



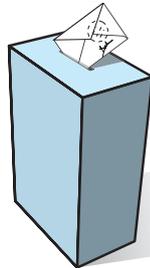
Brazil

The Legal Framework

National Legislation

Systems and Concepts	Military Organization
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act which establishes the Deployment of Brazilian Troops Overseas (Nº 2.953 - 1956/11/20) - Act which determines the Cases when Foreign Armed Forces Can Transit or Remain Temporarily in National Territory (Complementary Act Nº 90 - 1997/10/02) - Act which institutes the Brazilian System of Intelligence, creates the Brazilian Agency of Intelligence - ABIN, and Other Providences (Nº 9.883 - 1999/12/09) - Act on the Organization of the Presidency of the Republic and the Ministers, and Other Providences (Nº 10.683 - 2003/05/28) - Act which rules over National Mobilization and creates the National System of Mobilization (Nº 11.631 - 2007/12/28) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Military Service Act (Nº 4.375 - 1964/09/03) - Military Penal Code (Decree-Law Nº 1.001 - 1969/10/21. Last reform: Act Nº 9.764 - 1998/12/17) - Code of Military Penal Procedure (Decree-Law Nº 1.002 - 1969/10/21. Last reform: Act Nº 9.299 - 1996/08/07) - Act on the Statute of the Members of the Armed Forces (Nº 6.880 - 1980/12/11) - Act which regulates Section 143, §§ 1º e 2º of the Federal Constitution, which rules over rendering Alternative Service to the Obligatory Military Service (Nº 8.239 - 1991/10/07) - Act on the Organization of Military Justice (Nº 8.457 - 1992/09/04. Last reform: Act Nº 10.445 - 2002/05/07) - Act on General Regulations for the Organization, Preparation and Use of the Armed Forces, to Establish New Subsidiary Powers (Complementary Act Nº 117 - 2004/09/02; modifies Complementary Act Nº 97 - 1999/09/06)

Source: Compilation based on the legislation above mentioned. For constitutional provisions see Chapter 1.



Source: Constitution.

Political Participation of Military Members

	Retired	On Duty
Are they entitled to vote?	Sí	Sí
Are they entitled to become candidates for elections	Sí	No ⁽¹⁾

(1) With less than ten years of service, the individual shall retire; if he had more than ten years of service he shall be separated by his superior authority; if elected, he shall automatically be discharged.

International Treaties

On Hemispheric Security

- Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance
Signature: 1947/09/02
Deposit: 1948/03/25
- American Treaty on Pacific Settlement (Pact of Bogota):
Signature: 1948/04/30
Deposit: 1965/11/16

On Disarmament

- Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)
Signature: 1967/05/09
Deposit: 1968/01/29
- Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
Accession: 1998/09/18
- Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
Signature: 1993/01/13
Deposit: 1996/03/13
- Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines (Ottawa Convention)
Signature: 1997/12/03
Deposit: 1999/04/30
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction
Signature: 1972/04/10
Deposit: 1973/02/27
- Convention on the Prohibition of Military or any other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques
Signature: 1977/11/09
Deposit: 1984/10/12
- Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of certain Conventional Weapons
Accession: 1995/10/03
- Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other Related Materials
Signature: 1997/11/14
Deposit: 1999/09/28
- Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions
Signature: 1999/06/07
Deposit: 2006/12/14
- Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)
Signature: 1996/09/24
Deposit: 1998/07/24

On Human Rights and Justice

- Inter- American Convention on Human Rights (Pact of San Jose de Costa Rica)
Accession: 1992/09/25
- Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons
Signature: 10/06/1994
Unratified
- Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture
Signature: 1986/01/24
Deposit: 1989/07/20
- Protocol to the Convention on Duties and Rights of States in the Event of Civil Strife
Signature: 1957/05/01
Unratified
- International Criminal Court
Signature: 2000/02/07
Deposit: 2002/06/20

On the Hemispheric System

- Charter of the Organization of American States
Signature: 1948/04/30
Deposit: 1950/03/13
- Antarctic Treaty
Accession: 1975/05/16

Source: Compilation based on the information supplied by the web pages of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs of the Organization of American States, and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs.

