

# The socioeconomic impact of the military presence on the north borders: Barcelos-AM and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Jungle Infantry Battalion

*El reflejo socioeconómico de la presencia militar en la frontera norte: Barcelos-AM y el 3º Batallón de Infantería de Selva*

**Abstract:** Brazil has 588 municipalities in its Border Band, some of which are in regions still lacking in development, such as those located in Arco Norte. Therefore, the present work proposes to carry out a case study of the presence and contribution of a Military Organization of the Brazilian Army in the city of Barcelos-AM, to answer the following questions: how the presence of the 3rd BIS directly contributes to the generation in employment and income in the municipality of Barcelos-AM, in 2018? Does this presence significantly add income to the municipality? Does it generate jobs? Is it an alternative for the young population? These questions guide the objective of understanding the impact of the State's role in a region distant from the great economic centers and geographically isolated from the rest of the country and how state investment promotes development. In this context, the research has as its method the analysis of economic indicators that collaborate with the composition of the HDI in the municipality of Barcelos. The work is based on bibliographic research, primary data and government documents.

**Keywords:** Defense; Borders; Presence Strategy; Development; HDI.

**Resumen:** Brasil tiene 588 municipios en su Franja de Frontera, algunos de los cuales se encuentran en regiones que aún carecen de desarrollo, como los ubicados en el Arco Norte. Por lo tanto, el presente trabajo se propone realizar un estudio de caso de la presencia y de la contribución de una Organización Militar del Ejército Brasileño en la ciudad de Barcelos-AM, con el fin de responder a las siguientes preguntas: ¿cómo la presencia del 3º BIS contribuye directamente a la generación de empleo y renta en la ciudad de Barcelos-AM, en 2018? ¿Esta presencia agrega significativamente ingresos al municipio? ¿Genera empleos? ¿Es una alternativa para la población joven? Estas preguntas orientan el objetivo de comprender el impacto del papel del Estado en una región alejada de los grandes centros económicos y geográficamente aislada del resto del país y cómo la inversión estatal promueve el desarrollo. En este contexto, la investigación tiene como método el análisis de indicadores económicos que colaboran con la composición del IDH en el municipio de Barcelos. El trabajo se basa en investigaciones bibliográficas, datos primarios y documentos gubernamentales.

**Palabras clave:** Defensa; Fronteras; Estrategia de Presencia; Desarrollo; IDH.

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## 1 Introduction

Throughout the twentieth century, the Brazilian Amazon had a central role in several public policies that sought to consolidate ownership, colonize, integrate, and develop the region (HEMMING, 2009). It was mainly during the colonial period that the limits of the country expanded from the Treaty of Tordesillas towards the Andes, through the channel of the Amazon River and its tributaries. Through the construction of forts and villages, the Portuguese Crown took possession of the area, ratifying the fact in several treaties such as Madrid (1750) (CASTRO, 2009). The Empire of Brazil fostered the region's colonization, including the direct participation of military personnel through the founding of military colonies that had a dual function, that of defense and of developing agriculture and other productive activities (PAIM; FRANCHI, 2020). As territorial disputes ceased and the delimitation of borders was consolidated, the last being the Pirara issue, in 1904, in the current territory of the state of Roraima (OLIVEIRA; MAGALHÃES, 2008), the Brazilian state was more concerned with integrating the region. In the transition period from the 19th to the 20th century, the figure of Marshal Candido Rondon incorporated the integration actions not only of the region but also of the indigenous people, through the various commissions for the installation of telegraph lines, recognition and demarcation of borders and the creation of the Indian Protection Service (RODRIGUES, 2017). During Getúlio Vargas' governments, attempts at integration and the creation of policies and agencies with the specific function of developing the Amazon continued, such as the Westward March (MAIA, 2010) and the Superintendency for the Amazon Development-SUDAM (FRANCHI, 2013). During the period of military governments, several actions between 1964 and 1985 can be observed. The creation of the Manaus Free Trade Zone, by the then president Humberto de Alencar Castelo Branco; the Carajás, Serra do Navio and other mining poles and projects; the expansion of the road network and the state's presence, creating a more effective network of communication and control in the region (BECKER, 2009). In the 21st century, regional integration plans have continued and expanded with initiatives such as the "Growth Acceleration Plans (PAC I and II) and the Initiative for the Integration of Infrastructure in South America (IIRSA). That, according to Edna Castro, "assume the same competitive integration orientation, adopting a modernization model based on mega investment projects. Both are articulated by the conception of integration and development axes" (CASTRO, 2012, p. 45). In addition, a whole series of hydroelectric plants were implemented to supply the region with an essential element for modern development, electric energy (MORETTO, 2012). Generally, in the Amazon, "human occupation has increased in obedience to the economic cycles experienced in the region" (THÉRY, 2005, p. 40).

In the National Defense Policies of Brazil (BRASIL, 2020c), the aspect of contribution to development can be seen among the official arguments present in the document and in other public policies developed by the Armed Forces that translate into actions and procedures regarding defense matters and security in the region, highlighting the doctrinal manuals of the Brazilian Army for *Operations in the Jungle* (BRASIL, 1997a), *Survival in the Jungle* (BRASIL, 1999) and the Jungle Infantry Battalion (BRASIL, 1997b) that deepen the Land Force's action in the region.

The local diversity, added to Brazil's vast territorial extension and the difficulties in developing the region, demand a more effective national posture in the management and sustainable regional development (BECKER, 2009; MEDEIROS FILHO, 2020). In this context, the Amazon presents as a particularity a low population density, lack of infrastructure such as highways and ports, which sometimes hinders economic development and integration with the rest of Brazil. This enables the emergence of “peripheral areas and spaces that are not legally appropriate” (BECKER, 2009, p. 35), and may allow for a resurgence of geopolitical and securitization themes due to the regional social and economic condition (MEDEIROS FILHO, 2020).

All these characteristics presented grow in importance the subject of debate on the military presence in the Amazon, particularly in the most displaced municipalities in the border strip. Where the weakness in economic development enhances threats to security and defense, which requires actions from the Armed Forces to assist in the development and integration of these regions and not just in the territorial defense function. From this, questions arise on how a Military Organization contributes to the local development of municipalities far from large urban centers? Does the presence of a military organization generate significant income and employment opportunities to the municipalities? To answer this question, we chose to analyze a particular case: the municipality of Barcelos and the 3rd BIS.

