



## Brazil Hosts First Ever Humanitarian-Logistics Exercise in South America

**OE Watch Commentary:** Military cooperation in South America is a growing trend with Brazil leading the way as it continues to reach out to neighboring countries to exchange ideas and enhance collaboration. A recent activity that demonstrates this is AMAZONLOG 2017; the first ever interagency humanitarian-logistics exercise in South America, hosted by Brazil. As the first accompanying passage notes, the exercise took place along the shared borders of Brazil, Colombia, and Peru in the Amazonian town of Tabatinga (Amazonas State) in early November.

AMAZONLOG 2017 was conducted by the Brazilian Army's Logistics Command, and interagency troops from Peru and Colombia. Observers from 20 other nations also attended. In total, as the second passage discusses, approximately 2,000 soldiers and many other entities also participated in this exercise. The goal of the Brazilian based exercise was to implement planning measures and create guidelines to follow in the case of a disaster in the tri-border region between Brazil, Peru, and Colombia. As part of the exercise, live simulations were conducted to assist "victims" of forest fires, earthquakes, droughts, floods and mass human displacement. In this scenario, the mass displacement victims focused specifically on refugees from Haiti and Venezuela. To best replicate challenges associated with responding to a humanitarian crisis in an area of remote access, Brazil chose challenging and hostile terrain in the Amazon rainforest where the Brazilian Armed Forces built an international logistics base which housed the Integrated Multinational Logistics Unit. Troops in this location were trained by civilians and military personnel.

Logistically, this location also forced participants to overcome challenges, given that large and cumbersome equipment needed to be transported 750 miles from the state capital of Manaus to the remote region of Tabatinga. According to the third excerpt, Brazilian Army Logistics Commander, General Oliveira said, "We all know how precarious infrastructure in the Amazon is and that there is a lack of government presence in that region. Activities like this necessitate solutions to overcome challenges and provide assistance to populations affected by disasters." The activity suggests that Latin American countries may be willing to take on enhanced roles in improving their own regional responses to humanitarian disasters. **End OE Watch Commentary (Fiegel)**

*"The AMAZONLOG military exercise was sponsored by the Brazilian Army and brought together 2,000 foreign and domestic military personnel..."*

**Source:** "Sobre o AMAZONLOG 2017 (About AMAZONLOG 2017)," *Brazilian Army Public Affairs Office*, 21 September 2017. <http://amazonlog.net/sobre-o-amazonlog-2017.html>

*The Multinational Logistics Exercise will be held from November 6th to 13th, 2017, in Tabatinga, Amazonas State, in the tri-border area between Brazil, Colombia, and Peru. Throughout the region, joint actions will be developed by multinational and interagency troops from Brazil, Colombia, and Peru. The exercise will allow the participation of military personnel from partner nations and civilian personnel from related organizations.*

**Source:** "AMAZONLOG reúne 500 militares estrangeiros em Tabatinga (AMAZONLOG Gathered 500 Foreign Countries Military Personnel in Tabatinga)," *Defesa e Segurança*, 6 November 2017. <http://defesaeseguranca.com.br/amazonlog-reune-500-militares-estrangeiros-em-tabatinga/>

*The Amazonlog military exercise was sponsored by the Brazilian Army and brought together 2,000 foreign and domestic military personnel in Tabatinga (AM) and other remote areas of the country. Additionally, observers from more than 20 countries to include to Germany, Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, France, United Kingdom, Spain, Russia, and Venezuela attended. Other entities that participated were reported as federal and state agencies such as the Brazilian Airport Infrastructure Company (Infraero, per its Portuguese acronym), the National Indian Foundation (Funai, per its Portuguese acronym), the Federal Police, and the Internal Revenue Service, amongst others.*

**Source:** "Una brigada de operaciones humanitarias para actuar en catástrofes" (A Humanitarian Operations Brigade to Act During Public Emergencies)," *Diálogo*, 16 October 2017. <https://dialogo-americas.com/es/articles/humanitarian-operations-brigade-act-during-public-emergencies>

*Brazilian Army General Guilherme Cals Theophilo Gaspar de Oliveira talked about AMAZONLOG, an interagency humanitarian-logistics exercise held in the tri-border area between Brazil (Tabatinga), Colombia (Leticia), and Peru (Santa Rosa). As part of this discussion, he stressed the difficulty of precarious infrastructure and lack of law enforcement in the region. General Guilherme Cals Theophilo Gaspar de Oliveira further indicated that the exercise was directed by the Brazilian Army's Logistics Command—currently led by Gen. Theophilo—and had observers from 20 partner nations with experience in humanitarian operations, including Germany, Canada, and the United Kingdom.*