

FROM THE KIWI FORCE COMMANDERS

It is now 30 years since the first troops of the MFO marched into North Camp on the Sinai Peninsula to commence their active peace keeping role. This has been a unique endeavour and represents among the longest and most successful commitments to peace in the Middle East. Unique because it is subscribed to and financed by the two parties involved, Egypt and Israel, alongside their United States partner, and because it is an independent force outside the United Nations. Successful because, apart from the inevitable minor and mostly accidental infractions of the Treaty provisions, peace has been safeguarded in a region where those two parties had waged violent war on three occasions in the previous quarter century.

New Zealand has been a contributing nation to the MFO since its inception and is looked upon by both parties to the Treaty as a valuable and reliable partner. The New Zealand Contingent has contributed in many ways to the life of the Force both on and off duty. It has been seen by the command in the Sinai and by other contingents as a thoroughly professional group which has a comprehensive understanding of its roles and how to perform them. And New Zealanders have always given their full commitment to its social,

sporting and recreational programmes.

The culture which we Kiwis bring from our home country is unique and valued there. Overall they have done a fine job.

This thirtieth anniversary is time to pause and reflect on what has been achieved by the MFO and by New Zealand's commitment to it. We have been an integral part of the Force's pragmatic and evenhanded approach towards its responsibilities in this turbulent part of the world. Its successful commitment to preserving peace is respected and valued. I send greetings to all those who have served with pride in the MFO over its 30 years life and best wishes to those who are in the Sinai now continuing the fine tradition.

Best wishes

**Don McIver (Lieutenant General, retired)
Force Commander, 1989-1991**



New Zealand has been contributing troops to the MFO since its inception, and some personnel, both within the NZDF and outside, question why we are still involved in this mission. After 30 years, is the MFO still relevant? The answer is easy; yes! The events in Egypt since the Arab Spring only confirm that answer.

1948 until 1973 was marked by a series of wars between Israel and Egypt. Both countries could see that this situation could not continue. However, it took two extremely brave and forward thinking leaders, Begin and Sadat, to sign the Peace Treaty that led to the formation of the MFO. Since 1973, a cold peace has existed between the two countries and I believe that this is the legacy the MFO has provided to the region.

Since the 2011 revolution in Egypt, there has been much rhetoric about scrapping, or at least amending, the Peace Treaty. We have seen a military dominated regime under Mubarak overthrown, but they at least fought in the wars of the 50s, 60's and 70's and knew the human cost. They were more than happy to preserve the Treaty.

We now have a democratically elected government in Egypt, dominated by the Muslim Brotherhood, with perceived strong links to Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

There is resentment in Egypt to the limitations of their sovereignty and their ability to deploy troops how and when they wish in the Sinai. However, the new Government has continued to honor the Treaty. Why? They have seen that there is flexibility within the Treaty, albeit with the concurrence of Israel, to deploy troops throughout the whole of the Sinai. This is facilitated through the MFO, a valuable contribution within the current climate. Israel is also committed to seeing that Egypt maintains security in the Sinai, even if it would appear that this is out of self-interest. I would suggest that the real reason is that Israel would prefer to see a strong Egypt, rather than having one divided by internal problems that could have a long term destabilising influence on the region.

The Kiwis have made a significant contribution to this peace and the MFO. While they are few in numbers and deployed across a wide variety of roles within the MFO; from operations, liaison, personnel, engineering, driving and training; they touch everyone in the Force on a daily basis. Their unique culture, can-do attitude and ability to mix with everyone leads to a greater contribution than their numbers would suggest. I think the NZDF and New Zealanders generally should be proud of the contribution that this small band of Kiwis has made

to the MFO and the region, continuing a legacy started by the New Zealand Mounted Rifles in World War One.

Kia Kaha

**Major General Warren Whiting
Force Commander**



THE TREATY



SIGNING THE PROTOCOL FOR THE TREATY OF PEACE, 3 AUGUST 1981.

The origins of the Multinational Force and Observers, headquartered in Rome, with peace keeping responsibilities in the Sinai, lie in Annex I to the 1979 Treaty of Peace between Egypt and Israel, entitled "Protocol Concerning Israeli Withdrawal and Security Arrangements". The area subject to Annex I is divided into four zones, Zones A, B, and C in the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt and Zone D in Israel. Zones C and D are adjacent to the international border.

