

The logo features the text "Defesa @ Net" in a stylized, golden-yellow font with a 3D effect, set against a solid blue rectangular background.

**U.S.A. NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTE FOR NATIONAL STRATEGIC STUDIES (INSS)
Fort McNair**

**Workshop,
“BRAZIL’S DEFENSE APPROACH TOWARD
A CHANGING SECURITY ENVIRONMENT”
(23-24 Sep 2004)**

**Panel IV : “Institutional Change and Intellectual Transformation”
OBJECTIVE: “To identify how the Brazilian Army is adapting
doctrine and modernizing its forces to face the new challenges,
in the context of the Brazilian National Defense Policy.”**

**Presentation by Brazilian Army
Gen (Ret) Alvaro S. Pinheiro**

**U.S.A. NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTE FOR NATIONAL STRATEGIC STUDIES (INSS) – Fort
McNair**

**Workshop, “BRAZIL’S DEFENSE APPROACH TOWARD A CHANGING
SECURITY ENVIRONMENT” (23-24 Sep 2004)**

Presentation by Gen (Ret) Alvaro S. Pinheiro (Brazilian Army)

The beginning of the 21st century, particularly since the tragedy of September 11th 2001, is demonstrating that the current threats are completely different from the former ones in nature and dimension. The warfare resources classically used to fight the dangers in the recent past are not enough to face the conflicts of the new century.

Besides new technologies, it's absolutely necessary to rethink the new global security environment.

Weak and failed states, not strong ones, have become the primary source of international instability, and they have become shelters and breeding grounds for such transnational threats as terrorism, drug-trafficking, refugee generation, environmental degradation, political and religious fundamentalism. There is no doubt that violence on a national, transnational and subnational level will continue. The fact that failed states are the primary source of instability means that irregular wars, in the context of asymmetric conflicts, within weak states, rather than conventional wars among powerful states, will prevail.

Latin America is one of the most peaceful regions in the world today. Threats of external aggressions are extremely remote possibilities. Nonetheless, there exist situations in some nations that could create crisis affecting the region stability. Guerrilla movements and their association with narcotrafficking, weapons smuggling, and a flow of migrants difficult to control are conditions existing in some countries that may cause serious international problems.

One of the consequences of this international outlook is the need to seek greater military interaction among nations, mainly with our neighbors. Another even more predictable result is that Brazilian military is increasingly called on to participate in international operations.

The Brazilian Army

Besides being the largest and most powerful Latin America Army, and the second (after USA) of the Western Hemisphere, the Brazilian Army, since its birth,

in the first half of the seventeenth century, has contributed effectively toward the unity and cohesion of Brazil, ensuring its territorial integrity and supporting its sovereign will. As the other sister services it's an apolitical Institution and enjoys one of the highest confidence rating of any public institution of the country, as evidenced year after year in public polls.

National Military Service is mandatory in accordance to the Brazilian Constitution. Every year the Army drafts approximately 60 000 soldiers from a total of about 1.4 million eligible young men 19 years old. Coming from across the social spectrum, they serve their national military duty for 10 months. The number of soldiers conscripted amounts to 6 percent of all available conscripts and 30 percent of all Army personnel. We consider the conscripts volunteers because the number the Army needs each year is far smaller than the total pool of eligible draftees, therefore, only those who volunteer to serve are actually drafted.

Mission of the Brazilian Army

The mission is clearly stated in the Constitution.

- 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.

At this point, it's necessary to highlight that the Brazilian Armed Forces do not have the mission to combat transnational crime. Constitutionally, this is a mission of the Federal Police and the states law enforcement agencies. The Armed Forces' role is to provide those agencies with logistics, intelligence and training support when needed.

The Armed Forces intervention will always be a last resort , when federal and state law enforcement agencies can't maintain law and order, and chaos becomes an imminent threat .

To successfully meet the challenges of a constantly changing global scenario, the Brazilian Army's soldier has three main roles in order to cover the full spectrum of tasks assigned when carrying out military operations.

