

the great potential of the Mobile Training Teams deployed by the Brazilian Peace Operations Joint Center in becoming a capable actor of Brazilian cooperation under the guidance of the Ministry of Defense.

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# BRAENGCOY's Peacekeeping Operations Basic Course in the context of the preparation cycle

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**ABSTRACT:** This article aims to show the importance of the UN Pre-deployment Basic Field Exercise (EBOP, acronym in Portuguese) in the organization and preparation of the Brazilian Engineering Company (BRAENGCOY) to be deployed to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), highlighting the participation of the Brazilian Peace Operations Joint Training Center (CCOPAB, acronym in Portuguese) in this process.

**KEYWORDS:** EBOP, Preparation, MINUSTAH, CCOPAB.

## Introduction

The Preparation Cycle comprises various phases, such as the Initial Meeting, carried out by the Land Operations Command (COTER, acronym in Portuguese) in the Regional Military Commands. Also, there are the Pre-selection, Physical Fitness Test, Laboratory Tests, Production of DNA bank, Physical Examination, Psychological Evaluation, Army Intelligence Center check, Joint Staff meeting in the Ministry of Defense (Brasília - DF), the opening of the Command Post (CP) and the beginning of the Committee of Troop Training for

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Peacekeeping Operations (CPTMP, acronym in Portuguese), among the initial activities. Then, there is a phase of specific preparation comprising courses in School Support Units as CCOPAB and others like, reconnaissance in Haiti, the final preparation in EBOP and the UN Pre-deployment Advanced Field Exercise (EAOP, acronym in Portuguese), and readjustments before the new contingent's departure.

Of all these mentioned phases, EBOP is the last opportunity the Commander has with the troops, still in Brazil, to approve or amend the essential instruction for the deployment of any fraction in a Peacekeeping Operation under the aegis of the UN, the Core Pre-deployment Training Materials (CPTM).

EBOP is organized by the military personnel who undertook specific courses at CCOPAB, and it takes place in the week before EAOP. Both EBOP and EAOP are carried out in the Military Unit which is assigned to host the training.

As the Brazilian Contingent has great visibility in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), it demands a huge mobilization of means and personnel. Therefore, detailed planning, accuracy and endeavor are very important in all the instructions of this period.

The aim of this work is to address the importance of EBOP within the Preparation Cycle of the Brazilian Contingent for the accomplishment of Peacekeeping Operations under the aegis of the UN.

## **Development**

Before 1990, the preparation of the military personnel deployed to Peacekeeping Operations was delivered individually by appointed officers and enlisted personnel. Due to the need of specific training

focused on the duties performed by the members of the Ground Force in operations abroad under the UN mandate, COTER created the Brazilian Peacekeeping Training Center (COPaz, acronym in Portuguese) in 2005. The Brazilian demand for this kind of employment of military personnel has increased, mainly because of the participation of the contingents that have been deployed to Haiti since 2004. Therefore, in 2010, CCOPAB was created as a means to upgrade the Preparation Cycle progressively until it reached the current format.

The Preparation Cycle of the troops (comprising the Battalion, the Marines and the Engineering Company) is made of mobilization, preparation (with instructions at CCOPAB), operations and demobilization, and takes about six months.

The primary role of the UN Military Engineering Unit is to enable the deployment of the UN Mission under conditions that allow the Mission to fulfil its mandate in an efficient and safe manner. The UN Military Engineering Unit is part of the Mission's overall integrated effort to improve the operating environment by building facilities and providing engineering services throughout the Mission area of operations. (United Nations Peacekeeping Missions - Military Engineering Unit Manual, September 2015).

“Due to the geographic diversity of Brazil, there are regions with particular operational characteristics, which will reflect on the need of soldiers who are ready to act in such regional diversity (Army Bulletin No. 29, 22 July 2016).”

Such reality of distinct operational specificities is greatly noticeable in the centralized preparation of the Brazilian Engineering Company.



