

# An analysis of military draft of reservists in RMR (Recife's Metropolitan Region) and its importance to National Mobilization

*Un análisis del reclutamiento y formación de reservistas en la RMR (Región Metropolitana de Recife) y su importancia para la Movilización Nacional nacional*

**Abstract:** This study analyzes how the Seventh Military Region (7<sup>th</sup> RM), subordinate to the Military Command of the Northeast (MCN – CMNE), manages the recruitment and training of reservists of the Brazilian Army in the Metropolitan Region of Recife (MRR – RMR). Thus, we understand its importance for National Mobilization in the face of a hypothetical need to expand the capabilities of the Army in the Amazon region through its numerical enlargement and deployment of troops. To this end, this study refers to the recent global and regional instabilities and analyzes the geopolitical importance of the Northeast region of Brazil. Next, we explore the vision of scholars who studied this issue as well as the federal laws and documents produced by the Ministry of Defense and the Brazilian Army on mobilization and recruitment. In this research, we analyze the role of the 7<sup>th</sup> RM in the recruitment and training of reservists in the RMR and draw conclusions on the importance of the management of the Mandatory Military Service (MMS – SMO) in times of peace.

**Keywords:** Mobilization. Army. Military Service. Analysis.

**Resumen:** Este estudio analiza cómo la Séptima Región Militar (7<sup>a</sup> RM), subordinada al Comando Militar del Nordeste (CMNE), maneja el reclutamiento y entrenamiento de reservistas del Ejército de Brasil en la Región Metropolitana de Recife (RMR). Por lo tanto, entendemos su importancia para la Movilización Nacional ante la hipotética necesidad de expandir las capacidades del Ejército en la región amazónica a través de su expansión numérica y de su envío de efectivo. Con este fin, se señalan las recientes inestabilidades mundiales y regionales y se analiza la importancia geopolítica de la región Nordeste de Brasil. Luego, se explora la opinión de los pensadores que se ocupan del tema, las leyes federales y los documentos producidos por el Ministerio de Defensa de Brasil y el Ejército Brasileño que se ocupan de la movilización y del reclutamiento. De este ejercicio, se concatenó sobre la importancia de la operación del Servicio Militar Obligatorio (SMO) en tiempos de paz y el papel de la 7<sup>a</sup> RM en el reclutamiento y entrenamiento de reservistas en la RMR.

**Palabras clave:** Movilización. Ejército. Servicio militar. Análisis.

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## 1 Introduction

Among the guidelines of the National Defense Strategy – END (BRASIL, 2012), there is reference to the importance of training the Armed Forces for the following scenario: “asymmetric war, especially in the Amazon region, to be sustained against an enemy of superior military power” (BRASIL, 2012, p. 82). Based on this guideline, this research asks: How does the Brazilian Army recruits and trains reservists in the Metropolitan Region of Recife (RMR), and what is its importance for National Mobilization? To this end, this research pinpoints the instabilities of the international context and considers the regional conjuncture. The study also analyzes the relevance of both soldier and recruitment for National Mobilization and considers the importance of the “population” factor to National Power<sup>1</sup>. Other aspects are analyzed, such as the relevance of the geographical area under the responsibility of the Military Command of the Northeast (CMNE)<sup>2</sup> to assist the Amazon region with troops; the legal framework of the SMO (Mandatory Military Service, also called Initial Military Service – SMI), and how the 7<sup>th</sup> RM would carry out the recruitment and training of reservists in the RMR<sup>3</sup>.

The study of a metropolitan region within a specific Military Region may provide a practical example of how legal mechanisms and norms related to SMO/SMI and National Mobilization are put into practice. Recife’s Metropolitan Region (*Região Metropolitana de Recife* – RMR) was chosen because of its population, amounting to 4,054,861 million inhabitants (IBGE, 2018)<sup>4</sup> – , which is the third largest area within the area under CMNE responsibility; and its relative proximity to the Northern Military Command (CMN) as well as the links between the latter, the Amazon Military Command and the Military Command of the Northeast. Furthermore, the concentration of Army’s bases in this metropolitan region facilitates the mobilization of populace. Finally, RMR is the only metropolitan region under CMNE area of responsibility that prepares both soldiers and aspiring officers (trained in all Army Branches). This aspect frames the metropolitan region as strategic for the Army’s operability.

Soldiers receive the patent during the one-year school period from their incorporation into an OM, while those who hold the Reserve Officer Preparation Centers (CPOR) leave with the rank of aspiring officer after one year of instruction<sup>5</sup> (BRASIL, 2014a). There is a CPOR in the city of Recife,

1 The Superior School of War (ESG) defines National Power as “the capacity the group of man and means that compose the nation have to reach and maintain national goals, in accordance with national will” (BRASIL apud SERRÃO; LONGO 2012, p. 20).

2 For operational purposes of the Brazilian Army, Brazil is divided into eight Area of Military Commands. The Amazon Military Command (CMA), based in Manaus; the Northern Military Command (CMN), based in the city of Belém; the Northeast Military Command (CMNE), based in Recife; the Western Military Command (CMO), with headquarters in Campo Grande; the Military Command of Planalto (CMP), based in Brasília; the Military Command of the East (CML), based in Rio de Janeiro; the Military Command of Southeast (CMSE), based in São Paulo; and the Military Command of the South (CMS), based in Porto Alegre (BRASIL, 2003b).

