, there have been more than 50 years of dedication, selflessness, competence, and magnificent performance defending the vital interests of the country, its national sovereignty, and the integrity of the national patrimony. Today, this is manifested in the Army's Special Operations Brigade, which currently constitutes the highest echelon and the largest combat power among Brazilian SOF.

In a similar way Navy and Air Force SOF reach exceptionally high standards of proficiency through their dedication, selflessness, and competence. Law enforcement agencies' SOF, particularly, those operating in the largest cities of Brazil, also deserve respect and admiration for their remarkable work in the complex struggle against the organized crime in the urban setting. It is important to highlight that their interoperability with the military SOF.

The threats to peace and security are similar for the United States and Brazil. Many national and international security interests are shared by both countries. These shared interests and the benefits of close U.S.-Brazil defense cooperation were shown in the response by the United States and Brazil to the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti, where thousands of U.S. and Brazilian elite military personnel worked side-by-side to deliver relief

to the Haitian people. The strengthening of U.S.-Brazil defense cooperation at the strategic, operational, and tactical levels will enable the two countries and their neighbors in achieving a real partnership. The complex security challenges facing us demands nothing less.

Looking at the current geopolitical scenario in some critical areas, not only in the Western Hemisphere, but also around the globe, one can conclude that the likelihood of having have U.S. and Brazilian SOF working together in the same operational environment is not a remote hypothesis; on the contrary it is likely. Therefore, it is critical for SOF from both countries to develop sound mutual knowledge to facilitate future combined operations. Cooperative interoperability is not just important to accomplish a SOF mission at some distant point on the globe, but to ensure that the price of victory minimizes the cost in blood.

Brazil's SOF are a reliable and extremely valuable element of power for this emerging global power. Every day Brazil's strategic and political stature is increasingly recognized. There is no doubt that to effectively face the crises and conflicts that will characterize the current century, SOF will be a relevant instrument of Brazil's sovereignty. SOF power has a critical role in fulfilling the goals of Brazil's National Defense Policy and Strategy, and therefore, it will remain essential for Brazil's order and progress in the 21st century. ↑

## Annex A - Glossary of Brazilian Terms and Military Units

*1o. Batalhão de Ações de Comandos* – 1st Commandos Actions Battalion

*1o. Batalhão de Forças Especiais* – 1st Special Forces Battalion

*1o. Pelotão de Defesa Química, Biológica e Nuclear* – 1st Chemical, Biological, and Nuclear Defense Platoon

*3a. Brigada de Infantaria Motorizada* – 3rd Motorized Infantry Brigade

*3a. Companhia de Forças Especiais* – 3rd Special Forces Company

*4o. Batalhão da Aviação do Exército* – 4th Army Aviation Battalion

*6o. Pelotão de Polícia do Exército* – 6th Army Police

*9a. Brigada de Infantaria Motorizada* – 9th Motorized Infantry Brigade

*11a Brigada de Infantaria Leve* – 11th Light Infantry Brigade

*12a Brigada de Infantaria Leve* – 12th Light Infantry Brigade

*Batalhão de Apoio às Operações Especiais* – Special Operations Support Battalion

*Batalhão de Operações Especiais de Fuzileiros Navais* – Special Operations Marines Battalion

*Batalhão de Operações Policiais Especiais* – Special Police Operations Battalion

*Batalhão de Operações Psicológicas* – Psychological Operations Battalion

*Batalhão Humaitá* – Marine Corps 2nd Infantry Battalion

*Batalhão Paissandu* – Marine Corps 3rd Infantry Battalion

*Batalhão Riachuelo* – Marine Corps 1st Infantry Battalion

*Batalhão Tonelero* – Marine Corps Special Operations Battalion

*Brigada de Operações Especiais* – Special Operations Brigade

*caatinga* – typical semi-arid terrain in the northeast of Brazil

*Comando da Tropa de Desembarque* – Disembark Troop Command

*Comando de Aviação do Exército* – Army Aviation Command

*Coordenadoria de Recursos Especiais* – Special Resources Coordination (the current SWAT of the State of Rio de Janeiro Civilian Police)

