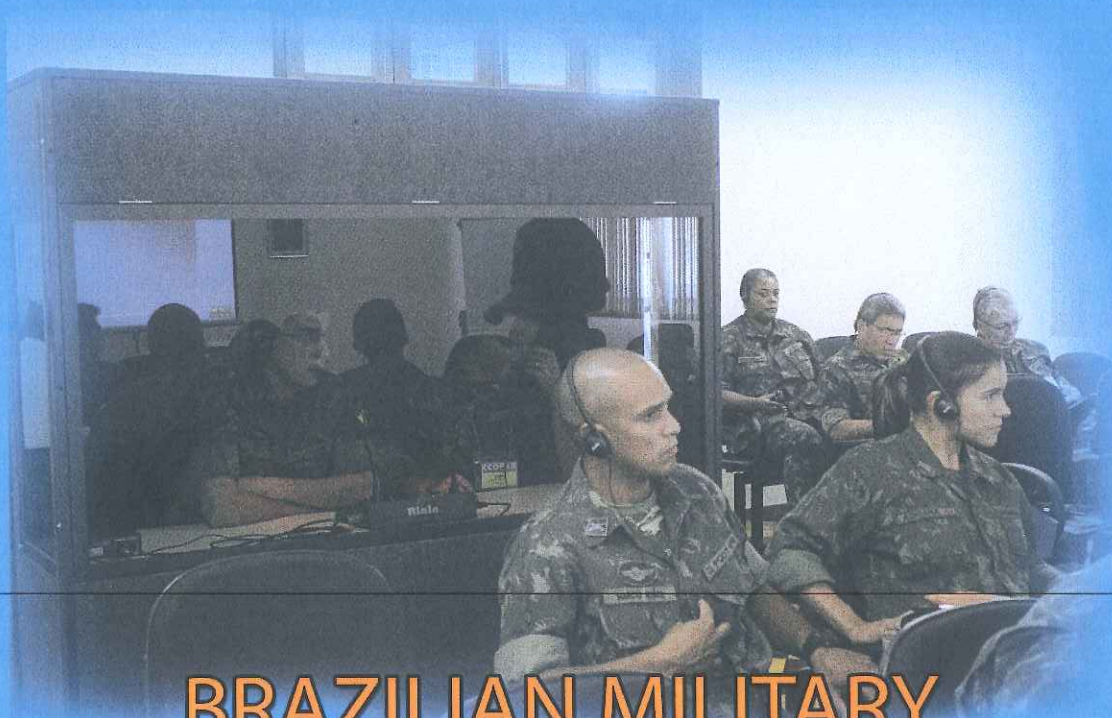


CCOPAB

Brazilian Peace Operations Joint Training Center

SERGIO VIEIRA DE MELLO CENTER



BRAZILIAN MILITARY TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION IN UN PKOs



BRAZILIAN MILITARY TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION IN UN PKOs - THE RELEVANCE OF A SPECIALIZED SERVICE

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1 INTRODUCTION

At present, in the international scenario, Brazil has become more and more important, either by its natural resources or by the highly skilled Brazilian professionals. Our Armed Forces have taken the same path, by means of specialized professionals with a lot of expertise, and have also targeted on mastering foreign languages as the most adequate and strategic way of standing out within the ambit of international relations.

One of the main factors which contribute to make our Armed Forces stand out, at governmental or non-governmental international organizations, is the communicative ability shown by military personnel. The Brazilian Army is a unique part in this process due to its history of participation in peacekeeping missions (PKOs).

Nevertheless, since not all military personnel master foreign languages, it became necessary to have a professional who could provide language support in conversations, courses, meetings, negotiations etc. either involving foreign military personnel or civilians, or even, who could translate documents produced in foreign languages into our mother tongue. Then, the service of translation and interpretation provided by military personnel pops up in the Brazilian Army: they are the military translators and interpreters.

Nowadays, there is a growing demand to send troops² abroad in order to provide support, requested by the Organization of the United Nations, to the countries in need of intervention.

Thus, because of the difficulties of communication found in the theater of operations, it was imperative to deploy military translators and interpreters in military operations. Yet, we can still notice a lack of technical preparation for the selection process and use of such a professional; once it should be a language professional with solid experience, adequate

¹Captain of the technical branch (QCO, acronym in Portuguese) of the Brazilian Army, professor, translator, interpreter and coordinator of the Military Translators and Interpreters Course (ETIMIL, acronym in Portuguese) of the Brazilian Peace Operations Joint Training Center (CCOPAB, acronym in Portuguese). In 2012, he was designated Chief of the Interpreters Section of the Brazilian Engineering Company (BRAENGCOY) in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

² In this context, we can cite the Brazilian Battalion (BRABAT) and the Brazilian Engineering Company deployed in Haiti.

formation and good aptitude to work with the art of translation and interpretation towards world peace.

