

ISSN: 2538-9610 (on line)

TRIARIUS

Volume 4 - Issue 80



October 1, 2020

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2538-9610

Prevention and Security Bulletin on
Terrorism and the New Threats



ISSN: **2538-9610** (en línea)
Medellín - Colombia
Volume **4** - Number **80**
October 1, **2020**

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This bulletin is a publication of the **International Observatory on Terrorism and New Threats**. It is produced fortnightly, in pdf format, and its distribution is free.

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EDITORIAL

We begin this edition with a reflection. In this complex and changing world, where the truth is disguised or hidden under layers and layers of information, misinformation, lies, ideology, manipulations, and diverse interests, initiatives like TRIARIUS are more necessary than ever. Here we are open to divergent analysis and civilized confrontation of ideas, everyone has an open door to express themselves, as long as they do so in a respectful, coherent and argued manner. Through these pages a window is presented from which the world can be seen a little more clearly. Here we present elements for analysis and debate, we support logical reasoning and intelligent arguments, no matter if they are opposed to our own beliefs. Tolerance, respect, and the incessant search for the truth, that is our editorial line.

In this issue we welcome Dr. Ángel Rafael Tortolero Leal, who writes to us from Venezuela. For those of us who don't live in that country, it represents an opportunity to get to know another vision of the Venezuelan reality, different from the one that we probably "know" in a biased way by the mass media. His contributions will show the vision of a Venezuelan socialist on the great problems of the world, as is the case in this first contribution, where he talks about democracy.

We also have four articles by our senior analyst Guadi Calvo, in which -as always- he touches on current issues.

We then continue by detailing the capabilities of the Marine Infantry of the National Navy of Colombia, a body that is emerging as an expeditionary force to participate in multinational operations, under the UN flag, or in other types of multinational operations, cooperating with the strategic interests of the United States, the European Union or NATO, hence the importance of this information.

Thank you very much for reading us. I wish you would also write some articles on the subjects you master. Remember that TRIARIUS is maintained thanks to the voluntary contribution of articles and analyzes by members of its community. United we are stronger.

Know to win!

Douglas Hernández

Editor



This newsletter has a Spanish version.

TRIARIUS 080

Content:

Caucasus, the most announced war in the world, p.4

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)

Democracy in Emergency?, p.6

By Angel Rafael Tortolero Leal (Venezuela)

Afghanistan, the violent road to peace, p.8

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)

Amphibious Operations of the Colombian Navy. Possibilities and Limitations, p.10

By Douglas Hernandez (Colombia)

Erdogan 's private war , p.13

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)

River Operations in the Colombian Navy, p.16

By Douglas Hernandez (Colombia)

Nagorno-Karabakh, the truth is already dead, p.21

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



TRIARIUS

Although it may not be as clear to everyone, we certainly find ourselves living in the midst of another cold war between the great powers. His most recent demonstration has to do with the issue of vaccines for COVID-19. The governments of the United States, Russia and China promote their own scientific developments, reject cooperation between them, and have satellites and allies with whom they share their advances and to whom they promise results, while trying to discredit and/or hinder the achievements of your competitors. One of the sources of tension where this cold war manifests itself with intensity is the relationship between Colombia and Venezuela. Colombia, aligned with the United States, cooperates in the multidimensional aggression suffered by Venezuela, while Venezuela does not succumb to the induced crisis that affects it, thanks to the support of Russia and China. By the way, Russia has already supplied Venezuela with vaccines for the testing phase. Being the first country in Latin America to start this process.

On the cover, **Peruvian Commandos**. See more information at the end of the magazine.

TRIARIUS privileges freedom of expression, however, the responsibility for what is said in the articles is exclusive to their authors.

Very special thanks to the international analysts who have sent us their articles for this issue free of charge.

Caucasus, the most announced war in the world

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



Once again the Caucasus is the focus of world attention, once again Azerbaijan and Armenia are approaching a war, which, if it breaks out along the entire line, will be difficult to contain within its borders.

Like an oil slick, or rather oil, the news quickly traveled the world, always confused, always arbitrary and interested in who or how this new escalation began in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, which is legally considered part of Azerbaijan, but which has been controlled by the Armenians since its independence in 1991.

The information makes only one question clear: the dead are already close to a thousand. Only at the beginning of the events on Sunday 27, there had been 16 and two hundred wounded. Now it is known that after the fighting that lasted all night and has not stopped all day, the Armenian casualties would be around 550 and that of the Azerbaijanis would reach 200, which would already exceed the 300 of "the war". of the four days", as the 2016 escalation is known.

The Azeri Ministry of Defense reported that the Armenians were shelling the city of Terter. So Ilham Aliyev, the Azerbaijani president instructed his defense minister a partial military mobilization.

In addition to the exchange of shots and accusations, it is only clear that the central issue, which is periodically repeated between the two former Soviet republics, must be resolved quickly, before the escalation escalates uncontrollably. In the middle of last July (See: The Caucasus again), there was an important exchange of shots, which left about twenty dead, which had not occurred with that intensity since April 2016. Now it happens again when it was known that the current situation could get out of control at any moment and apparently, that moment is now.

Armenia, which has declared martial law and ordered the full mobilization of its military forces, accused Azerbaijan of carrying out air and artillery attacks in the Nagorno-Karabakh area, a key region due to the large number of oil and gas pipelines that since the

Caspian Sea is shipped from Azerbaijan to international markets. Baku, for its part, said it only returned fire from Armenians, after taking control of several villages in the Nagorno region, on Sunday afternoon, a claim Armenia denied.

The clashes immediately put international diplomacy on alert, which is now running with cold cloths to lower the temperature of a patient who has been asking for care since the independence of both states in 1991.

The dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh would lead them to maintain a six-year war until a ceasefire in 1994, which is why Nagorno-Karabakh has since been listed as the Republic of Artsakh, although, in fact, Armenia.

Russia, which has military bases in Armenia, which is also part of the *Collective Security Treaty Organization* (CSTO), a pro-Moscow political-military alliance, also has a good relationship with Azerbaijan, so it hastened to call for a halt to immediate fire, his foreign minister Sergei Lavrov, maintained communication with the Armenian

and Azeri leaders to pressure the stop of the escalation. Which until now would not have worked.

Turkey, for its part, wants to make its debut as the great regional power and has important cultural and economic ties. The Turkish president, Recep Erdogan, communicated via *twitter* that Armenia: "had once again shown that it is the greatest threat to peace and tranquility in the region" and that it will support Azerbaijan "with all its means, as always", which is also majority *Muslim*, while Armenia, with whom Ankara has a long and bloody conflict is majority *Christian*. Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the *United Nations* (UN), as it is formulaic, tenuous and insubstantial, expressed his concern and called for a ceasefire. In turn, Germany together with France, which has a large Armenian community, also called for a ceasefire and the installation of an immediate dialogue. Tehran, which borders both nations, offered to mediate the peace talks. While the North American president, Donald Trump said that: "The United States sought to stop the violence."

In this war of versions, the Armenian Defense Ministry declared on Sunday that its troops had destroyed three tanks, shot down two helicopters and three unmanned aerial vehicles in response to an attack on civilian

targets, including the city of Stepanakert, capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, and its Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, on Twitter posted: "We stand strong with our army to protect our homeland from the Azeri invasion."

War until when?

All wars have a more or less concrete beginning, although its end is always absolutely uncertain, in the case of this new chapter of an Armenian-Azeri war that begins at the beginning of the 20th century and has never had a clear path, interrupted for decades in the *Soviet interregnum*, which after its fall made it possible to restart even before the dissolution of the USSR in 1988, now has new ingredients.