*Corpo de Fuzileiros Navais* – Brazilian Marine Corps

*Destacamento de Contraterrorismo* – Counterterrorism Detachment

*Destacamento de Forças Especiais* – Special Forces Detachment



*Destacamentos Operacionais de Forças Especiais* – Special Forces Operational Detachments

*Divisão Anfíbia* – Brazilian Fleet Marine Force is composed of the Amphibious Division

*Esquadrão Aeroterrestre de Salvamento* – Airborne Rescue Squadron

*Esquadrilha* – small squadron

*Força Aérea Brasileira* – Brazilian Air Force

*Força de Fuzileiros Navais da Esquadra* – Brazilian Fleet Marine Force

*Força de Ação Rápida Estratégica* – Brazilian Army's Strategic Rapid Reaction Force

*Forças Tarefa Conjuntas de Operações Especiais* – Joint Special Operations Task Forces

*Grupamento de Mergulhadores de Combate* – Navy Combat Divers Group (the Brazilian SEALs) pantanal – lowland swamps

*pampa* – southern plains

*Pastores* – Shepherds

*Tropa de Reforço* – Reinforcement Troop

## **Annex B - Agreement between the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Government of the United States of America regarding Defense Cooperation**

The Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil (hereafter “Brazil”) and The Government of the United States of America (hereafter “the United States”) (hereafter referred to collectively as “the Parties” and “Party” singularly), Having a common interest in international peace and security, and the resolution of international conflicts by pacific means; Desiring to enhance good and cordial relations; Reaffirming the principle of sovereignty; and Desiring to enhance defense cooperation, Have agreed as follows:

### **Article 1 - Scope**

This Agreement, guided by the principles of equality, reciprocity, and mutual interest, and in compliance with each Party’s national legislation, regulations, and assumed international obligations, has the purpose of promoting:

- a) cooperation between the Parties in defense-related matters, especially in the fields of research and development, logistics support, technology security, and acquisition of defense products and services;
- b) exchanges of information and experiences acquired in the field of operations, and in the use of foreign and national military equipment, as well as in connection with international peacekeeping operations;
- c) the sharing of experiences in defense technology;
- d) engagement in combined military training and education, and in joint military exercises, as well as the exchange of information related to those issues;
- e) collaboration in subjects related to military systems and equipment; and

f) cooperation in any other military fields that may be of mutual interest to the Parties.

## **Article 2 - Cooperation**

Cooperation between the Parties may include:

- a) mutual visits by high-ranking delegations to civil and military entities;
- b) staff talks and technical meetings;
- c) meetings between equivalent defense institutions;
- d) exchanges of instructors and training personnel, as well as students from military institutions;
- e) participation in theoretical and practical training courses, orientations, seminars, conferences, roundtable discussions and symposiums, offered in military and civil entities of defense interest, by common agreement between the Parties;
- f) visits of naval ships;
- g) cultural and sporting events;
- h) facilitation of commercial initiatives related to defense matters;
- i) implementation and development of programs and projects on defense technology applications, considering the involvement of strategic military and civil entities of each Party.

## **Article 3 - Assurances**

When carrying out cooperation activities under this Agreement, the Parties commit themselves to respect the relevant principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the Organization of American States, which include sovereign equality of States, territorial

integrity and inviolability, and non-intervention in the internal affairs of other States.

#### **Article 4 - Financial Arrangements**

1. Unless otherwise mutually agreed, each Party shall be responsible for its own expenses, including but not limited to:

a) transportation costs to and from the point of entry into the host country;

b) per diem expenses with personnel, including lodging and meals;

c) medical and dental expenses, as well as those incurred at the removal or evacuation of its own sick, injured or deceased personnel.

2. All activities under this Agreement are subject to the availability of resources and funds appropriated for these purposes.

#### **Article 5 - Implementation, Supplementary Protocols and Amendment**

1. The Parties' Executive Agents shall facilitate implementation of this Agreement. The Executive Agent for Brazil is the Ministry of Defense; the Executive Agent for the United States is the Department of Defense.