Military Regions subordinate to the CMNE are: the 6<sup>th</sup> Military Region (6<sup>th</sup> RM), responsible for the states of Bahia and Sergipe, with headquarters in Salvador; the 7<sup>th</sup> Military Region (7<sup>th</sup> RM) responsible for the states of Rio Grande do Norte, Paraíba, Pernambuco and Alagoas, with headquarters in Recife; and the 10<sup>th</sup> Military Region (10<sup>th</sup> RM), responsible for the states of Ceará and Piauí, with headquarters in Fortaleza (BRASIL, 2003b).

3 The municipalities that make up the RMR are: Abreu e Lima, Araçoiaba, Cabo de Santo Agostinho, Camaragibe, Goiana, Igarassu, Itamaracá Island, Ipojuca, Itapissuma, Jaboatão dos Guararapes, Moreno, Olinda, Paulista, Recife and São Lourenço da Mata.

4 This calculation was made as follows: we searched the official website of IBGE (Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics) for the estimates for 2018 of the total population of each city of RMR and summed them all.

5 The term “reservist” refers to citizens who have already performed mandatory military service. The steps for recruiting or not recruiting are as follows: Convening, Enlisting, General Selection, and Incorporation. Becomes a recruit he who is incorporated into the Force.

namely CPOR – Recife. This CPOR is, together with that of Porto Alegre, the only one in Brazil to be held outside the Southeast region<sup>6</sup> (BRASIL, [20--]), a fact that increases its responsibility concerning the North region, which does not have this type of OM and that, therefore, would not have the same means and conditions of mobilizing aspiring officer reservists on all weapons at the same speed as the RMR.

For this investigation to be carried out with precision regarding information and data, we resorted to official documents such as laws, decrees and ordinances related to the topic. In addition, we recall that current legislation specifies various types of military recruitment and/or services, such as military service for women (BRASIL, 1994a, 1994b) and health professionals (medical, pharmacy, dental and veterinary students, and Doctors, Pharmacists, Dentists and Veterinarians) (BRASIL, 1967). These specific recruitment forms are beyond the scope of our analysis, as we seek to understand how, essentially, the RMR can supply numerical military lags in the Amazon region.

It is concluded that there is robust legal backing in the country for the convening of nationals who have provided the SMO, as well as a structure managed by the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces regarding peacetime recruitment and convening in case of mobilization. A more comprehensive study should consider the role of the Navy and Air Force in peacetime recruitment and mobilization decree, as well as the conditions related to strategic logistics<sup>7</sup> (highways, airways, waterways) related to the deployment of RMR troops to the Amazon region<sup>8</sup>.

## 2 International, Regional and Local Context

This decade (2010-2020) has witnessed important geopolitical developments, such as rising tensions in the South China Sea, affecting China, neighboring countries and the US; deep Middle East instability, and worrying events in the Korean Peninsula due to continuing ballistic capacity tests operated by North Korea. With regard to the latter, there are signs of cooling belligerence due to the efforts of both Koreas as well as the US. Other highlights include the Middle East refugee crisis in Europe as a result of the region's continuing instability and the tension between NATO and Russia, occupying opposing positions on issues concerning the Ukrainian sovereignty and which led to the promotion of military exercises near their borders (NATO and Russia).

In South America, there is also a tendency towards instability. At the borders of the Brazilian states of Amazonas and Roraima, the coming of nationals of from Venezuela is growing due to the serious political-economic crisis this country faces. So far, Brazil has received about forty thousand Venezuelans (RENDOM; SCHNEIDER, 2018). In addition, it has to deal with

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For CPOR/NPOR entry, "candidates for enrollment in Reserve Officer Preparation Centers (CPOR) or Reserve Officer Preparation Nucleus (NPOR) must attend the selection as indicated by the Military Service Board." (BRASIL, 2014b). If deemed fit in the General Selection, they "will be referred to the Special Selection to CPOR/NPOR." (Idem).

6 The other CPOR are in the municipalities of Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and Belo Horizonte (BRASIL, 20--)

7 Strategic logistics is one designed "routinely during peacetime through well-designed work" (KRESS, 2002, p. 26, our translation). Strategic logistics plans are "robust and have a long-lasting effect on the capabilities of the military operation" (KRESS, 2002, p. 26, our translation). Kress identifies four dimensions of this logistics, namely: technological, industrial, transportation, and inventory/storage. Therefore, strategic logistics thinks of structures that may have direct or indirect, but long-lasting impact on military activity/operations.

8 By "Amazon region" we refer to the geographical area under the responsibility of the CMA that encompasses the states of Rondônia, Acre, Amazonas and Roraima, and to the area under the responsibility of the CMN, which includes the states of Amapá, Pará, Maranhão and part of Tocantins; the other part is under the responsibility of the Military Command of Planalto.

another geopolitical challenge, i.e., the neighborhood with two NATO countries, French Guiana and Colombia (NATO Global Partner).

Finally, Latin America has increasingly gained attention of the United States. The instability in Venezuela and the potential for this instability to further hit its neighbors and the oil market is one of the *Hegemon's* main concerns (SPETALNICK, 2016).