2 DEVELOPMENT

2.1 THE PIONEERS - SUEZ BATTALION

According to Fontoura (2009) and Aguilar (2005), two episodes marked the beginning of the Brazilian military participation in initiatives of international organizations towards peacekeeping: the presence of a Brazilian Navy officer in the Commission on the League of Nations which managed the issue involving the region of Leticia between 1933-34, and three other officers³, one from the Brazilian Navy, one from the Brazilian Air Force and another from the Brazilian Army, to integrate the United Nations Special Committee on the Balkans (UNSCOB), operating in Greece, from 1947 to 1951. Those three military observers only acted at the Greek side of the border and were accompanied by a United Nations civilian worker, Greek liaison officers and a local interpreter⁴.



Picture 1 - Region of the Balkans.

Since then, the country took part in 27 peace or civilian missions under the aegis of the UN and in missions set by the Organization of American States (OAS), contributing with military observers, police officers, electoral experts, health specialists, armed troops, and

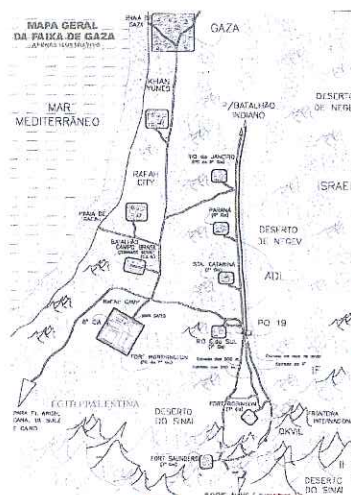
³ Out of 36 volunteers from seven mobilized countries, we sent the following Brazilians: Lieutenant John Anderson Munro (Navy), Captain Hervé Berlandez Pedrosa (Army) and Pilot Captain João Camarão Telles Ribeiro (Air Force).

⁴ Greek citizen without the adequate formation on translation and interpretation. Nowadays, the United Nations classify the locals who provide this sort of service as language assistants (LAs) (sic).

Fontoura

pseudo or true translators and interpreters⁵, as in Suez, Dominican Republic, Mozambique, Angola, East Timor and Haiti.

During the establishment of the United Nations Emergency Force I (UNEF-I), the first experience of the Brazilian Armed Forces sending troops to UN PKOs, in the context of the crisis in Suez, in the territory of Egypt, there is the Suez Battalion with about 600 officers and NCOs from the Army; at first, they were all from military units in Rio de Janeiro.



Picture 2 - General map of Gaza.

When UNEF was created and implemented, by the end of 1956, in the Middle East and Gaza, with the purpose of mediating the arab-israeli conflict, and thus guarantee the neutrality and peace in the conflicting region, the UN issued that the official language of that peace mission would be English. So, it became the official working language and the form of communication among all contingents and members of UNEF.

Brazil knew that all the communication outside Suez Battalion would be in English, but it never realized that it should have come up with an official strategy, i.e., to have someone with full domain of the foreign language adopted at UNEF and that could represent the interests of the Battalion. Then, the Brazilian Contingent only made use of volunteer military personnel that had the initiative to set intercommunication with the other delegations of the mission, especially, regarding administrative issues at UNEF HQ.

At last, that was a gap which should be filled in one day, since most of our personnel, even our commanders, did not speak English fluently, and always had to count on another soldier, who was sometimes gotten by surprise and in a hurry, to solve official problems at

⁵ It was not in every mission we deployed military personnel, to some extent, to play the role of a translator and/or interpreter that we provided specialized troops with the adequate technical knowledge. They could not be seen as true professionals in this field; thus, being classified as pseudo translators and interpreters.

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UNEF HQ in Gaza. In many occasions, the quality of the service provided was somehow affected, even though there was a clear goodwill from the side of those who were trying to solve the issues.

Through history, it is many times seen that the commander of the Brazilian contingent put himself in a tight skirt situation during meetings at the HQ in Gaza for not having an adequate linguistic proficiency; then, there came the idea of coming up with an official function which could better represent Brazil regarding the real demands from that time.