The Budget

State Budget 2008

Local currency	1,424,390,706,030
US\$	832,977,021,070
2008 GDP (in US\$)	1,621,274,000,000

Defence Budget 2008

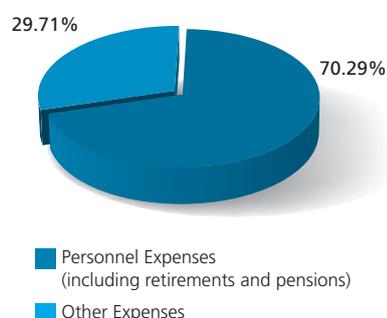
Local currency	44,806,633,780
US\$	26,202,709,813
GDP's %	1.62
% of the State Budget	3.15

Defence Budget 2008 (in Local Currency)

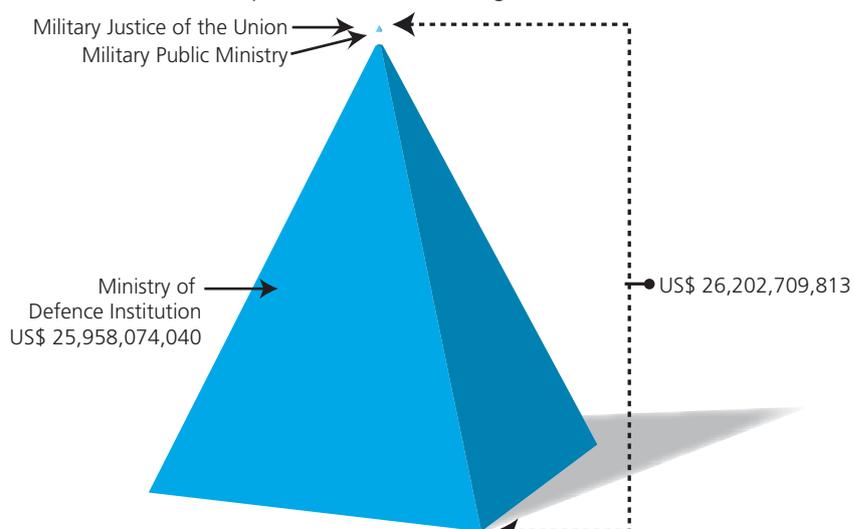
Fiscal and Social Security Budget	Personnel and Benefits	Other Current Expenses	Others*	TOTAL
Ministry of Defence				
Ministry of Defence	29,621,655	262,551,482	1,355,778,845	1,647,951,982
Air Force Command	7,075,051,787	1,074,839,801	1,869,848,986	10,019,740,574
Command of the Army	16,076,156,909	1,427,100,236	489,498,231	17,992,755,376
Command of the Navy	7,772,194,302	1,073,014,918	1,230,710,127	10,075,919,347
Directorate of the Interministerial Commission for the Maritime Resources	0	18,279,646	3,381,702	21,661,348
National Agency of Civil Aviation	146,708,752	178,468,047	41,523,463	366,700,262
Real Estate Fund of the Air Force	433,152	1,497,757	11,492,000	13,422,909
Osório Foundation	4,823,565	3,690,443	225,000	8,739,008
Fund of the Ministry of Defence	0	1,403,372	1,015,021	2,418,393
Administration Fund of the Armed Forces Hospital	44,329,612	37,265,025	7,114,449	88,709,086
Military Service Fund	0	4,551,271	1,505,695	6,056,966
Fund of the Air Force	0	546,225,986	864,317,274	1,410,543,260
Fund of the Army	0	483,217,402	122,987,974	606,205,376
Fund of the Navy	0	238,552,228	135,696,217	374,248,445
Fund for the Maritime Professional Education	0	66,939,651	27,564,774	94,504,425
Military Justice of the Union	238,675,993	39,340,902	7,439,700	285,456,595
Military Public Ministry	105,645,121	13,205,456	14,020,000	132,870,577
Subtotal	31,493,640,848	5,470,143,623	6,184,119,458	43,147,903,929
<i>Investment Budget</i>				
Ministry of Defence				1,658,729,851
TOTAL				44,806,633,780

* Includes Interests and Debt Payments, Investment, Public Investment, Debt Recovery/repayment and Contingency Reserve.

Defence Budget
2008 Breakdown



Composition of Defence Budget 2008



Source: Compilation based on the Act of Incomes and Outcomes of the Union for Fiscal Year 2008. The State budget passed by the Congress by means of the above mentioned Act is considered herein.

2008 GDP: World Economic Outlook Database Projection, IMF. This source has been taken for comparative purposes. Each country makes the budget based on its own GDP estimation.

The dollar value is the exchange rate considered by the World Economic Outlook Database, IMF. The exchange rate average is 1.95 Reales, based on the information provided by the Central Bank of Brazil. For further calculations, figures are provided in local currency.

Expressions in Bold Type (Table) make reference to the different items regarding defence, which can be found in a sectorial or institutional classification of the budgetary Act.