Other concerns are related to instabilities in Central America that encourage immigrants and/or refugees to go to the US (GRILLO, 2018). In addition, the Northeast region of Brazil grows in importance to the US. The region has one of the best rocket launch locations in the world, where the Alcântara Launch Center is installed. This is due to the strategic location of the Center, according to the Câmara Agency:

The Alcântara Base (MA) has a strategic geographical position, close to the equator, which saves 30% on the fuel used for launching satellites. This allows for competitive advantages over other countries that exploit this market. (BRASIL, 2005)

The United States has continually attempted to make an agreement with Brazil to allow the country to make use of this Center (OTTA, 2018). The Alcântara Base grew in strategic importance following President Donald Trump's announcement to begin the steps towards the creation of a "Space Force" (ROGERS, 2016).

Aside from the above-mentioned aspects, it is noteworthy that North and South America have US military operational bases in Panama, Puerto Rico and Colombia, under the guise of combating drug trafficking (LINDSAY-POLAND, 2015). There is also the activation of the Fourth Naval Fleet, whose areas under supervision are: Caribbean, Central America and South America (GRAGG, 2008). The fleet has been inactive since 1950 and resumed operation in 2008.

In addition to these geopolitical issues, internally, the country is experiencing instability. The Executive Branch has increasingly made use of the Armed Forces, especially the Army. Between 2010 and 2017, the Executive Branch decreed, in different states, 29 GLO operations guarantee of Law and Order (BRASIL, 2017a). In February 2018, a federal intervention was enacted in Rio de Janeiro's public security, an intervention that is also being headed by the Army. Also, in 2018, the Army and Navy were summoned to assist the federal government in dealing with roadblocks throughout Brazil, promoted by associations of (and autonomous) truck drivers. Finally, the most recent GLO decreed by the Executive was to give the country better capabilities to respond to the intense wave of immigrants from Venezuela to Roraima. Decreed on 9/28/2018 and renewed on 10/30/2018 and on 12/28/2018, this GLO is expected to last until March 2019 (COSTA, 2018). All these events point to the relevance of studies on National Mobilization and military service in Brazil.

### **3 Military Instruction and the Importance of the "Population" Factor for National Mobilization**

One of the commonalities in classical strategy writers such as the Florentine philosopher Niccolò Machiavelli and the Prussian military Karl Von Clausewitz concerns the importance of the

state or statesman having the ability and means to manage the population for war purposes. In works such as “The Prince” (1505) and “The Art of War” (1520)<sup>9</sup>, Machiavelli discusses the theme pointing out the dangers of the prince maintaining an army of mercenaries or auxiliary troops and the virtue of maintaining or preparing a force of subjects/ruled that should be activated in case of war, i.e., the militia.

For Machiavelli, the ruler should keep up the effort to train and recruit his own citizens or subjects (Machiavelli, 1998). Mercenary weapons would be useless or dangerous, according to the author (1998, p. 73): “They are ready enough to be your soldiers whilst you do not make war, but if war comes, they take themselves off or run from the foe.” Auxiliary troops, that is, those who present themselves when the prince or ruler asks a third party to send his troops to protect him, also pose a risk to the country, as Machiavelli (1998, p. 80) puts it: “Auxiliaries may be excellent and useful soldiers for themselves, but are always hurtful to him who calls them in; for if they are defeated, he is undone, if victorious, he becomes their prisoner.”

Thus, the Florentine argues that regardless of the qualities or defects of the citizen or subject, the ideal would be for the head of state to recruit those born in his territory. In fewer lines, “the purpose of anyone going to war should be to fight any enemy on the field and to be able to win a battle” (MAQUIAVEL, 2003, p. 20, our translation). For this it is necessary to “find the men, arm them, command them and train them in small or large orders, quarter them and then present them, profiled or marching, against the enemy” (MAQUIAVEL, 2003, p. 20, our translation).

The Florentine advocates that the men summoned should be those under the yoke of the ruler, which would give him the right to appoint those who best suited him. In this respect, Machiavelli teaches:

Each republic and each kingdom must choose their soldiers from their own countries, whether hot or cold or temperate. From this it can be seen from ancient examples that, with training, good soldiers are forged in every country. Where nature fails, industry can be auspicious and provide more than nature. And selecting them from elsewhere cannot [truly] be considered a recruitment, because a recruitment means extracting the best from a province and having the power to select those who do not want to serve in the military, as well as those who do (MAQUIAVEL, 2003, p. 21, our translation).

Machiavelli’s analysis points to the importance of forming a militia, it predates the formation of permanent armies. This formation began to occur in Europe from the seventeenth century onwards, when European states began to continually remunerate their soldiers for the purpose of maintaining a permanent army (CLAUSEWITZ, 1979)<sup>10</sup>. This professionalization of the armies conditioned its quality on the treasures of each country (CLAUSEWITZ, 1979). This treasure was not completely foreign to other states and led Europe to the following situation, described by the Prussian general:

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<sup>9</sup> The publication we use here of “The Prince”, as set out in the bibliography, is from 1998. The publication we use here of “The Art of War”, as stated in the bibliography, is from 2003.

<sup>10</sup> The publication we use of “On War”, as set out in the bibliography, is from 1979, but the work dates from 1832.

