

Basic instructions for night flights, limitations on flying and any special directions given for specific types of missions must be outlined in the standard operating procedures. Night patrols have traditionally been frowned upon and discouraged in United Nations operations, mainly because of identification problems and the understanding that information gained during night observation missions is minimal. However, airborne patrolling using imaging infrared sensors can provide a safe means of acquiring very useful information at night.

Flight restrictions over areas of possible danger must be outlined and understood to ensure the safety of the United Nations airborne patrolling mission. In the case of ONUCA, for example, where aircraft and helicopters might be flying through the airspace of five separate nations, arrangements with host countries' authorities might include:

- a) establishment of visual corridors to cross borders;
- b) identification of flight plan routes;
- c) proper use of colour, marks and call signs;
- d) adequate communications; and
- e) the location of refuelling services.