

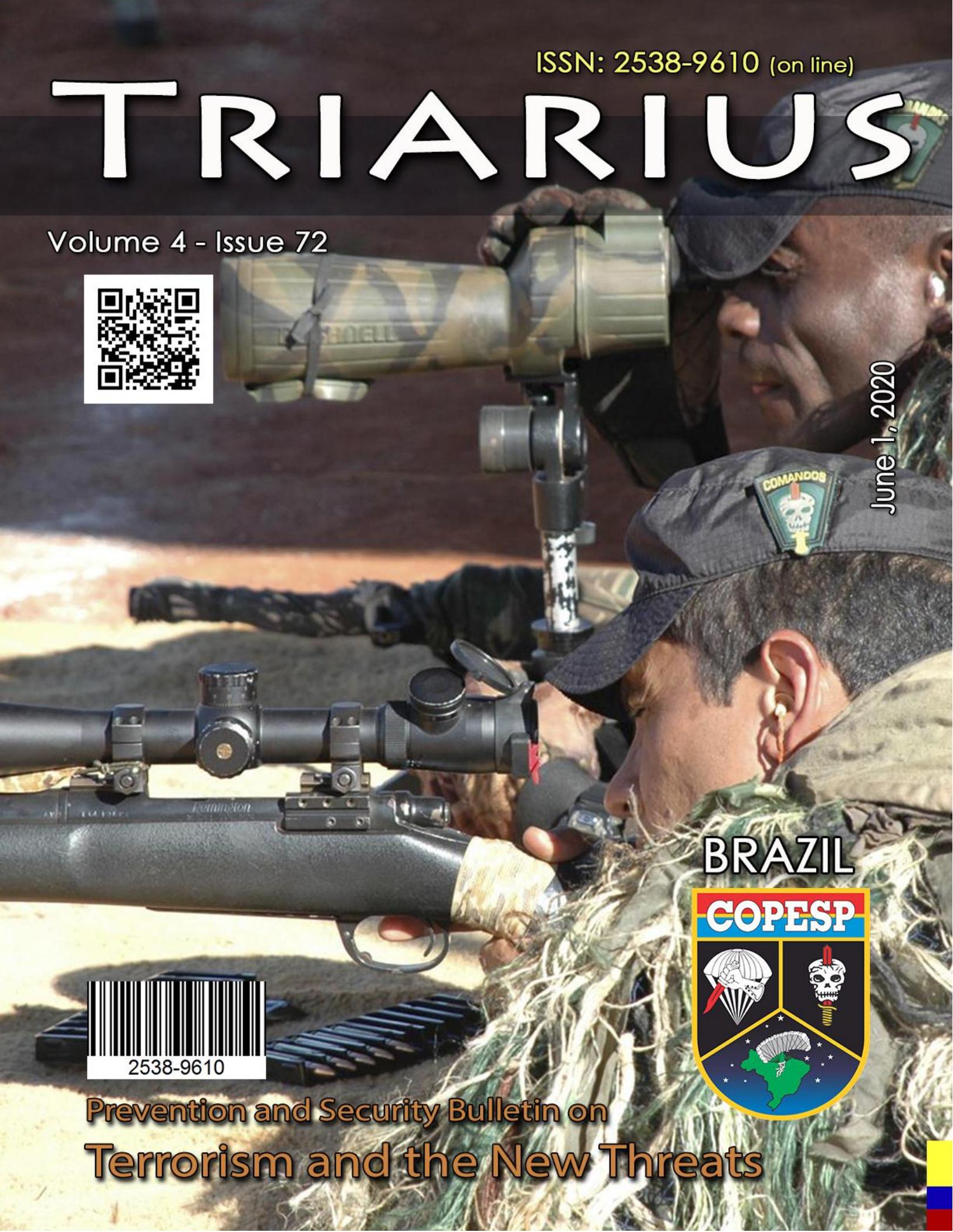
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# TRIARIUS

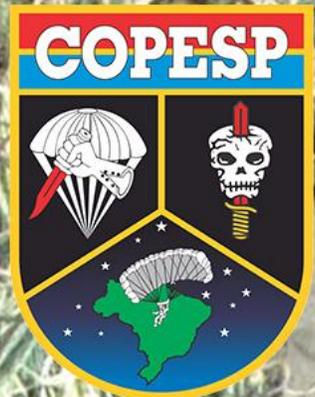
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**Editor**

Douglas Hernández

**Triarius Analysts**

Guadi Calvo, Ulises León Kandiko,  
Pablo Escalante, Douglas  
Hernández.

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**Contact information:**

**Douglas Hernández**  
Medellín Colombia  
Mobile: (+57) 321-6435103  
[director@fuerzasmilitares.org](mailto:director@fuerzasmilitares.org)  
[hernandez.douglas@hotmail.com](mailto:hernandez.douglas@hotmail.com)



## EDITORIAL

This issue begins with an analysis by the illustrious Guadi Calvo of the complex situation in Nigeria, a country rich in natural resources where the population is submerged in poverty. In particular, this text revolves around the oil issue and the increase in piracy at sea in the Gulf of Guinea area. If you didn't know, crime statistics make the Gulf of Guinea the most dangerous place in the world for commercial shipping.

Next, the Argentine analyst Ulises León Kandiko presents us with a text that invites us to rethink everything in terms of cyber defense and cyber security, given that the entire strategic environment changed with the pandemic issue.

The third contribution of this issue is a review by Guadi Calvo about the drama suffered by the Saharawi people at the hands of Morocco, facing the indifferent and, in some cases complicit, gaze of other States.

Then, from Venezuela, Pablo Escalante enlightens us on the most recent events in that country, in particular with the issue of the Iranian tankers that sailed to Venezuela with fuel, defying the unilateral and illegal sanctions of the United States.

Guadi Calvo continues with a recount of the most recent border tensions between India and China, which should be of great concern to all those who know that both countries are nuclear powers, and that a high-intensity war between them could end the planet .

