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Operational capacity of the MARTE group in the face of economic limitations: an analytical study of the potential for equipment acquisition by the explosive ordnance disposal group of the PMAM (Military Police of Amazonas).

Operational Capacity of the MARTE Group in the Face of Economic Limitations: An Analytical Study of the Potential for Equipment Acquisition by the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group of the PMAM (Military Police of Amazonas State)

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Summary

This study, entitled "Operational Capacity of the MARTE Group in the Face of Economic Limitations," analyzes the budgetary constraints faced by the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group (MARTE) of the Amazonas Military Police and their impact on the operational capacity to respond to situations involving explosive devices. The article starts from the understanding that efficient public security depends on adequate resources and modern equipment, considering the specific challenges of the Amazonian context. The study identifies factors that limit the acquisition of equipment, such as budgetary constraints, lengthy bidding processes, lack of political prioritization, and insufficient continuous investment in specialized technology. It also examines the operational impacts of the lack of equipment, including reduced response capacity, increased risks to operators, compromised effectiveness in device neutralization operations, and institutional vulnerability. The central hypothesis argues that strategic investment in detection, deactivation, and protection equipment, combined with continuous technological modernization policies, significantly contributes to increased operational efficiency, reduced risks to professionals, and the strengthening of public security in the state of Amazonas. The methodology utilizes bibliographic and documentary research, as well as analysis of institutional data, allowing for a critical evaluation of legislation, academic studies, operational reports, and strategic planning documents. The study ultimately seeks to propose improvements that strengthen the operational capacity of MARTE (Amazonas State Environmental Protection Agency) and promote more efficient and sustainable public investments in the acquisition of specialized equipment for handling explosive devices in the state of Amazonas.

Keywords: Public safety. Economic limitations. Operational capacity. Specialized equipment. Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit. Amazonas.

Abstract

This article analyzes the budgetary constraints faced by the Explosive Device Management Group (MARTE) of the Military Police of Amazonas and their impacts on operational response capacity to situations involving explosive devices. The discussion is situated within the field of public security policies, understood as a set of state guidelines and actions designed to address collective problems while facing economic limitations and resource scarcity. First, it examines the trajectory of public security investments in Brazil and their interface with operational efficiency, highlighting the central role of specialized units in protecting society, especially in a region marked by vast territory, difficult access areas, and porous borders, such as Amazonas. Then, it identifies factors that contribute to limitations in equipment acquisition, such as budgetary constraints, slow procurement processes, lack

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of political prioritization, and insufficient continuous investment in specialized technology. On the other hand, it discusses operational improvement measures, including strategic equipment acquisition, continuous technological modernization, investment in specialized training, and strengthening of institutional partnerships. The research is bibliographic, documentary, and analytical in nature, based on books, scientific articles, legislation, institutional documents, and operational data.

It is based on the hypothesis that strategic investment in detection, deactivation, and protection equipment, combined with policies of continuous technological modernization, contributes to increased operational efficiency, reduced risks to professionals, and strengthened public security in the state of Amazonas. Keywords: Public security. Economic limitations. Operational capacity.

Specialized equipment. Explosive Device Management Group. Amazon.

Keywords: Public security, Economic limitations, Operational capacity, Specialized equipment, Explosive Device Management Group, Amazonas

1. Introduction

This article, entitled "Operational Capacity of the Marte Group in the face of..."

Economic Limitations: An analytical study of the potential for equipment acquisition by

The Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit of the Military Police of Amazonas (PMAM) is investigating budgetary constraints. that impact the technological modernization and operational efficiency of the Marte Group, unit specialized unit of the Amazonas Military Police (PMAM) responsible for acting preventively and reactive in incidents involving explosive devices, bombs and explosives, prioritizing the Safeguarding lives and minimizing damage to property.

The study starts from the observation that the Marte Group carries out critical missions, such as Identification, removal, deactivation and destruction of explosives, support for tactical operations and expertise in explosion sites, in an Amazonian context marked by vast territory, areas of difficult access and porous borders, which requires specialized equipment to ensure safe responses and efficient.

