



Brazilian Special Forces

1º Batalhão de Forças Especiais

"Any mission, any time, any where, any way"



1st Special Forces Battalion operators rappel from a UH-1 helicopter during a training exercise.

The Brazilian Army's 1st Special Forces Battalion is Brazil's primary special operations force, and is the only unit of the Army trained in conducting unconventional warfare. Although administratively assigned to the Army's Parachute Infantry Brigade, the battalion operates under the direct control of the Army High Command.

The battalion was initially formed in 1957 as a parachute trained rescue unit, which specialized in conducting deep jungle rescues along the Amazon basin. After conducting its initial selection, a US Army Special Forces Mobile Training Team (MTT) conducted the unit's first training course. The unit continued to act in its rescue role until 1968 when it was reorganized as a special forces detachment and placed under the control of the "General Penha Brasil" training center. In 1983 the unit was expanded to its current battalion strength and placed within the Parachute Infantry Brigade's organizational structure.

The battalion is tasked with conducting the following missions:

- Supporting regular and irregular forces during unconventional warfare operations.
- Providing mobile teams for unconventional warfare training.
- Conducting escape, sabotage, intelligence, recon, direct action, and missions.

The battalion is capable of conducting these missions independently, or in conjunction with conventional forces. Battalion troops are trained in jungle warfare at the Army's CIGS jungle warfare school, amphibious operations, mountain warfare, airborne, airmobile, HAHO/HALO operations, and long range reconnaissance operations.



Heavily camouflaged 1st Special Forces Battalion operators conducting an amphibious infiltration exercise.

The battalion, which is currently based at Guadalupe, near Rio de Janeiro, is organized into one command and services company, two special forces companies, one commando company, and a company sized counter-terrorism detachment. The command and services company provides logistic, medical, signal, intelligence, psychological support to the rest of the battalion.

The battalion is equipped with a variety of locally produced, and foreign purchased weapons and equipment. Weapons in use by the unit are known to include the Colt .45 and Baretta, and Imbel M-976 pistols, Belgian FN FAL rifles, US [M-4](#) carbine, HK-53 rifles, Franchi, Remington, and Mossburg shotguns, HK [MP-5](#) series SMGs, Uzi SMGs license built Madsen model 53 SMGs, PSG-1 sniper rifles, HK LMGs, FN MAG and US M-79 40mm Grenade Launchers, 57mm recoilless rifles, Imbel 60mm light mortars, and HydroarT1M1 flame throwers.



1st Special Forces battalion operator lights up a structure with a flame thrower during an assault training exercise.