This edition of TRIARIUS ends with a review of the 360° Full Mission Naval Simulator used in Colombia by the National Navy for crew training.

Know to win!

*Douglas Hernández*

Editor



This newsletter has a Spanish version.

# TRIARIUS 072

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## TRIARIUS

The social, economic, political, and security problems that the pandemic has brought to all the countries of the world, force a multifaceted restructuring of institutional activities. Those who have responsibilities in matters of security, defense, intelligence, cybersecurity and counterterrorism cannot remain static in the face of such a challenge. On the contrary, they must be proactive and, together with their work teams, analyze new threats and contexts, and think and rethink new courses of action, responding with the same dynamism that changing circumstances impose on them. In this order of ideas, TRIARIUS is a valuable tool to pool perceptions of the present reality, analyzes of new problems, as well as to help disseminate possible solutions to these new challenges. Let's make the most of this resource.

On the cover, **Brazilian Commandos**,  
See more information at the end of the  
magazine.

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however, the responsibility for what is said  
in the articles is exclusive to their authors.

Very special thanks to the international  
analysts who have sent us their articles for  
this issue free of charge.



# Niger river delta oil and pirates

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



*Gulf of Guinea in West Africa, the Niger River delta is highlighted in yellow .*

Nigeria, with almost 200 million inhabitants, and a size slightly larger than Venezuela, seems to be a country destined to amplify to its interior, whatever crisis hits the world. In full swing after the attacks on the New York towers, Wahhabi terrorism began to spread throughout the vast geography of Islam and in 2009 the Boko group was founded in northern Nigeria. Haram , which after more than a decade continues to strike in a constant and brutal manner, having already caused more than 50,000 deaths and two million displaced persons, and reaching to radiate its terror to neighboring countries. Undoubtedly, this expansion is largely due to endemic corruption, which has endured government after government, devastating institutions and causing appalling levels of social inequality, with

more than 120 million people living in conditions of extreme poverty, while cupolas of power display their wealth in an obscene way.

Nigeria, thanks to oil, has the largest economy in West Africa and the third largest on the continent, which is clearly not to the benefit of the population. The country practically does not have a health system, which is why it has been and is the scene of major epidemics of Ebola, cholera, polio and AIDS, which set or have set records , so it is expected that COVID-19, which so far it has produced only 220 deaths, it can hit hard, as it is believed it will in the rest of the continent. Among other Nigerian regrets, it is recorded that their women are the most numerous among those who fall into prostitution networks, which operate mainly in Europe.

In addition, the country suffers catastrophically from the devastation of the Niger River delta, due to oil exploitation, the country's main export product, which has converted this area of some 20,000 square kilometers, with thirty million inhabitants, divided in about forty ethnic groups, in one of the poorest and most polluted, not only in the country, but in the world, which has caused the destruction of the traditional means of their economy: fishing and agriculture, which has generated a unemployment rate close to forty percent, which places the region among the highest in the country.

Nigerian oil reserves rank tenth in the world, and most of these deposits are concentrated in the delta area, with the consequent degradation of the environment, due to the constant

losses of crude oil for reasons ranging from accidents - tes, to sabotage and fluid theft by a terrorist group known as the Avengers of the Niger Delta - created in 2016- and local mafias, always protected by government officials or high command of the armed forces. As a result of these spills, it is estimated that some two million tons have been dumped since extraction began in 1957, which puts the country at the head of those with the greatest losses of crude oil. Added to the devastation of the ecosystem is the constant venting and burning of gas.

As if all these evils were not enough, the international crisis of oil prices compromises the country's critical financial situation, caused essentially by two factors: corruption and the war against Boko Haram , which is still a more underhanded way to continue the robbery.

The majority of the Nigerian people do not receive any benefit from the oil exploitation in which the Nigerian intervenes. National petroleum Corporation (NNPC), along with multinationals such as Shell, Chevron , Exxon or the Italian Eni . At the same time, other exports such as wood, rare minerals, which supply the great demand of technology companies, and the film industry known as Nollywood , which in number of annual productions, is only surpassed by India. , leaving Hollywood behind, beyond still rudimentary qualities, these ventures cannot replace what the oil and gas companies do not provide.

This state of affairs in the delta region has been dragging on since the days of independence in 1960, which has caused two important uprisings against the central power. In 1966, the Republic of the Niger Delta was proclaimed, which immediately annulled all the

contracts with the oil companies, but the movement was exterminated in less than two weeks, with excessive violence by the forces of the central government. Although this movement practically went unnoticed in history, it would leave the way open, so that a year later, in the southeastern region of the delta, the Republic of Biafra was created. As an expression of the separatist movement of the Igbo tribe , which dragged along ancestral conflicts with the communities of the north and whose rights to oil exploitation were curtailed . The establishment of the Republic of Biafra led to a three-year war, which left more than a million dead and appalling child malnutrition rates, so that fifty years after that, the wound has not stopped suppurating, causing periodic outbreaks that could lead to a new independence attempt.

### **Shipwrecked in the Gulf of Guinea**

The critical situation of the inhabitants of the delta has triggered the increase in crime in all its variants, including piracy, which has registered significant growth throughout the Gulf of Guinea, surrounded by seven countries, all oil exporters, which It has complicated the storage model, in static tankers on the high seas, which was adopted by the large oil companies, for unsold production, given the excess supply.

The daring actions of pirates have produced ninety percent of all kidnappings in 2019 and so far this year they have already carried out twenty-one attacks.

The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) reported that, in the first quarter of 2020, piracy increased worldwide, with 47 attacks in total, while the previous

year in the same period 38 had been carried out. According to the report of the IMB, piracy, has not reached its maximum level and expects to continue increasing so far this year and next year.

Most of these types of actions that have taken place this year were carried out in Nigerian territorial waters, from where they spread to the waters of neighboring countries, which has alarmed multinational oil companies and international cargo companies .