Although they had no idea the Mission was coming to an end due to the imminent War of Six Days, the creation of the Section of Interpreters of the Suez Battalion occurred in the 18th Contingent, when UNEF was reformulated and Brazil received another task to be in charge of⁶. The Section of Interpreters was a very old demand and it owes its creation to the then Logistics⁷ Officer of the battalion. After its implementation, there is no way to deny the merit and good service provided by the Section of Interpreters to the Suez Battalion and the UN Mission in the Middle East⁸.

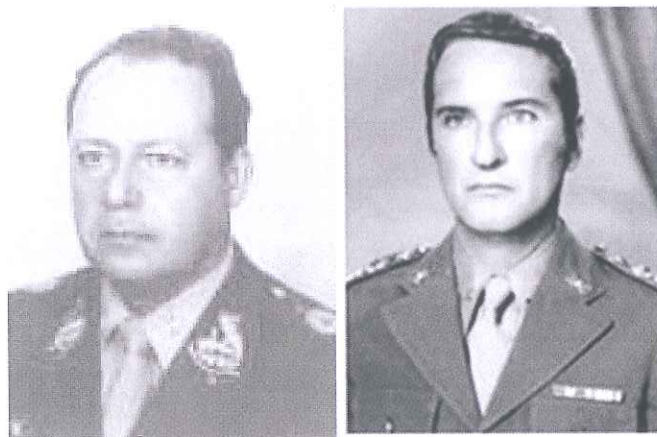
Nevertheless, aiming at providing personnel to work in the Section of Interpreters of the Suez Battalion, and duly authorized by UNEF to designate three captains to provide the service, Brazil selected military personnel in that rank, who were invited to take part in a competition at the then Center of Language Studies, at Duque de Caxias Palace (former Ministry of Warfare), in Rio de Janeiro. This selection process was carried out by the American officers of the Joint Brazil-USA Military Commission. This way, fifteen captains were part of the selection process, but only the first three ones were picked.⁹

⁶ To garrison and ensure the security of the Logistics Unit in Rafah Camp, which was up until then the responsibility of the Canadian Battalion. Therefore, much of the communication in English was intensified.

⁷ Major Aroldo José Machado da Veiga, G4.

⁸ Reported by Corporal Theodoro da Silva Júnior, former member of the 10th Contingent of Suez Battalion.

⁹ The members of the first Section of Interpreters from III/2nd Infantry Regiment, Suez Battalion were CPT (Infantry) Walter Bazarov Cardoso Pinto, CPT (Artillery) Werlon Coaracy de Roure and CPT (Infantry) Haroldo Carvalho Netto.



Pictures 3 and 4 - Gen Werlon Coaracy de Roure (left) and Col (Infantry) Haroldo Carvalho Netto (right).

The military interpreters went to Gaza Strip with the 8th Coy, officially part of the 19th Brazilian Contingent in that mission¹⁰.



Pictures 5 and 6 – Embarking the Suez Battalion troops in Rio de Janeiro.

2.2 MOZAMBIQUE, ANGOLA AND EAST TIMOR - A STEP BACK

When it comes to the mission in Mozambique, UN Operation in Mozambique - ONUMOZ, the Brazilian participation was in terms of sending military personnel to perform specific roles such as the Commander of the military component and Military Observers; we also sent one Infantry Company, in the year of 1994. If we analyze the situation, we see that the use of the military interpreter suffered a setback when compared to the Brazilian experience in Suez. That might have happened because the local language was Portuguese, making it easier for them to talk to the population; English was to be used in large scale at the

¹⁰ Reported by the former member of the Suez Battalion, pioneer military interpreter of the 19th Contingent, Colonel (Infantry) (RET) Haroldo Carvalho Netto who was a successful translator up until he passed away; he left us a legacy of several published articles and translated works.

Regional Command, located in Beira, since the *Force Commander* was a Brazilian General¹¹, posted in Maputo. It was at the Regional Command that the one and only Brazilian military interpreter worked¹²; not for his formation and knowledge in the interpreting field, but for he was the one who could best communicate in English. That time, neither a competition nor a selection process was carried out. They simply sent him from the base to the Regional Command, which represented a huge step back regarding the importance given to the service of military interpreting, if compared to the historical pioneer experience of the Suez Battalion.



Picture 7 - Airport and military base in Beira (Regional Command).

When investigating the use of interpreters in the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM), either in UNAVEM I or UNAVEM II, we realize that Brazil only contributed with Military Observers; neither troops nor military interpreters were sent to the mission area. It was only for the third phase of the mission - UNAVEM III, due to a change on the core of the mandate, Brazil could contribute with Military Observers, Medical Teams, Staff Officers, an Infantry Battalion, an Engineering Company and two Advanced Dressing Stations¹³. Once again, as per ONUMOZ, the use of interpreters was taken for granted in the military contingent even not having military personnel able to communicate continuously and effectively in a foreign language - English, at that time. It was another time frame of the old notorious age of "Hey, you speak English, don't you? From now on, you're my interpreter!" Besides, those soldiers chosen to be the so-called interpreters numbered 5 and had other tasks to accomplish.