No expansion could be made when the war broke out. Knowing the limits of enemy power, men knew that they were reasonably safe from utter ruin and, being aware of their own limitations, were in turn bound to restrict their purposes. Safe from the threat of extremes, it was no longer necessary to reach them. (CLAUSEWITZ, 1979, p. 699)

This reality ends when war in Europe becomes the object of concern and direct engagement of the people and not just the states. This was the situation perceived by the monarchies of Austria and Prussia that, by choosing to intervene in France and suppress the liberal impulses of the French Revolution, hoped to have to fight only against the already battered French Army. However, they were surprised by the involvement of the French population (CLAUSEWITZ, 1979). This involvement is close to the idea of a universal/total National Mobilization, that is, the war effort of an entire nation and not only of its professional army. About this engagement, Clausewitz writes:

The people took part in the wars. Instead of governments and armies, as hitherto, the whole weight of the nation was thrown on the scales. The resources and efforts now available to use have exceeded all conventional limits. Nothing now obstructed the vigor with which war could be waged, and consequently France's opponents faced greater danger (CLAUSEWITZ, 1979, p. 701)

Thus, the variable “people/population”, as well as its greater involvement, gave new features to the war in Europe, according to Clausewitz (1979, p. 220): “In tactics, as in strategy, numerical superiority is the most common element in victory”. A contemporary description of this population-wide effort is found in the texts of Vietnamese General Vo Nguyen Giap, founder and commander of the Supreme People's Army of Vietnam. In his work “Vietnam According to Giap” (GIAP, 1968), the general refers to the 30 years of “revolutionary mobilization” led by the Communist Party of Vietnam. Illegal mobilization for the first 15 years, and legal for the last fifteen years, from the year the party assumed power in the country in 1945. “Revolutionary mobilization” illustrates how the Party has managed to gather a sizable portion of that country's population for the war effort against the French, Japanese, the landowning bourgeoisie, and sometimes even Chinese and British (GIAP, 1968).

The key point explored by Giap's work concerns not only the entire effort of the population, but also their will and engagement, as the Vietnamese general mentions:

In the south, the British actively sought to accelerate the return of the French imperialists. Never before have there been so many foreign troops on Vietnam soil. But never before has the Vietnamese people been so determined to rise in combat to defend their country. (GIAP, 1968, p. 5, our translation)

Giap's work highlights important subjective points for the success of a people mobilization. The Communist Party, which commanded the army to gain the support of the peasantry, offered the peasantry not only the independence of Vietnam but also the right to land

they had not previously had. In the following passage, Giap's considerations show the party's bet on peasantry union:

The Central Committee also formulated a new policy for the Party, temporarily setting aside its land reform slogan and replacing it with the slogan of reducing land rents and interest and confiscating land belonging to Vietnamese imperialists and traitors and distributing it to peasants. (GIAP, 1968, p. 37, our translation)

From the works of these three authors, we can reach some conclusions. Although they were written at different times (sec. XVI in the case of Machiavelli, XIX in the case of Clausewitz, and sec. XX in Giap's case), the nature of war retains some similarities. One concerns the advantages of a good relationship between the ruler and his people, as well as their ability to make use of their citizens or subjects to participate in the war.

The relationship between "population" and its importance to the country's military power is also examined by Brazilian military and politic Golbery do Couto e Silva. This author suggests that National Power<sup>11</sup> should be understood from four means or dimensions; the "economic, political, psycho-social and military means" (COUTO E SILVA, 1967, p. 24). The division suggested by Golbery is relevant because we find it in current documents that guide National Mobilization, such as in the Basic Doctrine of National Mobilization (BRASIL, 1987), which aims to "establish the doctrinal foundations to be considered in dealing with the activities of Mobilization" (BRASIL, 1987, p. 07).

The doctrine analyzes and defines actions to be taken in the four dimensions of power highlighted by Golbery. Regarding the military means, the doctrine says that "depending on the nature of the actions to be taken, the Armed Forces will become the major users of the resources and means of national power, whether human, material or financial" (BRASIL, 1987, p. 16). In the next section, we study how these "human resources" are distributed across the country and what legislation governs the SMO and deals with reservists.

## 4 Demographic Distribution and Legislation

### 4.1 Demographic Distribution

With the fifth largest population in the world<sup>12</sup>, an aspect that works in favor of its National Power, Brazil has the advantage of being able to prepare highly effective Armed Forces in occasion of litigation. Despite its advantage in terms of absolute population, it is unevenly distributed. According to data from the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE),

11 The issue of the importance of the population or people for the national power of a country is also analyzed in the literature on power measurement indices. Serrão and Longo, in "Assessing National Power" (SERRÃO; LONGO 2012), offer an important synthesis of a range of power measurement studies in which several authors address what they consider to be important factors or variables (population, installed capacity of steel production, economy, etc...) to the power of a nation. The importance of the variable "population" for the National Power is the most common among the studies analyzed by Serrão & Longo, being present in 13 of 21 studies.

12 According to the projection on the IBGE website, the estimated total population of Brazil in 2018 is 209,108,766 million inhabitants (IBGE, 2018). According to the official census page of the United States government, Brazil has the 5th largest population in the world, only behind, in descending order, of China, India, the United States and Indonesia (UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 2018).

the demographic density of the Southeast region is 86.92 inhab/km<sup>2</sup> (inhabitant per square kilometer), whereas the South region is 48.58 inhab/km<sup>2</sup>; the Northeast, 34.15 inhab/km<sup>2</sup>; the Center-West region, 8.75 inhab/km<sup>2</sup> and, in the North region, 4.22 inhab/km<sup>2</sup>. The most populated region is the Southeast, with 80.36 million inhabitants, followed by the Northeast with 53.08 million, and the South with 27.38 million. The least populated are the Midwest region with 14.05 million, and the North region, with 15.86 million (IBGE, 2011).