Initially, the United States finds it a particularly comfortable war since, if it breaks out with force, it would be a conflict at the gates of none other than Iran and Russia, which for the State Department is an answered prayer, to which there is to add the Turkish presence that with Erdogan's expansionist desires and his dream of reinstalling the *Ottoman empire in some way*, it would be the first time that he could openly participate in a conflict that concerns him, without feeling like an intruder as he is in Syria and Iraq, which would also be a good excuse to iron out the rough edges that

were generated with Washington, from the attempted coup in 2016.

From Yerevan, the Armenian capital, they assure that Turkish interference is what is preventing the conflict from being brought back to the *status quo* that existed until last week in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Armenia accuses Ankara of supplying weapons, military advisers, drone pilots and aircraft to Baku. And it is feared that it will allow the arrival of thousands of mercenaries from Syria, among whom several dozen *al-Qaeda* or *Daesh* militiamen could arrive, which would put the entire region on high alert, more so due to the proximity of the fundamentalist groups operating in Chechnya and Georgia.

The president of the self-proclaimed Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, Arayik Harutyunyan, blamed Ankara for promoting the escalation and for being behind the actions of the Azerbaijani army and denounced the presence of helicopters, F-16s, troops and mercenaries from different countries.

Both countries have enacted martial law and a state of mobilization, while in the recruitment offices of the two nations there are already long lines of young people waiting their turn to enlist in the most announced war in the world.

Image Source:

<https://noticiascaracas.com/nagorno-karabaj-requests-independence-to-put-an-end-to-war/>

Guadi Calvo

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Democracy in Emergency?

By Angel Rafael Tortolero Leal (Venezuela)



In general, elections are synonymous with democracy and freedom, however, recently this precept of modernity has been called into question, since each electoral process that does NOT favor candidates who support the mandate of the US and the EU, its legitimacy is unknown, alluding to vice in the electoral system and accusing its electoral authorities of crimes that are never, or almost never, proven before any judicial instance.

Of course, the ignorance of the elections becomes a motivator of chaos with which the democratic thread is broken and de facto governments are imposed, without legitimacy of origin, or popular support.

This is the case of what happened in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, where President Evo Morales, despite having won in the first round with more than 50% of the votes counted, was overthrown

by a fascist and racist caste, which under the auspices and US support has shattered the democratic institutions built by that people.

Thus, Bolivia has gone from being an example of a growing economy and well-being for all the nations that live in it, to a devastated country without the legitimacy of its political, economic and social structures.

The same story has recently been imposed in Belarus, where President Alexander Lukashenko, reached 86% of the votes and today faces the attacks of a defeated minority determined to ignore him as the winner.

It should be noted that both in Bolivia and in Belarus the imperial strategy is the same that has been tried to apply in Venezuela, Cuba, Syria and Nicaragua.

In this sense, the empire captures, corrupts and forms stateless agents capable of ignoring their origins and subordinating

themselves to its hegemonic mandate. Regardless of their level of leadership, training or moral condition, they impose politicians without a soul or national roots, which serve them to plunder and control the resources and wealth of the nations that are victims of their attacks.

It is evident that the empire does not stitch without thread or thimble, and despite the fact that its economic, political and social model has failed completely in the face of the pandemic; not for that reason, he stops besieging any nation that contradicts him in his efforts to maintain a warlike state of tension in the world, which serves him to plunder and intervene in the towns that his geopolitical interests indicate.

In that order of ideas, although the COVID19 pandemic has brought misfortunes, deaths and despair for all peoples, regardless of the system of government or

status quo that governs each nation; paradoxically, with its infesting presence, the veil of the governmental ignominies of the old “civilized and modern” capitalism has been torn away, to say of its deceitful propaganda; and “respectful” of “democratic” institutions and “freedom”.

In that sense, what began as an “Emergency in Democracy” in the US and the EU due to the onslaught of COVID-19 on its inhabitants; resulted in a “Democracy in Emergency”; mortally wounded, but committed to the execution of a macabre plan with which to impose its colonizing hegemony.

No one is safe from COVID-19, all nations have suffered its lethality, and those who denied or wanted to ignore its tangible consequences, under the pretext that the economic losses were more serious than the human lives claimed by the virus; they have had no other way than to exhibit their inability to govern and the failure of their failed socio-economic models.

In this sense, the pandemic has brought out the best and the worst of the human condition, but beyond all the miseries of capitalism: the only one responsible for the ecological imbalances on the planet; there is the will of the

progressives; the commitment of nations in love with life and the iron will of those who, from diversity, have assumed their existence consecrated by the construction of a better world, only governed by respect for its multiethnic and multicultural conformation, in the understanding that only unity makes us free.

Fortunately, despite the excesses of the empire in this 21st century, the geopolitical lines and the world system of the United Nations, power relations have been changing and, in the face of the Western hegemony of the US and the US, geostrategic alliances emerge as a new historical bloc. who point out that interculturality allows the development of new opportunities for peace and life.

In correspondence to the previous paragraph, Iran, China, Russia, India, Vietnam, Turkey, among other nations, are developing a path of economic opportunities and growth without undermining their individual characteristics, to which is added a large part from the “non-aligned” nations to the imperial hegemon.

Hence the despair of the Empires and the denial of their own democratic system, which is only sustained as a masquerade in the

media stories that ordinarily decorate the discourse of the world right; For this reason, the pandemic has shown that the historical challenge in this 21st century is the construction of a world different from the one in which we live.

Consequently, no nation that prides itself on being “Intelligent and Civilized from its Socio-Cultural particularities”: Goes against the unity of all humanity; Nor does it risk the collective well-being; Nor does it deny the right to self-determination and the recognition that we are different, and perhaps culturally distant, but live on the same planet.

Life is divergence; hence its dialectic character; in it, self-criticism is the norm, but above any circumstance, irreverence in debate and discipline in actions must persist.

Today's world is extraordinarily smaller than the one our parents lived in, information technologies allow us to travel in seconds unimaginable distances for any human being, that is why free peoples are more every day.

Another world is possible. Multipolarity is the way. Respect for Self-determination is the norm and Solidarity Complementarity among Nations, Praxis by and for life in healthy Democracy and Freedom.

Image Source:

<https://semanaeconomica.com/legal-politica/politica-internacional/196796-la-recesion-mundial-de-la-democracia>

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Afghanistan, the violent road to peace

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



The start of peace negotiations between the *Taliban* and the Afghan government on September 12 in Doha has not affected the violent Afghan reality, since in all these days the discussions have not been able to go beyond the stage of establishing the rules for the mechanics of discussions. Without achieving so far, no match for the initial process. It is expected that everything will be harder when it comes to discussing the place of women, a truly central issue, in addition to others such as regional relations in trade and transit, infrastructures, the movement of people, in addition to the possibilities of the exploitation of the country's rich natural resources such as gas and oil. And a separate line is the fight against drugs, since Afghanistan is the world's largest producer of opium. An attack on this "industry" will affect many and varied interests, not only those of the *Taliban*, who have practically financed their war with the profits left by the fruits of the opium poppy, but thousands of peasants and its different tribes, who live off the

benefits that drug trafficking leaves them.

Both Washington and the Kabul negotiators had asked the organization commanded by the *mullah* hibatullah Akhundzada, a reduction in military actions, while the talks are taking place, an issue that the fundamentalists refused until the terms of a concrete ceasefire are reached.

Perhaps in order to put pressure on the delegation representing the government of President Ashraf Gani, while calming the somewhat turbulent spirits of the middle managers, the *Taliban* began a harsh military campaign in all the provinces of the Central Asian country.