¹¹ The Commander of the military component was General Lélío Gonçalves Rodrigues, from the Brazilian Army; his complex responsibility demanded structuring and harmonizing a force whose members were countries of several different cultures and routine.

¹² At that time, the then Lieutenant Claudio Henrique da Silva Plácido, nowadays Lieutenant Colonel, former commander of the 26th Airborne Infantry Battalion (26 BI Pqdt, acronym in Portuguese), in Rio de Janeiro.

¹³ Initially deployed in Cuito, in Angola's central region, having 10(ten) officers and 10(ten) NCOs. Later, the advanced dressing station would be in Luena - closer to the border with Congo - reported by the then 1st lieutenant doctor, G3 and Chief Surgeon of the Advanced Dressing Station, at present, Col (Dr.) Theophilo José da Costa Neto, student in CPEAEx 2015, at the Brazilian Army Command and General Staff College, in Rio de Janeiro.

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Let's now talk about what happened in East Timor. It is widely known that East Timor hosted six missions/interventions under the aegis of the United Nations: UNAMET, UNTAET, UNMISSET, UNOTIL, UNMIT; however, it was only with the establishment of INTERFET, due to the failure of the Indonesian Government to control the situation, when the UN decided to create a multinational force of ten thousand men from 22 countries, including Brazil, aiming at restoring the rule of law in that country. The Brazilian Government, advised by the National Congress, decided to deploy a platoon of 50 Army police troops and a senior officer as the commander of the Brazilian Contingent (CONTBRAS, acronym in Portuguese). That contingent was mobilized in just a week, as per the selection of military personnel of the same military unit in Brasília - DF (The Federal District). It is again clear that the role of translators and interpreters was taken for granted in the History of Military participation in peace missions. During the training phase, the military personnel had instructions about the basic tasks to be carried out in East Timor, but nothing was said about the importance of knowing a foreign language; and we know that being a translator or interpreter is much more than just mastering a foreign language, for those professionals deal with details of a culture which is not theirs.



Picture 8 - Embarkment of the Brazilian troop to East Timor.

This way, we had another edition of the "Hey, you speak English, don't you? From now on, you're my interpreter!" and yet there were some moments in which those soldiers had to be in charge of a situation because the officer was not able to communicate in the foreign language. It is said that some senior officers were somehow replaced by other junior officers, who could, in a way, use the foreign language better but not fluently.

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It is difficult to believe, but we haven't learnt what we were supposed to do to overcome the language barriers of our troops. So, if at any moment we had remembered the efforts made in Suez - create the Section of Interpreters so that, through ten years, much of the information inaccuracy and communication incapacity could be avoided.

Were we doomed to be out of the decision-making process? Because the inability to communicate directly interferes in the participation at the decision-making moments. Fortunately, we will see a giant leap in quality in the next mission. Yet, we still needed much guidance, formation and training to deploy those who would help us with the work, which would later become a consolidated model of efficiency and operational capacity on the ground.

2.3 MINUSTAH – TWO STEPS AHEAD

In February 2004, armed conflicts broke out in Haiti, specifically in Gonaives, spreading to other cities on the following days. Gradually, the insurgents took control of the North of the country. In spite of the diplomatic efforts, armed groups threatened to march into Port-au-Prince (PaP). The then President of Haiti, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, left the country on 29 February 2004 and was exiled in South Africa. According to the rules of constitutional succession, the President of the Supreme Court, Bonifácio Alexandre, became the Acting President. Bonifácio immediately requested the UN assistance to support a peaceful political and constitutional transition and keep safety and security in the country. To this sense, the Security Council (SC) authorized the deployment of a Multinational Interim Force (MIF), which was led by the USA and immediately deployed.

Taking into account that the situation in Haiti still constituted a threat to international peace and security, the SC decided to establish the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), which replaced the authority of MIF on 01 June 2004. General Augusto Heleno Ribeiro Pereira, from the Brazilian Army was assigned for the command of MINUSTAH military component (*Force Commander*)¹⁴.

¹⁴ According to Fontoura (2009), this is one of the few times Brazil holds an important position in a peace mission, either in the command, since its establishment in 2004, or as a troop contributing country (TCC).