Barcelos is a municipality that is characterized by being one of these spaces. Located in the north of the state of Amazonas, more precisely in the Negro River microregion, with an estimated population in 2020 of 27,638 people and over a land area of 122,461,086km<sup>2</sup> (IBGE, [2020]). In 2010, the city received a Military Organization from the Brazilian Army, meeting the institution's strategic priorities, deterrence, and presence (BRASIL, 2017).

Having presented the context, this article sought to answer the following question: *How does the presence of the 3rd BIS directly contributes to the generation of employment and income in the city of Barcelos-AM, in 2018?* For this purpose, the text is organized as follows. In the first part, the theoretical and methodological foundations of the research. This is followed by a presentation of the Presence Strategy and a discussion of the socioeconomic data collected, after which the conclusion of the study.

## **2 Theories and methods**

### **2.1 Methodological framework**

The methodology applied in this research is a case study. According to Yin (2001, p. 20), this methodology is used for Political Science purposes and can be used for organizational and managerial studies, regional planning, and studies in public institutions, contributing to our understanding of social and political phenomena.

It also allows an investigation to preserve the holistic and significant characteristics of real-life events (YIN, 2001), as in the case of this study, the deployment of a Military Organization in a municipality within the state of Amazonas, causing changes to the region and the maturation of some local sectors.

In accordance with the aforementioned methodology, the socioeconomic field of Barcelos society will be raised as a theoretical variant (dependent), analyzing some operational variants (independent) that influence that field, such as the GDP rate, the GDP per capita, the formal employment rate and the contribution to local trade.

The municipality of Barcelos was chosen to feature in this case study not because it is a simple sampling unit (GEORGE; BENNET, 2005; YIN, 2001), but to confront a Brazilian geopolitical theory, checking for applicability and positive results, still in contemporaneity.

Regarding the location of a Military Organization in the Amazon, the case of Barcelos is the most recent<sup>1</sup>, so much so that it is still in the process of deployment. This offers different data from other municipalities, also border and Amazonian, which have consolidated representations of the Brazilian Army. Furthermore, after more than a decade since the beginning of the deployment, it is expected that the local effects already have perception in the variants chosen for the analysis of the case study.

## 2.2 Theoretical framework

This study dialogues with the works of authors Carlos de Meira Mattos (2011a; 2011b), Bertha Becker (2009), Oscar Medeiros Filho (2020), Fernando da Silva Rodrigues (2020a; 2020b), Hervé Théry (2005), Therezinha de Castro (1994), José Augusto Drummond (2002), Lia Osório Machado (2005), among other authors who offer support for thinking about the Amazon in general and specifically the role of military organizations in the region. The notes of these authors will be of great value for understanding the geopolitical dynamics and securitization of the Amazon region.

For Mattos, “borders define the distribution of political areas and reflect, to the extent that space is power, the power relations between states” (2011a, p. 108). Machado (2005), on the other hand, deals with the definition of border with complexity due to different state organizations and, with that, different notions over time. The author also approximates the concept of border with the emergence of the understanding of sovereignty, since it was necessary to limit the “space policed by the sovereign administration” (MACHADO, 2005, p. 246). These relations, when stable, allow a peaceful coexistence and the fulfillment or establishment of peace treaties.

Nevertheless, the formation of borders results from a dynamism, arising from the population growth, the land valuation and the pressure of contiguity, this last element comprises Friedrich Ratzel's concept of living space (MATTOS, 2011a). In this sense, the border, as it is a sensitive area, shall have a clear and precise delimitation, avoiding the emergence of a critical area with confrontations and/or clashes with neighboring states (MATTOS, 2011b).

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1 The 22<sup>nd</sup> Jungle Infantry Brigade was deployed in Macapá-AP after the 3<sup>rd</sup> BIS, in 2018, however, there was already the presence of the 34<sup>th</sup> Jungle Infantry Battalion in the city.

According to geographer Bertha Becker (2009, p. 23), the occupation process in the Amazon has three periods. The first of these effected the “slow and gradual appropriation” of the region by Portugal and, consequently, by Brazil. She also highlights the dependence on the foreign market to encourage occupation, the use of the geopolitical strategy to ensure the occupation of strategic locations and ensure sovereignty over the territory, in addition to the exploration of an occupation model that relied on population contact between metropolis and indigenous peoples, encouraging development through endogenous growth.

The second period identified by Becker (2009), called “regional planning”, took place between 1930 and 1985. At that time, territorial occupation in the Amazon occurred through various government incentives to develop the region, for example, the Central Brazil Foundation (1944), the Superintendence for Economic Valorization of the Amazon (1966), the deployment of highways Belém-Brasília (1959) and Brasília-Acre (1960), the creation of the Manaus Free Trade Zone (1957), the Calha Norte Project (1985), among others (BECKER, 2009, p. 24).

In the last period highlighted by Becker (2009, p. 27), the author cites an “emptying of the national developmentalist model and an increase in the participation of traditional peoples in local decisions”. Although there is an emptying, there is a concern by the state to reactivate its borders, through integration, which allows the fight against illicit activities, assigning a “new strategic role” (BECKER, 2009, p. 56).

Thus, Becker’s studies (2009) reveal a focus on the internal issues of the Amazon borders. Her studies verified the dichotomy between potential natural resources and environmental restrictions, which highlights the difficulty of meeting the socio-environmental and technological scientific fields due to the difficulty in inserting the region into extra-regional markets (DRUMOND, 2002). The extractive economy, sometimes seen as the Amazon’s hope, has no scale or significant weight in the composition of the GDP of the states (CAVALCANTE et al., 2011) and ends up promoting the maintenance of what Drummond (2002) points out of regions with a rich nature and poor people.

Medeiros Filho (2020, P. 78) characterizes the Amazon border as a “challenge to the Brazilian state, demanding the adoption of exceptional territorial policies”. The characteristics already mentioned, such as low population density and logistical difficulties, resulting from natural factors, make the region “peripheral”, lacking an active state policy. For this, Medeiros Filho (2020) presents the concepts of border and frontier, as a new approach able to overcome the limitations of traditional approaches that were often restricted to the meaning of limits. These concepts fit into the municipality of Barcelos, as part of its territory lies on the border with Venezuela, characterizing the border, which refers to a contact strip, the point of separation between territories over which the border states exercise their sovereignty.

On the other hand, the municipal administrative headquarters of Barcelos is located on the frontier, relatively far from the border line and corresponds to the notion of periphery, underexplored regions. This location demands from the state a different attention from that addressed by the borderline, they go beyond the military or diplomatic issues of a jurisdiction between two states, enhancing the country’s internal ills.