The kidnapping of crew members in the Gulf of Guinea is constantly increasing, from 78 in 2018, it went to 121 in 2019, so this piracy has far exceeded the pirates operating in the Strait of Malacca, the one that separates Malaysia and Singapore from Indonesia, which makes the African Gulf the most dangerous place in the world for commercial shipping.

The security forces of the region do not have the appropriate equipment to combat this type of crime, while the criminals have high-speed boats and an important variety of latest-generation weapons that give them the firepower and the speed to carry out operations, increasingly complex and forceful .

Although the kidnapping actions are expected off the Nigerian coast, on March 22, seven crew members of the Portuguese-flagged MSC Talia F were kidnapped off the coast of Gabon, which according to experts It is a symptom that pirates have already expanded in a gravitational way and an increase is expected throughout the Gulf, which occupies the coasts of Ghana, Togo, Benin , Cameroon, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea along with the Nigerian coast.

Until 2015, piracy had been limited to attacking oil tankers to

sell their cargo on the black market, but after the oil crisis that year, these organizations focused their objectives on kidnapping crews in search of ransom, operations that It has been recorded until a few days ago, when the Nigerian navy was able to rescue on May 15 the 18 crew members of the Chinese ship, MV

HAILUFANG II, which had been assaulted by pirates in the waters of the Ivory Coast.

The Nigerian Government, in collaboration with other nations dependent on Nigerian oil, conducts continuous military operations to crack down on such gangs and oil theft, although the Nigerian Armed Forces and

government - backed paramilitary groups in Abuja are known to They have been denounced for abuses and torture, while the collaboration of Nigerian officers and non-commissioned officers with the heads of the groups they claim to fight is being investigated, which is sinking any possibility of a definitive solution in corruption.

Image Source:

<https://lss-sapu.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/248uyeq89urh.png>

**Guadi Calvo**

(Argentina) Argentine writer and journalist. International Analyst specialized in Africa, Middle East and Central Asia.

# How a pandemic can drive new lessons in cyberspace

By Ulises León Kandiko (Argentina)



We all carry our professional deformations in different ways, and they tend to integrate into our personality more when they have been in our body for several decades. One of those professional deformations that I carry in my backpack is that *The Infante Adapts*, what does he adapt to? to the terrain, to the climate, to the social environment, in short, it adapts to everything; in another space of the backpack I carry the fact that for each activity that we carried out or for each exercise carried out, at the end of it the same question always came to answer: what lesson did we learn today?, and it is today that I do the same with the staff in my charge, since from this response the aim is for the staff to remain agile and always looking for better ways to execute our mission. If the old way didn't meet our needs, we

had to rethink and find a new and better way of doing the job; even in combat. Now, in the time of Covid19 causing a completely different type of stressful activity, we should ask ourselves the simple question "what are we learning today?" and if there is time "how are we going to adapt?"

COVID -19 that are piling up and should prompt us to rethink how we operate, train and equip our organizations as we look to move forward. The fact that we have survived today does not necessarily mean that we will survive tomorrow if we accept today 's thinking and solutions too strongly. Organizations, both Public and Private, must tend to be as agile in intellectual maneuvering now as combat demands.

Within the sphere of the Public sector, perhaps more than any other organization, the Defense,

Security and Intelligence areas have the most difficult organizational inertia, facing the opportunity to rethink everything. This is especially true for the areas (within organizations) of information technology and cybersecurity. However, now is the time for leaders at all levels to pause and ask, "What are we learning today?" now is the best time to challenge conventional thinking and rethink everything and adapt to the new scenario.

Today's cybersecurity strategy is based on the perimeter- and layer-based defense-in-depth security strategy, which is possibly the same strategy employed by Sun Tzu, Clausewitz, and countless other generals for centuries. Although that strategy worked for them, the truth is that they did not coexist with the Internet or

cyberspace. So, we will have to rethink our cybersecurity strategy. Organizations that have adopted the Zero Trust security strategy are demonstrating greater resilience and agility, lower cost of operations, and better performance during this crisis. An example within the Defense field is the United States Department of Defense ( DoD ) which has been "analyzing" Zero Trust for years, although it should come out of "analysis paralysis" quickly.

Cyberspace is not "something" static, restricted and dependent on the standards of a Ministry of Defense or Security or any organization. During this COVID-19 crisis, one of the options that has come to appear to stay is the famous Home Office or Telework, and it has certainly been very well received and used by all parties. But what happens when it is not done properly, as it has been known in the United States Air Force (USAF for its acronym in English) some elements would have been exchanging ideas on social networks, on how to fulfill their mission from home despite of the architectural and technical barriers presented by the DoD 's antiquated technology architecture. Some have called these barriers a "self-induced denial-of-service attack."

It is these kinds of facts that lead us to the urgent need to adapt architectures, in the original spirit of the Internet: designed so that you can execute your tasks safely regardless of where you are physically and on any device. The reality of any Armed or Security Force is that they need to be highly agile and maneuver with absolute freedom in any scenario and this includes the 5th Domain (Cyberspace), this is a good time to rethink the entire architecture while testing and they rapidly adopt new technologies and operational constructions of employment in cyberspace.

The great world powers have developed programs to have Professional Officers and Personnel in the Cyberwar Weapon, but suffer in return from being increasingly dependent on the Industry. It is necessary for them to rethink the size and composition of their cyber teams, which are framed by traditional military organizational structures rather than dynamic mission needs.

The least advantaged countries, on the other hand, have pre-eminence, which is the blank canvas that allows them to take advantage of the experiences (mistakes and successes) of others. They are usually small Armed

Forces that could take advantage of their dynamism, as long as they are not absorbed by bureaucracies or by Spartan traditions that impede their evolution; there tend to be organizations that are comfortable with the status quo.