According to official sources, at least 57 men from the Afghan security forces died and dozens were injured in the different clashes with *Taliban* fighters that took place throughout the country, on the night of last Sunday, the 20th, becoming the day bloodiest since the intra-Afghan talks began in Qatar, which, without its unresolved road map, threaten to stop the talks both, and what it meant to reach an

agreement for the release of prisoners from both sides that delayed the Doha meeting, for months.

The bloodiest clash occurred in Uruzgan province, in the center of the country, where 24 security force men were killed when *Taliban* militiamen stormed several security posts, attacks with casualties also occurred in Baghlan provinces, Takhar, Helmand, Kapisa, Balkh, Maidan Wardak and Khunduz.

Although the *Taliban* have not acknowledged their own casualties, as is their style, different government sources indicated that 54 *mujahideen* were killed in the different clashes in Khunduz, Takhar and Baghlan, while sources from the Maidan governorate Wardak reported that 26 terrorists were killed in that province.

The Afghan Interior Ministry said that in the last two weeks, different *Taliban* attacks have killed 98 civilians, while another 230 have been injured. Also on Saturday, six rockets were fired at the *Resolute* base. *NATO* support in southern Kandahar. Fact that no organization

has been awarded and of which it is not known if it caused victims.

During the night of Wednesday the 23rd, in the province of Uruzgan , around thirty local police officers were killed and dispossessed of their weapons in different events. Most were caught returning to their homes.

It was also learned that on Saturday the 19th, a series of air strikes by regular forces against a *Taliban base* in the northern province of Khunduz would have left at least 24 civilians dead, including several children, while six others were injured. from the village of Sayed Ramazan , from Khanabad district , controlled by insurgents . The Ministry of Defense from Kabul, regarding that attack, reported that thirty militiamen had died, without referring to civilian casualties, to which it added that it was investigating whether any civilians had really died in the attack.

In a similar incident in early July, during a mortar attack by *the Afghan National Army (ENA)* in southern Helmand province , 23 civilians attending a market were killed. The Ministry of Defense is still investigating the "incident".

The Taliban are not tired

Since 2004, the highest officials of the US administration, including Barack Obama, Hilary Clinton, even León Panetta , former director of the CIA, and recently Donald Trump, have repeated the chant that "the Taliban are tired" and that they are already after a war that is turning 19 years old, they want to return to their places, although reality shows the opposite. Undoubtedly, many negative things can be said about the Taliban, but there is something incontrovertible: perhaps they are

the most extraordinary warriors in history, not because of the *Taliban* , but because of the Afghans, who have managed to subdue the three great empires that dared to invade them: United Kingdom, the Soviet Union and finally the United States.

Therefore, perhaps, one should have little confidence, both in the continuity of the agreements with the United States signed last February and in the success of the negotiations that are now taking place in Doha, between the representatives of the President Gani and the *mullah* , Hibatullah .

Abdullah Abdullah , who acts as the strong man of the Afghan regime behind President Gani and chairs the *High Council for National Reconciliation of Afghanistan* that oversees the peace negotiations, denounced that some of the 5,000 *Taliban prisoners* recently released because of the agreements between fundamentalists and the United States, have taken up arms again, and that this violates what has already been signed. For his part, the chief negotiator of the United States, Zalmay Khalilzad , from Doha, warned that the withdrawal of US troops, as described in the agreement between the United States and the *Taliban* last February, could be stopped while it is evaluated whether the *Wahhabi group* was fulfilling its part of the agreement.

Another of the delicate points of the agreement is the separation of the Afghan insurgent group, with its oldest ally, none other than *al-Qaeda* , which operates under the orders of the *Taliban in the Central Asian country* .

It has always been considered a minor force in the shadow of the *Taliban* , even León Panetta said that there were no more than 100

men in that country despite the fact that the CIA knew that the group founded by Osama bin Laden operated in 62 districts. different in 19 of the 34 Afghan provinces.

In October 2015, that fantasy would fall and it would become clear that *al-Qaeda* was far more important. In a joint operation between US and Afghan forces, two *al-Qaeda training camps* were raided in Shorabak , Kandahar province, occupying almost 8,000 hectares, the largest discovered since the 2001 invasion. In that operation, *al-Qaeda* suffered the loss of 150 combatants between deaths and detainees. After the Shorabak training camp operation , the CIA changed its perception and raised the number to 300 fighters.

This attempt to underestimate the strength of *al-Qaeda* is masked by the need for the United States to justify the withdrawal. For their part, the men of *Emir Ayman al-Zawahiri* intentionally hide their presence in Afghanistan so as not to hinder the policies of the *Taliban* .

In some way, resolving the issue of *al-Qaeda* in Afghanistan means resolving a large part of the violence in Pakistan, India and also in Kashmir, since this group has been established since 2014 in the Indian subcontinent, forming and joining pre-existing groups such as : *Lashkar -e- Taiba* , *Jaish -e- Mohmmad* , *Harakat - ul - Mujahideen* and *Harakat -ul- Jihad - I- Islami* , who became great animators of regional violence, without obviously forgetting the presence of the *Daesh* , which runs on a different rope but which, without a doubt, like the *Taliban* and *al-Qaeda* , make up sections of the violence that has prevailed in that region for more than forty years.

Image Source:

<https://edition.cnn.com/2016/02/25/asia/afghanistan-war-analysis/index.html>

Operations of the Colombian Navy. Possibilities and Limitations

By Douglas Hernandez (Colombia)



For decades, the Colombian National Navy has had U.S. model LCU-1466 landing craft, which can accommodate 400 infantrymen on the deck -without any protection or facilities-, for short journeys, sailing at 8 knots with calm sea. Under these conditions, the troops are in a situation of extreme vulnerability, they are exposed to the elements and to potential enemy air or naval attacks, with devastating results, since the defensive capabilities of the units that would serve as escorts are not the best.

The LCU-1466 are in the process of being retired, and in their place much more modern ships of national design and manufacture are entering service, which have much superior characteristics, but which, being of similar dimensions, do not increase transport capacity too much.

These are ships designed and manufactured by the Science and Technology Corporation for the Development of the Maritime and River Naval Industry, COTECMAR. Initially they were called BDA for Amphibious Landing Ship, but since this limited them to the military field, it was decided to also present them as BAL-C for Logistics and Coastal Support Ship, in order to strengthen the marketing effort, highlighting that it is a dual-use technology, which can be used for military operations, but also to support humanitarian operations in coastal, island, and river regions. The ship's design allows optimal navigation, both at sea and in the shallow waters of rivers.

The Colombian National Navy has already received five Cotecmar BDA units, with which the same number of LCU-1466s have been replaced. The Colombian shipyard managed to sell one to the Honduran Navy, which that country has baptized "Thanks to God". The BAL project is so important that at the time the President of Honduras came to Colombia to verify progress in the construction of the ship, and was accompanied by the President of Colombia, on an official visit by the two Heads of State to the COTECMAR shipyards in the city of Cartagena, on the Caribbean coast.

Comparative Table	LCU-1466	Cotecmar BDA/BAL
Displacement	360 tons full load	6,257.5 tons at full load
Dimensions	119' x 34' x 5'	45.8m x 11m x 1.5m
Loading capacity	150 tons or 400 troops	120 tons / 10 containers of 20 feet, or 14,300 gallons of liquid cargo, or 250 men on deck + 72 below deck It has an 8 ton hydraulic crane .
fuel capacity	3,000 gallons	75.8 m3
fresh water capacity	3,564 gallons	55 m3
Crew	14 men	3-12-36
Motor	3 Diesel Gray Marine 675bph	2 Caterpillar c18 412kw
Propellers	3	2 SPJ 82RD Schottel
Speed Maximum	10 knots (*)	8.5 knots
Armament	2 cannons of 20 mm.	Optional
Scope	700 nautical miles at 7 knots	1,500 nautical miles at 8.5 knots 2,500 nautical miles at 6 knots
Autonomy		20 days for 51 people. 40 days for 15 people.