The distinction between the notions border (“border division”) and frontier (“periphery border”) is important to the extent that they give rise to different military concerns. While the first suggests classic-type threats (geopolitical issues), the second refers to insurgent threats, whose roots generally lie in the state's own vulnerabilities (security issues). Both, however, are at the root of the meaning of National State and Armed Forces as its military instrument (MEDEIROS FILHO, 2020, p. 80).

It is verified that Medeiros Filho (2020, p. 90) still evokes the Army's republican actions for regional development, to combat certain vulnerabilities, in the order of internal sovereignty and territorial integrity. In this sense, Barcelos is in the frontier, which confers not only geopolitical, but also security concerns.

In the scope of a frontier area, Barcelos presents development difficulties. According to data from the Border Diagnosis (NEVES; SILVA; MONTEIRO, 2016), the Negro River basin region suffers from social inequality, the amount of population without income and families below the poverty line. In addition, Barcelos has low urbanization rates, small state and no municipal public security personnel, no federal agreement in the different ministries – except for the Ministry of Integration, moderate assistance dependence on the Bolsa Família, very low level of connectivity in telecommunications and negligible density in transport infrastructure (NEVES; SILVA; MONTEIRO, 2016).

In this sense, the concepts presented by Medeiros Filho (2020) are in line with the studies by Mattos (2011b) and Becker (2009), due to the need to develop peripheral areas, reducing the country's vulnerabilities, in the geopolitical field or in the security field.

Indeed, on a timeline, Mattos (2011b) notes that an orderly population growth at the border reflects the dynamism between neighbors, contributing to regional peace and stability. Nevertheless, Becker (2009) pays attention to the state's strategic role in integrating these regions, combating illicit activities and encouraging local economy.

It is also worth highlighting in this theoretical framework the understanding of presence strategy. Beaufre defines strategy as “the art that allows, independently of any technique, to master the problems that the entire duel poses within itself, precisely to allow the techniques to be used with maximum efficiency” (1998, p. 27). In other words, using what is available as efficiently as possible to overcome obstacles that distance the goal to be achieved. Nonetheless, the Brazilian army understands that:

[...] the Strategy, based on the political guidelines, indicates the paths to be followed to overcome or avoid the obstacles that may come before the achievement of objectives, that is, it establishes the way to translate and impose the political will, which, in turn, shall be the expression of the national will, a constitutive element of power” (BRASIL, 2020a, p 1-8).

Therefore, by employing a presence strategy, the Land Force articulates the existence of military forces in certain places in the national territory and, in addition, identifies the ability to move quickly to any region of the country (BRASIL, 2020a), with the purpose of overcoming threats identified by the policy.

Particularly for the Amazonian environment, "the strategy of presence implies, in addition to making itself present (mobility), being present (vivification), with the involvement of government bodies, both civilian and military" (ESTRATÉGIA, 2015, p. 4).

In 2015, the Brazilian Army, through its Center for Strategic Studies (CEEEx), introduced a new concept of protection, meaning beyond sovereignty and territorial integrity, achieving "protection to the Amazonian populations (indigenous or not), the environment, the natural resources, and the strategic terrestrial structures" (ESTRATÉGIA..., 2015, p. 5), this concept emphasizes that the threats found in the defense of the region can reach different actors and/or narratives.

In 2020, studies linked to CEEEx verified the validity of the presence strategy, but indicated the need for technological improvement in communications and means of military organizations that fulfill this role.

When studying the strategy of the Brazilian Army's military presence, we understand that the concern with the role of territorial presence is still valid, but the current model shall be gradually revised in conjunction with technological advances in the field of communications and transport. This advance shall allow the construction of a presence combined with other necessary and permanent military forces and state agencies, provided with great mobility, despite the lack of definition in the budget forecast (RODRIGUES, 2020a, p. 67).

However, other institutions should join this strategy,

The Presence Strategy, within national defense, shall be effectively thought of as a system of interagency operations, with a joint operations command, with the capacity to act at the borders, and in the Guarantee of Law and Order (RODRIGUES, 2020b, p. 67).

The Brazilian Army continues with the presence strategy, particularly in the Amazon region, where the Special Border Platoons and other OMs are located in the main penetrating routes in the country. Certainly, no longer with the vocation to increase its territory, as used by Portuguese expansionism, but to guarantee sovereignty and territorial integrity. However, the presence strategy provides a character that goes beyond the military field and encourages regional development and integration, whether through the injection of resources into the local economy, as will be seen below; or through subsidiary actions that contribute sporadically to

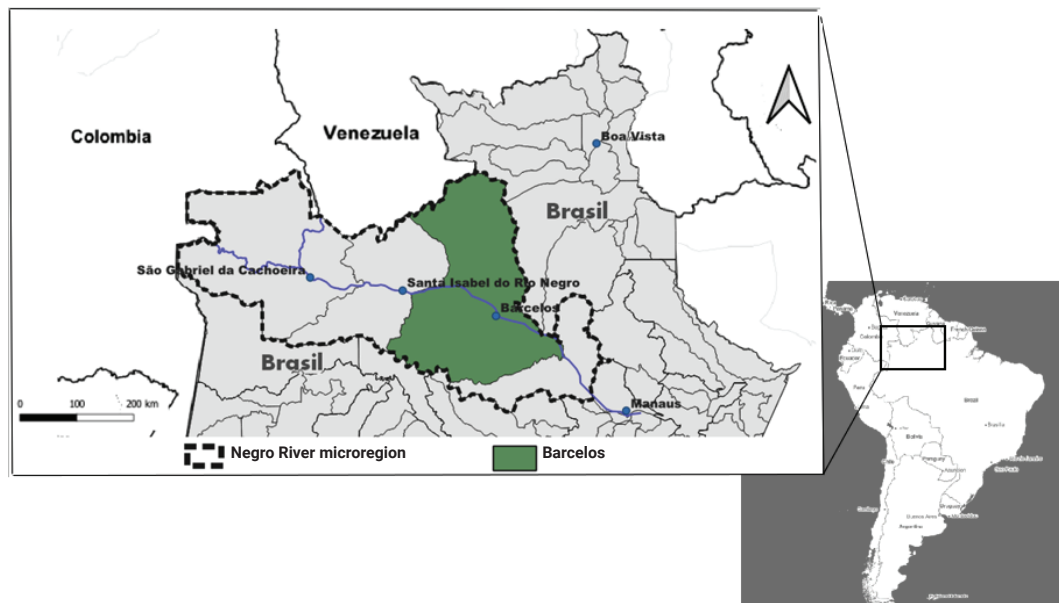
operations ranging from medical and dental care to populations to interagency operations to repress illegal activities in the border area (PAIM; FRANCHI; FRANÇA, 2019).