For either case, I have a great novelty for you: innovation comes from people and not from things or places! Innovative people creating new ideas and capabilities are everywhere. When we continue to tap into the same sources, we often get the same answers even though the questions change. Great ideas aren't just found in Silicon Valley or just in the United States. Our *Organizational Culture* must reward curiosity, research and actively search for non-traditional sources of information that generate opportunities.

In times of crisis and change, more than ever we should be in this moment asking ourselves "What are we learning today?" and second, we should be "adapting" to what many call the new reality. Now is the time for leaders at all levels to take a critical look at the current environment with an eye toward our desired future. It's time to rethink everything.

**Ulysses Leon Kandiko**

(Argentina) Degree in Security, graduated from the University Institute of the Argentine Federal Police. Professor of the IUPFA in the Security Sciences career, analyst, Director of Air Planning of the Ministry of Security of the Province of Buenos Aires. Specialist in cyberterrorism and criminal intelligence.

# Western Sahara, the dispossessed nation

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



*Geographical location of Western Sahara, west of Africa and on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean.*

A slight diplomatic friction between Algeria and the Moroccan Alawite monarchy, brought to the memory of some the tragedy of the Saharawi people, who in 1975 were stripped of a large part of their territory. The newly installed King Juan Carlos, who practically began his reign with a betrayal of his mentor, the genocidal Francisco Franco, who had agreed to the independence of the West African colony; tried to avoid a trap that the United States was preparing with Morocco, to seize those 266 thousand square kilometers, of stone and sand, but with a subsoil of important deposits of phosphates, iron, oil and gas. With more than a thousand kilometers of coastline on the Atlantic Ocean, facing one of the richest fishing banks in the world, today mainly exploited by Moroccan and Spanish companies. That territory, of a size similar to New Zealand, in that world

of the Cold War, was key from its geostrategic position, since it represented one of the doors to a continent in which many of its nations, in the midst of the independence process, wars and revolutions, he saw in Cuba and the Jamahiriya (State of the Masses) with which the young colonel Mohammad Gaddafi was propelling Libya to a destiny that many other nations could aspire to.

To consummate the dispossession of the Saharawi people, France also intervened, which, as always when some Elysée office pronounces the word "Africa", many suffer concupiscent convulsions, for which Mauritania, its former colony, played to intervene in the conflict that was coming

Morocco was the great winner of this robbery, literally at gunpoint, against a nation that was barely recognizing itself, after almost one

hundred and twenty years of Spanish domination. Today, more than four decades after this looting, no one, as is the case with the Palestinians, the Tuaregs or the Kurds, raises their voice for the violated rights.

The usurpation of the Saharawi territories was coldly planned in a series of meetings that ended with a secret and sinister pact between Henry Kissinger, then head of the US State Department, King Hassan II, father of the current monarch of Morocco, Mohamed VI, and John Carlos I. The agreement consolidated what became known as the Green March, a spasmodic parade through the desert of some 25,000 soldiers of the Moroccan army, accompanied by some 300,000 poor peasants and all kinds of needy who had been promised land, after the occupation of some 200 thousand square kilometers of the northern part of the young

RADSA (Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic), no Moroccan peasant received a meter of land and all returned to their poverty. At the time, Morocco, together with Mauritania, waged a war against the Polisario Front (Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguía el Hamra (the red ditch and Río de Oro) that lasted from 1975 to 1991, in which one 5 thousand militiamen and about 4 thousand Saharawi civilians and about 10 thousand soldiers from both armies. In the eighties, Rabat began to build a wall that separated the Saharawi people forever. Today the RADSA has just over 500 thousand citizens, about 320 A thousand live in the coastal regions of the barren 70 thousand kilometers, which they were able to preserve after the assault, and in the country's capital Aaiún, and another almost 200 thousand in the Tindouf camps, southern Algeria, where the Saharawis have been crowded since 1975, in exile, without any possibility of returning to their homeland, with minimal resources to barely survive, supporting themselves thanks to international cooperation.

The wall of shame, as it is also called, was built with technical advice from Israel and financing from Saudi Arabia. It is actually a system of eight walls with a total length of 2,720 kilometers, protected by 160,000 troops from the Moroccan army. and a state-of-the-art radar and drone system; in addition and above all, a minefield that is understood to be the largest in the world with an unknown number of antipersonnel explosives estimated to be between 10 and 40 million, planted along the wall.

After the ceasefire agreements between the Polisario and Rabat in 1991, the situation has been frozen in that Morocco, which considers Western Sahara as an indivisible part of its territory, only offers the Saharawi people a system of

autonomy, under his sovereignty. At the same time that the Polisario rejects it, adhering to resolution 3437 approved by the United Nations General Assembly in 1991, in which Rabat was urged to "end the military occupation of Western Sahara and negotiate with the Polisario Front, as legitimate representative of the Saharawi people", where they also demanded: "a ceasefire and a referendum on self-determination - nation of that people", which remains unfulfilled, while the UN still classifies the Saharawi homeland as a "non-autonomous territory".

### **Dispossession and impunity**

Impunity is the best weapon available to Rabat, to consolidate dispossession at the time of ignoring any claim of the Saharawi people, so any statement or act in favor of RADSA is taken as a direct attack on Morocco. The diplomatic incident of last week has as its center a report entitled: "Aspects of international law in the conflict in Western Sahara", dated March 2019, which according to some was produced by the investigation services of the German parliament, in which the Moroccan presence is treated, in the territory claimed by the Saharawi nation, as "annexation and occupation". What already indicated in 1979, the United Nations resolution 3437.

Morocco expressed its annoyance after the publication of the report, which, according to the official information agency of the Alawite kingdom, had been leaked by Algeria, with "false" data provided by the Polisario.

Relations between Rabat and Algiers continue to be tense, after learning that on May 14, he had called the Moroccan ambassador to Algeria, after a statement by the consul of that country in the city of Oran was known, in a meeting with

stranded Moroccan citizens in that city, after the closure of borders as a result of the measures to combat COVID-19, in which the kingdom's diplomat said; "We are in an enemy country, I say it frankly." Which is still completely true, since relations between the two Maghreb nations are very tense due to the conflict in Western Sahara, which is why the almost 2 thousand kilometers of common border continue to be closed since 1994.