This Annex also establishes post-withdrawal levels of military personnel and equipment allowed in each zone and, in Article VI, states that both Parties would request the United Nations provide a force and observers to supervise the implementation of these provisions.

During the period leading up to the signing of the Treaty, it became understood that United Nations Security Council approval for the stationing of a United Nations peace keeping force in the Sinai would be unlikely. Therefore, on March 26, 1979, the day the Treaty of Peace was signed, United States President Carter sent identical letters to Egyptian President Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Begin specifying certain United States commitments with respect to the Treaty of Peace.

These commitments included a promise that the United States would take the necessary steps to ensure the establishment and maintenance of an alternative multinational force should the United Nations fail to assume this role. In 1981 the Protocol to the Treaty of Peace confirmed the MFO as the alternative peace keeping arrangement to the envisioned United Nations force.

The new independent, international organisation would be funded in equal parts by Egypt, Israel, and the United States, an arrangement that assured each that their governments would take an active interest in the operations of the organisation.

THE REGION

At first glance, the Sinai Peninsula appears to be no more than sixty thousand square kilometres of land linking the African and Asian continents. It is triangular in shape; bordering the Suez Canal and Gulf of Suez to the west, the Mediterranean Sea to the north, and Israel and the Gulf of Aqaba to the east. It is an extremely dry landscape with vast barren desert stretching along the Mediterranean Coast down to the southern mountainous region. Although dry riverbeds litter the southern landscape, the Sinai receives less than 100 millimetres of rain fall each year. While most Kiwis might struggle to locate Sinai on an atlas, to fifty-plus New Zealand Defence Force personnel each year, it is their temporary home.

Archaeologists have confirmed that the Sinai has been shaped by humans since ancient times and have uncovered Egyptian inscriptions dating back to 3400BC. It has endured a particularly violent past and the Peninsula has been invaded more than 50 times. Moses and the Israelites were said to have trekked though the barren mountainous landscape after their exodus from Egypt. Today, Sinai continues to be sparsely inhabited by Bedouin tribes pursuing their traditional nomadic lifestyle. In stark contrast, the southern tip of the Peninsula contains the pocket sized Las Vegas style resort town of Sharm el Sheikh,

which hosts thousands of overseas visitors each year.

During World War II, New Zealand troops were stationed in the Sinai for the Desert Campaign, and many of those killed were laid to rest in the Kantara Commonwealth War Grave Cemetery close to the Suez Canal. The legacy of the war remains, with the desert hiding thousands of dangerous unexploded land mines. To this day, remnants continue to maim and kill as the shifting sands move ageing and unstable ordnance around the land. Recent history of the Sinai Peninsula continues to include violent struggle and since World War II, Egypt and Israel have fought in the Sinai four times. Egyptian interference with Israeli shipping through the closure of the Strait of Tiran precipitated war in 1956 and again eleven years later. Israel captured the entire territory from Egypt in the 1967 Six-Day War, resulting in a temporary closure of the Suez Canal. In 1973 the Yom Kippur War saw Egypt fight back although Israel retained control of the Sinai until the final stage of the 1979 Camp David accords were implemented in 1982.

At the same time, the Peninsula was divided into a number of zones of demilitarisation, to be monitored by the newly formed independent organisation, the Multinational Force and Observers - or as it is more

commonly referred to, the MFO. The mission of the MFO is to monitor the truce between Israel and Egypt by observing, reporting and verifying any breaches. New Zealand has been actively involved in the MFO since 1982 and continues to deploy 26 NZ Defence Force personnel at a time for six month rotations. Personnel are drawn from the NZ Army, Royal NZ Navy and Royal NZ Air Force. The current Force Commander of the MFO is a New Zealander; Major General Warren Whiting.

While the MFO's Director General and headquarters is in Rome, the Force Commander and main body of the force is located at El Gorah, approximately twenty kilometres south of the Mediterranean coastline and fifteen kilometres west of the border with the Gaza Strip and Israel. The MFO's 2.7 square kilometre compound, called 'North Camp' occupies the remains of an old Israeli air base. North Camp provides relatively comfortable if basic amenities and is essentially a highly fortified oasis in the middle of a desert. Along with the NZ contingent, North Camp accommodates personnel from the other participating nations; Australia, Canada, Colombia, Czech Republic, Fiji, France, Hungary, Italy, Norway, the United States, and Uruguay. In addition to North Camp, the MFO also

operates numerous other remote observation posts scattered throughout the Peninsula.