Finally, the increase in the effort of the presence in the Amazon meets the work presented by Bertha Becker and Carlos de Meira Mattos, throughout the 20th century, in the strengthening of the State's presence in the Amazon region in order to confront external or internal threats that lean over the border of Arco Norte.

### 3 The Brazilian Army's presence in Barcelos-AM

The territory of the municipality of Barcelos is located in the Calha Norte of the Amazon River, in the basin of the Negro River. The Calha Norte region of the Amazon River is delimited by the entire territory north of the Solimões-Amazonas River and is characterized by being one of the most geographically isolated regions in the country. The only major roads that cross the region in the longitudinal direction are the BR-174, in Roraima and the BR-156, in Amapá. Thus, the regional connection with the rest of Brazil is limited to a few flights at precarious airports (NEVES; SILVA; MONTEIRO, 2016) and the main means of transport is river, made by regional boats that suffer restrictions during flood periods and ebb of rivers<sup>2</sup>.

Figure 1 – Negro River Microregion



Source: The authors (2021).

2 Precipitation varies greatly throughout the year and the region has a high rate of evapotranspiration. The existence of basically two distinct rainfall regimes can be identified, one rainy, with high precipitation and directly influenced by the seasonal migration of the ZCIT in the southern direction, and the other less rainy, with no defined drought period (FISCH; MARENGO; NOBRE, 1998; SOUZA; AMBRIZZI, 2003).



The Negro River basin corresponds to an area of territorial extension of approximately 715,000 km<sup>2</sup>, whose characteristic is the variation of the water level, which varies on average from 10 to 12 meters according to the annual seasonality (SOBREIRO, 2016) and the dark hue, due to the presence of a high load of dissolved organic acids from decomposing organic matter, coming from the “igapó” forest (SIOLI, 1985). The municipality of Barcelos is located on the right bank of Negro River, it is considered the largest municipality in terms of territorial extension in the state of Amazonas with 112,450.76 km<sup>2</sup> (IBGE, [2020]). The main economic activities in the middle Negro River basin region are swidden agriculture, extraction of forest resources (fruit, wood, and piassava fibers), hunting of wild animals, handicraft and fishing in different modalities (subsistence, commercial, ornamental and sports). Contributions to the local economy are the benefits of Federal Government programs such as Bolsa Família and Bolsa Escola, in addition to retirement and salaried positions such as teachers, health workers and military personnel (SOARES et al., 2008).

The Negro River access road, given the characteristics presented, serves as one of the trafficking routes between Brazil and Colombia, in addition to being a border with Venezuela as well. Despite the trafficking of drugs, women and children, the main illegal trade route that takes place in the region is weapons, particularly due to the dynamics of armed paramilitary groups from neighboring countries (TOBÓN, 2011).

In different historical periods, the presence strategy allowed Brazil to guarantee the territory. Greed over the Amazon territory has been occurring since the colonial period, with the Portuguese and Spanish crowns disputing control of the region. By the Treaty of Tordesillas (1494), what we now call the Brazilian Amazon was under Spanish possession. However, the Portuguese Empire encouraged military expeditions to take possession and build military forts with the intention of setting up a kind of “defensive ring” (BENTO, 2017, p. 82; CASTRO, 1994, p. 144), which made possible the diplomatic rationale for *uti possidetis* years later to confirm Brazil’s sovereignty (REZENDE, 2006). In the imperial period, military forts went beyond the mission of defending territorial integrity. As Mattos (2011b, p. 118) exposes:

Subsequently, we will see that this symbolic experience – strong-population – bore fruit, and the Empire, in 1840, when creating the Military Colonies, intended to extend them as a process of population fixation in certain points of the uninhabited land frontier; the fort was no longer needed, but the barrack would replace it, offering social support to the adjacent population.

The expansion to the west with the purpose of definitively occupying and integrating that region with the rest of the country, as well as a kind of response to the securitization issues on the international agenda, are objectives pursued in the most recent history of the presence strategy.

Currently, the Armed Forces have 44,369 military personnel in the Amazon region. In particular, the Brazilian Army has 29,699<sup>3</sup> soldiers (BRASIL, 2019a, p. 45), which represents 14.12% of the institution's<sup>4</sup> staff and the majority of the military in the region.

In Barcelos, the military presence began in the 18th century, more precisely in 1755, when the place had the name of Mariuá. On the banks of Negro River, Mendonça Furtado – Marquis of Pombal's brother – created the Captaincy of São José do Rio Negro. The creation of a captaincy within Amazonas, which today gave rise to the state of Amazonas, indicated “Pombal's geopolitical determination to effectively occupy the Amazon” (RIBEIRO, 2005, p. 82).

In this way, the city of Barcelos materializes the presence strategy since a historical period when the borders between the National States were not consolidated. Nevertheless, with the transfer of the provincial capital to Manaus in the 19th century, the barrack located in Barcelos was emptied. Its staff was divided between the new capital and the Fort of São José de Marabitanas, located in the district of Cucuí, in São Gabriel da Cachoeira-AM.

After a long period without a military presence in Barcelos, in 2007, the Brazilian Army began the work to transfer the 3rd Infantry Battalion, headquartered in the city of Niterói-RJ, to the municipality of Barcelos-AM. Its activation was carried out in 2010 and, to meet a drastic change in geographic region, the name became the 3rd Jungle Infantry Battalion (BIS), adapting the organization of its resources and personnel to a specific environment such as the Amazon Forest.

Currently, the 3rd BIS is in the deployment phase with its Organizational Framework (QO) incomplete. This measure is common in the arrival of an Army OM in new locations, the deployment is carried out in phases until the full range of the military force (QO) and the necessary means to operate (Material Chart), reaching operational fullness.