COTECMAR

The Science and Technology Corporation for the Development of the Maritime and River Naval Industry is a company of the Colombian State, attached to the Vice-Ministry of Defense for the Social and Business Group of Defense - GSED. Specifically, COTECMAR is a non-profit science and technology corporation, with the legal nature of an indirect decentralized entity, linked to the Ministry of National Defence, with a legal regime of private law and its own budget. In recent years, very good management and the political will of the National Government have come together, and this has allowed the company to excel in the manufacture of excellent products, such as Logistics Support Vessels (BAL), Offshore Patrol Vessels (Damen OPV-80), the Coastal Patrol Vessels (Damen CPV-46), the River Patrol Boats (LPR-40 Mk III), and the Heavy and Light River Support Patrol Boats (PAF-P and PAF-L), in addition to other models oriented to the civil sector. COTECMAR also performs high quality naval maintenance.

AN AMPHIBIOUS OPERATION TODAY

If today it were necessary to carry out an amphibious operation, Colombia could mobilize a maximum of 4 LCU-1466, 5 BDA/BAL, and some complementary (non-specialized) vessels. The transport capacity of this fleet would be as follows:

4 LCU-1466 x 400 riflemen each = 1,600 men.
5 BDA x 322 Riflemen Each = 1,610 men.

For a total of 3,210 riflemen. Logistical support ships of the Lüneburg type have already been decommissioned, each of which could carry 1,000 riflemen.

Transporting vehicles on board would imply -for reasons of available space- reducing the number of riflemen, in such a way that it would be necessary to balance very well what is going to be transported, choosing precise amounts of riflemen, vehicles and supplies.

The LCU-1466 and BDA would take the troops to the beach, disembarking them through their forward porthole, while other types of ships ready for landing and located at a prudent distance from the coast, would do it by means of boats, or helicopter. In this way, the first 9 ships would carry waves of assault, while the other ships would be carrying complement troops or replacements, in varying amounts, depending on the availability of ships and their capabilities.

This force would be preceded by naval commandos that would arrive at the beach in underwater launches or inflatable boats, and, where possible, in the 8 light hovercraft that the Colombian National Navy possesses.

The landing force would be composed mostly of riflemen, some tactical vehicles, a battery of 120mm mortars, and an anti-aircraft defense battery with Mistral missiles. The National Navy does not currently have any tanks or amphibious armor with which to support landing operations. Under these conditions, the Colombian Amphibious Task Force (FTAC), once landed, would find it difficult to combat better equipped enemy units with superior firepower, and would even be vulnerable to air attacks, considering how unrobust it is. the mistral system.

All the difficulties mentioned above would be solved if, for example, the FTAC acted as a complementary maneuver force to a USMC Marine Expeditionary Force, providing fire support and air defense.

Image Source:

<https://www.cotecmar.com/products/bda>

Douglas Hernandez

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Erdogan 's private war

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



Recep Tayyip Erdoğan dressed as a soldier, at a military ceremony in Turkey. Illustrative image.

The war continues with high peaks of virulence, while both sides claim to have caused significant damage and continue to reject calls for a truce, particularly from Russia and France.

If the reports emanating from the Azerbaijani Ministry of Defense are true, the war could be resolved quickly, although it could be extremely bloody.

Last Wednesday, September 30, just four days after the start of the conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave, it was reported from Baku that its forces had killed or injured 2,300 Armenian troops. In addition to having destroyed more than 130 tanks and armored vehicles; some 200 artillery and missile systems, 25 air defense systems, six command and observation zones, half a dozen arsenals, 50 anti-tank guns and 55 vehicles, between September 27 and 30, as part of the counterattacks launched to liberate

the “occupied territories”. According to the same source, the command of the Armenian forces in that region was completely destroyed, generating a large number of deaths and injuries among military personnel, for which the command of the regiment had to request help to evacuate the wounded.

The Azeri command, which had acknowledged that on Wednesday morning, Armenian forces had attacked some points in the Terter city with artillery fire, although there were no injuries, reported that a battalion of the 1st Armenian Army Command, deployed in the Tonashen village, in the vicinity of that city, abandoned its position, while Azerbaijani forces attacked another Armenian battalion in the Agdere region. Azerbaijan also claims that Armenian planes crashed into mountains

Armenia, for its part, denounced that last Tuesday a Turkish *F-16 fighter shot down an Armenian*

Sukhoi Su-25 fighter, which was denied by Baku, which also accused Yerevan of not providing accurate information to its citizens and to the world.

As if lying weren't as common an act of war as bombing civilian populations. What Azerbaijan cannot deny is the conformation that had begun to run as soon as the conflict began and was foreseeable long before this new escalation began: Turkey will be a fundamental player in the new chapter of this tragedy.

who work for Turkish security companies, financed by Ankara, was known in the early hours of Thursday. This undoubtedly makes the conflict even more dangerous since, if it is absolutely confirmed, the presence of Syrian and Libyan mercenaries promoted by the government of Recep Tayyip Erdogan puts even more tension, since Russia has important interests in the region, particularly in

Armenia, although up to now it has also had very good relations with Azerbaijan, to whom it has sold significant quantities of weapons over the years.

Even pro-Westerns like the London-based *Syrian Observatory for Human Rights* have served as a political cover for many operations against the government of President Bashar al-Assad, confirmed that a group of 300 Syrian mercenaries from the Afrin district city in The northwest of that country, recruited by Ankara, had left days before this new escalation broke out, towards Azerbaijan through Turkish territory, which was not recognized by Azerbaijan or by Turkey. According to the *Observatory* (SOHR), each man earns between 1,500 and 2,000 dollars, the same amount that the Syrian militiamen receive for traveling to Libya, also recruited by Ankara.

If true, Turkish interference in this conflict would further deepen the differences between Moscow and Ankara, whose participation in the conflicts in Libya and Syria also has them on opposing sides. On Wednesday, Moscow referred to the possible presence of mercenaries, pointing out that, if true, this fact will cause the destabilization of the region for a long time. On the other hand, there are suspicions that Kurdish militia groups and also Syrian veterans of Armenian origin are fighting alongside the Armenian troops.

At the time these lines are being written, it was learned that Armenia has just broken off relations with the *Zionist regime* as it continues to supply Azerbaijan with weapons.

Erdoğan , Commander-in-Chief

Last Sunday the 29th, at the moment the war began, a video was released, recorded between September 22 and 24, in which a

convoy of trucks transporting about a thousand Syrian combatants could be seen arriving in Azerbaijan, according to reports. believed, recruited, paid and chartered by the Turkish secret services, who did not think that the circumstantial witnesses could film the arrival of the combatants with their cell phones , who without any discretion shouted in Arabic: “ *Allahu ! Akbar!* (Allah is great) and *Our teacher, is Muhammad* (by the prophet)”!

Other sources mention that some 500 fighters from the *Hamza Brigade* belonging to the self-styled *Syrian National Army* (SNA) and whose leader Sayf Balud , a Syrian Turkmen from the city of Biza'a , in the north of the city of Aleppo, has been a commander of *Daesh* , which he had joined in 2013, in that same year he could be seen in a film together with twenty other *pehmerga* , Kurdish militiamen from the *Kurdish People's Protection Units* (YPG) who had been taken prisoner and coerced into repenting in front of cameras for having fought against them.