The question of the state of Western Sahara has pitted Morocco against the Algerian-backed Polisario Front separatists for decades. This vast desert area bordered by the Atlantic is largely controlled by Morocco, which offers an autonomy plan under its sovereignty. The Polisario demands a referendum on self-determination. The negotiations led by the United Nations have stalled for several months.

Last December, with the arrival of the new Algerian president Abdelmadjid Tebboune, King Mohammed VI, made a call to open a "new page" in relations between the two nations, which in fact has not been verified.

Europe, for its part, does not attend to the Saharawi requests either, and benefits Moroccan claims in a constant way, for example in January 2019, the European Parliament, in Strasbourg, voted a text in which it extends to the disputed territory of Western Sahara the preferential customs tariffs granted by trade agreement to Morocco, recognizing in fact the authority of Rabat, over those areas still in dispute, marking which side the European Union (EU) is on. Undoubtedly, the agreement has an eye on the situation in which Morocco, like Libya, has become the gateway to Europe, for which the EU gave some 100 million euros to Rabat "for the management of the Moroccan

borders”, which could be tempered during 2019, which were about 24 thousand migrants, compared to 57 thousand in 2018, when in 2017, they had been just over 22 thousand. Experts estimate that Morocco was able to prevent the arrival between 2019 and 2020 of some 75,000 refugees, of whom nothing is known now.

This type of "favors" from Morocco to the EU, is what allows Mohamed VI, actions such as

declaring in January, the waters of Western Sahara its own maritime space, with Morocco's legal jurisdiction over the maritime area from Tangier to the north) to Lagouira, (Mauritania) to the south, which strengthens its presence in the Saharawi territories, without any respect for their rights . they aim to update the national legal arsenal, with respect to the total sovereignty of the kingdom over its effective borders of land and sea”. In this

case stripping the Saharawi of their sovereignty over the 350 nautical miles of the continental shelf.

At the same time, African nations such as Comoros, Gambia, Guinea and Gabon, which have recently opened diplomatic representations in Rabat, support the Moroccan nature of the Sahara, with which the total dispossession of the Saharawi nation would be complete.

Image Source:

<https://www.ecsaharai.com/2020/02/morocco-directs-diplomatic-offensive.html>



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# From Operation Gideon to Iranian tankers

By Pablo Escalante, Lieutenant Colonel (R/A) (Venezuela)



After the incursion of mercenaries, in the early morning of May 3, who intended to commit terrorist acts in Venezuela, and after the scandal raised in relation to the participation of the "self-proclaimed" president, the opposition deputy Juan Guaidó supported by the governments of the United States and Colombia, it has been known through the analysis of the widely disclosed contract, that the failed Operation Gideon is only part of an action called "Operation Resolution" that had the objective of obtaining information on the ground, about the Venezuelan defense systems. and the civic-military union.

One does not have to be an OSINT specialist to determine that what was confessed by the North American mercenaries, that their main objective was the extraction of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, it would be naive to think that with only 80 men in speedboats and distributed in beachheads in the Venezuelan coasts, there was no

far-reaching strategic planning behind this tactical action.

Venezuela suffers a hybrid war that has been escalating since Barack Obama's executive order, in March 2015, declared the country an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security of the United States, as a response to the failed color revolution "The Exit" executed in 2014 by the fascist Voluntad Popular party and which is currently being investigated before the Venezuelan Supreme Court of Justice, to be declared a terrorist organization.

Part of this hybrid war is still in full swing, as can be seen in recent events. Like the one on May 19 with the closure of the largest satellite TV operator in Venezuela, DirecTV, belonging to the Texas-based telecommunications giant AT&T, as part of a psychological warfare action against the Venezuelan population. According to Venezuela's telecoms regulator CONATEL, DirecTV is the largest

pay TV provider in Venezuela, controlling nearly 45 percent of the market. According to reports, the service cut affects around two million households, with an average of 5 people per household, we would be talking about around a third of the Venezuelan population, as well as the company's 600 local employees, who were fired, without notice.

The President of the United States, Donald Trump, issued new threats against Venezuela on Wednesday, May 20. "We have them surrounded [Venezuela], they are surrounded at a level that nobody knows but they know. We are watching to see what happens," he warned during a conference call with Hispanic leaders. The president's comments come amid rising tensions over Iranian fuel shipments to Venezuela.

The UN Security Council met on Wednesday, May 20 at the request of Russia to address the situation in Venezuela after the failed attacks

two weeks ago. The meeting occurs after the Maduro government denounced to the United Nations the failed attacks of May 3 and 4, for which it blames the Executives of Colombia and the United States, which have denied any involvement.

In a letter, the Venezuelan ambassador to the UN, Samuel Moncada, asked the Security Council to recognize "that the aggression perpetrated by the Governments of Bogotá and Washington against Venezuela between May 3 and 4, 2020 was an armed attack that attempted against peace and security" and to issue "a clear statement condemning and prohibiting the use or threat of use of force in all its forms and manifestations against Venezuela." According to Moncada, the attacks were perpetrated by "armed groups of mercenaries and terrorists, organized, trained, financed and protected" by Colombia and the United States.

The United States is forced to exercise its Right to Veto before such Resolution discussed in the council. What does this mean? It means that the USA knew that Venezuela had the votes to pass the resolution in its favor and the strategy was always to force the USA to use the veto and thus tacitly accept reality, the veracity of the resolution in favor of Venezuela.

In this strategic way, Russia and China manage to make the USA diplomatically disarmed and at the same time Venezuela achieves resounding diplomatic success before the civilized world and leaves Trump cornered and without arguments to launch an attack.

