

II. PEACEKEEPING AND REMOTE SENSING - IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

Several key factors must be considered before airborne remote sensing activity could be used successfully as a United Nations peacekeeping support tool. Areas of concern include: the United Nations peacekeeping mandate, the level of political support, the control and command of peacekeeping forces, the type of terrain in which the peacekeeping forces will be operating and the impartiality that the United Nations's role should exemplify.

Peacekeeping Mandate

"Peacekeeping" includes a variety of definitions all of which incorporate an impartial third party to keep a number of hostile states or communities separated. In the context of United Nations operations the International Peace Academy defines peacekeeping as:

"the prevention, containment, moderation and termination of hostilities between or within states, through the mediation of a peaceful third party intervention organized and directed internationally using multinational forces of soldiers, police and civilians to restore and maintain peace".¹

In terms of United Nations peacekeeping missions, the definition would include the following functions within their mandate: observing, reporting, maintaining communication, patrolling and mediating low level disputes and complaints. The sole authority under which a peacekeeping force can operate is the mandate of any operation as devised by the Security Council. A clear and concise objective of the peacekeeping force must be established for it to be effective.

¹ International Peace Academy, Peacekeeper's Handbook, New York: Pergamon Press, 1984, p.22.