2. Supplementary Protocols to this Agreement may be entered into by written agreement of the Parties, through diplomatic channels, and will be part of this Agreement.

3. Implementing arrangements under this Agreement, and programs and specific activities undertaken in furtherance of the objectives of this Agreement or of its Supplementary Protocols, shall be developed and implemented by the Executive Agents of the Parties, and must be restricted to the subjects of this Agreement, and must be consistent with the Parties' respective laws.

4. This Agreement may be amended by written agreement of the Parties. Such amendments shall enter into force on the date of the later notification exchanged between the Parties through diplomatic channels indicating that their respective internal procedures as are necessary to bring such amendments into force have been satisfied.

### **Article 6 - Settlement of Disputes**

Any dispute in connection with the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be resolved through consultations and negotiations between the Parties through diplomatic channels.

### **Article 7 - Validity and Termination**

1. This Agreement may be terminated by either Party upon 90 days' written notice to the other Party through diplomatic channels.
2. The termination of this Agreement shall not affect the ongoing programs and activities under this Agreement, unless otherwise decided by the Parties.

### **Article 8 - Entry into Force**

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the later notification exchanged between the Parties through diplomatic channels indicating that their respective internal procedures as are necessary to bring this Agreement into force have been satisfied.

Done in Washington D.C., on the 12th day of April, 2010, in the Portuguese and English languages, both texts being equally authentic.

## Endnotes

1. *Special Operations, Joint Publication 3-05* (Washington: The Joint Staff, April 18, 2011), I-1.
2. Brazil's land mass is 8,511,996 square kilometers, larger than the 7,827,619 square kilometers of the continental U.S. If the area of Alaska and Hawaii are included the United States is larger than Brazil (9,826,675 sq km).
3. CIA, *The World Fact Book*, accessed October 17, 2011, Internet: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>. Additional sources of information on Brazil include BBC News Brazil Country Profile, available at [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/country\\_profiles/1227110.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/country_profiles/1227110.stm).
4. Raymond Cartier, *La Seconde Guerre Mondiale*, Paris Match, 1er Volume, Larousse, Paris, 1967. The "Victory Springboard" was critical for the logistic support of the North Africa Campaign.
5. During the 16th and 17th Centuries, Brazil suffered invasion attempts from French and British in the east and northeast of the country. The most significant foreign aggressions at that time were from Netherlands, in the Northeast. First invasion: 1624-1625 (City of Salvador); second invasion: 1630-1654 (City of Recife). The successful resistance movement against the Dutch was one of the most relevant historic events in the formation of Brazilian national identity.
6. Brazil was discovered by a famous Portuguese navigator, Pedro Alvares Cabral, when in route to India, in April 21, 1500. He landed in the northeastern coastline (near Salvador). He claimed this land for Portugal and the 300-year Portuguese era in Brazil began. While the Spanish colonization had the objective of exploiting the natural resources of its colonies, the Portuguese came to Brazil to establish themselves on the new land in order to develop the colony. In 1808 as Napoleon I invaded Portugal, the royal family moved to Rio de Janeiro and until its declaration of independence in 1822, Brazil became part of the Kingdom of Portugal.
7. Brazil has 192,304,735 people according to the November 2010 Demographic Census of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística - IBGE). It's the fifth most populous country in the world after China, India, the United States and Indonesia.
8. President Lula had two terms in office: 2003-2006 and 2007-2010.
9. Clements, Benedict (1997) *The Real Plan, Poverty and Income Distribution in Brazil*, "Finance and Development", 1 September, pp. 44-46. <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/1997/09/pdf/clements.pdf> Accessed 21 May 2012..
10. "Brazil Foreign Debt at \$168.9 Billion End-2006," *Latin America News Digest*, January 26, 2007.
11. Stephanie Hanson, "Brazil on the International Stage," July 21, 2009, <http://www.cfr.org/publication/19883/>.
12. "Brazil's Now a Hot Commodity," *Los Angeles Times*, January 3, 2008.