Pictures 9 and 10 - General map of Haiti and Brazilian military base in PaP.

Since then, the Brazilian government, authorized by the National Congress, started sending troops to be part of MINUSTAH military component. It is obvious that troops deployed abroad would need to communicate to reach tactical, operational and strategic objectives. Thus, in the conception of the strength for the Brigade Haiti and, afterwards, the Brazilian Battalion and Brazilian Engineering Company, the role of the interpreter was included in the estimated frame of functions (QCP, acronym in Portuguese), for the second time¹⁵, in the history of the Brazilian military translation and interpretation, which many times, if not everytime, would also perform the task of a translator.



Picture 11 - Section of Interpreters of the 16th BRAENGCOY Contingent.

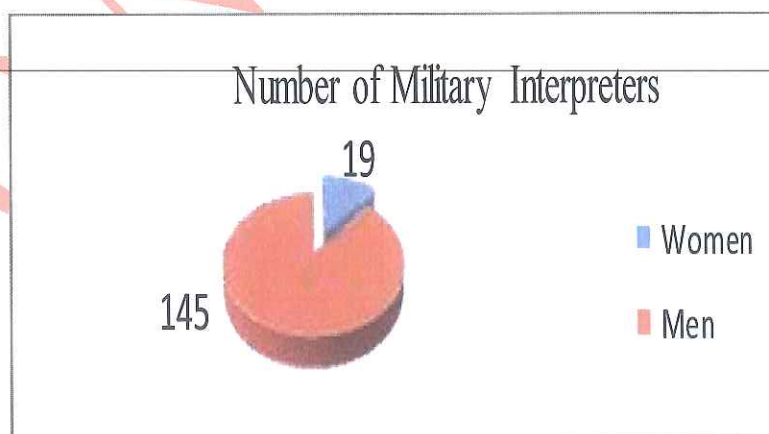
¹⁵ First inclusion of interpreters in QCP for contingents to be deployed in UN peace missions dates back to 1966.

João



Picture 12 - Section of Interpreters of the 11th BRABAT Contingent.

Through a decade of Brazilian troops deployment in Haiti, we have already sent a total of 164 soldiers, men and women, to perform the role of translators and interpreters in the pairs of English/Portuguese and French/Portuguese to achieve peace in that country. Let's then see some statistical data to better understand the profile of those military personnel. Differently from what happened to the Suez Battalion, these soldiers were selected by the Brazilian Army Commander Cabinet; the process was based on their linguistic proficiency index (IPL, acronym in Portuguese)¹⁶ acquired through a set of language tests applied by the Language Section of the Center for Personnel Studies and Fort Duke of Caxias (CEP/FDC, acronym in Portuguese), in Rio de Janeiro.

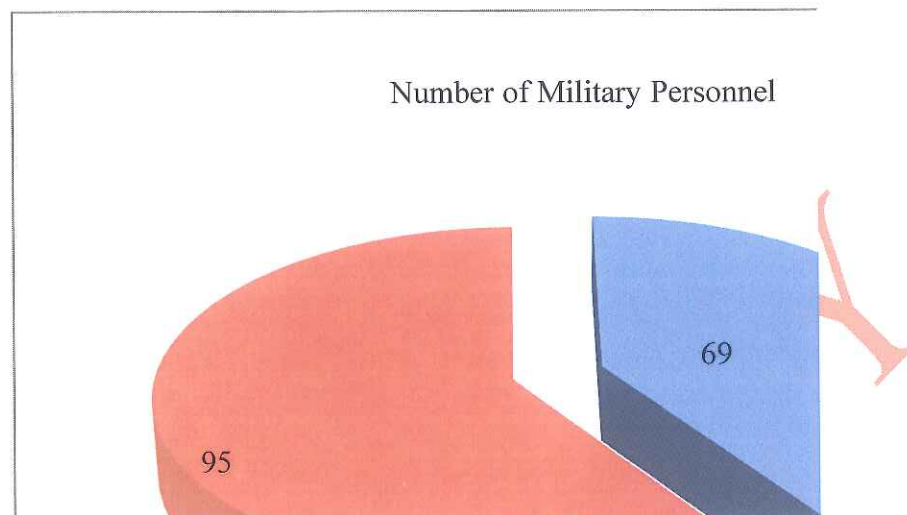


Picture 13 - Number of men and women for the role of interpreters in the Brazilian Contingent (CONTBRAS).