Political Definitions

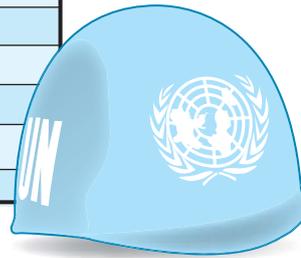
Concepts

What is Defence?	What is Security?
<p>National defence is the set of State's measures and actions with focuses on the military expression, aimed at defending the territory, sovereignty and national interests against threats mainly arising from external, potential or evident sources</p> <p><i>(Política de Defesa Nacional, Decree Nº 5.484 - 2005/07/01)</i></p>	<p>In general, security is a condition which allows the country to maintain its sovereignty and territorial integrity, the realization of its national interests, free of pressure and threats of any nature, and guarantees to the citizens the exercise of their constitutional rights and duties.</p> <p><i>(Política de Defesa Nacional, Decree Nº 5.484 - 2005/07/01)</i></p>

Participation in Peace Operations

Missions	Military Component	
	MO	CT
MINURSO (Western Sahara)	10	—
MINUSTAH (Haiti)	—	1,210
UNMEE (Ethiopia and Eritrea)	3	-
UNMIL (Liberia)	-	3
UNMIN (Nepal)	6	-
UNMIS (Sudan)	21	-
UNMIT (East Timor)	4	-
UNOCI (Ivory Coast)	4	3

■ The Centre for Peacekeeping Operations of the Brazilian Army (CI OP PAZ) was founded on February 23, 2005.

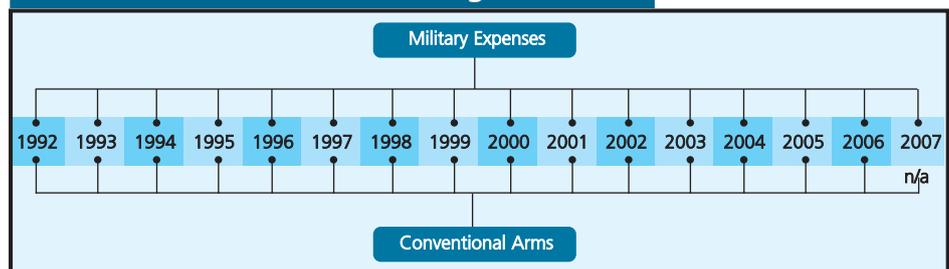


MO: Military Observers - CT: Contingent Troop.

Source: Compilation based on the information supplied by the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (<http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/contributors/>). Information as of June 30, 2008.

Submissions to the UN Registers

■ Brazil provides 1,264 military members to UN peace operations, which represents a 19.91% of the total amount of the Latin American contribution and a 1.64% of the world total



Source: Compilation based on reports submitted to the UN Register of Conventional Arms and the UN Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures from 1992 to 2008. The publication of information from the Register of Conventional Arms corresponding to the year 2007 is expected by August 2008.

■ Brazil published the *Política de Defesa Nacional* (National Defence Policy) in 1996 and 2005.

Constitutional Powers of the Congress

Related to War and Peace

- Can it declare war?: No
- Is a congressional authorization required to declare war?: Yes
- Can it make peace?: No
- Is a congressional authorization necessary to make peace?: Yes
- Is a congressional authorization necessary for the entry of foreign troops to the national territory?: Yes
- Is a congressional authorization necessary for the deployment of national troops outside the country?: N/R

N/R: No reference.

Related to Control

- Is its approval required to appoint senior officers of the Armed Forces?: No
- Can it accuse officers of the Armed Forces?: No
- Can it try officers?: Yes
- Does it participate in the election of officials for institutions of external control?: Yes
- Can it modify the national budget?: Yes

States of Exception

Name: State of defence

Cause: Grave or imminent institutional instability

Natural calamities of great proportions.

Grave commotion of national impact

Participation of the Legislative Power: Requires the approval of the Congress.

Name: State of siege

Cause: Situations which prove the inefficiency of the state of defence

Declaration of the state of war

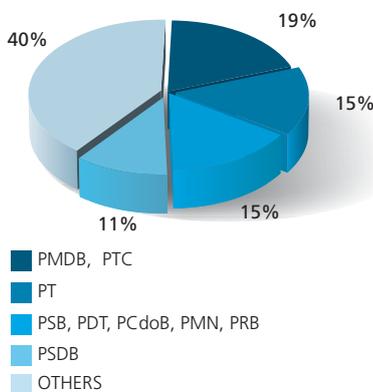
Response to an armed foreign attack

Participation of the Legislative Power: Requires the approval of the Congress.

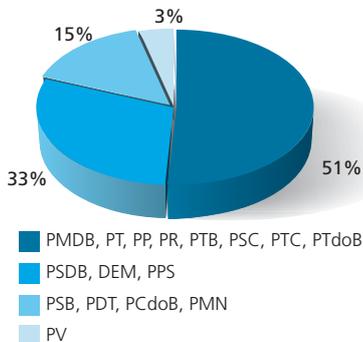
Source: Compilation based on the Constitution.