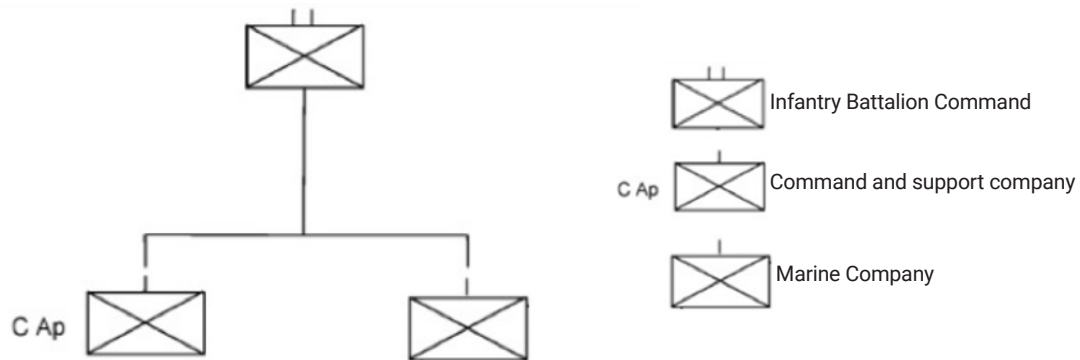
Considering the existing manuals in the Brazilian Army, a BIS consists of a commander, its General Staff, a Command Company and three Marine Companies (BRASIL, 1997b, p. 1-6). Currently, the 3rd BIS has only one Command Company and one Marine Company, subordinate to the Command and General Staff (see Figure 2). The installation of the other two Marine companies shall take place in a likely future scenario.

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3 This number is the result of the sum of 20,259 military personnel in the Amazon Military Command with 9,440 in the Northern Military Command.

4 The state of Tocantins is not being considered, although this Federation Unit belongs to the North region by the IBGE, the territorial division of the Military Commands includes Tocantins as the area of responsibility of the Planalto Military Command.

Figure 2 – Current organization chart of the 3rd BIS



Source: Prepared by the authors based on BRASIL, 1997b.

In view of Figure 2, the 3rd BIS has three fractions, each with its own organization, whose sum of these three fractions represents an effective number foreseen in that Military Organization, shown in Table 1.

The command of a Military Organization has seven military personnel (BRASIL, 2003a), and it is responsible for producing intelligence knowledge, carrying out situation studies, drawing up plans and orders and supervising their execution (BRASIL, 2003c).

The Command and Support Company of a BIS is composed of a Commander and a Sub-Commander, plus seven Platoons, namely, Command, Health, Supply, Maintenance and Transport, Anti-Tank and Mortars (BRASIL, 2003b).

Finally, the 3rd BIS also has a company of Marines responsible for the tactical maneuver of the Battalion, having three Marine Platoons, a Support Platoon and a Command Section (BRASIL, 1997b).

Table 1 – Staff expected to meet the current Organizational Framework of the 3rd BIS

	Battalion Command	Command and Support Company	Marine Company
Commander	1	1	1
Sub-commander	1	1	-
Staff	5	-	-
Command Section	-	-	18
Marine Platoon	-	-	35 (x3)
Support Platoon	-	-	18
Command Platoon	-	54	-
Health Platoon	-	24	-
Maintenance and Transport Platoon	-	31	-

	Battalion Command	Command and Support Company	Marine Company
Supply Platoon	-	34	-
Anti-Tank Platoon	-	17	-
Mortar Platoon	-	42	-
Communications Platoon	-	25	-
SUM OF EACH FRACTION	7	229	142
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>378</b>		

Source: Prepared by the authors based on BRASIL, 1997b, 2003b.

From the Organizational Chart of the 3rd BIS and Table 1, it can be inferred that the current number of military personnel serving in Barcelos-AM is 378 military personnel<sup>5</sup>, highlighting the trend towards an increase in the number, as explained above.

**Table 2 – Staff expected to meet the current Organizational Framework of the 3rd BIS**

	Command and Staff	Marine Company	Command and Support Company	TOTAL
Colonel	1	0	0	1
Lieutenant Colonel	1	0	0	1
Major	2	0	0	2
Captain	3	1	2	6
1st Lieutenant	0	2	5	7
2nd Lieutenant	0	2	4	6
Sub-Lieutenant	0	1	1	2
1st Sergeant	0	1	2	3
2nd Sergeant	0	4	13	17
3rd Sergeant	0	13	35	48
Corporal	0	32	71	103
Soldier	0	86	96	182
SUM	7	142	229	378

Fonte: Elaborado pelos autores com base em Brasil, 1997b, 2003b.

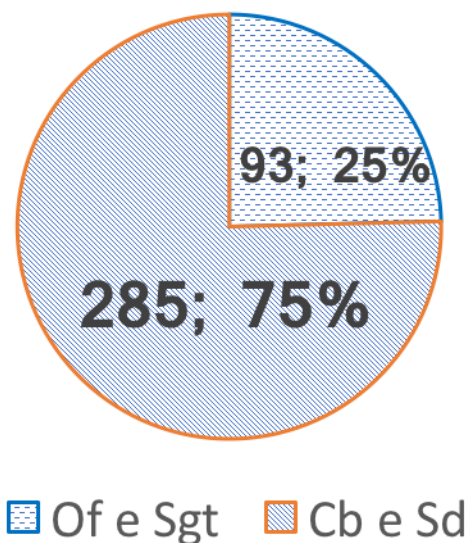
<sup>5</sup> It should be noted that there may be variations. The Brazilian Army's personnel handling body always uses this Organizational Framework to support the movements (transfers) of military personnel, however there may be small distortions, both for greater and for lesser, in certain periods.

From Table 2, it is also possible to verify the number of soldiers in each rank or military graduation, allowing an approximate approach to the absorption of Barcelos citizens by the 3rd BIS.

The personnel of Corporals and Soldiers are occupied by citizens who provide compulsory military service, in accordance with Art. 143 of the Federal Constitution (BRASIL, 1988). This obligation is about 1 year, allowing the possibility, through volunteering, to remain for up to 8 years in the provision of the service.

Therefore, the sum of personnel of Corporals and Soldiers of the 3rd BIS indicates that, at least, 285 military personnel serving in that unit are citizens who resided in the municipality when performing the mandatory military enlistment. Given this data, added to Table 2, it can be inferred that the majority of the effective Military Organization is made up of citizens originally residing in Barcelos, even before the Mandatory Military Service.

**Graph 1 – Proportion of Officers/Sergeants and Corporals and Soldiers in the 3rd BIS**



Source: The authors (2021).