Five Iranian tankers were shipped with at least \$45.5 million worth of gasoline and other products. Last month, Trump ordered the mobilization of US naval assets to the Caribbean in an

"anti-drug" operation targeting Venezuela, described as one of the largest military deployments in the region since the 1989 invasion of Panama. The US leader had previously threatened Venezuela with a naval blockade. For his part, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has issued repeated warnings that Iran would retaliate against any threat to ships.

The tankers have arrived with absolute normality, without any interference, and have unloaded the fuel in two Venezuelan refineries. The Bolivarian National Armed Forces sent air assets made up of F-16 Fighting Falcon fighter-bombers, SU-30MK2s armed with VYMPEL R-73, RVV-AE and R27 ER1 air-to-air missiles, and naval assets such as the YEKUANA ocean patrol vessel, equipped with helicopters, to escort them when entering the territorial waters of Venezuela. But the question arises why the US has not attacked them? Using the logic of the strategy used, the Trump government could not retain or attack Iran's ships because it would lack any support from the UN, and in the event that it tried to do so, it would violate its own internal laws, since in days past the Congress of the United States of America approved an Anti-War Act against Iran, and any bellicose or aggressive action by the USA against Iranian ships would be considered an act of war without the approval of Congress, which would end with the Trump's mediocre political career and that would also lead him to a trial from which he could hardly be saved, and that does not suit the tenant of the White House, least of all in an election year with a view to a negative re-election highly desired by Trump.

Currently, Venezuela suffers from a widespread shortage of gasoline, and domestic production is affected by US sanctions that

prohibit the importation of vital diluents and spare parts needed to revive the country's refining capacity. Since 2017, the Trump administration has targeted Venezuela with crushing economic sanctions, including an oil embargo that blocks fuel exports to the Caribbean country, as well as a blanket ban on dealings with Venezuelan state entities.

In recent months, the US Treasury Department has imposed secondary sanctions on two affiliates of Russian energy giant Rosneft, which had been transporting up to 60 percent of Venezuela's crude output, as well as supplying diesel and gasoline. Following Rosneft's departure, Tehran stepped in to provide fuel and technical assistance to repair Venezuela's largest refinery, which has been offline since nationwide blackouts last year. The Trump administration has also threatened Iran over its technical air corridor to Venezuela, asking other countries to suspend Iranian overflight rights.

The White House has not yet commented on the arrival of the tankers. The OAS Secretary General, Luis Almagro, and the controversial and weakened Venezuelan opposition leader, Juan Guaidó, both staunch US allies, condemned the fuel shipments as an "unacceptable provocation" that should "alarm" the region.

Venezuelan Oil Minister Tarek El Aissami acknowledged Iran's help and praised the cooperation between the two countries. "Energy cooperation is based on the productive development of the industry in both countries [...] for the benefit of our peoples," he said, while criticizing the US sanctions and their consequences for the Venezuelan oil industry.

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## Pablo Escalante

(Venezuela) Lieutenant Colonel (Active Reserve), Bolivarian Military Aviation. Engineer.

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# China - India: The border of burning snow

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



*Narendra Modi and Xi Jinping leaders of the two opposing powers.*

The lacerating stigma of colonialism seems to persecute, beyond the time that has elapsed, all the peoples who have suffered it and as an indelible trace emerges with a bloody vocation with each shake that occurs in those geographies, harassing cultures, nations, ethnic groups and tribes, which in one way or another continue to ruin, the examples number in the hundreds of thousands, so much so that perhaps we will never be able to completely remove that tombstone that the British Empire, in particular, has thrown over the world.

In every corner of the world there is evidence of their crimes and in the face of any incident, there is the evidence of what was said. In the remote and extensive border between China and India, where since the beginning of this month of May, a pre-war climate has been experienced, due to border disputes, there is the trembling

hand of the Empire when, in 1914, London, which controlled India, established the so-called McMahon Line, a fanciful border between China and India, with an "agreement" of Tibet, which would finally be rejected by both Chinese and Tibetans.

McMahon Line, innumerable frictions have continued to be registered along the almost 3,500 kilometers of common border, the longest in the world, whose definitive drawing is still under discussion.

Already in October 1959, China tested Indian defenses for the first time in an attack on an outpost in Ladakh, not by chance the area where the last actions have taken place and where in 1962 the fighting that is known as the Indochina War began, which lasted only between October 20 and November 21, leaving between dead and missing nearly four thousand casualties, the majority were jawan (soldiers) of the

Indian army and where there was no lack of massive attacks that spread from Kashmir in the west to the eastern Himalayas. Those combats that ended with an embarrassing Indian defeat, installed China, definitively, as the great regional potential; In September 1967, what is known as the Nathu La and Cho La clashes took place, which after four days of fighting in September and only one in October in which both armies exchanged artillery together with some infantry there would be about 100 Indian casualties and another 350 soldiers of the Popular Army; in 1987 in the Chu valley, in the state of Arunachal Pradesh, (which Beijing claims as its own and which remained in Indian territory, after a series of agreements in the 19th century, which China never recognized) an exercise of the Indian army, together to the border, generated alarm in the popular army that immediately took combat

positions, although the conflict could be stopped before casualties were produced. The next border clash of any relevance occurred only in 2017 on the Doklam plateau, near the state of Sikkim, in northeastern India, where both armies clashed for 73 days in dispute over the construction by China. The Indian Army launched Operation Juniper, in which some 300 armed troops carrying two bulldozers and other tools crossed the Sikkim border into Doklam to destroy an important section of the road.

### **The disputes continue**

All the ghosts have resurfaced when on the night of May 5 to 6, in two sectors of the Line of Control, (LC) as the border sector that separates the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Indian Union is known in the section of Kashmir, the territory in dispute between these two nations since 1947, and which also includes some sections with the People's Republic of China, which controls Aksai Chin (White Stone Desert), a gigantic sparsely populated salt pan, but of important strategic value for Beijing, as it connects the Muslim- or Uighur-majority autonomous region of Xinjiang with ever-unstable Tibet, there was a minor incident between Chinese patrols and Indian border guards. Although the fact could be described as minor, almost insubstantial, since it was limited to a few shots, fist bumps and even a stone blow, which only left a few bruised among the troops of both forces, anyone familiar with the tense history between those two nations, knows that no altercation can go unnoticed on that border.