The brigades from Syria were transferred on Tuesday the 22nd from southern Turkey to the Azeri air base in Sumqayit , about thirty kilometers north of Baku. While on Thursday, another 500 fighters, in this case from the *Sultan Murad brigades* , originally from the Syrian city of Aleppo, arrived in Azerbaijan, as reported by the SOHR.

Fahim Aissa , leader of the *Sultan Murad brigades* , also in Syrian Turkmen, like most of the men sent by Ankara, since Erdogan , has never trusted the Syrian Arabs too much and prefers the Turkmen ethnic group because of the common origin, so both Syrian factions have had a close relationship with Erdogan , the opposition's last major supporter in the war against President al-Assad.

In recent years, Turkey has established itself as a great arbiter in different regional conflicts and has not missed an opportunity to use its force whenever it has had the opportunity, both to attack the Kurds in northern Syria and in Iraqi Kurdistan, as well as to participate, now without geostrategic excuses, Libya is doing it, supporting a very weak Fayeze Sarraj in charge of the *Government of National Union* (GNA) that thanks to Erdogan has managed to control Tripoli, the last great bastion that General Khalifa Hafther lacked together with the *Libyan National Army* (LNA), to take total control of that country.

To this must be added a timid presence in Somalia, where Ankara has established a school for Somali police officers, a country that can undoubtedly represent an important factor given its geographical position at the gates of the Red Sea and a gateway to Africa.

Lately Turkey has also had severe friction with Athens and Paris as it has come out to try to control sectors of the Mediterranean attracted by the rich gas reservoirs that have been found within the maritime borders of Greece.

Although today he is betting heavily on Azerbaijan, beyond the religious question and considering them ethnically very close, he does not stop understanding that country of the Caucasus, as a great supplier of oil and gas, which would allow him to escape dependence in that area of Russia, which provides it with 40 percent of its energy needs , which forces Ankara to maintain a relationship, not always very friendly, with Russia.

To this end, Turkey has established very close military ties with Baku, since the end of the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan in 1994. In 2005 , Ankara began launching economic programs for oil and gas development, including a pipeline that exports more than

1.2 million barrels of Azeri oil a day to the *European Union* (EU), which leaves Turkey more than 200 million dollars a year in transit. In 2006, the South Caucasus gas pipeline was launched, which exports 8.8 billion cubic meters a year to the Turkish market, which in turn markets in other countries as its own.

In 2011, Turkey's undertaking of a major natural gas production network, known as the *Trans Anatolian Pipeline*, will enable Ankara to export 31 billion cubic meters of Azerbaijani gas to the EU by 2026, as investors Turks control 30 percent of the project.

This venture, also known as the "Southern Gas Corridor", which

connects various gas pipelines in Azerbaijan, has also been encouraged by the EU, since it also depends on Russian gas.

Which explains the interest not only of Turkey, but of most Western powers and the regimes that follow them, such as the Gulf monarchies and Israel, to applaud the war that Erdogan made his own.

Image Source:

<https://medium.com/@i.nalbant90/how-erdogan-came-to-wear-the-military-uniform-8e15b5a3ea82>



fuerzasmilitares.org
el portal militar colombiano

River Operations in the Colombian Navy

By Douglas Hernandez (Colombia)



Heavy River Support Patrol, PAF-P, of the Colombian National Navy.

Due to its particular geography, Colombia is a country crossed by numerous rivers. In jungle areas, these rivers were for decades the most efficient way to travel from one place to another, connecting the few populated centers of inhospitable regions. Precisely, in those regions some guerrillas became strong, but in particular it was the scenario chosen by drug traffickers for their illicit crops and to establish laboratories for the processing of illegal drugs.

The National Government understood that it was necessary to control these regions in some way, and that the way to do it was by controlling the rivers. For this, the Marine Infantry was entrusted with patrolling them and also establishing bases in strategic places.

After years of using some aluminum boats and other light vessels, in 1984 a modernization process began with the acquisition of the first 22-foot "Piranha" boats, armed with machine guns (1 M2HB .50 in the bow and 2 M60 on the band), as well as grenade launchers and rocket launchers. Increasing not only the power and speed of the platform, but also its volume and firepower. These are fast, heavily armed, open-hull, fiberglass boats powered by outboard motors. They are manufactured in the United States by the Boston Whaler company .

These artillery boats are the fundamental tool of the Marine Infantry Battalions for river safety and to deal forceful blows to drug traffickers, guerrillas and smugglers who use the rivers to move.

The River Combat Element

The artillery boats are used in groups called *Fluvial Combat Element (ECF)* , with 4 boats, including 1 Command and Control 26' (7.92 m.) and 3 22' (6.71 m.) Tactical Boats.). In this way, the Tactical Boats are the combat vessels, while the Command and Control Boat is the command unit.

In addition to the crew of the artillery boats, in charge of navigation, maintenance and the operation of the machine guns, the River Combat Element transports a *River Assault Group (GAF)* , which while on board the boats provides firepower to manoeuvre, but which is designed to project fluvial power towards the land, landing to carry out search and control operations on the banks of the rivers.

By 2012, the Marine Corps already had 72 River Combat Elements, including 60 heavy and 12 light -the classification depends on the type of boat-. It is worth noting that by this time, not only were the Boston Whaler boats operated, but boats with similar characteristics had also been acquired from the national private company, which were called Anguilla and Caribe.

If each ECF has 4 boats, having 72 ECF implies that by 2012 there were 288 artillery boats patrolling the rivers of Colombia. The fleet has not stopped growing. In February 2017, the United States Government donated 14 Guardian 8-meter boats, produced by the Boston Whaler , to Colombia , valued at 4 million dollars.

According to the manuals corresponding to the specialty, the crews of the Fluvial Combat Element are organized as follows:

	River Combat Element (ECF)			River Assault Group (GAF)		
	officers	non-commissioned officers	soldiers	officers	non-commissioned officers	soldiers
Command Boat x 1	1/1	2/2	4/4	-	-	-
Tactical Boat x 3	-	1/3	5/15	one	1/3	6/18
	one	5	19	one	3	18

In this way we verified that the 4 boats would embark a total of 47 people, including 2 officers, 8 non-commissioned officers and 37 soldiers. The River Combat Element would be organized on 1-5-19, while the River Assault Group, destined to land, would be organized on 1-3-18. In the following table we can see the armament of an ECF.

	Armament of a River Combat Element (ECF)		
	command boat	tactical boat	Total Weapons
12.7mm machine guns. (.fifty)	1/1	1/3	4
7.62mm machine guns.	2/2	4/12	14
40mm grenade launcher .	1/1	1/3	4
60mm mortars .	1/1	-	one
rifles			47

In the tactical guidelines for the operations of the River Assault Group, it is established that its radius of action must be limited to the maximum range of the 60 mm mortar. that carries the Command and Control Boat, in order to guarantee that, in case of contact with the enemy, they will be able to receive indirect fire support.

An entire doctrine has been developing around the River Combat Elements, and important elements have been manufactured nationally to increase their effectiveness. For example, the Heavy River Support Patrollers (PAF-P), and the Light River Support Patrollers (PAF-L), armored ships equipped with Pump Jet type propulsion, capable of operating in shallow waters and maneuvering efficiently, providing fire support and logistical support to the River Combat Elements.

Additionally, the private company has manufactured floating metal hangars for the National Navy, equipped with armor, and with the capacity to house not only the boats in a safe environment, but also the crews. These hangars are towed behind other ships, and are anchored in some strategic sector of the river, providing a safe and instant logistics base to the River Combat Elements. These floating and armored hangars are called Mobile River Support Stations (EMAF).