Breakdown of Parties

Chamber of Deputies

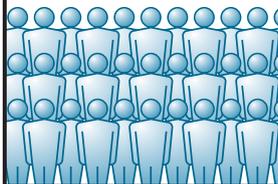


Foreign Affairs and National Defence Committee



Chamber of Deputies

513



Foreign Affairs and National Defence Committee

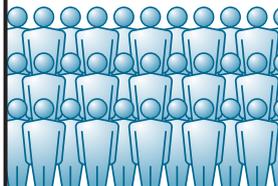
30



1 out of 17 Deputies is a member of the Committee

Senate

81



Foreign Affairs and National Defence Committee

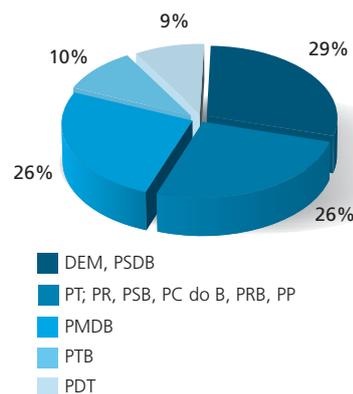
19



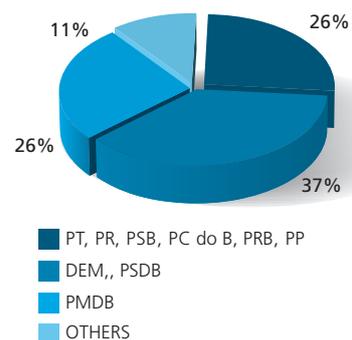
1 out of 4 Senators is a member of the Committee

Breakdown of Parties

Senate



Foreign Affairs and National Defence Committee



Source: Compilation based on information provided by the Legislative Power.



System Organization

Functions

State Powers Sphere

The President of the Republic is the High Commander of the Armed Forces.

Regarding the use of the military resources, the President is advised by the Military Council of Defence, composed of the Commanders of the three Armed Forces and the Chief of the Defence Staff, the Ministry of Defence being its chairman

The Congress of the Nation exercises its faculties conferred by the National Constitution and permanently monitors the issues related to the defence through the defence commission in both chambers.

Ministerial Sphere

The Ministry of Defence exercises the high command of the Armed Forces, counting on the permanent advise of the Military Council of Defence.

The Defence Staff is the advising body of the Ministry of Defence, as to the combined use of the Armed Forces.

Military Sphere

The Commanders of the Armed Forces exercise the government and administration of their respective forces. In particular, they direct the war preparation for their respective operational elements and logistical support.

Date of Foundation
1999

Current Minister (August 2008)
Nelson Jobim

Can the military members be Ministers of Defence?
Yes (if they have retired)

Number of military members who were Ministers of Defence
None

Number of civilians who were Ministers of Defence
5

Have there been any women in charge of the Ministry of Defence?
No

[The Minister currently in charge is not considered. The creation date is related to the moment in which the term "Defence" becomes part of the Institution's name]

Average permanence in the Minister of Defence position
1 year and 7 months

Source: Compilation based on the Constitution, *Lei sobre as Normas Gerais para a Organização, o Preparo e o Emprego das Forças Armadas, para Estabelecer Novas Atribuições Subsidiárias* (Complementary Act Nº 117 - 2004/09/02) and *Estrutura Regimental do Ministério da Defesa* (Decree Nº 6.223 - 2007/10/04).

The Ministry of Defence

Mission:

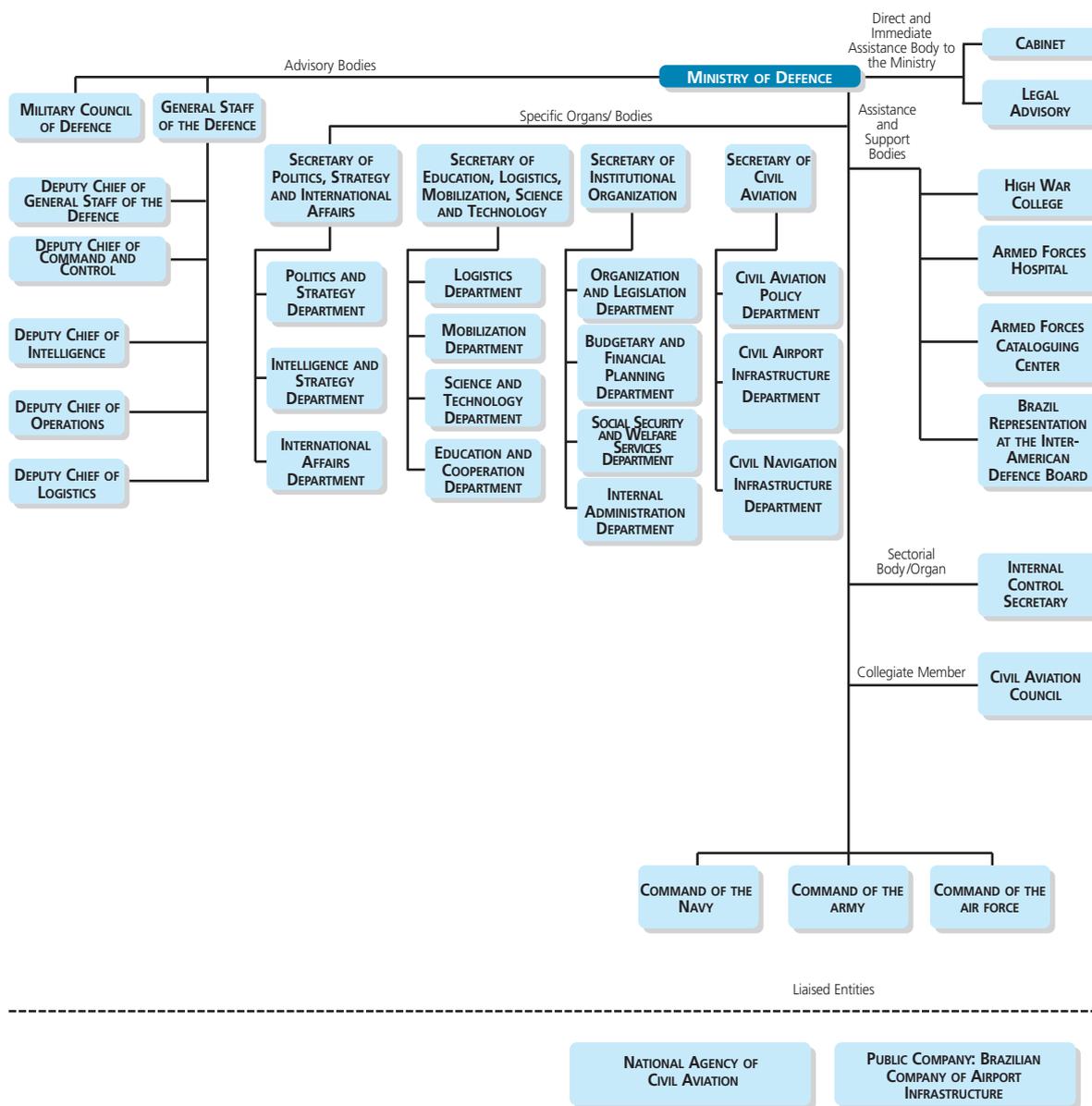
- Perform the executive management of the Armed Forces, in order to comply with their constitutional objective and subsidiary powers.

Specific Competences:

- The national defence policy.
- The military policy and strategy.
- The doctrine and planning of the use of the Armed Forces.
- The planning, management and execution of special projects concerning national defence.
- The planning, management and execution of strategic and operational intelligence, relevant to defence.
- Military operations of the Armed Forces.
- The international relations of the Armed Forces.
- The defence budget.
- The formulation of military legislation.
- The national mobilization policy.
- The science and technology policy within the Armed Forces.
- The social communication policy within the Armed Forces.
- The formulation and execution of military personnel and pensioners remuneration policy.
- The national policy on military material exportation.
- Fostering research and development activities, production and exportation in areas relevant to defence.
- The control over conventional war material exportation.
- The management of the Armed Forces action while guaranteeing peace and order, as well as while it is acting in cooperation towards national development and civil defence, and in providing support on fighting cross-border and environmental crimes.
- The military logistics.
- The military service.
- The health, social and religious care of the Armed Forces.
- Creation, organization, nomination of military members, training and preparation of the Armed Forces.
- The national maritime policy.
- The national aeronautical policy and action in national policy for the development of aerospace activities.

Source: Compilation based on the information provided by Brazil's Ministry of Defence web page and *Estrutura Regimental do Ministério da Defesa* (Decree Nº 6.223 - 2007/10/04).

ORGANIZATION CHART



Source: Compilation based on *Estrutura Regimental do Ministério da Defesa* (Decree N° 6.223 – 2007/10/04).

Defence Education

Main Training Courses of Specialization in the Area

Training Course	Institution
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advanced Studies in Politics and Strategy - Advanced Course on Strategic Intelligence - Course on Logistics and National Mobilization - Course on Management of Defence Resources 	Superior War School
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Post-graduate studies on International Relations. Specialization area in "Peace, Defence and International Security" 	University Estadual Paulista, University Estadual of Campinas, Catholic University of São Paulo
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Course for Journalists in Conflict Areas 	Centre for Peacekeeping Operations of the Brazilian Army (CI OP PAZ)

Source: Compilation based on the information supplied by the above mentioned institutions. In the case of CI OP PAZ, the courses open to civilians are referenced.



