

# The Military Sciences against the Covid-19 pandemic

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We are launching the second issue of the Coleção Meira Mattos of 2020. The first during the current pandemic that poses enormous challenges to humanity, several governments, as well as to the Armed Forces around the world – many of which are involved in measures to fight Covid-19.

The post-pandemic world might be different from the one of today on several aspects. Regarding the Military Sciences, it will be important to encourage reflections and analyses that, once matured, may underpin changes in public policies and foster new strategies and military doctrines, among other actions.

In the global scenario, even in the midst of a health and economic crisis caused by the pandemic, some nations have been performing a series of military movements as a way to test the operational readiness of their competition. Squadrons were put in motion in the Caribbean, Persian Gulf and Sea of Japan. Military aircraft were intercepted and intercepted others in operational capability demonstrations. The Russian threat of a nuclear response to the US resurfaced after decades buried in the debris of the Berlin Wall. We need to reflect upon how the impacts of the pandemic will affect the international relations and the national goals of countries that guided the directions their Armed Forces should follow.

At regional level, we watch border closures and nations turning their attention to the needs of their population. Yet, this occurs alongside one of the world's biggest migration crisis. Thousands of Venezuelans are spread throughout South American countries. In Brazil, *Operação Acolhida*<sup>1</sup> provides shelter for vulnerable people while controlling Covid-19.

Nationally, the Brazilian Armed Forces play a mighty role in response to the pandemic, although a non-combat operation and, by definition, beyond the primary role for which they exist. These actions put the Armed Forces in evidence once again and may cor-

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1 Information: <http://www.eb.mil.br/operacao-acolhida>

roborate in further decisions such as defense budget votes, which may suffer restrictions, as funds are redirected to other sectors such as health, or increments, as society acknowledges that the best security is having Armed Forces structured to national response capacity. The ability to operate jointly with different agencies and government bodies (comprehensive approach) will improve in the light of experiences. Another major challenge for the coming months and years is to think about the efficiency of the National Mobilization System (provided for by Law No. 11,631/2007<sup>2</sup> and Decree No. 6,592/2008)<sup>3</sup> and the opportunities to adjust it, as well as the legislation governing it.

The military will be challenged to incorporate the lessons learned during 2020, when they were forced to deal with an undeclared and invisible opponent; which coordinated attacks throughout the national territory, indiscriminately affecting civilians and the military, threatening to collapse public health infrastructure, and even jeopardizing public order. Lessons learned from Covid-19 will gradually emerge in new guidelines and adjustments to operations manual and procedures.

Thus, scientific methods together with empirical knowledge, acquired by practical experiences, are key to develop research that critically reflect the challenges, responses and results of the pandemic period, producing expertise to face future events. Among others, the methods and theories that should be incorporated into the Military Sciences are: operations in VUCA environment (Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity and Ambiguity); design of complex operations-comprehensive approach; planning of scenarios, forecasting methods and modeling; and georeferencing, popularized in maps showing pandemic evolution in states and municipalities. These results should be reported in academic journals, such as *Coleção Meira Mattos*, to be discussed by several professionals and academics of the area of Defense.

Thereafter, we will present the articles composing this CMM edition. To reflect on unconventional and diffuse threats, we have Colonel Alessandro Visacro's article: *Winning in multi-domains is not enough: thoughts on the new doctrine and the gray zone conflicts*. The text addresses the characteristics of the complex environment in which the analyses and decisions of strategists, politicians and military should be made.

Even before the Covid-19 pandemic, the Armed Forces were already concerned about this kind of threat. The DQBRN 1st Battalion and the doctrines related to the area are constantly evolving. The article *Actions of military veterinarians from other nations in Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense: a subsidy to modernize the Brazilian Army doctrine*, by Renata Simões Barros and José Roberto Pinho A. de Lima, assesses the indoctrination within the veterinary practice in other nations "identifying technical and laboratory skills for these specialists" (BARROS; DE ANDRADE LIMA, 2020, p. 153) and proposing contributions to the field in Brazil. The Health and Education areas were contemplated in the article *Nursing education in*

2 Available at: [http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil\\_03/\\_Ato2007-2010/2007/Lei/L11631.htm](http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/_Ato2007-2010/2007/Lei/L11631.htm)

3 Available at: [http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil\\_03/\\_Ato2007-2010/2008/Decreto/D6592.htm](http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/_Ato2007-2010/2008/Decreto/D6592.htm)

*the military scope: an integrative review*, by Rafael Pires Silva (UFF) and Alessandra Conceição Leite Funchal Camacho (UFRJ), which addresses teaching methods of the profession within the military scope.

Two articles that focus on the Brazilian strategic environment are: *From regional security to political vacuum: a study of the ten years of the South American Defense Council*, by Bernardo Salgado Rodrigues (UFRJ) and Marcos Cardoso dos Santos (ESG); and *Fai-led States: From the origin to United Nations interventions in the post-Cold War*, by Lieu-tenant Colonel Anselmo Rodrigues. In the former, the authors evaluate the importance and obstacles of Brazilian leadership regarding defense and South America. Anselmo Rodrigues' article critically analyzes the theoretical issue of failed states and the United Nations interventions, based on the African reality.

We hope you enjoy the readings and reflect, from the Military Sciences point of view, upon the challenges imposed for the Brazilian Armed Forces in the post-pandemic world.

Finally, we remind you the military and other frontline workers rely on knowledge acquired by their training and different scientific methods to analyze situations, make decisions, and execute plans, whether in the Joint Force Command of Covid-19 Operation (Minister's Guideline No. 6/GM/MD of March 18, 2020),<sup>4</sup> or in their military organizations. Coleção Meira Mattos wants to thank all the military and frontline workers in the fight against Covid-19!

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<sup>4</sup> Available at: [http://www.planalto.gov.br/CCIVIL\\_03/Portaria/PRT/Portaria%20n%C2%BA%201232-20-MD.htm](http://www.planalto.gov.br/CCIVIL_03/Portaria/PRT/Portaria%20n%C2%BA%201232-20-MD.htm)

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