What are the thresholds of transparency in defense in Brazil? It is always challenging to analyze defense transparency and security matters since in many cases secrecy is needed to undertake some policies. However, this is exactly the reason why we should deeper analyze this topic: the need for secrecy can be easily used to hide inefficiency and illegal behaviors. The challenges of achieving an appropriate level of transparency in these matters are especially daunting in Latin America. The general interest of politicians in defense has historically been low, either because of the legacy of dictatorships, or because of the region’s perceived lack of external threats. In addition, polls like the Latinobarómetro demonstrate that society maintains a high lack of confidence regarding political parties and the political system in general but high regard for the armed forces- which could explain this disconnection between politicians and the armed forces. Who then will watch the armed forces? This seminar analyzes the *de jure* possibilities of civilian access to military records in Brazil in contrast with some *de facto* practices, and illustrates how the illusions of transparency take place in this labyrinth of regulations.

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