Military Career

ARMY

Military Academy

Duration: 4 years
 Graduation Title: Graduate in Military Sciences
 Graduation Rank: Officer Cadet

Academies of Intermediate Education

Second Lieutenant
 First Lieutenant
 Captain

Staff College

Superior War School

Major
 Lieutenant Colonel
 Colonel
 Brigade General
 Division General
 Army General
 Marshal

Entry to the Military Academy - 2008 -

Candidates: 500
 Admitted Candidates: 452

9 out of 10 candidates were admitted

NAVY

Naval School

Duration: 4 years
 Graduation Title: Graduate in Naval Sciences
 Graduation Rank: Midship

Academies of Intermediate Education

Second Lieutenant
 First Lieutenant
 Captain Lieutenant

Staff College

Naval War School

Corvette Captain
 Frigate Captain
 Sea and War Captain
 Rear-Admiral
 Vice-Admiral
 Squadron Admiral
 Admiral

Entry to the Naval School - 2008 -

Candidates: 767
 Admitted candidates: 240

1 out of 3 candidates was admitted

AIR FORCE

Air Force Academy

Duration: 4 years
 Graduation Title: Graduate in Air Sciences
 Graduation rank: Officer Cadet

Academies of Intermediate Education

Second Lieutenant
 First Lieutenant
 Captain

Staff College

Command and General Staff School

Major
 Lieutenant Colonel
 Colonel
 Brigadier
 Major Brigadier
 Lieutenant Brigadier
 Air Marshal

Entry to Air Force Academy - 2008 -

Admitted Candidates: 89

Source: Compilation based on information provided by the above mentioned institutions. Entry to Academies: Ministry of Defence and Navy of Brazil. The table strictly follows the order and hierarchy of the ranks shown on each country.

The Armed Forces

General Mission

They are aimed at defending the Fatherland and guaranteeing constitutional powers and, on the initiative of any of them, the law and order (Constitution, Sec. 142)

Subsidiary Powers:

- Participate in peace operations.
- Cooperate with the national development and civil defence.
- Participation in institutional campaigns of public and social interest.

(*Lei sobre as Normas Gerais para a Organização, o Preparo e o Emprego das Forças Armadas, para Estabelecer Novas Atribuições Subsidiárias*, Complementary Act Nº 117 - 2004/09/02, Sec. 15 and 16).

Specific Missions

Army

Subsidiary Powers:

- Participate in the national development and civil defence, in accordance with the law.
- Contribute to making and carrying out national policies on the land military power.
- Cooperate with public federal organizations, with state, municipal and exceptionally with private companies, in the execution of engineering works and services, which are the resources provided by the petitioner organization.
- Cooperate with federal organizations when necessary to repress crimes of national impact, as logistical support, intelligence, communication and training.
- Act, through preventive and repressive action, in land border zones, against cross-border and environmental crimes, individually or in coordination with other bodies of the Executive Power, carrying out, within hours: patrolling; requisition of people, of land vehicles, ships and aircrafts; arrests in cases of flagrant crimes.

Navy

Subsidiary Powers:

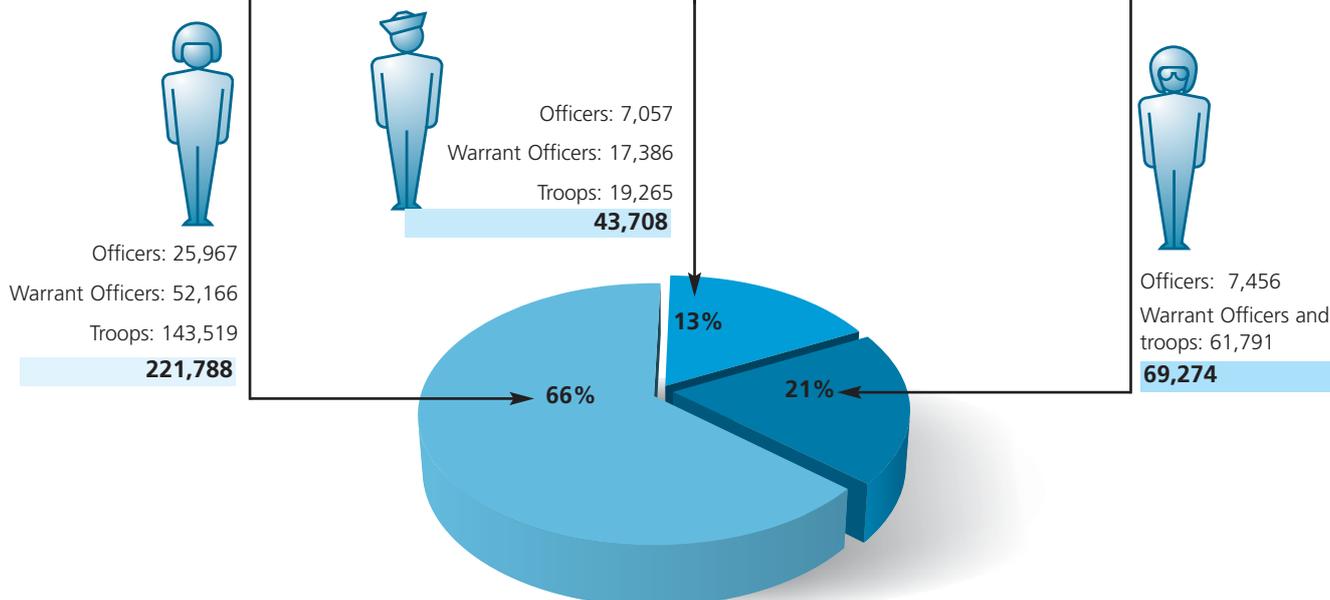
- Guide and control the Merchant Navy and its related activities, regarding national defence.
- Provide security for water navigation.
- Contribute to making and carrying out national policies related to water navigation.
- Implement and supervise the compliance with the laws and regulations of the sea and inland waters, in coordination with other bodies of the Executive Power, federal or state, when necessary, related to specific competencies.
- Cooperate with federal bodies, when necessary, in repressing crimes of national or international impact, regarding the use of the sea, inland waters and port areas, as logistical intelligence, communications and training support.

Air Force

Subsidiary Powers:

- Guide, coordinate and control activities of the Civil Aviation.
- Provide security to the air navigation.
- Contribute to making and carrying out national policies related to aerospace navigation.
- Establish, equip and operate aerospace, aviation and airport infrastructure, directly or by means of a concession.
- Operate the national air mail.
- Cooperate with federal bodies, when necessary, in repressing crimes of national or international impact, regarding the use of air space and airport areas, as logistical support intelligence, communications and training support.
- Act continuously and permanently, through actions of control of the Brazilian air space, against all kinds of illegal air traffic, with emphasis on drug, arm and ammunition trafficking and illegal passengers acting in coordination with the competent supervising bodies which will force the aircrafts involved in illegal air traffic to land.

Total Armed Forces: 334,743



Source: *Lei sobre as Normas Gerais para a Organização, o Preparo e o Emprego das Forças Armadas, para Estabelecer Novas Atribuições Subsidiárias* (Complementary Act Nº 117 - 2004/09/02) (missions); Ministry of Defence and Navy of Brazil (Regular Force).



Women in the Armed Forces

		Army	Navy	Air Force
Entry year (Officers)	Staff Corps	1992	1980	1982
	Line Corps	1998	1998	2001
Rank reached		All ranks	All ranks	All ranks

“Line Corps” means those military members trained to perform in combat missions, and who also have command capacity.
 “Staff Corps” means those military members who are part of the Forces or who join them, in order to provide technical and/or professional support services.

Source: Compilation based on information supplied by the above mentioned institutions.

Defence and/or Military Attaché Office in:



Source: Compilation based on information supplied by the Forces. The country to which the Attaché is posted is considered here as the Office, beyond other cross accreditations to one or many countries.

Analysis:

National Defence: Actors and Policy

Eliezer Rizzo de Oliveira*

■ This article will approach structural and contextual aspects of the national defence in Brazil, as well as the positive changes and current tensions within the Brazilian strategic field.

Although the Armed Forces and national defence areas have never been of great interest to the civilian governments, the most relevant factor in this sense today is the adjustment - by President Luis Ignacio Lula da Silva -, of national defence to the economic, political and strategic integration projects in South America.

The national defence structure is compatible with the democratic Rule of Law. Armed Forces subordination to the democratic regime is based on the law authorizing the creation of the Ministry of Defence (1999), which ruled out the old military ministries. Up until then, the high degree of autonomy of the Armed Forces had been conveyed through five military ministries. Today, the political behaviour of the military is consistent with the democratic regime, though it can be said that the regime - erroneously - silenced the voice of the military, even when important national interests were at stake, in the face of which they could have made a relevant contribution, in proportion to their specialization.

Before the adoption of the National Defence Policy (1996) – an essential reference for the strategies and training of the Armed Forces – Navy, Army and Air Force directed their strategies in accordance with their own interests, values, characteristics and strategic perspectives. The current version of the Defence Policy (2005) is inspired on the United Nations security and defence outlines, linking up

■ National defence is adapted to economic, political and strategic integration projects in South America.