¹⁶ The minimum linguistic proficiency index (IPL) to be considered by the Brazilian Army for the selection of soldiers to be part of a Section of Interpreters, either in BRABAT or in BRAENGCOY, is of 2122; each number refers to the abilities of listening, speaking, reading and writing, respectively.

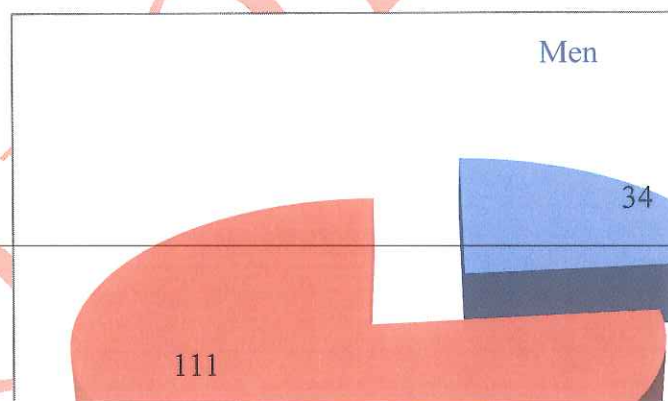
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Despite having deployed a considerable number of soldiers to perform the role of interpreters in CONTBRAS, in MINUSTAH, the vast majority of those did not have any university degree in Languages, either as a BA or MA, either in Translation or Interpretation.



Picture 14 - Number of soldiers graduated in Languages and who were deployed as interpreters in CONTBRAS.

From the 164 military personnel (interpreters) deployed on the Haitian ground, the most expressive number is the one of corporals, sergeants and sergeant majors.



Picture 15 - Number of male officers and enlisted personnel deployed as interpreters in CONTBRAS.

It is observed, however, that only male soldiers were considered as the indicators for the quantity of officers and enlisted personnel deployed in this mission. Female soldiers were not taken into account here, for there are, officially, no reports of having female NCOs working as interpreters in Haiti, as per the QCP.

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2.4 ETIMIL – THE TRAINING OF THE MILITARY TRANSLATOR AND INTERPRETER

As time went by, due to the growing demand and the effective need of receiving, in the contingents to be deployed in Haiti, troops prepared to perform the role of translators and interpreters, holding the theoretical and practical background for the performance of those functions, and showing the minimum technical capacity to overcome the challenges found on the ground, it was created, in the second semester of 2011, in the Brazilian Peace Operations Joint Training Center (CCOPAB), in Rio de Janeiro, a preparatory course¹⁷, lasting for one week, for soldiers selected to be deployed in Haiti as translators and interpreters, with the 16th Brazilian contingent, throughout 2012.



Picture 16 - Pioneer Class of ETIM in 2011.

From that first step on, the Course for Military Translators and Interpreters (ETIM) would be the forerunner of ETIMIL, whose acronym would keep the original meaning of the 2011 embryonic course.

ETIM, differently from ETIMIL, has only one week of training focusing on the practice of sentence-by-sentence and consecutive interpretation. Its weekly schedule (QTS, acronym in Portuguese) showed several different classes, but its main and frequent focus would be the training of techniques, regardless of specific content for the preparation of troops to be deployed in peace operations.

¹⁷ In November 2011, as a request of the then Col Infantry Francisco Mamede de Brito Filho, nominated as the commander of BRABAT 16, to the then Col Infantry Pedro Aurélio de Pessôa, commander of CCOPAB, ETIM (Course for Military Translators and Interpreters) was created, conceived, coordinated and carried out by CPT QCO Israel Alves de Souza Júnior.

Ismael

In 2012, there was only one edition of ETIM, keeping its focus on the techniques to work as interpreters, but also approaching the details of the daily routine of a translator in CONTBRAS, MINUSTAH. It was the time of the 17th BRABAT and BRAENGCOY Contingents. An advance in training shone in the horizon, but there was a lot to be changed so that the Army could benefit from having better prepared military personnel who could tackle the huge responsibility of translating and interpreting in the international scenario.



Picture 17 - Second Class of ETIM in 2012.

As of 2013, the Division of Translators and Interpreters of CCOPAB, after detailed analyses and studies for the improvement of the teaching-learning process for the troops, and aligned with the preparation standards set by the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO/UN), decided to modify the course, duly authorized by the commander¹⁸ of CCOPAB, altering its acronym to ETIMIL, and dividing the preparation into two phases: one e-learning phase (EAD, acronym in Portuguese), lasting for 80 hours, and one on-site phase, lasting for 40 hours, totaling 120 hours of course, i.e., 1/3 of a graduate course, *lato sensu*, in the same area of study. There was the need to write the course syllabus, separated in modules, to cover the theories of translation and interpretation studies. The main theoretical elements were concentrated on the e-learning phase, turning the on-site phase, at CCOPAB, into a more practical one.

