

appropriate database under procedures established by the United Nations for a specific area or topic.

Possible Airborne Patrol Procedures

Before any airborne patrol can fulfil its mission as effectively as possible, a particular and well defined set of procedures must be established. According to the Peacekeepers Handbook there are three phases to a patrol operation:

- 1) Mission planning, preparation and briefing;
- 2) Mission execution; and
- 3) Debriefing and reporting;

Mission Planning, Preparation and Briefing

The objective of the aerial patrol should be understood by all individuals involved, most likely including the Air Liaison Officer, the pilot and the on-board United Nations observer. These objectives and aims will be determined by the nature of the original request for overflight reconnaissance support. The sensor selection and the time of day for the flight will be a direct function of the target of interest and the type of information required over that site. For example, a nighttime mission using the FLIR or infrared linescanner would be appropriate, if most of the type of activity previously reported had occurred after sundown.

During mission planning, the transit routes to be followed, flight lines and altitudes over particular targets of interest would be determined. Existing information on the patrol area and imposed restrictions over these areas or enroute to the target would be checked. Each member of the aerial patrol would be briefed prior to departure.