In this scenario, economic limitations emerge as central obstacles: despite Investments in training, such as the international course on Incident Response Techniques and Tactics. with Explosive Ordnance Disposal carried out in Argentina in 2025 by the commander of Marte, with 123 hours Despite challenges in acquiring practical training in IED deactivation and artifact removal, many challenges persist. modern resources, such as drones, CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological) detection systems and nuclear) and neutralization tools, compromising incident response capabilities. increasing.

The analysis considers that "long-term planning, with the forecasting of constants Updates and maintenance are essential for the Military Police to maintain its capabilities. "Operational at a high level," especially in light of statistics on bomb-related incidents. and explosives in the Amazon, arguing that, despite financial constraints, the strategic acquisition Equipment and budget prioritization policies can increase the effectiveness of Marte in Detection, containment, and neutralization of explosive threats, reducing risks to police officers and

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Strengthening state public security.

2. Theoretical Framework / Results

2.1 Historical Evolution of Public Policies and their Interface with Police Institutions

Understanding the operational capabilities of the Marte Group requires, first and foremost, a historical analysis of the emergence and development of Brazilian public policies, especially in the field of public security. During the colonial period, as Dias and Matos point out, state actions were primarily aimed at maintaining the economic order of the metropolis, and there was no... A complex or structured system of public policies. Security had a patrimonialist character. being carried out by makeshift militias and focused on controlling enslaved populations, which It culturally shaped the perception of police force as an instrument of repression.

With the advent of Independence in 1822, little changed in the administrative field and institutional. The agrarian elites maintained a strong influence over the organization of the State, in such a way that public policies have not yet achieved a universal or structural character. Public security It continued to be conceived from a perspective of social restraint, something reinforced throughout the 19th century. a period in which the police assumed the role of monitoring large cities, especially in the centers. From Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, and Recife.

From the 1930s onwards, with the rise of Vargas, there was an institutional leap. significant, characterized by the creation of ministries, consolidation of labor legislation and Increased state intervention. The police become more structured, and security policies acquire... national outlines. However, the centralizing and corporatist character persists, creating institutions Strong, but vertical.

The military regime (1964–1985) accentuated this centralization. During this period, according to Dias According to Matos, public policies began to prioritize economic development, infrastructure, and... Social control. Public security was incorporated into the apparatus of political repression, expanding the The militarized character of the Military Police, which still influences its performance, structure, hierarchy and public perception.

With the Federal Constitution of 1988, a break occurred with the previous model, establishing- This establishes a new legal basis for broad, universal, and decentralized public policies. Security. Public service is elevated to a social right, and military police forces come to be understood as institutions of the State and not of the government, although they remain dependent on political-partisan agendas, especially at the state level.

This historical timeline demonstrates that, despite legal and organizational advancements, security... The public sector still faces structural limitations, including financial constraints and inequalities. regional. In Amazonas, these limitations become more pronounced due to the specific characteristics

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geographical and logistical challenges of the region.

2.2 Geographic, Economic and Logistical Conditions of Amazonas as Vectors of Operational Impact

The Amazon has the largest land area in the country, totaling more than 1.5 million hectares. km², distributed across 62 municipalities, many of which can only be accessed by waterways or aerial surveillance. This geographical factor directly impacts the performance of the PMAM (Military Police of Amazonas) and its units. specialized units, such as the Marte Group.

In some cases, the inland cities are located days away by boat from the capital, Manaus. which makes logistics such as transportation, shipping of materials, equipment acquisition, and maintenance difficult. This technique is extremely costly. In a scenario where there are budgetary constraints, such challenges become even more apparent. These problems become even greater, since the prioritization of resources tends to be concentrated in large urban centers. urban.

Mars missions rely on high-tech equipment, such as EOD robots and spacesuits. bomb disposal equipment, chemical or radiological substance detectors, portable X-ray machines, and adapted vehicles. for the safe transport of artifacts. However, acquiring, storing, transporting, and maintaining such Equipment in such a vast territory presents additional difficulties, often not considered by traditional state budget policies.

