

Boas shares Brazilian perspective with USAWC

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Brazilian Lt. Gen. Villas Boas, deputy chief of staff for strategy for the Brazilian Army, speaks with a Army War College student before the question and answer period Sept. 15. Photo by Thomas Zimmerman.

Sept. 15, 2009 -- Lt. Gen. Villas Boas, deputy chief of staff for strategy for the Brazilian Army, spoke to students, staff and faculty as part of the Mark Clark Lecture Program Sept. 15 in Bliss Hall. The presentation addressed the role of the Brazilian Amazon in national defense strategy.

The program was founded in 1981 to commemorate the U.S. and Brazilian relationship during World War II. As part of the program, general officers from both nations exchange places for a lecture series to discuss national defense strategy.

"In Brazil, much like the U.S. we strive to protect our nation while maintaining the freedom of our people," said Boas. He went on to point out issues that face Brazil due to geography, the sharing of the Amazon River and environmental issues.

Boas went on to explain that the national strategy of Brazil is undergoing a restructuring of the armed forces while trying to encourage participation by its people.

"While we may not face a direct threat right now, we must always be vigilant," he said. "We must always protect our nation and the Amazon region."

His background in strategic planning made him a perfect fit for the lecture.

"He is especially suited to address our class," said Brazilian Lt. Col. Frederico Pinto Sampaio, a member of the USAWC Class of 2009.

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