Experience has shown that artillery boats such as the Guardian, Piraña, Anguila and Caribe, because they have an open hull, do not provide sufficient protection for the crews, which is why COTECMAR has undertaken the manufacture of a new type of boat, completely closed, strongly armed and armored. These are the LPR-40 River Patrol Boats, which are accompanying the River Combat Elements, complementing them. Additionally, there has been an increase in capabilities, with the acquisition of Hovercraft -type units .

The Hovercraft Griffon 2000TD

The Colombian National Navy acquired eight Griffon 2000TD model hovercraft from the English company Griffon Hoverwork, the first three were received in September 2013, immediately increasing the capabilities that were already possessed.

In Colombia, the Griffon 2000TDs were assigned to the Marine Corps, which at that time already had an important river fleet made up of hundreds of conventional artillery boats, and armored River Support Patrol Boats (PAF), which are possibly the most advanced river vessels in the world today. However, all that combat potential is limited to the navigable sections of the country's different rivers.

According to the statistical yearbook of the fluvial mode, published by the Ministry of Transport in 1998, Colombia has four hydrographic basins, distributed as follows: the Magdalena basin, which has a total length of 4,258 kilometers, of which 2,770 kilometers are navigable, but as only 1,188 kilometers are permanent for major navigation. The Atrato basin has 4,435 kilometers, of which 3,077 are navigable, but only 1,175 are permanently navigable for major navigation. The Orinoco basin has 8,897 kilometers of rivers, of which 6,736 are navigable, but only 1,955 are permanently navigable for major navigation. Finally, we have the Amazon basin, which has 7,135 kilometers of rivers, of which 5,636 are navigable, but only 2,245 are permanently navigable for major navigation. The four basins add up to 24,725 kilometers of rivers, of which 18,225 are navigable, but only 7,063 are permanently navigable for major navigation.

These variations in seaworthiness are due to fluctuations in draft that occur between winter and summer. Although the Artillery Boats and the River Support Patrolers that make up the River Combat Elements (ECF) have a shallow draft and even - as already mentioned - a " Pump Jet" type propulsion system that facilitates navigation in shallow waters, there are definitely places that current river material cannot reach. Hence the importance of owning hovercraft or hovercraft type units.

A hovercraft, also designated by the English term hovercraft, is a vehicle that glides by launching a jet of air against a surface below it; this generates a cushion of air or air cushion, which basically allows it to move on any sufficiently regular horizontal surface such as water, snow, sand, ice, or on relatively flat ground, without actually being in contact with the surface.

The Hovercraft Griffon 2000TD can develop a maximum speed at full load of 34 knots, carrying 18 armed and equipped Marines on board, in addition to some support weapons, the Griffon itself is armed, carrying a GAU machine gun on the bridge, and several machine guns on the bands. Considering that the Hovercraft can get out of the river (on a friendly shore) and sprint towards an inland target, leaving the Marines right in front, then possessing this equipment necessarily forced a revision of the doctrine of warfare. river where these new capacities were taken into account.

It is worth noting that Peru had previously acquired some units of this same model, for use by the troops that operate in the region called VRAE, by the Valley of the Apurimac and Ene Rivers, where there has been a resurgence of the narco-terrorist group "Shining Path". Due to this, the Government of Peru has sent its best troops to the area and they have been provided with the best material available, and there have even been many purchases of new weapons to be specifically assigned to the VRAE, among the latter count the Griffon 2000TD. Within the framework of the cooperation agreements signed between the two countries, Colombia sent a delegation from the Marine Corps to Peru to learn about the material, as well as the Peruvian experience in the operation and maintenance of hovercraft in a humid jungle environment and against an enemy that uses guerrilla tactics, similar to what happens in Colombia. The experience was satisfactory and this led to the Colombian Navy also acquiring several units of the Griffon model.

A new type of River Combat Element

The acquisition of 8 units of Griffon 2000TD hovercraft implied the creation of two River Combat Elements of 4 units each. That is the organizational scheme used with the gunned river boats. The River Combat Element of the Colombian Marine Corps consists of a command boat and three tactical boats. The first of these carries a mortar and/or a 40 mm Mk19 grenade launcher, as well as light machine guns on the wings, while the tactical boats carry a 12.7 mm (.50) machine gun on the bow and four light machine guns. in the bands. Additionally, the command boat carries better electronics, such as a navigation radar, GPS and more powerful communications. The tactical employment scheme of the hovercraft is different from that of the boats, taking into account its superior capabilities, such as its greater mobility in water and on land, its armored cabin, its greater capacity to carry troops, and it is even planned that carry a FLIR type device.

These devices operate in critical river areas with disturbed public order, and where the variability in the draft of the river also prevents or hinders the continuous operation of conventional boats throughout the year. At this point it should be mentioned that, due to its weight, size, and the possibility of making it narrower by removing some side pieces, it is possible to transport these hovercraft in the FAC's Hercules, in such a way that the Colombian Navy can airlift the Griffon 2000TD. to different scenarios as the public order situation evolves, as well as being able to use them in special operations against high-value targets anywhere in the national geography.

Among the characteristics of these new equipment, we have: length 12.7 meters; beam 6.1 meters; openwork (not applicable); passengers between 8 and 15; minimum crew 1; maximum payload 2.2 tons; autonomy 10 hours; full load speed 34 knots; hull material marine grade aluminum; uses a diesel engine turbocharged Deutz; variable pitch propeller; The cockpit layout is fully configurable, so the ship can fulfill a variety of missions, including amphibious assault, fast attack, coast guard duty, medical evacuation, supply transport, and more.

At this moment the Griffon 2000TD is used in the world by the following military institutions: British Royal Navy, Swedish Coast Guard, Finnish Border Guard, Belgian Army, Estonian Border Guard, Lithuanian Border Police, and the Peruvian Navy.

The Colombian National Navy has been working on the national development of a hovercraft, and there is even a small prototype that has been exhibited at various events. Presumably, the experience acquired with the Griffon 2000TD, as well as the transfer of knowledge that the manufacturer will make in the field of maintenance, will strengthen the national hovercraft project. Let us hope that this is the case, and that what has been achieved so far is not lost in favor of imports.

SPECIAL FORCES

The Special Forces of the Colombian Marine Corps have undergone a significant evolution, which has allowed them to carry out complex missions against high-value targets of subversion and drug trafficking, as well as prepare to carry out strategic operations against enemy military forces in the event materialization of the hypotheses of conflict.

The men of the Special Forces of the Marine Corps are highly trained to reach their targets by air, land or water, neutralize them, and stealthily leave the place once the mission is accomplished. They are experts in military parachuting, free jumping, aerial assault (with ropes), swimming, diving, weaponry and shooting, patrolling, day and night navigation, first aid, aerial and artillery fire direction, and among them there are also expert snipers.

As for their equipment, they have the best supply of weapons, equipment and quartermaster, available in the Marine Corps.

The strategic attack with amphibious commandos

Colombia acquired its first submarines in 1973, these were "midgets" of the type Cosmos SX-506, adapted to transport submarine commandos and receive CE2F/X60 submarine boats (manned torpedoes) called "Chariots" (carriages in Spanish) on the sides. English). This gave the Colombian Navy the ability to carry out amphibious reconnaissance, underwater demolitions and strategic attacks on high-value targets in enemy territory. These submarines were deactivated in November 2013 along with the Chariots.

In order to slightly recover the submarine infiltration capacity to the level it had before, the Colombian Navy acquired in 2016 for its amphibious commandos, Diver Propulsion Device (DPD and Dual Thruster DPD-XT) equipment from Stidd Systems Inc., devices incorporating the Navsea-9310 system and an RNAV navigation and reconnaissance system.