Picture 1 - Well drilling instruction  
in multidimensional environment  
during EBOP



In the Engineering Unit, various experts from the Corps of Engineers and other Military Units are brought together to carry out the required demands for the development of the Engineering duties, in compliance with documents of MINUSTAH/UN, as the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the United Nations Peacekeeping Missions - Military Engineering Unit Manual, September 2015. For instance, the Construction Engineering (vertical and horizontal constructions) and the Combat Engineering (patrols, navigation, and specialized reconnaissance) require a properly trained team to perform abroad.

The members of the Ground Force must be able to legitimately carry out land operations and gradually use controlled force, anywhere of the conflict area, be it at stable peace or at armed conflict/war. They must contribute decisively to the prevention of threats or management of crisis and/or solving conflicts of any nature and intensity, national or international (Army Bulletin No. 29, 22 July 2016).

To this end, according to COTER's Guidelines of Specific Troop Preparation for Peacekeeping Operations, the Training Coordinator (Engineering and Construction Department) has to carry out the planning, assembly and execution of EBOP, under general guidance of COTER, technical orientation from CCOPAB and supported by the Army Training Assessment Center (CAAdEx, acronym in Portuguese). CCOPAB adopts the gradual and constant increase of complexity of the content taught at the courses as a guideline (Integração Magazine, No. 1, year 2013). That can be observed in courses such as Unit Commanders and Joint Staff Course (EPCOEM, acronym in Portuguese) and Subunit Commanders and Platoon Leaders Course (EPCOSUPEL, acronym in Portuguese). Also in other specific courses as the Logistics and Reimbursement Course, which prepares officers

and enlisted personnel of the Brazilian Armed Forces and friendly nations to perform functions related to Logistics and Administration in Peacekeeping Operations. There is also the Military Translators and Interpreters Course, which prepares military personnel to perform as translators and interpreters throughout the mission. All these courses are based on UN documents and the experiences of Observers, Controllers and Assessors (OCA) who have recently been to the Brazilian Contingent. They contribute with quality and knowledge to the students who have taken courses at CCOPAB. Thus, the students can be fully prepared to guide the whole troops in compliance with guidelines and specific rules of the preparation phase and spread knowledge.

Picture 2 - Logistic instruction at CCOPAB





During EBOP, CCOPAB supports the Training Coordinator with personnel for the instructions taught by BRAENGCOY. They give technical support in issues related to the UN doctrine and operations aiming to apply the specific knowledge of Core Pre-deployment Training Materials (CPTM) and Specialized Training Materials (STM) correctly. Thus, CCOPAB assists the standardization of procedures which will be evaluated in the following phase of the preparation, EAOP. They are as it follows: working with mission partners, protection of civilians, respect for diversity and knowledge of the local culture of the area of operations, which are addressed in practical and simple instructions, including Staff activities, platoon readiness and decentralized missions including



simulations of BRAENGCOY's routine activities. According to the Army Bulletin No. 29, 22 July 2016, the members of BRAENGCOY must be able to legitimately carry out land operations and gradually use force under control, anywhere of the conflict area, be it at stable peace or at armed conflict/war. They must contribute decisively to the prevention of threats or management of crisis and/or solving conflicts of any nature and intensity, national or international. EBOP aims to enable BRAENGCOY to contribute to the establishment of a safe and stable environment in Haiti, which is the basic premise of MINUSTAH's mandate.

As BRAENGCOY is heterogeneous, EBOP is an effective tool for preparation, spreading of knowledge and troop cohesion. It is needed to make a team of experts in different areas, from Engineering Equipment operators to personnel of the Military Engineers Team (QEM, acronym in Portuguese). During the centralized period, there are instructions that contribute to the troops' morale as the Physical Training sessions (TFM, acronym in Portuguese); simulations of routine activities carried out in Haiti, such as rescuing multiple victims in a contingency planning (CONPLAN); Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI), carried out by the Mission Integrated Support Section of MINUSTAH. There are also foot drills and leisure activities such as cultural tours in the town where the military unit of the preparation is taking place.

## **Conclusion**

EBOP, within the cycle of preparation, is the end of the centralized period of specific instructions for the deployment of the Brazilian troops to a UN Peacekeeping Operation. It precedes the last phase of the preparation. Officers, warrant officers and sergeants who undertook