That is why it is important one understands the recruitment mechanisms of nationals in the metropolitan region of another macro-region, which emerges to cover the low density and low mobilization potential of nationals in the Northern region, staffed by the CMA and CMN. Although it is located in the Northeast region, the state of Maranhão is under the responsibility of CMN. In this regard, it is not strange to the Army that the population of the Northeast can be useful in meeting the military needs of the country in the Amazon in a conflict situation. On this subject, McCann writes when he mentions the concerns of the Army Staff in the 1920s and 1930s:

The Amazon was another concern to which little was done. Tasso Fragoso noted in 1927 that ‘the Brazilian Amazon is abandoned to its own resources’; it had no battleship that deserved her name, nor aircraft. He noted with suspicion that an American expedition of geographers was photographing the region from an airplane under the ‘dubious’ pretext of scientific research (Tasso Fragoso, 1927: 83). The 1934 proposal suggested the construction of two highways for the Amazon; one from the Northeast, which was seen as a ‘nature reserve’ of human power to the Amazon and the other through the state of Mato Grosso, linking Madeira-Mamoré with Cuiabá and São Paulo (MCCANN *apud* FRAGOSO, 1983, p. 312, *our translation*)<sup>13</sup>

This idea is again found during the Military Government (1964 – 1985) within the National Integration Program (PIN), one of its objectives being to build the Transamazon Highway (BR – 230) that connects the city of Cabedelo, in Paraíba, to Labrea, in the Amazon, and the Cuiabá-Santarém highway (BR – 163) (BRASIL, 1970). About the Transamazon Highway, Abreu notes that:

The construction of this highway through the Amazon basin would have been determined by two distinct and complementary reasons: on the one hand, a geopolitical concern with the ‘territorial and demographic voids’ and, on the other, the excess of poor population in the Northeast (ABREU, c2009).

Although McCann’s passage more accurately refers to the use of the Northeast’s population for emergencies in the North, Abreu also identifies military government concerns about the “territorial and demographic voids” in the region, as well as the population robustness of the Northeast that could heal such “voids”. Another important fact of the geopolitical relationship between the Northeast and the North region is the history of CMNE itself. Before being called Military Command of the Northeast, the CMNE was called the Military Zone of the North, reaching all the states of the Northeast and the

13 Author’s note: At the time of writing the phrase McCann mentioned, Tasso Fragoso was Army General.



North, and had its Command created by decree no. 9,510/1946 (BRASIL, 2003a). Ten years later, “the denomination is changed to IV Army, the Amazonian portion was broken up to constitute the Military Command of the Amazon” (BRASIL, 2003a). Headquartered in Manaus, this command was responsible for the entire northern region, until the Northern Military Command was created, in 2013, to be responsible for the states of Pará, Amapá, Maranhão and parts of Tocantins, headquartered in Belém.

It is in this context that the Metropolitan Region of Recife (RMR) is highlighted in a national strategy of mobilization of reservists, especially to meet the needs of troop numbers in the Amazon region. There are 21 Military Organizations in Recife; however, in our calculation we consider only 20, because an OM is a school, the Military College of Recife (CMR). Overall, there are 23 OM in the RMR that can act in the event of a National Mobilization decree (BRASIL, 2003b), the 14th Motorized Infantry Battalion (14<sup>th</sup> BIMTZ), which is based in Jaboatão dos Guararapes, the 7<sup>th</sup> Campaign Artillery Group (7<sup>th</sup> GAC), in Olinda and the Marshal Newton Cavalcanti Instruction Camp (CIMNC), in Abreu e Lima. In addition, of the 15 municipalities that are part of RMR, eight are tributaries, that is, municipalities that contribute to the Armed Forces with young people to provide the SMO<sup>14</sup>. There are some specifics of this universe, that is, the municipality of Jaboatão dos Guararapes is tributary of both the Army and the Air Force, Olinda is tributary of the Navy and the Army. Recife, in turn, is a tributary of the three Forces and the other municipalities are tributaries of the Army only (BRASIL, 2018).

## 4.2 Legislation

Military Service is a compromise between Machiavelli’s model of militia instruction, the professional army that emerged in Europe in the seventeenth century, and the total engagement of the people (total mobilization) observed in France during the French Revolution. A considerable part of the countries of the globe adopt Military Service for men and, eventually, for women, in different formats and according to their geopolitical reality. In Brazil, the country has a robust legal apparatus for the Compulsory Military Service, as well as for National Mobilization.

According to Law 11,631 of 2007, National Mobilization is: “the set of activities planned, oriented and undertaken by the State, complementing the National Logistics, aimed at enabling the Country to carry out strategic actions in the field of National Defense, in the face of foreign aggression” (BRASIL, 2007). National Mobilization involves several areas, namely: “political, economic, social, psychological, security and intelligence, civil defense, scientific-technological and military” (BRASIL, 2007),<sup>15</sup> and is managed by the National Mobilization System (SINAMOB), composed of a series of ministries and bodies of the Presidency of the Republic. Its central body is the Ministry of Defense (MD).

Regarding the military dimension of mobilization, below SINAMOB there is the Sector Military Mobilization Subsystem (SSMM), which is also under the MD direction and coordination, which also

14 A resident in a non-tax municipality (MNT) for more than a year “may, at the discretion of DN [Naval Districts], RM [Military Regions] and SEREP [Recruitment and Staffing Services], be accepted as a volunteer for the purpose of meeting the specific needs of the Armed Forces” (BRASIL, 2018c).