Most Kiwis never travel to this part of the world, but as the NZ members of the MFO confirm here, it is one of the most fascinating historical and religious regions. When security restrictions allow, members of the MFO travel into neighbouring countries to gain a better insight into the region. Expeditions into Jordan to wander around the awe-inspiring world heritage site of Petra is high on the list of 'must sees'. Trips into Israel are popular and many take the opportunity to tour around the religious sites including the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth where it is said the Virgin Mary announced she was pregnant. Travelling further north, the Sea of Galilee, at 209m below sea level is a popular destination where Jesus was said to have walked on water. No tour of Israel would be complete without a visit to the old city of Jerusalem and to one of the holiest sites for Christians, The Church of the Holy Sepulchre. A short stroll down the crowded alleyways is the Western Wall or as it is more commonly referred to, 'The Wailing Wall' usually crowded with people chanting and praying.

Swimming or floating on the Dead Sea, at 400

THE MISSION OF THE MFO IS TO MONITOR THE TRUCE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT
BY OBSERVING, REPORTING AND VERIFYING ANY BREACHES.

metres below sea level is also an experience not to be missed. Israel, unlike Egypt, looks and feels like a modern country with its bustling metropolitan cities including Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Israelis however are continually conscious of their security, and armed uniformed troops with weapons in full view continually roam the streets.

MFO members are given the opportunity to explore Egypt including a tour to Cairo and its environs including the Sphinx and Great Pyramids of Giza. On the Sinai Peninsula, the UNESCO World Heritage Site of St Catherine's Monastery is a popular destination and is viewed by tens of thousands of visitors each year. The monastery is named after the christian martyr, Saint Catherine of Alexandria and is home to the second largest collection of early religious manuscripts, outnumbered only by the Vatican. Towering above the monastery is the 2285m Mount Sinai and biblical history says the summit is the spot where Moses received the Ten Commandments from God. Travelling around this region is fascinating and most tourists gain the impression that this land is untouched by time. It has also been described as a time capsule littered with priceless artefacts and monuments that continue to reveal a mysterious past. The year 1840 seems long ago for New

Zealanders but in Sinai that is practically present day. They keep artefacts that are thousands of years old sitting in museum foyers because they aren't considered old enough to put under lock and key.

Given the number of ancient sites and the distances involved, tourists can easily succumb to 'pharonic fatigue' where the monuments, tombs and ruins seem to merge into a blur. Having said that, the area is immensely interesting and the landscape is about as far removed from New Zealand as is possible.

Back in the Sinai, the MFO mission continues to observe, report and verify as it has done for 30 years. North Camp basks in summer temperatures which regularly reach the high 40s while in winter, the mercury in the desert plunges to icy cold lows. Blinding sand storms whipped up from the Sahara Desert are common during the winter months, reducing visibility for days on end.

For the most part, living in the Sinai provides an amazing experience for a small group of soldiers, sailors and airmen and airwomen from the New Zealand Defence Force.

The ongoing Kiwi contribution to the MFO continues to cement our influence on what is arguably the most successful peace keeping mission ever formed. It's location in one of the world's political and military hotspots and in particular its proximity to the Gaza Strip, regularly places the MFO in an unenviable position.

The often-volatile region is routinely described as a tinderbox and yet the continuing goodwill of Israel and Egypt along with the ongoing monitoring of the MFO mission, ensures that the aging truce agreement is upheld. In the meantime and with no indication of NZ's involvement ending, 26 NZ Defence Force personnel continue to deploy on their mission to the far off land that is the Sinai.

This essay was provided by Flight Sergeant Grant Seales, who served at the MFO in the role of Acting Warrant Officer in 2007/2008.



