

---

## *Annex E* *United States Sinai Support* *Mission (SSM)*

Arms Control Problem: Conventional  
Verification Methods: Remote Sensing *in situ*  
(Inspection Teams/  
Control Posts)

Under the disengagement arrangement as concluded in the Sinai II agreement of 4 September 1975, the Sinai Support Mission (SSM) was established. This mission, which employed up-to-date, advanced remote sensing techniques, in support of the more conventional international monitoring system employing mobile inspection teams, observer posts, etc., was closely coupled as well to national verification systems of the two contracting parties. The basic responsibilities of the SSM were to report any movements of armed forces or preparation for such movements into the Gidi or Mitla Passes (see map) and to verify the nature of operations at the national electronic surveillance stations in the Buffer Zone.

In order to provide surveillance at the level required and to ensure compliance to the terms of the agreement on the part of the contracting parties, the Sinai Field Mission (SFM) was established with a tactical early warning system consisting of four general sensor fields, three manned watch stations, inspection stations as located with the two national surveillance stations and a headquarters in the field overlooking the Gidi Pass.

As originally constituted the SFM worked closely with two international (United Nations) control missions, each charged with aspects of overall verification.

The United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF II), formed after the 1973 October war and disbanded in 1978, had primary responsibility for supervising the Sinai disengagement arrangements and for assuring compliance with various provisions of the Sinai II Agreement. It maintained checkpoints at key road intersections throughout the Buffer Zone and patrolled the area to prevent or detect any unauthorized movement therein. It also monitored the Limited Forces Zone and Missile Free Zones established by the Sinai II Agreement through bi-

weekly and special inspections by UN military observers from 17 countries functioning under the second UN control mission, the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization (UNTSO) headquartered in Jerusalem. It has functioned with representatives from both superpowers since 1948.

The SFM complemented the role of the UNEF in the Buffer Zone by monitoring the Mitla and Gidi Passes, and it worked in close cooperation with UNEF patrols and personnel at checkpoints to carry out this responsibility. It also coordinated frequently throughout the day with UN officers in controlling the movement of personnel and vehicles in and out of the Egyptian and Israeli electronic surveillance sites.

Except for SFM vehicles, permitted to circulate freely within the early warning area, all traffic in the Sinai Buffer Zone had to be authorized and escorted by the UN Emergency Force (UNEF), which retained overall responsibility for the area. All vehicles moving in the vicinity of the Passes were detected when they activated one or more of the ground sensors guarding the Passes or when they were observed visually by SFM personnel on duty at the watch stations. On a typical day, up to some 200 vehicles or other objects were detected by the sensor fields and recorded by personnel on duty at the watch stations. Usually these sensor activations were caused by authorized UN or SFM vehicles, natural seismic disturbances, or scheduled aircraft overflights.

SFM worked closely to effect coordination of monitoring activity with UNEF, until its disbandment in 1978, and with UNTSO. Operational guidelines and procedures were discussed and discharged. The functions of SFM continued to evolve with improved detection and identification requirements. Initially, sensor activities were received and analyzed at the three watch stations, and findings were reported to the operations centre at SFM head-