

continue to provide peacekeeping services in the region in order to assist in the Treaty's implementation. For a variety of political reasons, however, the consensus necessary to enable the Force to remain in existence was withheld when its Mandate came up for renewal on July 24, 1979. Prior to the signing of the Peace Treaty the US had assured the Egyptians and the Israelis that it would take steps to ensure that a suitable peacekeeping force would be created should UNEF II be withdrawn. This promise would lead to the creation of a private force in 1981 to replace the UNEF II, which would eventually become known as the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO).

The MFO

The MFO is charged with virtually all of the same functions and responsibilities of the UNEF II. In addition, the MFO assists the parties to the Peace Treaty in the fulfilment of their responsibilities in such areas as transferring land from one to the other. As in the UNEF II, a series of observation posts are operated throughout the Sinai, together with roving patrols and aerial reconnaissance overflights. Most of the MFO's troops are from the US, but they were joined by troops of nine other countries in the first instance. The aerial contingent of the MFO was supplied by Australia and New Zealand, who operated a joint helicopter unit from the Force's creation until March 31, 1986. After their withdrawal, Canada supplied a helicopter unit consisting of nine CH-135 Twin Huey helicopters, which operated until April 1990, when the US took over the aerial role. The aerial unit provides logistic support to the observation posts, medical evacuation services and observation and verification overflights.¹⁶

UNIIMOG

Two recently established Mid-East peacekeeping forces also use aerial surveillance in the performance of their duties. The United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) was created in May, 1988 to oversee a cease-fire in the bloody, decade long Iran-Iraq war. Initial plans had called for UNIIMOG to use both fixed-wing aircraft for ferrying supplies and personnel back and forth across the border, and "...a squadron of United Nations helicopters for observation of the no man's land and the cease-fire lines."¹⁷ Unfortunately, the Iranians were unwilling to allow UNIIMOG to acquire the helicopters as they feared sensitive information from aerial patrols might fall into Iraqi hands. The two sides were

¹⁶ See Smithson *ibid*. See also Dabros, Capt. M.R., "The Multinational Force and Observers: A New Experience for Canada" Canadian Defence Quarterly Autumn, 1986, pp. 32-35.

See The Blue Helmets, *op cit*, p. 331.

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