* Researcher, Strategic Studies Nucleus, UNICAMP.



security with the state perception of threats, and seeing the national defence as a benchmark in state actions – mainly military – as to the recovery or increase of certain security levels.

The measures adopted over the last twelve years (the publication of the National Defence Policy, and the creation of the Ministry of Defence) took into consideration the growth of social interest in national defence, once considered an almost military monopoly field.

The defence policy considers that, within the international sphere, an intense political instability prevails. This is not the case of South America (despite the existing tensions between Colombia and Ecuador), with Brazil feeling itself in economic, diplomatic, territorial and military conditions that allow it to positively contribute to regional peace. In this sense, Brazil does not perceive threats or, constitute itself in a threat to its neighbouring countries, being among its strategic objectives the respect for sovereignty preservation, the defence of national interests and unity of the Nation; and the preservation of regional stability, peace and international security beyond its frontiers. Besides, its intentions to achieve a wider participation in the international decision-making processes and to generate a higher cooperation with its neighbouring countries are reinforced, rejecting in turn wars of conquest, but supporting peaceful solutions to frontier zone conflicts.

Within the contextual sphere, the national defence reform processes are progressively strengthened, while recurrent matters (as for instance, military pay and war material investments) are approached very sluggishly. President Lula da Silva's first administration (2003-2006) did not differ from former administrations, which did not allocate resources for armaments, technology or wages - as considered necessary by the Armed Forces. In his second administration though, President Lula radically changed his attitude, by assigning the Ministry of Defence an unprecedented importance, determining the investment plan for military equipment and, more noticeably, proposing the creation of the South American Defence Council. This is going through today a consultation stage with neighbouring countries, and its principal aim is to prevent the occurrence of regional war conflicts. Still, some characteristics about the Council have not been defined yet, though the initiative is being considered by various South American countries.

These changes were set off by the defence crisis generated by failures in commercial aviation air control, in charge of the Air Force, which coincided with a serious diplomatic and military tension in the Andean-Amazonian region. The Minister of Defence, Nelson Jobim, solved the air crisis; and he is currently adapting the national defence to Brazil's strategic profile within the regional and world contexts.

These innovative processes entail new tensions, given the evidence of foreign interests - sometimes directed against Brazil – and of the perception of threats against national sovereignty. As a matter of fact, within the field of energy and territorial sovereignty, Brazilian interests are confronted by the Bolivian government, whereas Paraguay demands new contract conditions regarding the Itaipú Dam, and the review of diplomatic accords over a Brazilian area.

Therefore, the Brazilian national security and defence diplomatic agenda is duty-bound to embrace issues that – from the Brazilian State perspective – have been overcome for a long time now. Such factors impinge on the perception of

■ Brazil does not perceive threats or constitute a threat to its neighbouring countries.

security (even on national defence, at times) mostly at the level of society, the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces, rather than at level of the Presidency of the Republic or the Ministry of External Relations. This is a case of military dissatisfaction regarding the demarcated indigenous lands in the Amazon's frontier areas, with scarce presence of governmental institutions, and political obstacles to the military units. There, the Armed Forces identify serious risks for sovereignty, while civil ministries and social organizations perceive the military uneasiness as a tardy expression of values from the authoritarian regime.

The acquisition of armament, aircrafts and ships, along with the transference of technology, has been subject to the consideration of the Ministry of Defence and European countries. At the same time, the adopted economic measures favour the national armament industry – which is probably connected with neighbouring countries defence industries. Paradoxically, in unison with the improvement of the typical defence functions, the Army has been used in public security tasks. Such performance is increasingly frequent and serious, as the Federal Government has put the recently created National Security Force into action, so as to support the State Police Forces.

The military action in Haiti, where Brazil commands the UN's military force, is endorsed as a relevant factor with the purpose of achieving a permanent membership in the Security Council. On the other hand, the Federal Government has seemingly raised the national defence to the country's strategic and economic profile. It is in fact an essential necessity, as the pathetic view of stalled ships in their bases; military aircraft lined up on the runways instead of into the air; and the Army equipment getting old and deteriorating, still remains.

As the military pay issue has been solved (a key factor in the relation with the Armed Forces) it is expectable that the President of the Republic defines the new Defence Strategic Plan on the next September 7, 2008, when the country will be celebrating its Independence Day. Thus, Brazil will have included in its political and strategic agenda a new essential reference for its national defence.

Despite these positive changes, the country still lacks a Book on National Defence, an appropriate instrument for the enhancement of the internal legitimacy of national defence and the Armed Forces, as well as for increasing confidence about the Brazilian strategic purposes at the regional and international levels.

■ The changes in the defence policy show the assignment of an unprecedented importance to the Ministry of Defence, the investment plan for military equipment and the proposal of the South American Defence Council.