ORGANISATION OF THE MFO



The MFO is an independent, international organisation whose expenses, less contributions from the Governments of Japan, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Germany, are funded in equal parts by the Arab Republic of Egypt, the State of Israel and the United States of America. The 12 Participating States - currently Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Colombia, Fiji, France, Hungary, Italy, New Zealand, Norway, the United States, and Uruguay - provide the MFO with military contingents that make up the Force and perform specific and specialised tasks. Though not technically a Participating State, Norway, provides the MFO with five staff officers. Responsibility for the direction of the MFO is vested in the Director General by the Protocol to the Treaty of Peace. He exercises his authority through his staff at the Headquarters in Rome, the Force Commander and his staff in the Sinai, and the Director General's representatives and their staffs in Cairo and Tel Aviv.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL MFO HEADQUARTERS, ROME

MFO headquarters in Rome oversees all MFO operations, including legal and financial matters, contracts, procurement, personnel and

recruitment, morale and welfare programmes, troop rotation arrangements, and programme evaluation. Diplomatic contacts and political matters involving Egypt and Israel and the Troop Contributing and Donor States are also conducted by the Director General directly and through his representatives in Cairo and Tel Aviv.

MFO IN CAIRO AND TEL AVIV

During early planning stages, it became obvious that the MFO would need a mechanism in each of the two States to deal with those issues of policy and administration outside the scope of the Force's relations with the Egyptian and Israeli Liaison Systems.

On April 25, 1982, the offices established by the MFO in Cairo and Tel Aviv officially became the offices of the Director General's representatives in those two cities. Each official serves as the Director General's personal representative to the Governments of Egypt and Israel, respectively, as well as to the diplomatic missions of the Troop Contributing and Donor States in those countries. In addition, these offices carry out MFO activities such as local procurement, logistical support and liaison.

THE FORCE AND OBSERVERS

The Force Commander, currently Major General Warren Whiting, stationed at North Camp, is responsible for the command and control of the MFO in the area of operation. The Force Commander is responsible for approximately 2000 multinational military and civilian personnel, principally located at two main sites in the Sinai.

NORTH CAMP

The MFO's North Camp is the site of the Force Commander's headquarters. It is located at el Gorah in the northern Sinai, approximately 20 kilometers south of the Mediterranean coastline. It provides facilities for both the operational and logistical needs of the Force as well as a suitable living environment for military and civilian personnel. Covering approximately 2.7 square kilometers (660 acres) reclaimed from the desert, the camp has aviation support buildings, a gymnasium, a theatre, barracks, a fire station, administrative buildings, clubs, dining facilities, sports fields and a swimming pool.

Water and electricity is purchased from local authorities with the ability maintained to generate a continuous electrical power by an internal

electrical power plant of six power generators. A wastewater treatment plant provides treated non-potable water for irrigation purposes. This system has allowed the Force to sustain vitally needed trees, shrubs, and grassed areas to hold down the sand and provide some protection from the wind.

SOUTH CAMP

The smaller South Camp, near Sharm el Sheikh on the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula, is situated on a bluff overlooking the Red Sea. The camp contains all facilities normally required to support a reinforced battalion-sized military unit. As at North Camp, a multinational dining facility serves all MFO personnel located in the area and housing units are utilitarian but comfortable and air conditioned. Other general use facilities such as a laundry, Force Exchange, library and gymnasium, an adjacent beach, clubs and a travel agency are also available at the camp.

South Camp receives its potable water from a reverse osmosis water desalination plant and from the local Egyptian water system originating at wells in the el Tor area near the southwestern coast of the Sinai Peninsula. As at North Camp, an electrical power plant run by the MFO provides a reliable source of electricity.

REMOTE OPERATIONAL SITES

Since 1998, thirty remote operational sites. (Observation Posts (Op's) and Check Points (CP's) have been located throughout Zone C.) The MFO soldiers at these sites perform the vital "observe and report" functions of the peace keeping force, and are supported at their posts by the MFO logistics and communications systems. All required water, food and fuel for on-site generators and other necessary supplies must be transported from the camps to support the soldiers who are on duty at these generally isolated sites.

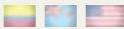
THE CIVILIAN OBSERVER UNIT

A large part of the MFO's basic mission in the Sinai is performed by the relatively few men and women who comprise the Civilian Observer Unit (COU). The COU has its origins in the United States Sinai Field Mission (SFN) which came into existence with the Sinai II Agreement of 1975. On April 25, 1982, SFM ceased operations and its members transferred oversight of all MFO operations, including legal and financial matters, contracts, procurement, facilities management, personnel and recruitment, morale and welfare programmes, troop rotation

arrangements, and programme evaluation.