RIVER COMBAT COURSE

The Marine Infantry River Combat School, based in Puerto Leguizamo (Putumayo), Colombia, offers the Armed Forces of friendly countries a very high-level river combat course, taking into account the experience acquired by Colombia throughout decades of real operations against bloodthirsty enemies, operating in the most diverse weather and terrain conditions.

Purpose: To provide military personnel with the necessary training as commander of the River Combat Element, Boat Commander and Boat crew member, so that the student performs efficiently in the planning and execution of River Operations, acquiring the specific competencies of the river doctrine and riverside, framed within the international laws of Human Rights and the International Law of armed conflicts in the development of military operations.

Rank/grade requirements: The Course is aimed at Professional Officers, NCOs and Marines who have been in each Force for a minimum of 3 years and a maximum of 10 years of service.

School Expenses:

1. The school fees for the River Combat Course are \$850 USD.
2. The transportation costs of the Student to the Training Unit will be assumed by each country.
3. Foreign personnel must present upon arrival a medical insurance policy for the time they remain in Colombia.

Qualification:

The Marine Infantry River Combat School certifies the training as:
RIVER FIGHTER

Image Source:

<https://www.cotecmar.com/productos/paf-p>

Nagorno-Karabakh, the truth is already dead

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



One week into the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan, neither side seems to be willing to accept a ceasefire requested by the international community, in the event that such an illusion exists.

Russia, the United States and France, which co-chair a mediation group, have not achieved a political resolution to the conflict. The two parties have serious claims not to give up their positions, although Yerevan, who would have started this new military escalation, said it was prepared to commit to the mediators, so it would be Azerbaijan, which is leading the field of battle, has the most intransigent positions since it wants to recover the disputed area, which after the war (1988-1994) that left 30 thousand dead, fell under the control of the Armenian separatists, for which it now demands that the nation Christian leave the region completely before denying a ceasefire.

While the confrontations intensified throughout the week with the consequent claims of victories and the ever-present device of denouncing the "great losses" produced to the enemy. Once again, Aeschylus was right: "Truth is the first casualty of war."

Both sides have denounced each other alleging that civilian areas of their territories are

receiving artillery attacks, while the exchange of rockets extends to different areas of the border.

In Nagorno-Karabakh, as reported by Erivan, since Friday the city of Stepanakert, the capital of the separatist region and the second largest city in Azerbaijan, with about 60,000 inhabitants, as well as the village of Aghdara, with 4,600 residents are under fire from the Azeri artillery, an issue that has been repeated in the early hours of this Sunday the fourth. Some sources from Stepanakert confirm that there are regular explosions, while clouds of black smoke rise from different parts of the city, where residents were taking refuge in basements. Armenian versions insist that civilian populations are being attacked with aircraft and drones.

For its part, the Azerbaijan Ministry of Defense reported that Ganja, a city of more than 330,000 inhabitants in western Azerbaijan, was also being subjected to intense artillery barrages, as were the towns of Terter and Goradiz, against which the separatists are using heavy artillery and rockets. The pro-Armenian forces of Nagorno-Karabakh, in turn, say they have destroyed an Azeri air base near the city of Ganja, which Baku has denied, although it insists that those who are being attacked

are civilian enclaves, which it also assured Turkey. Country, which has guaranteed all its support to Azerbaijan, with the concept: "one nation, two states".

For his part, the president of the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh), which is not recognized by any country, including Armenia, Arayik Harutyunyan, who on Saturday declared that he would not negotiate anything before having international recognition as "the only path to peace and security in the region." In addition to announcing that he would personally lead his men to the front, warning that "all large Azeri cities will be considered legitimate military targets", for which he asked civilians to leave them. In this regard, Azerbaijani officials affirmed this Sunday that Harutyunyan had been seriously injured in a bunker when he was hit by a bombardment. What was obviously denied from their offices.

Last Saturday the third, the Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, in a televised message to all, said that the country was experiencing a "decisive moment", and called for the unity of the entire nation.

Armenia recognized the death of 51 separatist combatants, raising the number to almost 250, including 30 civilians, when just four days into

the conflict there was already talk of more than 2,300 combatants between dead and wounded on the Armenian side alone (See: Nagorno-Karabakh Erdoğan's private war).

While Azerbaijan denounced that on Sunday two civilians had died in the city of Beylagan, in the south of the country, while journalistic reports from that city speak of the residents looking for survivors among the houses destroyed by the enemy.

The London-based *Syrian Observatory for Human Rights* (SOHR), which had denounced that Turkish secret services were transferring Libyan and Syrian mercenaries from northern Syria to Azerbaijan, reported that more than 70 of those fighters had already been killed in different combats in the Nagorno-Karabakh area.

Last Friday the second, French President Emmanuel Macron, already under strong dispute with Ankara over other regional conflicts, denounced Recep Erdoğan, the Turkish president, for allowing more than 300 fighters linked to Syrian fundamentalist groups to cross through his territory on their way to Azerbaijan, demanding an explanation from him, since he has crossed a very dangerous line.

The cold silence of Washington

The government of Donald Trump, involved in the monumental crisis that the pandemic has produced, which has already caused nearly 210,000 deaths, which have shaken the possibility of his re-election, which will be contested on November 3, while at

the same time Hours, he himself is admitted to *the Walter Reed Military Medical Center* in Maryland, affected by the virus that he despised so much, he keeps a thunderous silence in the face of the crisis in the South Caucasus. Putting in charge of the discussions a second-order official such as former diplomat Carey Cavanaugh, a specialist in conflict resolution and arms control, who lacks the political stature to share with the presidents of Russia and France, who are personally leading the discussions to reach a ceasefire.

Cavanaugh only limited himself to "commenting" on the situation, clarifying the obvious: "The United States was not in that discussion." For what it would be believed that Washington is allowing to do, when beyond the disorder with which the Trump administration has carried out US foreign policy, it is understood that allowing a great escalation of that war, which is being waged at the gates of its two great enemies Russia and Iran, in addition to once again putting the supply of gas and oil to Europe in crisis, is still very beneficial.

Thomas de Waal, a Brussels-based *senior fellow* at *Carnegie Europe for International Peace* on the Caucasus, said: "The Americans have withdrawn from this issue" and added even more emphatically: "If Trump has heard of Azerbaijan, it's because it's a place I wanted to build a Trump tower."

For his part, Mike Pompeo, Secretary of State, downplayed its importance, disbelieving in the possibility of the internationalization of the conflict. Making some tenuous claims that knowing who

they come from are outright lies: "We think outsiders should stay out" and "We urge a ceasefire, we want both to back off. We have spoken with the leaders of each of the two countries and have asked them to do just that."

If these statements are projected on the world conflict map, by direct action or proxy, such as Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Yemen, Afghanistan, Libya, Somalia and the Sahel, one would have to be prepared for a long war in the South Caucasus.

In 2017, when the United States appointed Andrew Schofer as its new representative in the *Minsk Group* (OSCE), made up of a dozen countries including Russia, the United States, France and the United Kingdom, for the solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh, Washington did not even give its representative the rank of ambassador, leaving him below the rest.

