

activities and coastal surveillance duties. Frontier areas in Namibia consisted of vast open desert, semi-desert areas, bushland and woodland. The reduction in the initially planned size of the UNTAG forces combined with this large land mass inevitably required prioritizing zones where United Nations forces could be active. The inherent dry climate and open land characteristics of the area made the jobs of the peacekeepers easier. Given these same conditions, however, overhead remote sensing would probably have contributed to the more efficient use of UNTAG resources.

As another example, in a climate and topography like Central America, a much different operating procedure in terms of peacekeeping is required. Major obstacles will be encountered as a result of the extremely mountainous terrain, dense vegetation and tropical climate. The mobility of peacekeeping missions will be restricted by the dense jungle and mountains within the area. Vegetation will hinder verification and observation procedures. In Central America, as in many other locales, peacekeeping forces must often contend with poorly developed road networks which greatly obstruct needed transportation.

There are thus many natural obstacles facing peacekeepers which could impede their activities. Aerial patrols using carefully selected imaging sensors can be part of the answer to the challenges that the United Nations peacekeepers will face in a variety of geographic terrains and climates. Aircraft and their associated sensors can monitor large areas in a short period of time. While their effectiveness depends in part on characteristics of terrain and climate, such airborne sensors are far more mobile than ground observers and can be put to good use in a wide variety of geographical situations. Lengthy borders can be patrolled and large coastal areas can be mapped in a fraction of the time it would take ground-based or ship-based personnel.