THE CONTINGENTS

THE INFANTRY BATTALIONS:

 **COLOMBIA, FIJI AND UNITED STATES**

Three battalions, one each from Colombia, the Republic of the Fiji Islands and the United States, perform observation duties throughout Zone C. The Colombian and Fijian Battalions are based in North Camp, while the United States Battalion is located at South Camp.

Although the basic duties of the three battalions are similar, their composition and length of tours vary. The Colombian personnel serve a ten month tour of duty, with one half of the battalion rotating every five months. Fijian personnel serve a one-year tour of duty, with approximately one quarter of the Fijian Battalion rotating every three months. U.S. Battalion personnel serve for a nine-month period, and the entire unit rotates over a three-week period.

There are six sectors which make up Zone C. The Fijian Battalion (FIJIBATT) is deployed in the northern two sectors; the Colombian Battalion (COLBATT) is deployed in the central two

sectors; the United States Battalion (USBATT) is deployed in the southern two sectors.

Sector Control Centers (SCC's) are co-located at seven of the remote sites in Zone C to serve as Sector Headquarters and control the CPs and OPs in each sector. SCCs vary in number of personnel but consist of a command element, a communications element, and a patrol/protection element. CPs and OPs are similar in composition to the SCCs, but are smaller and have the more specific tasks of either verification at paved access roads into Zone C or local observation and reporting. In addition, each battalion conducts a number of vehicle patrols and temporary deployments from the main camps, battalion SCCs, CPs and OPs.

The amount of time spent on duty in the sectors varies from battalion to battalion, but personnel rotate through the CPs, OPs and SCCs every three to six weeks. The country, though ruggedly beautiful, can be desolate and the climate harsh. Most posts are isolated and depend on the leadership of junior officers and non-commissioned officers and on small unit integrity to accomplish their part of the peace keeping mission.

The Italian Contingent, currently 78 personnel and

three ships is commanded by a Navy Commander; all personnel are part of the Coastal Patrol Unit except one Officer who works in the Liaison branch.

THE AUSTRALIAN CONTINGENT

Australia has a long association with the MFO, and was one of the original contributing nations. Australia and New Zealand contributed the Force's Rotary Wing Aviation Unit (RWAU), a combined Air Force helicopter squadron, from March 1982 until April 1986. Australia renewed its commitment to the MFO in January 1993, with an Army contingent of 26 personnel.

Australian Contingent personnel are all based at North Camp. The Contingent currently consists of 25 personnel ranging in rank from Corporal (E5) to Lieutenant Colonel (O5). Personnel are posted unaccompanied to the Sinai for a six-month tour, with half the contingent rotating every three months. The only exception to this is the Commander, who rotates every twelve months.

The three-month rotation plan allows key staff, headquarters and Force operations, security and administrative functions to achieve a higher than normal level of continuity during the transition of personnel to and from the MFO. The

Contingent is split equally in number and Force employment areas to ensure the widest level of continuity and a lowest possible disruption to individual branches and employment areas.

The Australian contingent members fill a variety of key appointments within almost every branch of the MFO Force Headquarters.

THE CANADIAN CONTINGENT

The Canadian Contingent consists of 28 members of the Canadian Forces ranging in rank from Corporal to Colonel. All three branches of service, Army, Navy and Air Force are represented. Canadian personnel are posted to the Sinai for a period of either six months or one year. Members of the Canadian Contingent represent a wide variety of positions across all branches of the MFO. All Canadians are based at North Camp, El Gorah, Sinai. Key MFO positions held by Canadians are the Chief of Liaison, who is also the Commander of the Canadian Contingent, and the Force Sergeant Major (FSM). The Chief of Liaison is the primary officer responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Force Liaison Branch. The FSM is the senior soldier within the MFO and as such is responsible for the welfare and discipline of all MFO troops. Both positions report

directly to the Force Commander. The other 26 members of the Canadian Contingent are employed in the key areas of Air Operations and Flight Following, Operations, Training, Force Engineering, Food Services, Fleet Management, Force Information and Communications Technology, Press and Visits, Recreation and Morale Support, and Force Safety.

THE CZECH CONTINGENT

The Czech Contingent is the newest member of the MFO family of troop-contributing nations. The first soldiers arrived in the Sinai on 17 November 2009.

Contingent members are three staff officers in the following positions: Assistant Chief of Staff (Lieutenant Colonel), Deputy Force Protection Information Officer (Major) and Force Engineering Staff Officer (Major). All Czech officers serve a voluntary one-year tour of duty with the MFO.