13. Mercosur trade statistics only include the other full members of the trade bloc: Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay.
14. *Global Trade Atlas*, 2009, Global Trade Information Services, see Internet: [http://www.gtis.com/english/GTIS\\_revisit.html](http://www.gtis.com/english/GTIS_revisit.html).
15. Clare Ribando Seelke and Peter J. Meyer, Brazil-U.S. relations, Congressional Research Service, June 3, 2009, Internet: <http://www.usembassy.it/pdf/other/RL33456.pdf>.
16. "Brazil: Country Profile 2009," *Country Report: Brazil*, Economist Intelligence Unit, March 2010.
17. 2011, "Brazil's GDP grows 7.5% in 2010", The Associated Press, March 3. Accessed 21 May 2012 <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9LNQD00.htm>.
18. "Inequality in Latin America: Breaking with History?" (Washington D.C.: The World Bank, 2009).
19. United Nations Development Program, *Human Development Report 2007/8*, November 2007, p. 181. See also Anthony Hall, From Zero to Bolsa Familia: social policies and poverty alleviation under Lula, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 38 (4), 689-709.
20. Nilson Brandão Junior and Mariana Aragão, "Miséria no Brasil cai 27.7 percent no 1º Mandato de Lula," *O Estado de São Paulo*, September 20, 2007; "Brazil: Half the Nation, a Hundred Million Citizens Strong," *The Economist*, September 13, 2008.
21. Stephanie Hanson, "Brazil on the International Stage," Council on Foreign Relations, July 21, 2009, Internet: <http://www.cfr.org/publication/19883/>.
22. Peter J. Meyer, "Brazil-U.S. Relations," Congressional Research Service, July 29, 2011, Internet: <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL33456.pdf>.
23. Attributed to J.F. Hornbeck, "Mercosur: Evolution and Implications for US Trade Policy," Congressional Research Service (CRS) Report RL 33620 as published in Clare Ribando Seelke and Alessandra Durand, *Brazil-U.S. Relations, October 6, 2008*, CRS 8, Internet: <http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/112033.pdf>.
24. Marco Vieira, Institute for Defense Analysis, "IDSA Comment, Brazil in South America: The Awakening of the Giant," Internet: [http://www.idsa.in/idsastrategic/comments/BrazilinSouthAmerica\\_MVieira\\_241208#footnote1\\_qknmb5t](http://www.idsa.in/idsastrategic/comments/BrazilinSouthAmerica_MVieira_241208#footnote1_qknmb5t) Vieira notes: "As part of this foreign policy, Brazil has pardoned a long-standing Bolivian debt as well as unfavorably accepted the Bolivian government's terms concerning the nationalization of Brazilian assets in Bolivia. It also made substantial donations to Paraguay and accept demands to renegotiate the Itaipu Treaty which is the legal instrument for the economic exploitation of the largest operational hydro electrical plant in the world in the shared Parana river. Lula's "diplomacy of generosity" has generated a heated domestic debate about Brazil's long and short-term foreign policy goals in Latin America." See also Rubem Barbosa, "Diplomacia da Generosidade," *O Globo*, May 13, 2008.

