

Preface

This book is the outcome of an international and inter-disciplinary research effort initiated by the Bochum Verification Project and carried out together with the Centre for Arms Control and Verification, Eindhoven, The Netherlands, and the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict, Bochum, Germany.

The Bochum Verification Project (BVP) was founded in 1988 at the Institute for Experimental Physics III of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Bochum, Germany, nearly simultaneously with the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV) of that university. The IFHV is a central research unit of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum. The BVP aimed to study the possible use of automatic sensor systems for the verification of disarmament agreements. From its beginning it collaborated closely with the IFHV.¹ During international conferences and workshops, the BVP also came into contact with Brig.Gen. (retd.) Henny van der Graaf, then with the Center for Verification Technology of Free University, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, now at the Center for Arms Control and Verification of the Eindhoven University of Technology, Eindhoven, The Netherlands. A continuing collaboration ensued.²

¹ The first two Volkswagen Foundation grants to the BVP were under the auspices of the IFHV. The BVP publication series “Verification - Research Reports” is a sub-series of the IFVH series “Bochumer Schriften zur Friedenssicherung und zum Humanitären Völkerrecht”. One result of the interdisciplinary cooperation was a joint publication by a lawyer and a physicist: O. Schäfer and J. Altmann, *Draft Protocol on Sensor Verification—Proposal for a Legal Framework for the Use of Ground Sensors to Verify Limits on Military Land and Air Vehicles*, IFHV-Studien No. 2, Bochum: UVB, 1993.

² This concerned mainly the holding of international workshops on verification. See J. Altmann, H. van der Graaf and P. Lewis, P. Markl (eds.), *Verification at Vienna—Monitoring Reductions of Conventional Armed Forces*, New York: Gordon & Breach, 1992. One other notable outcome was the 1992 international BVP experiment with military vehicles, held in the Netherlands.

With the end of the Cold War, peace-keeping gained in importance. The BVP included the use of sensors during peace-keeping operations as part of its purview. When it prepared a corresponding research proposal in 1994, for work which should be directly application-oriented, it turned to the Center for Arms Control and Verification at Eindhoven for the requirements and operational aspects, and to the IFHV for the juridical issues. The proposal was drafted in common; we should like to thank the Volkswagen Foundation, Hannover, Germany, for the support of our project.

As the first step, a questionnaire was developed which was to be sent to blue-helmet commanders and other officials with experience in peace-keeping. We want to thank the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) in Geneva for its permission to use the *Practitioner's Questionnaire* of its Disarmament and Conflict Resolution project as a model, and for providing us with the addresses of past peace-keeping participants.

In addition to our contacting of these former peace-keepers, the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), New York, sent the questionnaire to many active peace-keepers. This contributed significantly to the unexpectedly high questionnaire return rate of almost 50%. We are particularly grateful for this support.

At the end of the two-years project, in April 1997, we presented our results to the United Nations DPKO during a seminar in New York. We should like to thank the DPKO for this opportunity and for the comments made there. They have been taken into account in the final writing of this book.

Finally, we want to thank UNIDIR for publishing the results of our project in its report series. Special thanks go to Steve Tulliu of UNIDIR for the help with the production of this book.

The editors