

Pricilla de Oliveira Azevedo



Pricilla de Oliveira Azevedo is a military police officer, currently working as General Coordinator of Strategic Programs for the “Police Pacification Units” (UPPs), Rio de Janeiro State Secretariat of Public Security’s renowned “*favela*” (slum) pacification program. Major Azevedo joined the Rio de Janeiro Military police in 1998 and, following her graduation in 2000, started working in police battalions and street repression operations. In 2007, Major Azevedo demonstrated extreme courage and commitment to her duties by successfully arresting a gang of criminals who had kidnapped her.

As a result of her courage and success, the Rio de Janeiro State Secretary for Security invited her to head the first UPP in Rio de Janeiro, in the “*favela*” of Santa Marta, a position she occupied between 2008 to 2010. In this capacity, she commanded 125 military police officers in an area with 9,000 inhabitants and a very low human development index. During her two years in Santa Marta, Major Azevedo shut down drug dealing operations in the *favela*, established conflict mediation models, worked with state and local government institutions to improve garbage collection and health care, broadened education and technical training opportunities, and developed a successful community arts and crafts fair.

In 2009, Rio de Janeiro Mayor Eduardo Paes invited Major Pricilla to become a member of the Brazilian delegation in the 2016 Olympics Announcement in Copenhagen. In the same year she completed training on *Koban* community policing techniques, and participated in a citizen safety training in Israel. Major Azevedo is currently completing her law degree in Estácio de Sá University.

Major Azevedo is the most senior female officer in the UPP program, and the first woman to occupy a strategic position in the Rio de Janeiro State Secretariat of Security’s Superintendence of Operational Planning. She has received honor awards from the city councils of Rio de Janeiro, Tanguá and Itaboraí. She is also a recipient of the United Nations Brazilian Force’s 50th Anniversary Medal. In 2009, *Veja* Magazine gave Major Pricilla Azevedo the Rio de Janeiro Personality of the Year Award, with the title of “Defender of the City”.