15 If there is a National Mobilization that can be decreed for the whole territory (full mobilization) or for part of the territory (partial mobilization) (BRASIL, 2007), the executive branch has its rights extended on several fronts. Backed by Decree-Law No. 4,812, of October 8, 1942, as regards the scientific-technological and economic area for example, the State has the right to request as well as direct the country’s industrial capacities for the supply of war materials or those necessary for the conduct of war (BRASIL, 1942).

coordinates the Military Expression Sector Management Body (ODSEM), composed of the Mobilization Systems of the three Forces, the Maritime Mobilization System (SINOMAR), the Army Mobilization System (SIMOBE) and the Aerospace Mobilization System (SISMAERO) (BRASIL, 2015).

The Armed Forces of Brazil train and prepare permanent soldiers and officers, as well as soldiers and officers providing the SMO. The table below lists the legal mechanisms that support SMO and National Mobilization.

**Table 1 - Legal Mechanisms of Mobilization and Military Service**

Law	What does it say?
Law No. 4,375 of August 17, 1964	Provides for the Nature, Obligation and Duration of Military Service.
Decree No. 57,654 of January 1966	Establishes Rules and Procedures for the Application of the Military Service Law, designated by the abbreviation LSM (Law No. 4,375 of August 17, 1964, as amended by Law No. 5,754 of August 1965)
Decree No. 63,704, of November 29, 1968	Regulation of the Law on the Provision of Military Service by students of Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry and Veterinary and by Doctors, Pharmacists, Dentists and Veterinarians – RLMFDV
Ordinance No. 422-SC-5 of February 21, 1990	State support for the conscript
Decrees No. 1,294 and No. 1,295, of October 26, 1994	Military service for women
Complementary Law 97 of 1999	Provides for the general rules for the organization, preparation and employment of the Armed Forces.
Law No. 11,631, of December 27, 2007	Provides for National Mobilization and creates the National Mobilization System – SINAMOB
Decree No. 6,592, October 2, 2008	Regulates the provisions of Law No. 11,631 of December 27, 2007, which provides for National Mobilization and creates the National Mobilization System – SINAMOB
Legislative Decree No. 373, of September 26, 2013	It deals with the National Defense Policy, the National Defense Strategy and the National Defense White Paper and makes other provisions.
Normative Ordinance No. 31 / MD, of August 29, 2017	Provides for the unification of enlistment, selection, distribution and assignment of enlistments to the SMO.

Source: The authors (2018).

In addition to the aforementioned laws, we highlight the importance of END and the National Defense Policy (PND) (BRASIL, 2012). Within the strategic planning methodology of the Armed Forces, the National Defense Policy is the document that guides the Armed Forces and is a standard to be followed by mandatory observance. On mobilization and SMO, the PND highlights some important points. Among the national defense objectives of the state is “to develop the potential of defense logistics and national mobilization” (BRASIL, 2012, p. 30). In addition, according to the PND, national mobilization capacities should be part of the national deterrence strategy as identified in the following passage:

Diplomatic action in conflict resolution is compounded by the military strategy of deterrence. In this context, it is important to develop the capacity of national mobilization and the maintenance of modern, integrated and balanced Armed Forces, operating jointly and properly deployed in the national territory under conditions of ready employment (BRASIL, 2012, p. 32).

The importance of the soldier and the SMO is found in the END, which says that “to deter, one must be prepared to fight” (BRASIL, 2012, p.47). Thus, “Military mobilization demands the organization of a mobilizable reserve force” (BRASIL, 2012, p. 60) and, for this, the compulsory military service must be highlighted as “one of the conditions for mobilizing the Brazilian people in defense of national sovereignty” (BRASIL, 2012, p. 62). Thus, the role of the Brazilian Army is highlighted, since it is “above all the ground force that will have to multiply in case of armed conflict/war” (BRASIL, 2012, p. 82).

## **5 Recruitment and recruitment at RMR**

### **5.1 Recruitment**

The SMO in Brazil “consists of the exercise of specific activities performed in the Armed Forces – Army, Navy and Aeronautics – and comprises the mobilization of part of the population for all charges related to National Defense” (BRASIL, 1966). In times of peace, the Service “Is based on the conscious cooperation of Brazilians, in the spiritual, moral, physical, intellectual and professional aspects, in national security” & “Cooperates in the moral and civic education of Brazilians of military age and provides them with adequate instruction for national defense” (BRASIL, 1966).

According to the Reprint to Army Bulletin No. 1/2018, the Military Service and Mobilization System:

... comprise a set of management and executive bodies, primarily intended to ensure: I – the recruitment of the personnel necessary for their peacekeepers; II – the licensing of its incorporated or registered personnel; and III – the administration and control of its Reserve, aiming at the Mobilization of Human Resources (HR). (BRASIL, 2018f, p. 5).

Also, according to this document, in the Army’s scope the “Military Service and HR Mobilization takes place in the territory of the Military Regions (RM), under the technical and doctrinal supervision of the Military Service Directorate (DSM)” (BRASIL, 2018f, p. 5). The function of this board is to “guide, monitor and control the activities of the regional agencies of planning, coordination, execution and supervision of the Military Service and Mobilization, throughout the national territory” (BRASIL, 2018f, p. 5). These Army sections are linked to the Army Staff (EME).