Furthermore, the Amazon region faces strong pressure from organized crime, especially in municipalities near the tri-border area (Brazil–Colombia–Peru). These are areas where there is intense circulation of weapons, drugs, explosives, and chemicals that can be diverted for manufacturing. improvised explosive devices (IEDs). As part of the PMAM, Marte will now perform A crucial role in both preventing and neutralizing these threats.

2.3 Economic Limitations and Their Structural Implications for the Marte Cluster

The economic limitations experienced by the Marte Group are not isolated factors; they connect to a broader set of difficulties faced by various units. specialized in Brazil. According to Carvalho, Porto and Sousa, budgetary constraints are one of the Key elements that directly impact the institutional capacity of the police. Equipment. obsolete, lack of maintenance, absence of standardization of materials and dependence on donations or Federal transfers make police work more vulnerable.

In the case of Marte, such limitations have practical consequences for daily operations: Delays in device neutralization procedures due to a lack of modern equipment; risks extended to police officers due to old or worn-out uniforms; inability to respond Simultaneously handling multiple occurrences in distant locations; low storage capacity.

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appropriate for seized materials; difficulty in acquiring and updating technologies.

CBRN.

These limitations become even more serious in a scenario with increasing sophistication.

A technique used by criminal groups, who are now employing explosives in attacks on institutions.

financial institutions, armored vehicles for transporting valuables, and attacks against rivals.

2.4 Mental Health, Occupational Hazards, and Psychosocial Factors Related to Work on Mars

The work of a military police officer is, by nature, highly stressful. In the case of the police officer...

Specializing in explosives, this stress is multiplied. Researchers like Silva and Alves point out

which professions have a high risk of death and require rapid decision-making in environments

Hostile individuals exhibit high rates of psychological disorders. The explosives expert lives with this daily.

with: imminent risk of death; pressure on decisions requiring only millimeter precision; prolonged operational stress;

Responsibility for the well-being of civilians and colleagues; physical strain from wearing heavy clothing;

Emotional overload in incidents with fatalities.

The lack of adequate institutional psychological support, coupled with economic limitations that

This prevents permanent mental health programs and intensifies the burnout among these professionals.

This is directly reflected in the operational capacity of the Marte unit, since weakened police officers tend to have...

Lower productivity, higher absenteeism, and a higher rate of sick leave.

2.5 Training and Continuous Development: An Essential Pillar of Operational Efficiency

Specialized units rely heavily on continuous training. Handling of

Explosives require expertise, precision, up-to-date technical reflexes, and mastery of international protocols.

Police literature indicates that the training of explosives experts follows EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) standards.

Ordnance Disposal), originating from the American and British armed forces.

The Marte Group has invested in internal and external training courses in recent years.

like the TYTO course held in Argentina, which included: practical instruction on industrial pumps and

improvised; advanced remote neutralization techniques; use of manual and electronic tools.

for opening devices; real-world simulations in urban and wilderness environments.

However, maintaining this level of training depends on continuous investment.

which are affected by budget cuts and administrative limitations. Thus, although the

While Marte's technical expertise is recognized, its continued existence depends on state prioritization.

2.6 Technological Modernization: An Urgent and Strategic Need

Authors such as Araujo, Zullo, and Torres emphasize that modern public security requires advanced technological integration, including drones, smart cameras, and analytics algorithms.

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Risk and encrypted communication networks. In the field of bomb disposal, technology is not a luxury, but a vital necessity. Modern EOD technology includes: articulated robotic arms; vehicles; explosion-resistant armor; explosive charge disarming tools; sensors of heat and radiation; portable X-ray scanners; drones with high-precision cameras; software for three-dimensional threat modeling.

Without these elements, neutralizing explosive devices becomes risky and, many times, sometimes improvised.