THE FRENCH CONTINGENT

France's commitment to the MFO has been unbroken since 1982. Until June 2010, France provided the MFO with fixed wing support which included aircraft, crew and air staff officers. Currently, the French Contingent consists of two Army Lieutenant Colonels who work within the Liaison Branch, one in

North Camp as the Deputy Chief of Liaison and the second as the senior South Camp Liaison Officer. The tour of duty for these personnel is one year.

THE HUNGARIAN CONTINGENT

The Hungarian Contingent has been part of the MFO since September 1995. The Contingent is comprised of forty-two personnel. All members of the contingent are military police serving with the Force Military Police Unit (FMPU) except for two members serving on the Force staff; a Doctor and a Liaison Officer. The Contingent Commander, an Army Lieutenant Colonel, serves as the Force Provost Marshal. Based on mission requirements, the Contingent comprises both military and civilian police personnel (on active military duty) that provide services as criminal investigators, traffic investigators, security and general patrolling and escort duties. The Contingent includes personnel who provide finance and administration services for the Contingent. Members of the Hungarian Contingent serve a one-year tour of duty with the MFO.

THE ITALIAN CONTINGENT

Italy has provided the MFO's Coastal Patrol Unit (CPU) uninterruptedly since 1982 and during

the period March 2004-2007, the MFO's Force Commander, Roberto Martinelli. The mission of the CPU is to observe and report Treaty related activities and violations at sea, thus providing naval operational support of the MFO mission. In accordance with the Article V of the Treaty and the Protocol, the CPU also conducts naval patrols in the Strait of Tiran and its approaches to ensure that freedom of navigation is maintained.

As additional tasks, the Unit also provides support to the local Egyptian authorities in search and rescue (S.A.R.) operations and anti pollution patrol, which are both institutional duties for the Italian Navy.

THE NEW ZEALAND CONTINGENT

New Zealand (NZCMFO) has been a member of the MFO since its inception. Participation by New Zealand originally took the form of Rotary Wing Air Support and subsequently evolved to its present form. In 1998, New Zealand increased its participation to twenty-six personnel. The primary tasks of the NZCMFO are to provide a transport section of eight personnel, under the operational control of the Uruguayan Transportation Unit to operate and drive vehicles as required by the Force and to provide a Training & Advisory Team (NZTAT) of eight personnel. The NZTAT

establishes, conducts, maintains and evaluates training courses common to the MFO based on MFO Standard Operating Procedures as well as providing driver training and MFO license qualifications testing.

Complementing the achievements of the NZTAT and the driving section, New Zealand holds several other high profile Force staff appointments. The Force Engineering Office (FEO) benefits greatly from the efforts of the two New Zealanders who fulfill the Facilities Engineer (North) and the Facilities Engineer Officer Remote Site (North) responsibilities. These efforts include assuming the duties as Force Engineering Officer to cover that officer's absence. Another key appointment filled by New Zealand is that of the Force Commander's Aide-de-camp. A mixture of diplomacy and a firm understanding of the nature of the multinational environment are a necessity for this appointment.

The New Zealand Contingent also provides a Staff Officer in the Operations Branch, a Liaison Officer and the Clerk to the Liaison Branch. Also part of the Operations Branch, New Zealand contributes an Officer to fill the position of Deputy Chief of Operations for Plans (DCOP-Plans). The DCOP-Plans is also responsible for

the MFO Operational planning and the conduct of Operational Readiness Checks and inspections that assist Force Units in maintaining an effective and efficient contribution to the MFO mission.

The Officer fulfilling the role of DCOP-Plans is also the Commanding Officer of the New Zealand Contingent. He is assisted in this role by a NZCMFO staff of two personnel. This small staff deals with all the national administration aspects of the New Zealand Contingent.

In March 2010, New Zealand provided the MFO with a Force Commander, Major General Warren Whiting. This is the second MFO Force Commander from New Zealand. Previously, Lieutenant General Donald McIver served as Force Commander from March 1989 to March 1991. New Zealand has also agreed to include two additional contingent positions, the Force Commander's Military Executive Assistant and the Force Commander's Driver, increasing NZCMFO authorized strength to twenty-eight personnel.

THE NORWEGIAN CONTINGENT

The Norwegian Contingent (NORCON) consists of three staff officers. They hold the following key positions: Chief of Operations (Colonel) and

two Force Field Liaison Officers (Majors).