In April 2016, during the administration of Barak Obama, after the last great outbreak in the Caucasus, which became known as "the four-day war", the then Secretary of State John Kerry, rushed to intervene in the conflict, communicating immediately with the two heads of state, to then personally participate with their peers from Russia and France in the first summit of the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia. being able to reach some measures to pacify the situation and avoid further escalations. What evidently Donald Trump has not been interested in maintaining

Image Source:

<https://www.fuhem.es/2015/06/08/seleccion-de-recursos-desinformacion-pseudoinformacion-y-perversion-del-lenguaje/>

Fuerzas Antiterroristas del Mundo

Audentes Fortuna Iuvat



Peru First Special Forces Brigade



The mythical 1st Special Forces Brigade, better known as the "Heart of the Army", finds its origins back in 1955 when it was founded as a Special Forces Detachment.

It is in 1970 when it is renamed as the 1st Airborne Division, the emblematic DAT, occupying that same year the facilities of the "Alfonso Ugarte" barracks in Las Palmas. It is in this organization that the Army Parachute Battalions are formed, who made history and would give it prestige with their acts. There, many promotions of parachutists would be trained and served and they would set a precedent in the official status of being a parachutist, so much so that the basic Parachutist course began when he was a cadet at the Chorrillos Military School.

In 2003 the name was changed to 1st Special Forces Brigade, the name it holds to date.

Over the years, the Parachute Battalions have been born and positioned first, Commando Battalions later, and finally, the Special Forces Battalions.

Commando Battalion, the most emblematic of all, was born as the 19th Infantry Regiment and covered itself with glory in the 1941 Campaign, later becoming a Parachute Infantry Battalion and finally the glorious Commando Battalion No. 19.

This special unit served during the Cenepa Conflict, participating in the restitution of the border line, obtaining the final victory after Black Wednesday on February 22, 1995.

Another emblematic unit of the Special Forces Brigade is the Command Battalion "Crl Juan Valer" No. 39. Although this special unit is stationed in Lima, its personnel have been stationed in the VRAEM for several years.

The Special Forces Brigade also has the Commando Battalion No. 61. "Narciso de la Colina". This unit has made up the "Bravo" Patrol that operates under orders from the Joint Command of the Armed Forces. Also, there is the Special Forces Battalion "Guardia Chalaca" No. 40 and also the Special Counter-Terrorist Company - CECOT, specialist in hostage rescue.



Since the events that occurred in Mesa Pelada - La Convencion, where the MIR guerrillas with characters such as De la Puente Uceda, Heraud and others took up arms, the Special Forces Brigade, then a Detachment, was assigned to neutralize that uprising. There were places like Púcuta , Satipo and Vilcabamba where clashes took place, after this faction killed a Civil Guard contingent under the command of Maj. GC Horacio Patiño, in Púcuta ; then in August 1965, near Kubantia in Satipo, a platoon of guards under the command of Ensign GC Guillermo Alcántara was annihilated by members of the MIR. Given this overflow, the Government ordered the intervention of the Army, assigning the task to the Special Forces Detachment, finally defeating the subversives in Mesa Pelada between 1965 and 1966.

In those years, after several combats, the "Manco Capac " guerrilla was captured in Huancabamba, the "Túpac Amaru" guerrilla in the central jungle, and the "Pachacútec" guerrilla in La Convencion.

In 1966, the Detachment was located in the "Los Cabitos" barracks, where the School of Communications operates today. After the transfer to Las Palmas with a new name, it would be in 1970 in the "Help" operation, that the Airborne Division supports the population in the Callejón de Huaylas after the terrible earthquake that devastated the Yungay and Ranrahirca area , in an operation without precedents in the airborne modality, the DAT Battalions implemented an airlift with the devastated area, bringing food, tents, shelter and engineering personnel for the reconstruction and restoration of roads.

In 1974 he made a massive jump in the Andes mountain range, Pampa Region "el Capazo", over 4000 meters above sea level. A world feat.

In 1977, the Division entered Junín, since the political situation and internal order had been subverted in the region. Already in 1988 it extended its zone of intervention to the departments of Huancavelica, Cerro de Pasco

and Ayacucho against Sendero Luminoso. In 1989, the " Pachacutec " Command Unit of the Special Forces Brigade completely dismantled and neutralized the MRTA in the Junín region, in Los Molinos (Jauja).



Participating in the international competition "Command Forces".

In 1993 he ventured into Cabalococha in the department of Loreto, today a region. In January 1995, the Brigade was not only facing an external enemy in the Cenepa Conflict, it also continued to carry out internal operations, this time in the Bijao area of the Huallaga.

As a Special Forces Brigade, its actions are strategic and it acts throughout the Republic both on the internal and external fronts, both in the False Paquisha conflict in 1981, and in the Alto

Cenepa, both against Ecuador, the BRIGFFEE has participated actively, being in Cenepa through the patrols that intervened in Cueva de los Tayos, Base Sur, Cota 1060, Montañita and Tiwinza where it is full of glory in combat.

The support it provides during the days of civic actions, multisectoral actions and humanitarian aid, as well as the support to the population in first response during natural disasters, earned it the recognition of society.

In terms of international participation, since 1973 through the creation of the "Peru" Battalion, the BRIGFFEE became the UN Northern Brigade during the Sinai War, with the mission of maintaining the decreed ceasefire.

In 2001, he participated in the combined exercise "Cabañas" in the Argentine Republic. It is from this Brigade that many officers leave to participate in the "Chavín de Huántar" operation on April 22, 1997. Both General Jaime, who was the General Commander, General Williams who was the JEMA, as well as General Reyes – JEMO, likewise, the members of the general staff, unit chiefs and personnel of the Commando Battalions participated directly in the operation.

The training of the "Chavín de Huántar" patrol took place in its facilities, the replica was built on land under the jurisdiction of this Brigade, from there they left and there they arrived after the operation. Important milestones such as the events of Mesa Pelada, Alto Cenepa and Chavín de Huántar will continue to mark the history of this prestigious Brigade.

Commando Battalion 19

This unit was created and organized in the city of Trujillo under the name of Infantry Regiment No. 19, under the command of Infantry Major Segundo Remigio Morales Bermúdez. As of February 1, 1935, changed the name of Regiment for Infantry Battalion No. 19. In the 1941 Campaign, BI No. 19 participated in the Battle of Zarumilla, evicting the enemy from the "island" of Noblecilla. A fraction of this unit also participated in the Chira-Macará front on July 25 and 26, forcing the enemy to abandon the town of Macara.



On November 2, 1948, the War Flag of this unit was decorated with the Military Order of Ayacucho in the degree of Officer. On September 19, 1949, when the historical names of the units of the Army of Peru were restored, BI No. 19 corresponded to the eponymous name of "Comandante Espinar".

It is one of the few units of the Army named as GLORIOUS for its participation in the Campaign of 41. In 1957, as the first element of the Special Forces, it received the name of Parachute Infantry Battalion No. 19.

Starting in 1960, within this unit, the Army Command School began to take shape. He participated effectively in the unveiling of the guerrillas of 1965; that year it received the name of Infantry Battalion "Commander Espinar No. 19.

On January 1, 1988, it was named "Comandante Espinar" Command Battalion No. 19, based on the conjunction of 4 units: BIP – 39, CEC – 111, CEC – 113 and CEC – 501. Their participation in the anti-subversive fight on different fronts has been essential to achieve national pacification.

On the external front, this glorious unit once again played a leading role. In 1995, in the Cordillera del Cóndor (Cenepa Sector) he demonstrated his high degree of professionalism, courage and leadership of all his components, achieving the victory of Cenepa, with the definitive demarcation of the border.

It is in the Chavín de Huántar rescue operation where he once again shows courage and courage through his members.

Even today it maintains one of the main intervention forces in the VRAEM against the remnants of the Quispe Palomino.



Sources:

<http://www.ccfaa.mil.pe/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Libro-Chavin-de-Huantar-2-80.pdf>



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