25. "Bolivia's Populism Steps on Brazil," *Christian Science Monitor*, May 8, 2006; "Brazil May Pay a Price for Generous Deal on Gas," *Financial Times*, February 22, 2007; "New Chapter in Gas Dispute with Bolivia," *Latin News Daily*, March 30, 2009.
26. "Chávez, Lula Promote Competing Visions," *Miami Herald*, August 10, 2007.
27. "Quietly, Brazil Eclipses an Ally," *The New York Times*, July 7, 2008.
28. Clare Ribando Seelke and Alessandra Durand, *Brazil-U.S. Relations, October 6, 2008*, CRS 8, Internet: <http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/112033.pdf>.
29. Marco Vieira, 2008.
30. Clare Ribando Seelke and Alessandra Durand, *Brazil-U.S. Relations, October 6, 2008*, CRS 8, Internet: <http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/112033.pdf>.
31. Susan Kaufman Purcell, Director of the Center for Hemispheric Policy, University of Miami, "Brazil Steers an Independent Course, Washington Needs to Rethink its Assumptions on South America," *Wall Street Journal*, January 3, 2010.
32. Susan Kaufman Purcell, Director of the Center for Hemispheric Policy, University of Miami, "Brazil Steers an Independent Course, Washington Needs to Rethink its Assumptions on South America," *Wall Street Journal*, January 3, 2010.
33. Ibid.
34. Lally Weymouth, "An interview with Dilma Rousseff, Brazil's president-elect," *The Washington Post*, December 3, 2010, Internet: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/12/03/AR2010120303241.html>.
35. Clare Ribando Seelke and Peter J. Mayer, "Brazil-US Relations Selected Issues in US-Brazil Relations," Congressional Research Service, June 3, 2009.
36. Alvaro de Souza Pinheiro, "Narcoterrorism in Latin America: a Brazilian Perspective," Joint Special Operations University (JSOU) Report 06-4, (April 2006) Tampa, FL: JSOU Press.
37. Ibid.
38. U.S. Department of State, "International Narcotics Control Strategy Report," February 27, 2009,
39. Office of the Spokesman, US Department of State, "Memorandum of Understanding Between the United States and Brazil to Advance the Cooperation on Biofuels," March 9, 2007.
40. Clare Ribando and Brent D. Yacobucci, "Ethanol and other Biofuels: Potential for US-Brazil Energy Cooperation" Congressional Research Service, Report RL 34191.
41. Mark P. Sullivan, "Latin America: Terrorism Issues," Congressional Research Service Report RS21049; also Alvaro de Souza Pinheiro, "Narcoterrorism in Latin America: a Brazilian Perspective," JSOU Report 06-4, April 2006.
42. Alain Rodier, "Les Trafics de Drogue du Hezbollah en Amerique Latine," Centre Français de Recherche sur le Renseignement, Notes D'Actualité Nr 168, April 14, 2009, Internet: <http://www.cf2r.org/fr/notes-actualite/les-trafics-de-drogue-du->



hezbollah-en-amerique-latine.php. Monsieur Rodier écrit: “Rien que dans la région des « Trois frontières » - située entre le Brésil, le Paraguay et l'Argentine - les activités criminelles rapporteraient plus de 10 millions de dollars par an au Hezbollah. Les autorités américaines auraient identifié un de ses représentants dans cette région qui est considérée comme une zone grise.” Only in the Tri Border area would criminal activity yield \$10 million for Hezbollah. U.S. officials call this region a “gray area.”

43. “Latin America: a Safe Haven for Al-Qaeda?” STRATFOR, September 4, 2003, Internet: [www.stratfor.com](http://www.stratfor.com).
44. Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism, “Brazil, Country Reports: Western Hemisphere Overview,” U.S. Department of State, August 5, 2010.
45. *Constitution of the Federative Republic of Brazil*, Title V, Chapter II the Armed Forces, Article 142, Internet: <http://web.mit.edu/12.000/www/m2006/teams/willr3/const.htm>. *Defense of the Homeland* means integrating and protecting national territory and democratic institutions of the Government, Federation, and Republic from aggression, be it internal, overt or covert. The *Guarantee of the Constitutional Powers* specifies providing security to the executive, Legislative and Judiciary so they can conduct their legal responsibilities, independently and harmoniously, free of any type of pressure. The contribution to *national development and civil defense* is a complementary mission understood as a backup to other private or government agencies that have the lead in emergency civil defense, disaster relief or humanitarian assistance. An example of participation in international operations is the current presence of the Brazilian contingent in the Mission of Stability of the United Nations in Haiti (MINUSTAH).
46. *Ibid*, Article 144. In Brazil, the Navy, Army and Air Force Police have the same mission as the Military Police in the US. The state governments command the civilian police and fire departments; they are a reserve force of the Armed Forces.
47. Ministry of Defense, *National Defense Policy, 2005*, (Brasilia: Ministry of Defense, 2005), 7, Internet: [http://merln.ndu.edu/whitepapers/Brazil\\_English2005.pdf](http://merln.ndu.edu/whitepapers/Brazil_English2005.pdf).
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49. H.E. Dilma Rousseff, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, Statement at the Opening of the General Debate of the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, September 21, 2011, Internet: [http://gadebate.un.org/sites/default/files/gastatements/66/BR\\_en\\_0.pdf](http://gadebate.un.org/sites/default/files/gastatements/66/BR_en_0.pdf).
50. Ministry of Defense, *National Strategy of Defense*, Presidential Decree no. 6703, December 18, 2008, Internet: [http://merln.ndu.edu/whitepapers/Brazil\\_English2008.pdf](http://merln.ndu.edu/whitepapers/Brazil_English2008.pdf). Top Brazilian strategic priority areas highlighted in the Strategy are the Amazon and the South Atlantic (called by the Navy as the “Blue Amazon” – it