The Norwegians have been with the MFO since its inception. Over one hundred Norwegians have served with the Force. Norway has also provided a total of four Force Commanders. For Norwegian officers, service in the Sinai is voluntary, and assignment to the MFO is highly desirable and sought after within the Norwegian Army. Norwegians serve a one-year tour of duty with the MFO.

THE UNITED STATES CONTINGENT

The United States Army provides the single largest contingent to the MFO based at both North and South Camp. The senior American in the Force serves as the Force Chief of Staff (COS) and also commands Task Force Sinai. As the Chief of Staff, this officer coordinates and directs all staff actions within the Force and answers for the Force in the Force Commander's absence. As TFS Commander, COS has been centrally-selected for brigade command in the US Army selection system. COS provides the US command and control for the US Infantry Battalion, the US Support Battalion and the US HQ Contingent. Since June 2007, a significant number of the Support Battalion positions are staffed with National Guard soldiers. However, the Aviation

Company (AVCO), EOD Detachment and Flight Medical positions continue to be manned by US Army active duty soldiers. Support Battalion provides direct logistical support to all twelve contingents within the MFO at both base camps and all 30 remote sites.

AVCO provides rotary and fixed wing aviation support to the MFO. Rotary support consists of eight UH-60A helicopters and the fixed wing aircraft is a Sherpa C-23. All aircraft are provided by the US Army. AVCO runs simultaneous operations at North and South Camp and provides general aviation support missions at both, including Civilian Observer Unit reconnaissance and verification missions, Liaison System support in facilitating meetings of the Treaty Parties, VIP transport, re-supply, command and control, training, visitor orientation and search and rescue. It also provides round-the-clock aeromedical evacuation at both locations. AVCO performs its own maintenance within the Sinai and operates a repair parts warehouse.

A medical element provides a full range of medical, dental, veterinary, physical therapy and preventive medicine services to the entire MFO. Dispensaries are operated at both camps and flight medics and/or surgeons are available for all MEDEVAC operations.

Veterinary and preventive medicine specialists inspect all food and water products consumed by MFO personnel. In addition, they conduct professional medical training for medical personnel from all contingents assigned to the MFO and routinely conduct Expert Field Medical Badge (EFMB) training and testing to all US medical personnel.

EOD provides explosive ordnance disposal support to the entire MFO. Detachment members not only react to the many mines and other unexploded ordnance left in the Sinai from earlier wars, they also train all newly arrived MFO personnel on the recognition of hazardous ordnance and safe procedures to follow if found. Additionally, detachment members routinely update Force maps with locations of hazardous areas and verify temporary observation posts.

THE URUGUAY CONTINGENT

Uruguay has provided a contingent to the MFO since 1982. Currently, the Contingent provides a Transport and Engineering Unit (TREU) in support of the MFO mission and authorized strength is 58 personnel.

The Transport Section of experienced drivers operates and drives the fleet of trucks, busses and light vehicles transporting personnel and

cargo throughout the mission area. Uruguayans drive more than 3,000,000 kilometers annually, making a significant contribution to the Force. The high standard of the drivers contributes strongly to decreasing vehicle accidents, reducing repair costs and undue wear and tear on the Force's fleet of vehicles.

The Engineering Unit is responsible for the maintenance and upgrade of the Sector Supply Route, access roads to Sector Control Centers and Observation Posts, gravel roads within North and South Camps, helipads and support construction activities as directed by the Force Engineering Officer.

The Contingent also provides a Staff Officer who operates as a Liaison Officer, linking the Force Transportation Office and the Uruguayan Transportation Unit. Additionally the Contingent provides a Medical officer to support the Force Medical Center, providing medical assistance to all MFO personnel.

CIVILIAN SUPPORT

The Force in the Sinai is supported by MFO direct hire civilians and contractor personnel. The MFO directly hire civilians from various countries,

who play a vital role in procurement, contracting, morale support, secretarial services, and legal and financial functions. The Force Exchange (shop) and the libraries are staffed by civilians.

Key to the smooth functioning of the Force is the work carried out by the support services contractor. These services consist of vehicle, utilities and facilities maintenance, food services, laundry, fire protection, grounds maintenance, custodial services, as well as clubs, shoe repair, hair cutting and tailoring.