Subjects as the Portuguese Language, Foreign Languages, Translation Studies, Interpretation Studies and the initial practice of translation from and into Portuguese are part of the e-learning of ETIMIL. On the other hand, the practice of consecutive, sentence-by-

¹⁸ In 2013, Col Infantry Luiz Fernando Estorilho Baganha was CCOPAB Commander.

sentence and whispered simultaneous interpretations are dealt with during the on-site phase.¹⁹²⁰



Picture 18 - Class of 2013/1 after restructuring the course - the new ETIMIL.

The Division of Translators and Interpreters also decided to include in the training of the military personnel, issues regarding the use of new technologies applied to translation, i.e., CAT tools (*computer-assisted translation*), machine translation, use of *online corpora*, glossaries etc. The interpreting varieties and their models were incorporated to the training; thus contributing a lot to the improvement of ETIMIL and, consequently, resulting in a gain for the military students.

Essential for the good quality and execution of translation projects, the translation tools have come to make translations viable, fast and effective, targeting on the quality of the final product (CRONIN, 2013). In several peace missions, quality and rapid delivering of translated documents are essential; they also become a unique mark of the troop on the ground.

¹⁹In BARBOSA, H. G. Procedimentos técnicos da tradução – uma nova proposta. 2ª ed. Campinas, SP: Pontes, 2004.

²⁰In ALVES, I. C. Modalidades de tradução: uma avaliação do modelo proposto por Vinay e Darbelnet. Dissertação de mestrado, PUC-SP, 1983.



Picture 19 - Class of ETIMIL 2013 having CAT tools instruction.

As the syllabus and the weekly schedule of ETIMIL were redefined, the technical procedures of translation and the different models of interpretation were included in the preparation of the military personnel. In relation to interpretation, as of CONTBRAS 16, the Brazilian Engineering Company (BRAENGCOY) started using the tour guide system to carry out simultaneous interpretation, usually in meetings presided by several sectors of MINUSTAH or even inside the contingent. In the mission, the equipment is extremely useful due to the multidimensional characteristic of UN missions. Also, it helps the troops stick to the time saving principle.

Simultaneous interpretation is technically a lot more difficult to the interpreter, given the high demand for concentration in order to carry it out (PHELAN, 2011). This way, for the first edition of ETIMIL 2014, the coordination staff of the course decided to include conference interpretation techniques in the booth for the effective preparation of those military personnel to be deployed. Likewise, simultaneous interpretation was also practiced as whispered interpretation or *chuchotage*, for that was another resource to be used by the interpreter when performing his/her role in the mission.

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Picture 20 - Class of ETIMIL 2014 practicing simultaneous booth interpreting.

Also in 2014, ETIMIL had the following classes for the first time: sight translation techniques, telephone interpreting, stress management, and note-taking for consecutive interpretation.

Due to the great amount of information and considering the responsibility of the translator and interpreter in peace missions, ETIMIL was designed with 19 evaluations - written and practical. They provide a consolidated result which is a lot valuable when there is the need to assist the commanders of BRABAT and BRAENGCOY regarding the performance of military personnel as translators and interpreters during the course.

As the teaching-learning process is, and it must be, flexible, the staff of the Division of Translators and Interpreters of CCOPAB, dealing with new demands and duly authorized by the Commander²¹ of the Center, resolved to include UN CPTM (UN Core Pre-deployment Training Material) in the training package of the troops, as of the first edition of ETIMIL in 2015. Throughout those 10 years of MINUSTAH, the need for a more solid knowledge about UN peace operations and related issues were observed and thus the demand had to be tackled for translators and interpreters.²²

3. FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

It seems that the soldier assigned to carry out the tasks of a translator and interpreter in peace mission, or in any other mission, needed to have a specific preparation on this unique field of Applied Linguistics.²³ Indeed, we learned with our previous experience not to

²¹ Col (Armor Branch) José Ricardo Vendramin Nunes, former member of ITS/UN, has been the commander of CCOPAB since January 2014.

²² <http://www.peacekeepingbestpractices.unlb.org/PBPS/Pages/Public/search.aspx>, access on 26/12/14.

²³ In DUBOIS, J. Dicionário de linguística. São Paulo: Cultrix, 1978.