- includes the territorial sea and the Brazilian Economic Exploitation Zone, in an area of 3.6 million square kilometers).
51. *National Defense Policy, 2005*, 10.
  52. The Brazilian Navy operated in the South Atlantic. In Italy, the Brazilian Army had the 1st Expeditionary Infantry Division (1a. Divisão de Infantaria Expedicionária), under General Mark Clark, Commander of the V Field Army; and the Brazilian Air Force had the 1st Fighter Group (1o. Grupo de Caça).
  53. The problem being at that time with the Carter administration of the U.S. was human rights issues.
  54. The Defense Cooperation Agreement was signed by the US Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and the Brazilian Minister of Defense, Nelson Jobim, in Washington D.C., on 12 April 2010.
  55. Alvaro de Souza Pinheiro, “O Conflito de 4a Geração e Evolução da Guerra Irregular” (the Fourth Generation Conflict and the Evolution of Irregular Warfare,” Centro de Estudos Estratégicos de Escola de Comando e Estado-Maior do Exército (Brazilian Army Command and General Staff College Strategic Studies Center), [www.eceme.ensino.eb.br/portaallee](http://www.eceme.ensino.eb.br/portaallee), October 2008.
  56. See, in particular, Lind, William S, Keith Nightengale; John F. Schmitt’ Joseph W. Sutton, Gary I Wilson, (1989) “The Changing Face of War: Into the Fourth Generation”, *Marine Corps Gazette*, October; 73, 10.
  57. Irregular Warfare has been defined as “A violent struggle among state and non-state actors for legitimacy and influence over the relevant population(s). Irregular warfare favors indirect and asymmetric approaches, though it may employ the full range of military and other capacities, in order to erode an adversary’s power, influence, and will. U.S. Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms, JP 1-02, November 8, 2010, as amended January 31, 2011.
  58. The Failed States Index is compiled annually by the US based think tank The Fund for Peace and published in Foreign Policy. The index evaluates 177 countries according to 12 indicators such as poverty and refugee flows. The 2011 list, and more information on the index, can be located at <http://www.foreignpolicy.com/failedstates>.
  59. Alvaro de Souza Pinheiro, “As Características do Conflito Irregular Assimétrico e as Forças de Operações Especiais”, (“Characteristics of the Assymmetric Warfare Conflict and the Special Operations Forces”), *Semana Doutrinária da Brigada de Operações Especiais (Doctrinal Week of the Brazilian Army Special Operations Brigade)*, July 2010.
  60. Doctrinal considerations described are contained in various publications issued by the Brazilian Army Special Operations Brigade. The author was the Army Deputy Chief of Staff, G3 (Doctrine and Strategic Planning) in 2003, responsible for the conception and development of the Special Operations Brigade.
  61. A similar definition is provided in U.S. doctrine: Special Operations are Operations conducted in hostile, denied, or politically sensitive environments to achieve

military, diplomatic, informational, and/or economic objectives employing military capabilities for which there is no broad conventional force requirement. These operations often require covert, clandestine, or low visibility capabilities. Special operations are applicable across the range of military operations. They can be conducted independently or in conjunction with operations of conventional forces or other government agencies and may include operations through, with, or by indigenous or surrogate forces. Special operations differ from conventional operations in degree of physical and political risk, operational techniques, mode of employment, independence from friendly support, and dependence on detailed operational intelligence and indigenous assets. JP 1-02, January 31, 2011.