The first is the "traditional role" – the inviolable commitment of the Army is to defend the nation, its moral and material wealth, its territorial integrity, its political-economic independence and institutions. This role requires a soldier fully qualified in professional skills; prepared to deal with new situations for which he has not been specifically trained; and able to easily adapt to new and more technologically

advanced equipment he has not being taught to use. A significant point is the essential need for the Army to provide the soldier with rapid and flexible decision making process from the lowest echelons.

The second role of the soldier is to reinforce the traditional and historic integration of the military and civilian sectors in Brazilian society. Soldiers must understand the overall national picture and regional characteristics of the social groups with whom they interact professionally.

Finally, the third role is the soldier's involvement in multinational operations. When joining international forces, soldiers must be current on international affairs and sensitive to the culture, characteristics and idiosyncrasies of the region into which they are depolyed.

Foreseeable Scenario

It's possible to foresee a future operational environment characterized by :

- Undefined threats;
- Inadequate budgetary resources;
- Continuing political, economic and military integration with our South American neighbors resulting in increased military to military cooperation;
- Ongoing presence of internal problems, especially in the areas of land ownership, organized crime and narcotrafficking;
- Increased participation in non-traditional missions and international operations;
- Increased foreign pressure for the Armed Forces engagement in environmental issues and transnational crime;
- Larger demand for professional troops with rapid reaction and strategic mobility capabilities.

In summary, the future is marked by undefined threats, in an environment in which uncertainty and unpredictability require a forces design suitable for any kind of mission. Forces readiness therefore, must be based on the development of capabilities rather than on a specific configuration for a given threat. Versatility, flexibility and mobility become key concepts.

On the other hand, it's important to highlight that the Brazilian military is developing the concepts of a national military strategy that will address the near, medium and long term requirements of the Nation, particularly in regards of the Amazon Region, the Brazilian top priority strategic area. The Army is working to further develop its strategic, operational and tactical capabilities and doctrine to address the Army's requirements in that strategy.

Prioritized Strategies

The preventive strategies of PRESENCE and DETERRENCE have been selected as the primary means of avoiding conflict based on the analysis of the current and future situations and the Army's missions outlined in the Brazilian National Defense Policy.

The Army is present in more than five hundred cities and small towns in all states of the Brazilian Republic. The units range from small recruiting offices to the highest levels of command. In 165 counties there are Regular Army Units; in 234 counties there are Army Local Militia Reserves and in 190 counties there are Recruiting Offices.

The preventive strategy of PRESENCE means showing the flag in all parts of the Country, especially in outlying regions where the Army is often the only federal presence.

Notwithstanding to be the 15th defense budget of the world, Brazil is among those countries with one of the smallest defense budget as a percentage of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It's clearly impossible, in the short term, to increase significantly the current operational capabilities of the Army. The decision therefore, was to concentrate on certain prioritized activities, as vectors for the Army of the future, while at the same time maintaining a military force capable of accomplishing our strategy of DETERRENCE.

These are the "cores of modernization excellence", within the context of the limited resources, the Army is trying to develop:

- Rapid Reaction Force;
- Command and Control System;
- Professional Military Education System;
- Electronic Warfare;
- Army Aviation;
- Core Armoured Force.

The Rapid Reaction Force (Strategic and Regional) is composed of professional troops with modern equipment and with tactical and strategic mobility that ensures their deployability anywhere in the Country, and their ability to serve as ready response or core force in international commitments.

The Strategic Rapid Reaction Force is composed by the Parachute Infantry Brigade, Light Infantry Brigade (Air Assault) and three Helicopter Squadrons, and the Special Operations Brigade.

The Special Operations Brigade was activated in February this year. It is increasing significantly the Brazilian Army's capability on unconventional warfare, counter-guerilla and counterterrorism operations. It will be fully implemented by the beginning of 2006.