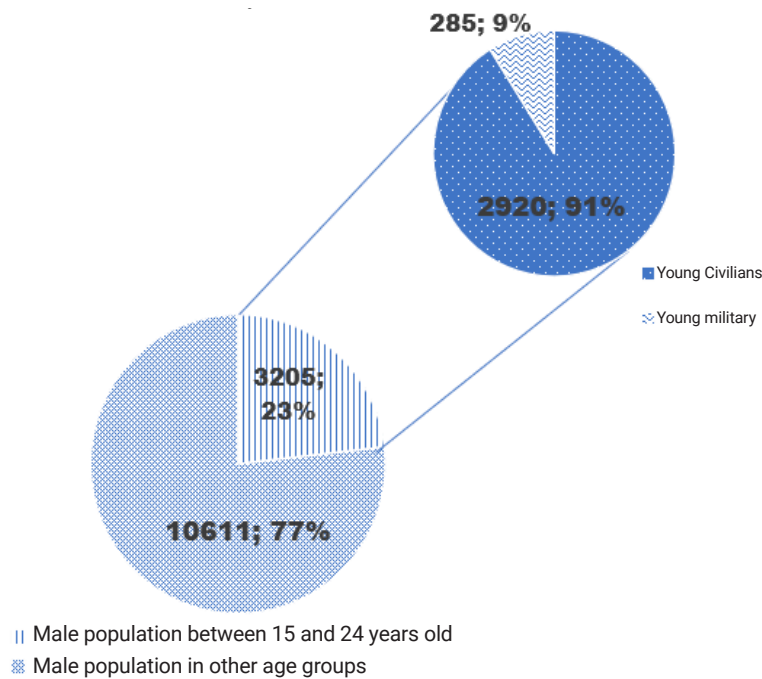
Regarding the personnel of Officers and Sergeants, there is the condition of career military personnel who enter the institution through an examination. This fact does not prevent Barcelos citizens from accessing these posts, but the career military personnel's hometown or residence is not an object for allocation, thus they may serve in any Military Organization in the national territory<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>6</sup> It should also be noted that the gateway for citizens to join the posts of career Officers and Sergeants in the Brazilian Army is through the holding of annual public examinations for different training schools (AMAN, IME, EsFECEX, EsSEX, ESA and EsLog are the main examples).

There is also the condition of temporary Officers and Sergeants, who do not need examinations to enter the institution. In the case of Officers, during enlistment, depending on the educational situation, the young conscript may be referred to Military Organizations or educational establishments for training temporary officers. Since in Barcelos there are no such establishments, this possibility is practically impossible for citizens who enlist in the municipality. As for the posts of temporary Sergeant, they are soldiers who stood out in the ranks of Soldier and Corporal, through a training course in the Military Organization itself, being promoted to 3rd Sergeant, if there is a vacancy to be filled.

This shows that a sample of 285 “local” young people, corresponding to 1.1% of the estimated 25,718 inhabitants in Barcelos, have direct contact with the 3rd BIS. In more detail, this universe makes up 9% of the municipality's young male population, as shown in Graph 2. This is considering that the Compulsory Military Service reaches only the male gender and, according to legislation, its focus would be young people aged 18 years.

Graph 2 – Number of young people from Barcelos in direct contact with the Brazilian Army



Source: Prepared by the authors based on IBGE, [2020].

In this contact, values that stimulate civic awareness are passed on to these young people, consolidating the duty of defending the homeland, shaping the national feeling and, finally, taking care of the development of the defense mentality and integration of the military expression with society, according to the Army's strategic conception (BRASIL, 2020c). The consequences generated by this contact will be inferred in the next section, particularly in the social and economic fields of Barcelos society.

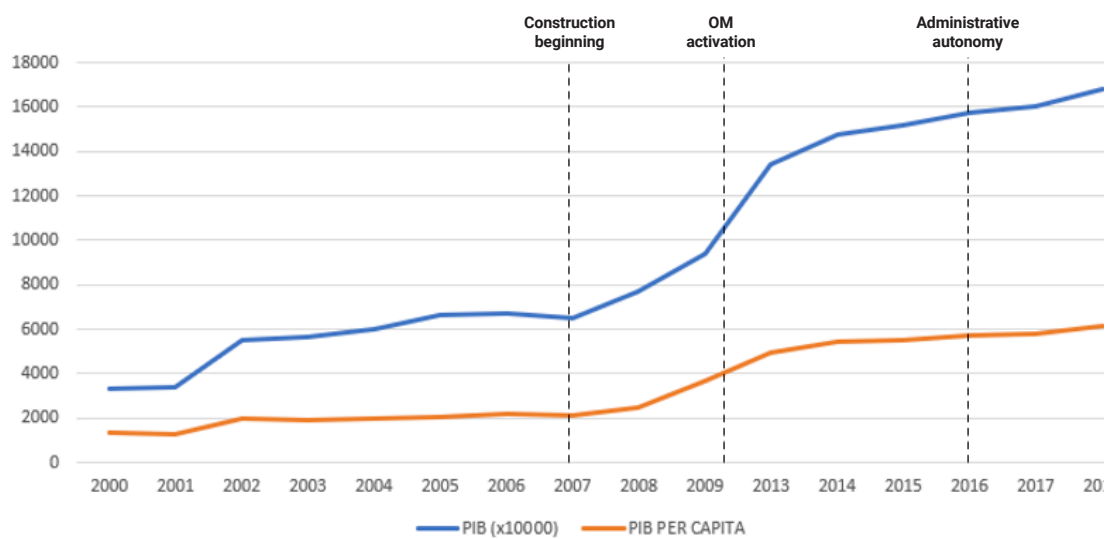
#### 4 Socioeconomic contributions of the 3rd BIS for the municipality of Barcelos

The strategic conception of the Land Force "derived from studies, analyzes and evaluations, which indicates how the Army shall be used to fulfill its mission" (BRASIL, 2017, p. 5) regarding the strategy of presence, the fundamental aspects are the military, psychosocial and political fields, without referring to the economic field. However, in this work the latter will be taken into account, because the understanding of development cannot be separated from an active economy.

