

Interagency relations in security and defense: governance, new architectures, and best practices

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Dear Readers,

With satisfaction, we bring to the public volume 19, number 64, 2025, of the *Meira Mattos Collection: journal of military sciences*. This issue brings together articles focused on the theme of the dossier Interagency Relations in Security and Defense: Governance, New Architectures and Best Practices, as well as addressing topics within the broader scope of the journal.

Today's scenario of security and defense is characterized by increasing complexity, marked by the interdependence between actors, institutions, and decision-making levels. In a world permeated by transnational threats, such as terrorism, organized crime, cybersecurity, and hybrid disasters, no single institution has all the resources, information, or capabilities to provide effective responses. In this context, the notion of interagency relations assumes centrality, constituting a strategic field of analysis, policy formulation, and implementation of good practices.

This thematic dossier of the *Meira Mattos Collection Journal* seeks to contribute to the reflection and scientific debate on interagency governance in security and defense, highlighting not only the institutional challenges, but also the innovative experiences and new organizational architectures that have emerged in different countries and contexts. These contributions dialogue with structural issues that cross the field of national defense and public security, articulating political, legal, institutional, and operational dimensions.

Throughout the articles, the reader will find analyses ranging from the integration of interagency operational planning, case studies on coordination in joint and interagency operations, to the evaluation of legal frameworks, governance instruments, and international cooperation practices, as well as a theoretical-conceptual debate on decision-making in highly complex interagency environments. All texts underline the importance of reflecting on defense and security in an interagency key, recognizing both the limits of institutional fragmentation and the opportunities created by cooperation and the sharing of information and skills.

The dossier also seeks to highlight that the construction of successful interagency arrangements does not depend only on normative formalization or the creation of bureaucratic structures. It requires, above all, an organizational culture focused on cooperation, mutual trust between institutions, and capacity for collective learning. It is these intangible dimensions that sustain innovative practices, strengthen governance, and expand the democratic legitimacy of security and defense policies.

We hope that this volume will contribute to consolidating a plural, interdisciplinary, and applied research agenda that inspires new investigations and supports the formulation of more efficient and transparent public policies. By opening space for this debate, the *Meira Matos Collection Journal* reaffirms its mission to foster the production of critical and innovative knowledge on central defense and security issues in Brazil and abroad.