There are too many antecedents to take lightly any rose that may occur, since the possibility of triggering an escalation, which could climb to extremely dangerous

limits not only for those two nations, both nuclear powers, but for the entire region, is always latent, despite the fact that many consider the frequent border incidents, almost always of very low intensity, which could be considered a geographical accident unalterable in time. An assumption that is too risky, if one thinks about the consequences that a war between these nations could bring about, bearing in mind the cold war that the United States, a great ally of India, has declared against China, and the solid diplomatic alliance, commercial and military that China has forged with Pakistan, also a nuclear power and sworn enemy of India.

The incidents, from the beginning of May, occurred at two points in the Naku La sector, a mountain pass in Sikkim, at an altitude of more than 5,000 meters, near Pangong Tso, (Deep Lake) on the Line of Control, where the 1962 war began and is the context of most of the clashes that have occurred historically between Beijing and New Delhi. That area is located close to Tibet, another hot spot in China's domestic politics, at times as hectic as Hong Kong today.

The clashes began on the fifth in eastern Ladakh, near the lake, to continue on Saturday the 9th in northern Sikkim, in which helicopters from both armies had also participated. The last relevant clash had also occurred in Ladakh on September 11, 2019 on the north shore of the lake, when border patrols exchanged fire throughout the day, without causing casualties, but heating up the area again.

The events of May 5 and 9, beyond the insubstantial, have left a lot of material for analysis, and when to suspect if the action was not premeditated by India, since the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, immediately took the decision that

this time "it would not be them" referring to the Chinese who would have to back down to safeguard the strategic bridge being built near Daulat Beg Oldi, the last military post south of the Karakoram Pass, and has already ordered the mobilization of more troops to counter the thousands of People's Liberation Army (PLA) troops stationed in the region.

Modi, an ultra-nationalist, who has practically declared war on the Muslim community of his country, some 200 million people, who are constantly being harassed and repressed, not counting those that his anti-Muslim policies that he has established in Kashmir, barely taking into account the recent strategic alliance it has established with the Zionist enclave in Palestine, from whom it has bought weapons and war technology, and the meetings with the kapo Benjamin Netanyahu. Modi cannot back down from his aggressive policies against the socialist giant, one step away from becoming a great global power.

The idea of New Delhi is not to allow any alteration of "its territory", territory that is not properly demarcated, and to face the challenge of Beijing with "strength and moderation", declared some security officials after a high-level meeting with Modi, last week, who also added that "India has decided to confront China, in terms of troops, capacity and resources".

China, for its part, has seen in India's strategic plan to finish the 61 highways on the border with China, by December 2022, which would cross different states, including the strategic and always conflictive Kashmir and Sikkim, which would allow a rapid mobilization of troops and armor in case of war contingencies.

After learning that Chinese President Xi Jinping ordered the Army to "concentrate to operate in

the worst scenarios" and "increase its preparation for battle" and "defend the country's sovereignty", it was an unusually hostile message for the always sober of the charismatic Chinese leader. US President Donald Trump, in aid of Narendra Modi, offered himself as a mediator, which has not yet been attended to by the Chinese

president, although it is unlikely that he will receive any type of response.

Different articles appearing in the Chinese press since May 18, accuse New Delhi of "the illegal construction of defense facilities in the Galwan Valley, in Ladakh, an area claimed by Beijing and of "increasing friction, so the Indian

military forces could pay a high price."

While the pandemic that has hit China hard shows that it knows no borders and is now in full expansion in Indian territory, where it has already exceeded 180,000 infected and 5,100 dead who will not know that the snow burns once again on the border.

Image Source:

<https://israelnoticias.com/editorial/israel-during-the-confrontation-between-india-and-china/>



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# Colombia. The ENAP Full Mission Bridge Simulator

By Douglas Hernandez (Colombia)



*The ENAP Full Mission Bridge Simulator*

The Naval School of Cadets "Almirante Padilla" - ENAP, located in the city of Cartagena de Indias, is where the future officers of the Colombian National Navy are trained. In addition, it is a center of excellence where important dependencies of the National Navy are based. Such is the case of the Research, Development and Innovation Center for Maritime Activities - CIDIAM, which operates a simulation center within ENAP.

The CIDIAM building has 4 simulators, one of which represents the bridge of a warship. This simulator, model Transas NTPRO 5000, is a 300° full mission bridge platform, has different scenarios, such as the Cartagena Bay, the Panama Canal, and even two places in Antarctica where

Colombian ships have operated. The simulator allows you to vary the sea conditions, as well as the weather conditions, simulate a joint operation with other ships and aircraft, operate day or night, and a combination of all of the above, just by making a few adjustments on the control console.

This simulator is located in a large room on whose walls the scenarios are projected, which have great realism, and trick the brain by giving a sensation of movement, when in reality the simulator does not move.

It is important to highlight that the different crews of the National Navy ships are being brought to training in this CIDIAM simulator, including the crews of the OPV-80

model ships (ARC "July 20"; ARC "August 7", and ARC "Victory").

The bridge of the simulated ship is of the modular type, so its parts can be replaced, to incorporate the consoles and the real elements, typical of the ship to be simulated. All duly integrated into the simulator, to present the bathymetric and atmospheric data of the simulation, in addition to the readings corresponding to the ship's systems.

With this simulator, the training of the crews of the National Navy is being perfected, since they can rehearse beforehand routine or special operations, particularly those that involve leaving the national territory, or operating with other navies. Ships that must cross the Panama Canal first go to

CIDIAM and perform one or more simulations to become familiar with the maneuver. Similarly, the crews that must go to Antarctica. It is worth noting that the Antarctic scenario was prepared from data collected by the ARC "July 20" in its expeditions to the white continent.

