
International Cooperation in Logistics Education: Brazil's Instituto de Logística da Aeronáutica and the U.S. Air Force Institute of Technology

By

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**AFIT graduates currently on the ILA faculty include (from left to right):
Major Ulisses de Oliveria Bonasser, Lieutenant Fabricio José Sanito,
Major Jorge Luize Alves de Barros Santos, and
Lieutenant Luiz Gustavo Figueire do Pereira da Silva**

The Brazilian Air Force (BAF) Institute of Logistics, Instituto de Logística da Aeronáutica (ILA), was created in 1988. Its mission is to prepare BAF's human resources to face the challenges imposed by modern times. Training and education are its priorities.

At the time of its creation, ILA represented the consolidation of many courses related to logistics management that were taught all over the country at the various units of the BAF. At that moment Air Force management decided to create a school to concentrate all of those short-term courses and training. The place chosen to receive the new school was São Paulo AFB, which is close to São Paulo International Airport, in the suburb of Guarulhos. The base had available the necessary facilities to accommodate the school. Besides, the base is also very close to São Paulo Industrial Park, which provides an additional advantage. São Paulo, a major

Brazilian city, offers excellent civilian universities where BAF has been recruiting technicians and scientists to fill its personnel requirements.

One of the early proponents of ILA was Lieutenant Colonel Wilson José Romão, who became aware of the U.S. Air Force Institute of Technology while he was serving as his country's representative at the International Logistics Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. He became ILA's second director and was a strong supporter of developing a program of logistics education for the professionalization of logisticians in the BAF. Today, General Romão continues to be interested in the school in his position as director of the BAF Weapons Directorate, many of whose personnel are graduates of ILA courses.

Currently the school provides training to support the BAF Logistics Command, with courses in areas such as maintenance management, munitions management, aerospace materials, civil engineering, and computer science, among others. The school has a permanent staff of 20 officers and 60 NCO's. Since the concept at ILA is to give the students an environment as close as possible to the real-life problems they face daily, there is heavy reliance on adjunct faculty. Most of the classes are taught by BAF personnel who are working regularly in their specialties and do not belong to ILA. They merge the current techniques and policies being used on the job with the theoretical information provided by the resident faculty.



One of the founders of ILA, General Wilson José Romão, with current ILA director, Lieutenant Colonel Eduardo José Pastorelo de Miranda.

In 1998 there were 55 courses of variable duration, the shortest being five days and the longest six months. Attending those courses were 1550 students. Since 1988 ILA has taught approximately 20,000 students, including BAF officers, NCO's, civilians, and officers of the Brazilian Army, Navy, and allied countries.

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In 1990, BAF began to send officers to attend courses abroad, mainly in the U.S.A., using Foreign Military Sales (FMS) training programs. Between 1990 and 1998 eleven officers were sent to obtain Master's Degrees in Logistics Management at the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) to fulfill the growing need for expertise in logistics management.

As a result of this investment, in 1995 the Curso de Extensão em Logística (CELOG) was created at ILA to transfer the knowledge brought from abroad. This is the centerpiece of cooperation between AFIT and ILA. This course offers a condensed version of the logistics management program at AFIT, with the duration of six months and a total of 420 class hours. This is a non-degree program, however. The syllabus contains subjects such as logistics management, reliability, transportation, microeconomics, statistics, computer simulation, and production planning, among others. While the courses are taught in Portuguese, many of the readings are in English language texts. Since 1995 more than forty officers have graduated, and six of those were sent to AFIT to obtain their graduate degrees.

After graduation from AFIT, these officers return to the faculty at ILA. Thus they bring to Brazil the latest in logistics techniques as taught in the U.S. Air Force's graduate school. At the same time, they have formed personal relationships with the AFIT faculty, which can prove beneficial to both parties in continued discussions of logistics issues, which affect the two air forces.

As part of the continuing relationship between ILA and AFIT, every year professors from AFIT are brought to ILA to give lectures about logistics and related subjects such as international logistics, repairable inventory management, and theory of constraints. This assistance is accomplished through an FMS training case. While in Brazil, the AFIT faculty members can talk with their Brazilian counterparts about mutual problems of developing curriculum and structuring courses. It also gives the American professors the chance to meet prospective candidates for AFIT in-residence programs and to gauge their English-speaking skills and potential academic performance. In addition, professors can counsel prospective students about AFIT's admission requirements including the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) and the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

A highlight of AFIT-ILA cooperation was the 1997 address on current logistics trends by Dr. Jan Muczyk, Dean of the Graduate School of Logistics and Acquisition Management, to the annual gathering of senior BAF officers hosted by ILA.

For the future ILA is planning the introduction of new courses, as well as investigating emerging technologies to serve the requirements of the BAF, such as implementing a distance learning program through the Internet. In any case, relations between AFIT and ILA will be at the heart of efforts to introduce advanced logistics thinking into the CELOG course. The link between the two schools is a tribute to the security assistance programs which foster military goodwill between the U.S. and Brazil and which lead to enhanced possibilities for regional coalitions through shared interests in improving our logistics postures.

More information about ILA can be obtained from its Home Page at www.ila.maer.mil.br.

About the Author

Major Jorge Barros Santos graduated from Escola Preparatória de Cadetes do Ar (EPCAR) High School in 1977 and entered undergraduate studies at the Air Force Academy (AFA) in Pirassununga, SP, in 1978. He received his commission on 10 December 1981, and graduated

with a Bachelor of Science degree in Science of Aviation on the same date. He was then assigned to the "Centro de Aplicações Táticas e Reacompletamento de Equipagens (CATRE)" in Natal, RN, where he completed his flight training. In 1983 he was assigned to the Fifth Air Transportation Squadron, in Canoas, RS, where he worked as a Crew-Member of a C-95 Bandeirante. Since then, he has been assigned to many Brazilian Air Force Flight Units, having flown approximately 5,000 hours on C-95 Bandeirante, VC-97 Brasília, U-7 Sêneca, T-27 Tucano, and VU-35 Lear Jet. In June 1998 he received his master's degree from the Graduate School of Logistics and Acquisition Management, Air Force Institute of Technology. Major Barros is currently the vice commander of the Brazilian Air Force Institute of Logistics (ILA) at São Paulo AFB.