Thus, the Military Regions, through the Military Service and Mobilization Organs (OSMM), “are in charge of the Military Service and Mobilization activities in their jurisdictions, in liaison with the Naval Districts (DN), Recruitment and Staff Preparation Services (SEREP), Military Police and Military Fire Brigades” (BRASIL, 2018f, p. 6). The OSMMs are divided into

four types – the Regional Military Service Sections -, which are “regional agencies for planning, coordinating, executing and overseeing the Military Service and Mobilization” (BRASIL, 2018f, p. 6); the Recruitment and Mobilization Posts. (PRM), which are: “Regional Military Service and Mobilization Enforcement and Inspection Bodies” (BRASIL, 2018f, p. 6); the Military Service Boards (JSM), which are “Military Service executing bodies in the administrative municipalities” (BRASIL, 2018f, p. 6), and the Mobilizing Sections (SM), which are “mobilizing organs belonging to the military organizations, with mobilization duties of GU/Gu/OM, and subordinate to the RMs in whose territory they are based.” (BRASIL, 2018f, p. 6)<sup>16</sup>.

Since 2003, the selection process for the incorporation of conscripts for the Mandatory Military Service for the three Forces has been unified (BRASIL, 2018d). In 2018, the *online* enlistment came into effect nationwide<sup>17</sup>, to enlist the 18-year-old fills in his data on the Army Military Recruitment and Mobilization Electronic System (SERMILMOB). The scheme below concerns the hierarchy of military institutions/organizations that deal with SMO/SMI of MD at 7<sup>th</sup> RM:

**MD > EB (EME) > DGP > DSM (SERMILMOB) > 7<sup>th</sup> RM (SSMR)**

## 5.2 RMR Recruitment

Recruitment at the 7<sup>th</sup> RM, responsible for the RMR, is regulated by the Military Service Section of the Region (SSMR). The Online Enlistment of the young person who may or may not be incorporated is managed by the Recruitment and Mobilization Posts (PRM) of the Region, if the conscript has not enlisted online he may apply to a Military Service Board (JSM) and do so “by completing an electronic form provided by SERMILMOB.” (BRASIL, 2017b). Then, those selected by the system will go to the Presentation Post (PA), where they are evaluated by the Armed Forces Permanent Selection Commission (CSPFA) and, shortly thereafter, will be referred to the selection of Military Organizations.

The CPOR case,<sup>18</sup> which deals specifically with the training of aspiring officers, is managed by a Special Selection Commission attached to the CSPFA (BRASIL, 2018d). About this, the Normative Ordinance No. 3/MD says:

Candidates enrolled in Higher Schools or in the last year of high school, volunteers to CPOR/NPOR, will only be referred to the Special Selection after being judged fit in the General Selection. 3.3.10.1. Appointed conscripts, not availed of in the Special Selection for Reserve Officer Training Bodies (OFOR), will return to the normal

<sup>16</sup> By GU is meant Great Unity. By OM is meant Military Organization.

<sup>17</sup> Exception is made for wastelands of the country with little or no internet access, such as areas under the responsibility of the 12th RM reporting to the Amazon Military Command (BRASIL, 2018x).

<sup>18</sup> The municipalities of RMR tributary to CPOR Recife are Recife, Olinda, São Lourenço da Mata, Jaboatao dos Guararapes and Camaragibe (BRASIL, 2018d).

distribution process to Active Military Organizations (OMA) through SERMILMOB (BRASIL, 2018d).

The chart below, in hierarchical order, shows the order of military organs or sections of the Army engaged in RMR recruitment:

**7<sup>th</sup> RM (SSMR) > PRM > JSM – CSPFA (Recife) – (Jaboatão dos Guararapes) – (Olinda); Army Selection Commission (other cities)**

The term “reservist” refers to citizens who have already performed compulsory military service. The Brazilian state records an average of one million eight hundred thousand enlisted per year, of which six hundred thousand are referred to the general selection and one hundred thousand are incorporated (BRASIL, 2018b). The data presented here relate to the recruitment and training of reservists at RMR; our calculation considers reservists who have performed military service over the past five years, so between 2013 and 2017. We established this time-frame because it is during the period of five years, starting from the year following the service provided, that the reservist has the obligation to update his registration data, in person or over the internet, with the Armed Forces within the scope of EXAR – Presentation Exercise of the Reserve (BRASIL, 2017b). The purpose of the exercise is to “practice the convening mechanism and evaluate the efficiency of the mobilization system, while cultivating the civic spirit of the reserve members.” (BRASIL, 2017b).

Another occasion, depending on the urgency, could lead to the calling of citizens who did not perform military service and who would receive some training to take up positions within the Army. Because we seek to analyze the recruitment and calling of those who provided the SMO, this hypothesis escapes the scope of this study.

In peacetime, the recruitment of civilians in the RMR works as follows: an average of 1850 young men are recruited and educated on different weapons, who after one year of SMO leave with the rank of soldier. The CPOR, in turn, instructs and trains an average of 170 young men who, after a year of military service, leave with the training of aspiring officers. The instruction for them is distributed as follows: 1. Intendency (30 students), 2. Communications (20), 3. War Material (30), 4. Artillery (20), 5. Cavalry (20), 6. Infantry (20) and 7. Engineering (30) (BRASIL, 2018c).

If it is assumed that most of the reservists who served the Army in the RMR remain there, and if we specifically count those who have to report annually within five years of service, the RMR would have approximately 9,250 deployable troops within reach, as well as 850 aspiring officers, which would total 10,100 reservists who could be put into readiness quite quickly.