In this way, the National Navy optimizes training and at the same time lowers operating costs, since fuel is not used in these simulations and there is no danger of damaging the real ships.

In addition to what has already been outlined, in the Transas NTPRO 5000, the following simulations and activities can be carried out: Maneuvers and Emergencies, Pilot Training and Certification, Search and Rescue Operations, Maneuvers with Tugboats and Barges, Anchoring Techniques, Sailing Techniques and Docking.

This technology facilitates and enhances the training of the crews of the Colombian National Navy, an institution committed to combating

drug trafficking, piracy, illegal arms, people, and merchandise trafficking, both in the Caribbean and in offshore waters. Pacific Ocean. Remember that Colombia is the only country in South America with coasts on the Atlantic and the Pacific, and that its military and police institutions are the first line in combating the phenomenon of drug trafficking in this region. The experience accumulated in this fight is invaluable, and is being shared with friendly countries, to work together against common threats.

Image Source: ENAP

#### **Douglas Hernandez**

(Colombia) Founder and director of the website [www. Fuerzasmilitares.org](http://www.Fuerzasmilitares.org), he works as a journalist specializing in security and defense. He is a contributor to *Air and Space Power Journal* - institutional magazine of the USAF, now called *the US Air Force Professional Magazine*, *American Continent* -, and of the Brazilian magazine *Segurança & Defesa* . He is a Sociologist and Master in Education from the University of Antioquia (Medellín, Colombia), a PhD student. He has a Diploma in International Relations.



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## **Brazil** **Operations Command you specialize**

The Special Operations Command (C Op Esp ) is one of the large operational units of the Brazilian Army, located in the municipality of Goiânia, state of Goiás. It is subordinate to the Planalto Military Command and is linked for planning, preparation and employment purposes to the Land Operations Command (COTER), located in Brasilia. It is part of the Army's Strategic Rapid Action Force, which makes it capable of participating in operations in all military commands in the area.



The Special Operations Command has versatile support and special operations units, with command, psychological operations and special forces personnel, with high levels of training, capable of acting quickly in any part of the national territory. Special Operations Brigade detachments have the ability to infiltrate the operational environment by land, sea, or air, using conventional or unconventional means such as special vehicles, ships, and aircraft. The special operations units that make up the Command are the 1st Special Forces Battalion, the 1st Command Actions Battalion, the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense Company and the 3rd Special Forces Company, which is dedicated exclusively to employment in the area of the Amazon Military Command. It also has the Special Operations Instruction Center, where its human resources are trained, as well as other logistical and administrative support units, in addition to a singular employment unit in Brazil : the 1st Information Support Operations Battalion.

In 1953, as a result of a plane crash that occurred in the Amazon region, the Directorate of Air Routes of the Ministry of Aeronautics verified the need for rapidly deployable military personnel capable of being used in search and rescue missions. This became a reality with the activation of the Airborne Division Nucleus, current Parachute Infantry Brigade, until then, the main elite unit of the Brazilian Armed Forces, this unit had the objective of preparing the paratroopers of the Brazilian army to carry out carried out rescue operations, which was put into practice in the following years, from 1954 to 1956.



On December 2, 1957, the first Special Operations Course began, divided into periods of training and application, with the main instructor Paratrooper Major Gilberto Antonio Azevedo Silva. The instructions were aimed at training teams to perform missions such as securing key points, disaster relief, intelligence and reconnaissance, and search and rescue. At the beginning of the activities, the course team was assisted by several military specialists, as well as outstanding civilians in their areas of specialization, such as the Brazilian jiu-jitsu fighter Hélio Grace .

Since there was no exclusive military organization for special operations to receive the 16 graduates of the course, which ended in March 1958, they ended up being distributed by existing units, and could be mobilized at any time. For their part, the instructors remained linked to the Specialized Air-Land Training Center (currently the General Penha Park Training Center ), organizing and directing the courses, as well as attending the activities of the recently created Air Rescue Squadron (PARA-SAR) of the Brazilian Air Force.

In 1961, a group of officers and sergeants in the Brazilian Army who had a Special Operations Course, obtained updated knowledge from the Rangers and the American Special Forces in the United States, with the aim of adapting and implementing them in the Army. Brazilian. The course has subsequently been renamed the Special Forces Course and the Commando Internship, organized on the basis of the Ranger Course, held at Fort Benning , Georgia, appears in its curriculum. Due to the creation of this internship, military personnel who were not paratroopers could enter the course.

In 1966 the course was divided into the Command and Special Forces Course, both developed at the Center for Specialized Air-Land Instruction ( CIEpAet ). At that time, Colonel Jofre, head of the specialization courses, was transferred to the Agulhas Negras Military Academy as a teacher, and participated in the creation of the Department of Specialized Education in that educational establishment, whose main objective is to give instruction in Combat to the Cadets. In 1968, this department became the Special Instruction Section.

In 1991, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrillas invaded Brazilian territory and attacked a small contingent from the Brazilian Army border. The response was immediate, and until then the Special Forces Battalion carried out, together with other units, a retaliatory operation, Operation Traíra , which resulted in the deaths of 12 guerrillas, countless captured, most of the weapons and equipment recovered, and Since then, there has never been any word of FARC invasions of Brazilian territory, much less of attacks against Brazilian military personnel.

#### **Organization of the Special Operations Command**

- Special Operations Command Command - Goiânia - GO
- Administration Base of the Special Operations Command - Goiânia - GO
- Special Operations Support Base - Goiânia - GO
- 1st Special Forces Battalion - Goiânia - GO
- 1st Command Actions Battalion - Goiânia - GO
- First Battalion of Operations and Information Support - Goiânia - GO
- Special Operations Training Center - Niterói - RJ
- Chemical, Biological and Nuclear Defense Company - Goiânia - GO
- Guard Company - Goiânia - GO
- 6th Army Police Squad - Goiânia - GO

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