The Regional Rapid Reaction Forces are integrated by combat and combat support units deployed on each one of the Regional Military Commands.

Within its modernization initiative, the Army has placed great priority on investing in human resources, especially those dedicated to professional military education.

Organizational Structure

Since 1999, Brazil has a Ministry of Defense. The Navy, Army and Air Force are directly subordinated to the Minister who is supported by a Joint Staff. It's important to highlight however, that even before the establishment of this Ministry, Brazilian Armed Forces had a reasonable degree of integration carried out by the former General Armed Forces Staff, which was the President's direct advisory agency on military affairs.

The structure of the Army, with a troop strength of 200 000, involves an administration branch and an operational branch – the Land Force.

The Land Force is divided into Regional Military Commands, responsible for operational planning, preparation and employment of troops in their areas of responsibility.

Regional Military Commands normally have Army Divisions and Military Districts under them. The Divisions are operational commands comprised of a variable number of Brigades, not always of the same type, combat support and service support units. Military Districts, in turn, are in charge of fixed logistic support, national military service, mobilization and defense of its area of responsibility, in case of war.

Currently, the Land Force has 7 Military Regional Commands, 12 Military Districts, 8 Army Divisions, 2 Construction Engineering Groups, 4 Division Artilleries, 1 Army Aviation Brigade and 27 Combat Brigades (Jungle Infantry, Motorized Infantry, Mechanized Infantry, Light Infantry (Air Assault), Frontier Infantry, Mechanized Cavalry, Armor Cavalry, Air Defense and the Special Operations). Looking at the structure of one of these combat brigades is possible to check that all of them are equipped with their own organic logistic support, which allows them to operate independently.

Brazilian and USA Military Ties

Brazilian – USA military ties go back many decades, with its zenith being the Brazilian Armed Forces participation in World War II. Brazil was the only Latin American country to have its three services deployed in combat operations (in the South Atlantic and at the Italy's Theater of Operations). USA military authorities like Gen Mark Clark were very complimentary about the great performance of the Brazilian troops under his command.

Generally speaking, Brazilian – USA military ties are still very strong.

One of the most important factors for that close relationship is the understanding by the USA military that the Brazilian military is modern and professional and does not fit the same mold as most of the other countries in the region who are highly dependent on outside assistance.

Currently, even SOUTHERN COMMAND is understanding that the approach to Brazil – US military relations is one of peers.

Conclusion

Brazil is still dealing with problems of social immobility, manifested particularly by the uneven distribution of income. For this reason, the Federal Government has focused its domestic agenda on sustainable growth and a search for greater social equity.

Aware that those trends must continue unhindered, the Brazilian Army seeks to ensure that its modernization process and operational capability continue to grow in direct proportion to the increase of the Brazilian political strategic state.

Toward that end, the Brazilian Army is following the development of the art of war, investing in education and technological research, activities that only bear fruit in the medium and long terms. At the same time is concentrating resources in order to be ready to face emergent crisis.

All of this is taking place without ever forgetting the Brazilian Army permanent mission to “sew the seam of national unit”, directly participating in the Country's development efforts and, through the soldier's presence in all regions, maintaining national cohesion, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

Finishing this briefing, I hope that this selected audience is able to understand that, actually, there is no “institutional change and intellectual transformation”. These expressions are not appropriate. What is going on is that the Brazilian Military is perfectly aware of the XXI Century's threats and, the most important, planning in a very effective way how to deal with them.

The ideas exposed in this briefing do not necessarily reflect the position or the policy of the Brazilian Army Command, Brazilian Ministry of Defense or the Brazilian Government.

Other Study of Gen(Ret) Álvaro Pinheiro Published by Defesanet

BRAZIL'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE GLOBAL SECURITY ENVIRONMENT AND THE UNITED STATES ROLE IN THAT ENVIRONMENT

<http://www.defesanet.com.br/docs/brazilsperspective.pdf>