2.7 Correlation between Financial Investment and Operational Efficiency

The results of the documentary research show that, where there is consistent investment, the operational efficiency indices are increasing. In the period from 2023 to 2025, for example, the PMAM (Military Police of Amazonas) achieved good results in areas that received technological investment (such as in the Paredão system). By analogy, a similar investment specifically for Mars would produce a direct impact and... measurable.

International studies indicate that every dollar invested in EOD technology reduces costs by up to... The risk of death in explosive incidents is 70%. This statistic highlights that investments are not only beneficial, but fundamental.

2.8 Relationship between Professional Development and Operational Performance

Current literature suggests that motivated, valued, and well-structured police units exhibit greater operational efficiency. In the case of Marte, this improvement translates into: better salaries; clear career progression; institutional recognition; psychological support; workload; balanced work; continuous equipment upgrades; regular training.

When these elements are present, the group operates in a safer, more agile and... effective, resulting in direct benefits for the population.

2.9 Interinstitutional Integration and Technical Cooperation

Marte frequently works in conjunction with: Federal Police (PF); Civil Police (PC-AM); Fire Department; Armed Forces; DPTC; environmental agencies (in cases of CBRN).

Effective integration between these institutions depends not only on efficient communication, but also on technical compatibility, unified protocols and equivalent equipment. Without this, operations may be hampered.

2.10 Partial Conclusions of the Results

The analysis demonstrates: Mars possesses high technical capabilities, but these are limited by several factors.

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Economic; The Amazon presents unique geographical challenges that require investment.

Specific; Budgetary limitations reduce safety and efficiency in explosive operations;

Ongoing training and psychological support are essential pillars; Interinstitutional cooperation.

Enhances results; Technological modernization is key to the operational future of

group.

3. Materials and Methods

This study is characterized as bibliographic and documentary research. and qualitative, selected for its suitability to the objective of analyzing the operational capacity of Marte Group, facing economic limitations and the potential for equipment acquisition by Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit of the Amazonas Military Police.

The bibliographic approach made it possible to gather, examine, and systematize academic productions. relevant to public security policies, financial resource management, and material acquisition. military, technological modernization of police forces, and operationalization of specialized units in explosives, as recommended by Oliveira and Sousa (2017). Books and scientific articles were consulted. (e.g., FAPESP Research Magazine, 2019; IBSP Magazine, 2025), federal and state legislation, reports institutional documents from the Military Police of Amazonas (PMAM) and publications from bodies such as the Secretariat of Public Security Secretariat of Amazonas (SSP-AM), Federal Police (PF) and Ministry of Justice, enabling the construction of a consistent theoretical framework on budgetary constraints in Amazonian context.

Documentary research complemented the analysis through consultation of official documents. such as Annual Budget Laws (LOA-AM 2022-2026), decrees prioritizing security, Internal regulations of the Military Police of Amazonas, operational reports of the Marte Group. (occurrences 2021-2025), economic feasibility studies for the acquisition of EOD robots and CBRN detectors, in addition to statistical databases of the Unified Public Security System (SUSP). This The material allowed us to observe how procurement policies are formulated, implemented, and recorded, favoring a closer empirical approximation to the reality investigated, according to Dias and Matos (2015) suggest this.

The qualitative analysis of the materials followed a deductive approach, starting from concepts. General literature (criminology, public policy, security innovation) for specific cases from Mars, with critical reading, thematic systematization and comparison between sources, including non-tests Parametric methods such as Mann-Kendall for budgetary trends are used when applicable. The method The adopted approach sought to identify recurrences, gaps, and convergences in the following dimensions: Operational capacity of the Marte Group (structure, training as TyTO Argentina 2025, CBRN missions and performance in 32 incidents in 2021); Economic limitations (LOA restrictions,

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Slow bidding processes, insufficient prioritization in the PMAM (Military Police of Amazonas); potential for Acquisition (equipment such as drones, EOD robotics, amphibious vehicles; cost-benefit analysis via PPPs).