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underestimate the service of translation and interpretation provided by the troops on the ground; however, attempting to make it right through decades, making mistakes once in a while, we observed we could not send any soldier to perform such an important role in the mission. In the History of World Military Translation and Interpretation, many peace accords were sealed and conflicts created through good and bad interpretation services provided, respectively. An interpretation mistake during a peace process negotiation may severely damage the process, creating a big unease among the parties involved, either defining or keeping the problem.

Thus, it is easy to fully agree with Tassini (2012) and Guillet (2012) that translators and interpreters can never be prepared overnight. The experience with working language pairs, different culture as well as knowledge of the world influence very much the formation of this type of professional, and it takes time to do so.

To Robinson (2003), interpreters and translators need to have real world experience, by traveling, living or even visiting the countries where the languages they work with are spoken; above all, they need to be curious about the usage of the language in different contexts, registers, styles etc. - from the sort of language used by a plumber to a bartender, from a professor to a doctor, from an engineer to the military in peace operations.

Translating is not simply the elementary operation of searching for lexical correspondents. Much more of a complex and subtle art, it shall harmonize those of others, which are so delicate - those of reading and writing. Inside of those, pseudo-translators, without any formation or previous preparation, unexperienced, are to commit venial sins very often, as well as those problems of uneducated guess and mind betrayals. That was exactly the way we acted; nevertheless, when gaining experience in several different missions, facing and overcoming challenges, and tackling difficulties, we realized the importance of having a soldier to exclusively perform the role of the translator/interpreter in peace missions.

Silveira (2004) himself states that many people think the task of translating is enormously easy. For is it not just needed a person who knows how to read in a certain foreign language and in his/her mother tongue to know how to rewrite the text, word by word, sentence by sentence, paragraph by paragraph?...Apparently, that's the way the cookie crumbles; but, in fact, it is much more than that. The Brazilian Army has already perceived those differences and had taken a giant step when authorizing CCOPAB to offer ETIMIL every semester, in general.

Samuelson-Brown (2010) correctly established the following abilities for translators and interpreters: understanding and cultural awareness, knowledge about information

technology applied to translation/interpretation, project management, linguistic-lexical domain, knowledge about the communication process, including oral and written expressions, and a solid training in decision-making. CCOPAB carries out ETIMIL believing that it contributes with appropriate information in order to lower and soften the difficulties found by military translators and interpreters on the ground, for we understand that assigning a soldier to be a translator and interpreter does not make him a translator or interpreter. If he/she does not have the minimum necessary abilities for that, he/she may jeopardize the objective of the mission at all levels: tactical, operational and strategic.

It is evident that if we compare the present preparation of military translators /interpreters designated for a peace mission to what we practiced in the 50s, 60s and 90s, we will see there has been 100% of improvement, given the fact there was nothing about it in the past.

As perfectly and unquestionably highlighted by Silveira (2004), the practical consequence of experience and study in the formation of a translator and interpreter is fundamental and it does not end in itself; it demands adaptation to each special case, in gender and type, where there is the need for study and reflections, as well as the improvement of ethical qualities and essential conduct. It is still recognized that gaining the technical linguistic abilities during the training is almost of moral ground. No one can deny it has to be a prerequisite for the adequate performance of a translator/interpreter. It is not only knowing the language, but, above all, also going deep in understanding the variables and culture involved in the translation and interpretation processes in peace missions worldwide.

4. CONCLUSION

For over sixty-seven years, the participation in peace missions has projected Brazil in the ambit of international organisms as an active country working towards peace, according to our foreign policy and to the constitutional basis of our country.

As per Aguilar (2005), the active participation in peace activities brings up lessons in several areas ranging from the creation of a Brazilian military doctrine on the deployment of International Peacekeeping Forces, training about personnel, operations and logistics, to a greater integration among the Armed and Auxiliary Forces and the subject matter exchange with professionals and materiel from other armies. The service of translation and interpretation for CONTBRAS in the missions is part of this category.



The participation of Brazil in peacekeeping operations of international organizations pushes the projection of national power in the international scenario, and it brings international recognition to the professional level of the Brazilian military, reinforcing and strengthening the relations with foreign countries through the service of translation and interpretation.

To Kelly and Zetzsche (2012), there is no greater intellectual challenge than building meaningful bridges between several different languages, yet, preserving their linguistic and cultural identities. It is exactly to overcome this challenge that the Brazilian Army, by means of the Division of Translators and Interpreters from the Brazilian Peace Operations Joint Training Center, offers ETIMIL in order to train the military as well as personnel from the auxiliary forces to provide the relevant service of translation and interpretation, with good quality, in extreme conditions, in peace missions, towards world peace.

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