In addition to the isolation of the municipality of Barcelos, the fact that there are no major mining or development projects in the municipality's territory also weighs in, and its income comes from payments to civil servants and extractive activities, with emphasis on the trade of ornamental fish (LADISLAU, 2017). This corroborates Drummond's (2002) explanations about regional economic development, where he warns that the abundance of natural resources in a region does not necessarily provide good development. In addition to local historiography, "economic growth means the increase in the productive capacity of the economy and, therefore, in the production of goods and services in a given country or economic area" (VIEIRA; SANTOS, 2012, p. 347). Thus, it is understood that economic growth is a proportional reflection of regional development, cited in the Strategic Defense Action (AED) No. 17, as an action to "intensify the contribution of various government sectors to the protection, development and greater integration of the Amazon region with other regions of the country" (BRASIL, 2020c, p. 64, emphasis added). In the case of the 3rd BIS in Barcelos, part of the deployment costs were covered by the Amazon Military Command and part by the Calha Norte Program (NEVES; SILVA; MONTEIRO, 2016, p. 69).

Initially, an increase in the local economy is noticeable when looking at the sequence of GDP and GDP per capita recorded by the IBGE in recent years.

Graph 3 – Monitoring of GDP and GDP per capita in Barcelos



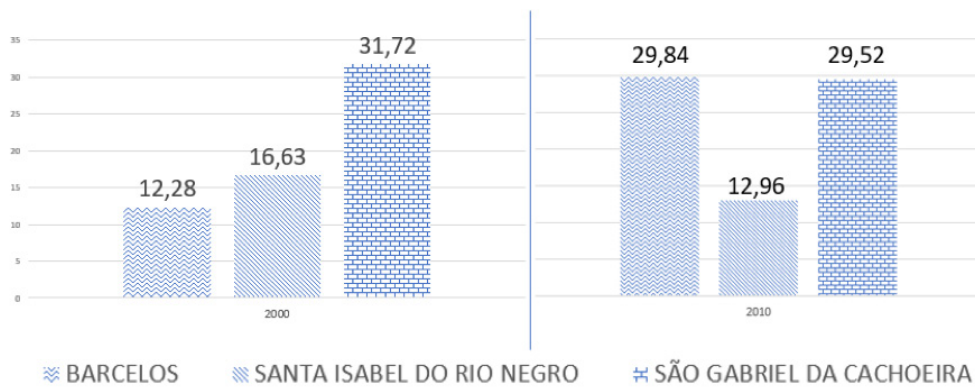
Source: The authors (2021).

As shown in Graph 3, municipal GDP and GDP per capita have increased since the beginning of the works in 2007. After the activation of the 3rd BIS, in 2010, the curves confirmed the upward movement, mainly in the GDP, demonstrating that the presence of the Military Organization can influence regional economic development.

Furthermore, this proof can be seen in the ratio of the degree of formalization of work by employed persons, over 18 years old, and the total number of people. In 2000, the first census to measure this data, Barcelos had a ratio of 12.28. After ten years, in the last census of 2010, with the presence of the 3rd BIS in the city, this ratio increased to 29.84, demonstrating an increase in formalized work, either by signed work papers or by civil servants (IBGE, 2013).

The neighboring municipality of Santa Isabel do Rio Negro, which has the same characteristics as Barcelos, located in the northern Amazon region, bordering Venezuela and in the Negro River micro-region, showed a drop in the ratio of formalized workers from 16.63 to 12.96 in the period considered of increase (IBGE, 2013).

**Graph 4 – Comparison of the ratio between formal jobs in Barcelos and Santa Isabel do Rio Negro**



Source: Prepared by the authors based on IBGE, [2020].

Graph 4 shows that the Negro River micro-region did not feature an increase in formal employment in the period considered, including a slight drop, considering that São Gabriel da Cachoeira decreased this ratio from 31.72 to 29.52. The only municipality in the region to show improvement was Barcelos, allowing to infer that this increase may have been caused by some endogenous factor.

According to the IBGE Cities portal ([2020]), in 2018 the occupied population of Barcelos corresponded to 1,128 inhabitants, considering that this figure includes uniforms residing in the municipality. The 378 military personnel represent 33.51% of registered jobs, corroborating a lot for the growth in the numbers presented in Barcelos.

Another possibility with the deployment of the 3rd BIS in Barcelos is the increase in the average monthly salary of formal workers. In 2018, this record was of 1.6 minimum wages,



corresponding to R\$ 1.760,00<sup>7</sup> per worker. The salary of a recruit soldier corresponds to R\$ 1,078.00, plus the 20% special location bonus<sup>8</sup> the soldier in his mandatory military service begins to receive a gross salary of R\$ 1,293.60.

It is emphasized that this value refers to compulsory military service. If the person volunteers to remain serving in the Army after a year of mandatory service, the salary of a career soldier is R\$1,765.00, with the sum of the bonus from a special location, his gross monthly salary becomes R\$2,118.00, exceeding the average of the 1.6 minimum wages measured by the IBGE.

Nevertheless, a greater economic movement is expected in the city with the consumption of the 378 military personnel who necessarily reside in Barcelos. Although there is no way to measure what each soldier, along with his family, spends on local trade, a portion of these salaries will be used in local trade to purchase basic items and services such as food, clothing, vehicle maintenance, fuel, among others, by each of these resident families.

Based on the remunerations, as shown in Table 3, it is possible to unveil an approximate<sup>9</sup> maximum value that the military can inject into the local economy.

**Table 3 – Gross monthly salary of military personnel expected for the 3rd BIS in Barcelos**

	Salary (R\$)	Special Location Bonus (+20%)	Effective foreseen in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> BIS	TOTAL (R\$)
Colonel	11.451,00	13.741,20	1	13.741,20
Lieutenant Colonel	11.250,00	13.500,00	1	13.500,00
Major	11.088,00	13.305,60	2	26.611,20
Captain	9.135,00	10.962,00	6	65.772,00
1st Lieutenant	8.245,00	9.894,00	7	69.258,00
2nd Lieutenant	7.490,00	8.988,00	6	53.928,00
Sub-Lieutenant	6.169,00	7.402,80	2	14.805,60
1st Sergeant	5.483,00	6.579,60	3	19.738,80
2nd Sergeant	4.770,00	5.724,00	17	97.308,00
3rd Sergeant	3.825,00	4.590,00	48	220.320,00
Corporal	2.627,00	3.152,40	103	324.697,20
Career Soldier	1.765,00	2.118,00	55	116.490,00
Conscript Soldier	1,078,00	1.293,60	127	164.287,20
SUM				1.200.457,20

Source: Prepared by authors based on BRASIL, 2019b.

7 Calculation performed on the value of the federal minimum wage in 2021, R\$1,100.00.

8 Monthly remuneration due to the soldier, when serving in inhospitable regions, according to Provisional Measure No. 2,215-10 of August 31, 2001.