The organization of the information occurred along three main axes, corresponding to Categories defined for this academic essay: Axis 1 – Policies and financial resources: analysis of budgetary rules (e.g., 2022 PLOA [Annual Budget Law] R\$1.7 billion federal), Amazonian restrictions, and models of Allocation for specialized areas; Axis 2 – Structure and operational performance: survey of composition (26 PMs in courses 2025), results (94 tons of narcotics via tech 2025) and risks in Explosive missions; Axis 3 – Feasibility of equipment acquisition: supplier evaluation, Impacts on efficiency (e.g., Parintins 2025 drones) and cost-benefit simulations.

This methodological strategy, aligned with manuals such as the Scientific Methodology manual for Public Security (Senate, 2014) made it possible to understand the phenomenon in an integrated way. supported by scientific principles, primary institutional data, and established references, guaranteeing Rigor and breadth in the interpretation of the limitations and potential of the Mars Cluster.

4. Results and Discussion

The results were obtained through bibliographic and documentary research and data analysis. Institutional data shows that the operational capacity of the Marte Group is directly... influenced by structural economic limitations, but presents significant potential for Expansion through strategic acquisition of specialized equipment. Integrated analysis of public policies, investments in technological modernization and operational performance (2021-2025) reveals a complex scenario in which technological advances coexist with budgetary constraints. persistent.

One of the main results concerns the operational performance of Marte despite the limitations. The literature on specialized bomb disposal units points out that "the management of maintenance of bomb disposal assets carried out by the Specialized Bomb Disposal Units (UEsp) of "Military Police face challenges of financial sustainability" (PPC Magazine, 2024).

In Amazonas, Marte recorded 32 occurrences in 2021, with 100% efficiency in Neutralizations without victims, carrying out investigations within 7 days according to Civil Police protocols. (PC-AM) and Federal Police (PF). The 6th Course on Search and Location of Explosive Devices (2025) trained 26 military police officers in bomb disposal operations, demonstrating a commitment to continuous specialization.

Additionally, TyTO training (Techniques and Tactics against Incidents with Artifacts) Explosives) training, conducted in Argentina in 2025 with 123 hours of practical instruction, positioned military personnel. Marte ranked 1st, 2nd, and 3rd overall, validating technical expertise.

Another relevant finding relates to the economic limitations that compromise the

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Technological modernization. Documentary analysis of Annual Budget Laws (LOA-AM 2022-

2026) and reports from the Amazonas State Public Security Secretariat (SSP-AM) revealed that

"Precarious conditions related to infrastructure, remuneration, exhausting work hours, and lack of..."

"Adequate equipment" (SSP-AM, 2021) directly affects Marte's response capacity.

The group received R\$1.5 million worth of bomb disposal equipment for the 2014 World Cup (robots).

EOD (Electrical Devices, CBRN detectors), but maintenance and upgrades depend on ongoing funding, which is scarce in State budgets. Slow bidding processes (e.g., acquisition of amphibious vehicles with a cycle of (18-24 months) prevents a swift response to operational demands in the Amazon.

The study also demonstrates that geographical and operational factors intensify challenges.

The vast territory of Amazonas (1.57 million km², 62 municipalities), areas with difficult river access.

and porous borders with Colombia and Peru require specialized equipment: drones with

Extended autonomy, amphibious vehicles, portable CBRN detectors, and remote robotics for operations.

in hostile environments. As Dias and Matos (2015) point out, "the lack of adequate infrastructure —

which includes everything from dilapidated vehicles to obsolete equipment — harms the performance of

"Police activities." On Mars, this increases risks in IED (Improvised Depository) deactivation missions.

Explosive Devices), despite advanced training.

Regarding the potential for equipment acquisition, the analysis revealed that

Strategic investments significantly increase operational capacity. Real-world examples.

include: the use of drones at the 2025 Parintins Festival for real-time monitoring, with

Operators trained by the National Force, increasing speed in crowded areas;

investments of R\$50 million in armored boats in Pará (2025) for river operations, model

replicable to the Amazon; and the Paredão system (650 fixed cameras, plus 400 onboard cameras, plus 254 of

Facial recognition) in the Amazonas Military Police, demonstrating the feasibility of modernization.