62. The “Direct and Indirect Approaches” of the “2010 USSOCOM Posture Statement” by Admiral Eric T. Olson, influenced Brazilian SOF leadership. See “Strategy: Direct and Indirect Approaches,” in Admiral Eric T. Olson, Commandeer United States Special Operations Command, 2010 Posture Statement, 4 May 2010, Internet: [http://armed-services.senate.gov/statemnt/2010/03\\_percent20March/Olson\\_percent2003-16-10.pdf](http://armed-services.senate.gov/statemnt/2010/03_percent20March/Olson_percent2003-16-10.pdf).
63. Literally translated “Guerra Irregular” is Irregular Warfare however, the Portuguese translation adopted in Brazilian Army Special Operations Doctrine for “Unconventional Warfare” is “Guerra Irregular”. So, the “Unconventional Warfare Operational Area” is identified in the Brazilian Army as “Área de Operações de Guerra Irregular.”
64. A parallel definition is provided in U.S. doctrine: Covert Operation — An operation that is so planned and executed as to conceal the identity of or permit plausible denial by the sponsor. A covert operation differs from a clandestine operation in that emphasis is placed on concealment of the identity of the sponsor rather than on concealment of the operation. Clandestine Operation — An operation sponsored or conducted by governmental departments or agencies in such a way as to assure secrecy or concealment. A clandestine operation differs from a covert operation in that emphasis is placed on concealment of the operation rather than on concealment of the identity of the sponsor. In special operations, an activity may be both covert and clandestine and may focus equally on operational considerations and intelligence-related activities. JP 1-02.
65. Flamarion Barreto Lima, “Formação da Nacionalidade Brasileira” (“Formation of the Brazilian Nationality”), 3<sup>a</sup>. Edição / 1978, Curso de Preparação da Escola de Comando e Estado-Maior do Exército (Preparation Course/ Brazilian Army Command and General Staff College).
66. Author’s notes. Information from the author’s own experience and from interviews with selected Commandos/Special Forces officers and NCOs from different generations.
67. The author was the 3rd Deputy Chief of Staff (Doctrine and Strategic Planning), in 2003, being responsible for the conception and activation of the Special Operations Brigade. This information is from the author’s own experience and from interviews with selected Commandos and Special forces officers and NCOs involved with the process.

68. C4ISR: command, control, computers, communications, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance.
69. Ronaldo Olive, “Operações Especiais na Marinha do Brasil” (Special Operations in the Brazilian Navy), *Tecnologia & Defesa* (Brazilian Specialized Magazine), *Suplemento Especial No. 16, Ano 23*.
70. “United Kingdom and Empire,” *The Army in Brazilian History* (Rio de Janeiro: Biblioteca do Exército, 1998) 124-35. As a result of the campaign of 1851-2, the Brazilian boundary with Uruguay was set; the independence of Paraguay and Uruguay was confirmed; and free navigation on the Plata was recognized.
71. José Leandro P. Casella, “A Vida vem dos Céus – Combatendo e Salvando com o EAS, Esquadrão Aeroterrestre de Salvamento” (The Life comes from Heaven – Fighting and Rescuing with the Rescue Airborne Squadron), *Revista da Força Aérea*, No. 33, *Dez/Jan/Fev 2003/2004*.
72. Alvaro de Souza Pinheiro, “Enfrentando Novas Realidades: As Forças de Operações Especiais e as Ameaças do Sec XXI”(Facing New Realities: The Special Operations Forces and the Threats of the 21st Century), *Tecnologia & Defesa*, Ano 23, No. 108.
73. “Summit of South American-Arab Countries (ASPA),” Ministry of External Relations of Brazil, Internet: <http://www2.mre.gov.br/aspa/english.html>.
74. Alvaro de Souza Pinheiro, “Operação Outubro Negro 2010” (Operation Black October 2010) *Tecnologia & Defesa*, Ano 27, No. 123. The author attended this exercise with the Special Operations Brigade and 1st Special Forces Battalion Commands.
75. The Surucucu is a very large and aggressive pit viper native to the Brazilian Amazon basin.

