

Date: 01 December 2000

Subj: PERSONNEL EXCHANGE PROGRAM (PEP) BILLET DESCRIPTION (Report Symbol OPNAV 5700-4) BRAZILIAN NAVAL WAR COLLEGE, FEB 00-DEC 00

1. Name. Mauricio A Viles.

2. Unit.

- a. Commander, U. S. Naval Forces Southern Command (Headquarters).
- b. U.S. Consulate, Military Liaison Office (MLO) (Intermediary - Rio).
- c. Brazilian Naval War College (Escola de Guerra Naval; EGN) (Onsite - Rio).

3. Location.

- a. Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.
- b. Centro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- c. Urca, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

4. Rank/rate.

- a. Incumbent: O4/LCDR;
- b. Current manpower authorization: O4/LCDR;
- c. Rank desired: O4/LCDR;
- d. Does promotion during the tour present a problem? No, as the course is a mix of Commanders and Lieutenant Commanders. If an officer is promoted, the promotion ceremony can be held either at the NWC or at the U.S. Consulate.

5. Billet title. Student, Brazilian Naval War College - STU BRAZILIAN WAR COLLEGE (Oficial Aluno, Escola de Guerra Naval, EGN) Command and Staff Course (Curso de Estado Maior para Oficiais Superiores, C-EMOS).

6. Billet description.

- a. Student; BSC 99990.
- b. Level and scope of responsibility/duties of the individual: As a student, receive advanced technical and professional training to prepare for command and staff functions. Also, to integrate, promote interoperability and establish a solid rapport with all levels of the Brazilian Navy and the invited foreign navies officers.

7. Type of aircraft/ships. N/A.

8. Type of training (Enroute training).

There is considerable lead time required for the Brazilian Naval War College course. The advanced Portuguese course at the Brazilian Army Language Center (Centro de Ensino Profissional do Exercito, CEPE) is in January each year and the C-EMOS course period is from February to December.

The normal route for students is to first complete Portuguese language training (for six months) in the U.S. at the Defense Language Institute (DLI) in Monterey, CA. (prior to

attending the EGN) followed by one day spent at the Pentagon for country briefings, followed by two to four days with COMUSNAVSO at Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico for check-in at PSD and briefings and, finally, the five to six week Portuguese refresher course at CEPE.

I personally did not attend DLI for various reasons, but qualified in Portuguese through self study. I am a native speaker of Latin American Spanish, which was extremely helpful, in my case, in this regard. I found the CEPE course to be extremely good and helpful.

9. Qualifications.

- a. Required. A working or professional proficiency in the Portuguese language.
- b. Desired. A working or professional proficiency in the Portuguese language with at the minimum recommended DLPT II scores of L-1+, R-1+, or the officer's language being the native language. Language proficiency is essential as the C-EMOS is a postgraduate level course with requirements to listen, read, speak and write in the Portuguese language. Upon arrival in Rio de Janeiro, all U.S. Officers, with very few exceptions, will attend a six week advanced Portuguese course at the Brazilian Army Language Center (Centro de Ensino Profissional do Exército, CEPE). Also, the selected officer must be professionally competent and suitable as a representative of the U.S. overseas as well as dedicated, trustworthy and have the desire to participate in the PEP program.

10. Security Clearance. There are some lectures/presentations that are classified "secret", and one must have a Secret clearance. Lectures and/or trips to field activities that were "sensitive" or NOFORN by the Brazilian Navy, the Oficial Aluno- Marinhas Amigas (OA-MA) were assigned study periods to prepare presentations or papers on related topics or scheduled for local facilities visits.