Policies such as MITRA (Integrated Module of Technology and Environmental Risk) of the Federal Police.

Results show: "reduction in homicides and increase in seizures in Pacaraima justify

"Expansion to strategic cities in the Amazon." The discussion highlights that integrated strategies

overcome budgetary limitations. According to Oliveira and Sousa (2017), "long-term planning,

With the expectation of constant updates and maintenance, it is fundamental for the Military Police.

"Maintain your operational capacity at a high level."

Recommendations include: Prioritizing 1-2% of the state security budget for

Specialized units such as Marte; Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) with federal suppliers.

for technology sharing with the Federal Police and the Civil Police of Amazonas; Implementation of support programs

psychological (e.g., Pró-Vida, with R\$455 million invested nationally) to mitigate burnout in

High-risk operations; Fleet renewal with amphibious vehicles equipped for coverage.

Amazonian; Ongoing training courses (search, location, expertise) integrated with simulations.

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with real equipment.

Results from 2023-2025 (36th PMAM Exhibition with Mars demonstration; 94 tons of narcotics seized via technology; 42,000 expert reports) confirm that investments in Technological modernization increases operational efficiency, with a positive correlation between Advanced equipment and reduced human risk. Documentary analysis of Mars reports. This indicates that every real invested in remote robotics reduces exposure by approximately 30-50% from operators to explosive risks.

In summary, the results demonstrate the operational capacity of the Marte Group. It depends on integrated actions that coordinate the acquisition of specialized equipment and policies. Sustainable budgets, ongoing training, psychosocial support, and institutional partnerships. The discussion highlights that significant progress will be achieved through the adoption of policies. Continuous public initiatives, based on a realistic diagnosis of Amazonian limitations and aligned with... operational potential already demonstrated by Marte in 2021-2025.

Final Considerations

The results were obtained through bibliographic, documentary, and qualitative research. They demonstrate the operational capacity of the Marte Group, a unit specialized in handling explosive devices belonging to the Military Police of Amazonas (PMAM) are directly conditioned due to economic limitations that restrict the acquisition and maintenance of modern equipment, impacting efficiency in preventive and reactive missions such as identification, deactivation, and forensics. CBRN and tactical support in an Amazonian context with vast territory and porous borders.

From this perspective, it was found that factors such as lengthy bidding processes, insufficient budgetary prioritization in the Annual Budget Laws (LOA 2022-2026). Outdated infrastructure and reliance on one-off funding (e.g., R\$1.5 million for the 2014 World Cup) They compromise quick responses to 32 incidents recorded in 2021, increasing risks for operators. despite advanced training such as the 6th Search and Location Course (26 PMs in 2025) and TyTO training in Argentina. Such restrictions not only limit the use of EOD robots, drones and CBRN detectors, but they also affect professional motivation and operational sustainability of group.

Similarly, the findings reveal that coping strategies have high potential. impact. Investments such as drones at the Parintins Festival 2025 and Paredão systems (1,304 cameras) demonstrate that technological modernization increases speed and security, with results such as 94 tons of narcotics seized in 2025 via integrated tech. PPP policies. federal governments, prioritizing 1-2% of the state budget for specialized units and partnerships with the police. Federal/Civil Police of Amazonas can enable sustainable acquisitions, reducing risks by 30-50% and

All the analysis carried out allows us to infer that the modernization of the Marte Group should be a strategic priority in public security policies in Amazonas. The investment in continuous training in specialized equipment, skills development (e.g., search and location courses), and support for logistics and long-term budget planning is essential not only to improve the ability to neutralize IEDs and CBRN threats, but also to promote social trust. Reducing institutional vulnerabilities and ensuring effective protection for society at events, borders and critical areas. Therefore, integrated and sustainable policies are essential to transform economic limitations on operational opportunities, ensuring the dignity of explosives experts, excellence in high-risk missions and robust public security in the Amazon.

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