9 It is noteworthy that these values are generalized, the net remuneration of each soldier may contain bonuses or individual discounts, according to the Military Remuneration Law (BRASIL, 2001).

According to Table 3, it is inferred that military personnel serving in the 3rd BIS can inject approximately R\$1,200,457.20 monthly into the local economy. This can encourage local trade and economically active citizens to stay in the city, putting aside the displacement to large urban centers.

Moreover, there is the increase of services aimed at the daily life of an operational barrack. The administrative autonomy of the 3rd BIS took place in 2016, starting contracts with private companies to meet its demands. These companies may be based in any part of the national territory, however, by law, when entering into these administrative contracts, they have the obligation to deliver the service or material where provided, usually at the headquarters of the public body.

The incipiency of operability in the region points to a growth in the acquisition, whether of material or service, to achieve the required operational capacity of an OM in the border strip, promoting local trade or integration of the region with various parts of the country.

Even incipient, the increase in demand can already be noticed. In 2016, the 3rd BIS, according to the government portal *Comprasnet* (BRASIL, [202-]), signed only one price registration contract, while in 2020 this amount rose to seven contracts.

Based on the 5th BIS, a unit already consolidated in the municipality of São Gabriel da Cachoeira-AM, located in the same micro-region of Barcelos, with similar logistical characteristics. This unit, in 2020, signed 24 price record contracts. They are intentions to acquire materials and contract services of different demands, such as, for example, acquisition of a vessel engine, device with satellite telephone service, patrolling and instruction material that are not yet found in the intentions of the 3rd BIS, and may in the future be required to reach operational capacity.

**Table 4 – Items of intentions to acquire materials and contract services for the 3rd and 5th BIS in 2020.**

3 <sup>rd</sup> BIS purchasing intentions in 2020	5 <sup>th</sup> BIS purchasing intentions in 2020
Aquisição de Gás e serviço de recarga	Food supply service
Aquisição de Gêneros Alimentícios	Acquisition of instruments for musical band
Aquisição de Peças para manutenção de viaturas	Internet delivery service
Serviço de manutenção de maquinários em geral	Acquisition of river passage
Aquisição de insumos para odontologia	Water filtration service
Aquisição de insumos para exames laboratoriais	Vehicle maintenance service
Aquisição de mobiliários em geral	Acquisition of furniture in general
	Acquisition of material for building maintenance
	General machinery maintenance service
	Acquisition of furniture in general
	Acquisition of foodstuffs
	Acquisition of veterinary equipment

3 <sup>rd</sup> BIS purchasing intentions in 2020	5 <sup>th</sup> BIS purchasing intentions in 2020
	Acquisition of vessel engine Acquisition of office supplies Satellite phone service Acquisition of satellite equipment Acquisition of fuel Acquisition of equipment for patrolling and instruction Acquisition of office supplies Air taxi service

Source: Elaborated by the authors based on BRASIL, [202-].

These intentions to purchase materials and contract services, shown in Table 4, can generate effects first on the local economy, directly, and secondly, on regional integration.

In the local economy, some private companies already point to the use of the demand of the 3rd BIS. When analyzing the price records on the government website *Comprasnet*, from the period between 2016 to 2020, the CNPJ registered with addresses in Barcelos have already signed values above R\$ 670,000.00 in purchase intention for the Military Organization (BRASIL, [202-])<sup>10</sup>.

In addition, the presence of companies whose CNPJ are registered in municipalities within the Amazon can also be seen, where there is the presence of already consolidated Military Organizations. São Gabriel da Cachoeira, Tabatinga and Tefé, all from the state of Amazonas, are examples of this fact. This can demonstrate that the presence of the public body in those cities encouraged local trade to adapt to the peculiar forms of contracting or acquisition imposed by the public administration.

Indeed, these contracts between the Military Organization and private enterprise strengthen regional integration. Once again, when analyzing the purchase intentions of the 3rd BIS, it is verified that there are contracts signed with companies from all geographic regions of Brazil. Both in the case of material acquisition and in the provision of the service, these companies are obliged to carry out the delivery in Barcelos, which allows to increase the logistical flow of entry and exit from the municipality.

Finally, in addition to increasing the presence of state institutions in Barcelos, contributing to defense thinking and integrating civil society into the military arm, the deployment of the 3rd BIS relies on the injection of local currency circulation, either through the private income of the military personnel now residents, or for public expenditures aimed at meeting the demand of operational activities of the Military Organization. This allows to foster trade, integration with the rest of the country and, consequently, develop the region.

<sup>10</sup> SRPs N<sup>o</sup>. 02/2017 and N<sup>o</sup>. 02/2019.

## 5 Conclusions

Among the municipalities within the Border Strip, some of the most isolated are located in the Calha Norte of the Amazon River. A region that, by rare exceptions, has a low population density, the presence of state agencies, major economic development projects, which generate a low offer of formal employment and income generation opportunities. Even being in one of the regions with ample mineral resources and biodiversity, these places remain with low development rates, which deserves the special attention of the Brazilian state.

The maintenance of borders and national sovereignty over their territory is a legitimate and constitutional concern of modern nation-states. Historically, the processes of possession, colonization and integration of the Amazon region were made with the presence of military units on the borders. Presence that sometimes, as in Arco Norte, coincide with poorly developed regions, where they end up assuming a role of support for development. But the question remains, how much do military units contribute to local development? In the specific case of this article: how does the presence of the 3rd BIS directly contribute to the generation of employment and income in the municipality of Barcelos-AM, in 2018?

The results found show us that: (i) considering the total number of military personnel residing in Barcelos, there is a significant monetary injection in the city in the form of salaries; even when looking only at corporals and soldiers recruited from the local population; (ii) Still regarding this specific group of military personnel (Cb/Sd) the occupation of military personnel in Barcelos is attractive with a higher average salary than that of the municipality; (iii) Another point is the increase in the number of formal job vacancies offered to the young male population (of military age) generated annually by the vacancies of corporals and soldiers in the period. Considering, even in the analyzed period, the decrease of vacancies in the Negro River micro-region. Finally, in addition to the military's particular economic incentives, (iv) the injection of capital in the form of contracts for the acquisition of material and services from local companies is already significant and shall increase as the 3rd BIS staff is expanded to three marine companies.

In this way, this case study of the deployment of a military unit in Barcelos-AM, points out that the presence strategy in a city isolated from the border strip can collaborate not only with Defense, but also with local development in a significant way.

### Authorship and Collaborations

All authors participated equally in the elaboration of the article.

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