11. Remarks.

- a. Housing. Government housing is not available and apartments are rented on the local economy subject to State Department size, security and cost restrictions. The military has a rent ceiling based on maximum OHA amounts. Housing referrals are handled by the Consular Housing Section located on the sixth floor of the U.S. Consulate.
- b. Vehicles. The majority of cars in Rio de Janeiro are subcompact or compact size models. Rio is a difficult place to drive your vehicle due to the common breaking of traffic laws. USAA does not provide insurance coverage in Rio. Comprehensive coverage insurance must be obtained from another company such as "Clements & Company" based in the U.S. and from a local insurance company in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil for mandatory coverage against third parties. Finding a parking space anywhere in the city is difficult at best. Finding the "right" apartment will be difficult if one owns a large vehicle such as, a mini-van extended version or a large sports utility due to the apartments garage small parking areas or narrow entrances and limited garage area to maneuver a vehicle. Also, gasoline prices in Brazil are on average, three times more expensive than prices in the U.S.
- c. Uniforms. Each student is required to have a full set of uniforms readily available. On several occasions, without previous notification, students were required to change uniforms from summer khakis to Summer Whites due to VIP unscheduled

visits. Service Dress Whites (Chokers) are used for check-in, check-out and graduation. Summer Whites were frequently worn for lectures by junior and senior ranking military officials and ceremonies. Summer Whites may be required on the field trips for certain functions or specific visits. Normal class uniform equivalent for the U.S. Navy is Summer Khaki with a name tag and without ribbons. The Brazilians use a number code to denote specific uniforms. For example, Service Dress Whites is uniform 5.3. It is highly recommended that students have at least 3-4 sets of Summer Khaki and 2-3 sets of Summer Whites. This would represent a minimum number as the uniforms tend to wear rapidly due to the hot muggy weather and the lack of inexpensive dry cleaning. A locker is provided to all students at EGN and it gives ample room to keep all the necessary uniforms at the school.

- d. Transportation. There are public buses which run from downtown Rio to Urca (line 107, CENTRO-URCA) and from the Ipanema/Copacabana areas to Urca (lines 511 and 512, LEBLON-URCA). Buses currently cost 1Real (Brazilian currency). Taxis are very plentiful and cost approximately ten Reais between downtown and the school and nine Reais from Ipanema. EGN has limited parking on campus and students will be issued a parking pass upon check-in. Transportation to and from the various visit sites and during the field trips is supplied by the EGN.
- e. Passport requirements. Official passports are required.
- f. Security requirements. Security briefings are conducted upon arrival to Rio by the U.S. Consulate's Regional Security Officer (RSO). Rio de Janeiro is a very large city and includes numerous suburbs. The city is a high crime area and violent crime is common. All arriving officials should be well informed of the crime risks in the region and know the necessary precautions to take.
- g. Rank/Experience of an officer. Surface Warfare Officers (111X) and warfare qualified aviators (13XX) are well suited to the course material. The experience that an officer has acquired in the area of Operations, the greater the comfort level and feedback in the various warfare subject areas while attending the EGN.
- h. Language requirements. Same as item number nine (9).
- i. Field trips and visits. One of the most rewarding aspects of attending the EGN was the numerous field trips (viagens de estudo) and visits (visitas). The visits were generally to local area facilities and commands (bus distance) and were scheduled for half-day or all day in duration. Two field trips were conducted during the year for periods of six days and included stops in two or three different cities. All field trips involved lectures and presentations at the various naval facilities followed by question and answer periods. Lodging, transportation and most meals were pre-arranged by EGN staff. The visits and field trips included:
 - a. Visits in and around Rio de Janeiro:
 1. Naval Museum (MA only)
 2. WWII Destroyer Bauru (MA only)
 3. Brazilian Aircraft Carrier "Minas Gerais" (MA only)
 4. Naval shipyard "Arsenal" (MA only)
 5. Naval Academy "Escola Naval"
 6. Submarine Force
 7. Naval Airbase "São Pedro de Aldeia"
 8. Marine Corps Amphibious Base (incl demo)

b. Field Trips:

First field trip cities and principal sites:

Manaus - Commander Naval Forces Amazon Region

Brasilia - Headquarters 7th Naval District

Second field trip cities and principal sites:

Rio Grande - Headquarters 5th Naval District

Porto Alegre - Cultural visits

São Paulo - Headquarters 8th Naval District

- j. Other. A useful source of information on the Brazilian Navy and on the Escola de Guerra Naval are their official web sites: www.mar.mil.br and www.mar.mil.br/~egn/.