This feature of RMR makes it particularly important for the defense of the country, and the Amazon in particular. The profile of reservists we analyzed (soldiers and aspiring officers) has the necessary training to supply the contingent army, according to the predicted employment hypotheses (HE)<sup>19</sup>:

<sup>19</sup> According to the document “Siplex Army Planning System/2017” (BRASIL, 2017d): “Employment Hypothesis” means the anticipation of possible employment of the Armed Forces in a given situation or area of strategic interest for national defense. It is formulated considering the high degree of indeterminacy and unpredictability of threats to the country. Based on the employment hypothesis,

Defense of sovereignty, preserving territorial integrity, heritage and national interests: in the Amazon – HE “A”, in the Atlantic Ocean – HE “B”, regionally (except Amazon) – HE “C”, conflict between South American countries HE “D”, meeting international commitments HE “E”, defending national interests and safeguarding Brazilian people, goods and resources, or under Brazilian jurisdiction, outside national territory – HE “F”, Guarantee of Law and Order – HE “G” (BRASIL, 2016, p. 20 – 22)

Although the theater of operations of the Amazon region is different from that prevailing in the 7<sup>th</sup> RM, essentially due to climatic and topographic differences, the training the reservist receives throughout the national territory, especially in relation to GLO and preparedness to respond to foreign aggression, is the same (BRASIL, 2009). This enables the reservist to operate throughout the national territory. The peculiarities of the Amazon region, if they become a hindrance to the mobilized reservists, must be remedied by the Army with their formation and adaptation in that area.

## 6 Final considerations

The people/population factor is a key element for the National Power. This is fundamentally due to the number of people who can be mobilized directly or indirectly for war and guarantee the survival of the state. This exercise pointed out the vulnerabilities, in the demographic aspect, of the region under the responsibility of the CMN and CMA, and part of what could be done in the RMR, hypothetically and in line with current laws, decrees and ordinances, to remedy this vulnerability.

The motivation of this study was due to both internal and external issues. Externally, we pointed to elements of global instability that stimulated analyzes of defense issues in Brazil. In this context, the Northeast region is noteworthy because it was where the US installed (due to its strategic position in the Atlantic) under the consent of President Getúlio Vargas, between 1942 and 1945, an air base, “Paranamirim Field”. Located in the state of Rio Grande do Norte, the air base served as a starting point for missions in North Africa and Southern Europe. Although the context of this early century is not the same, the instabilities in Asia and especially in Europe serve as a warning for a broad and contemporary analysis of the potentialities and weaknesses of the Northeast region of Brazil.

At the regional, as well as local (domestic) level, we highlight the deep instability that Venezuela is going through and the lack of contingent of the Armed Forces of Brazil in the state of Roraima, a fact that has mobilized military personnel from other parts of the country to the region. This is the case with Operation *Acolhida*. In 2018, CMNE’s role as Area Command that could meet the needs of the CMA or CMN was confirmed with the sending of the 3rd Army contingent, under Operation *Acolhida*, to Roraima (CMA); the largest since the beginning of the operation, with 500 military personnel, most of them subordinated to CMNE (150 military personnel)

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the strategic joint employment plans and the resulting operational plans will be prepared and kept up to date, in order to enable the continued preparation of the nation as a whole, and in particular of the Armed Forces, for employment in the defense of the country. (BRASIL, 2017d, p. 07).

(BRASIL, 2018a). The purpose of the operation is “to provide logistical and humanitarian support to Venezuelan immigrants who are in vulnerable situations in Brazil” (BRASIL, 2018a).

Finally, while not being the subject of our study, we recommend that a broader examination of National Mobilization, in view of the advantages and disadvantages of mobilizing RMR reservists for the Amazon, should consider the strategic logistics challenges for moving personnel to the northern region. A brief review using Google Earth-Maps software tells us that a road trip from Recife to Belém (CMN headquarters) takes approximately 29 hours, while a trip from Recife to Manaus (CMA headquarters) would take about 68 hours. This logistical challenge must be mitigated through coordinated action between the three forces.

For the purposes of troop transport, the FAB has qualified squadrons (the Transport Squadrons) and a range of aircraft, including the **C-130** Hercules and Boeing KC-767 (BRASIL, 2018e). The Army also plans to incorporate the aircraft KC – 390 in 2019 (BRASIL, 2018e). Also, in Recife, is located the Recife Air Base (BARF), a fact that enables the transport of military personnel, as could be seen by their sending to Roraima during Operation *Acolhida*.

Already the Navy, although it has its warships concentrated in Rio de Janeiro, also has the preparation and the necessary means for the deployment of troops. There are mainly two warships for this purpose, the Bahia Multi-Purpose Dock Ship and the Atlantic Multi-Purpose Helicopter Carrier. In RMR, there are two ports that enable the embarkation of troops, the Port of Recife, located in Recife, and the Port of Suape, located in the municipality of Ipojuca. This feature reflects a strategic advantage of RMR, as the other city with CPOR near Manaus and Belém, i.e. Belo Horizonte, is not a coastal city.

This analysis was limited to understanding the functioning of the SMO/SMI in RMR, for soldiers and aspiring officers. National Mobilization, on the other hand, is much broader than the dimension studied here, as it also concerns the emergency use of industry, the requisition of third-party goods for the war effort, among others. A more thorough study of National Mobilization at RMR would consider these other dimensions, how they would be managed, as well as the role of the Navy and Air Force in recruitment and their role in deploying troops, supplies, and war material.

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