



Background:

Fairly or unfairly, US forces have been severely criticized for their part in damaging or failing to protect cultural properties during global military operations. The ability to read the cultural landscape can be critical for mission success. Archeologists working at the installation level are in a unique position to recognize and teach stewardship where the ability to recognize sacred places, archaeological sites and valued historic structures are critical for successful stability operations. With ratification of The Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, training of military personnel for cultural property protection is also a requirement of US treaty law.

Objective:

The immediate objective of this project is to provide practical training and educational materials that are easily available to military personnel at all levels. *The ultimate objective is to assist in the establishment of a permanent office within the US DoD to handle cultural heritage issues.*

Summary of Approach:

A key to the potential success of this project is the goal of bringing together representatives of the military archeology community with the academic archeology community, many of whom were unaware that a military archeology community even existed. The project approach is to encourage classical archeologists to provide research information to support military planning, training, and education for US personnel as well as for international partnerships. The idea is to use military archeologists, who have experience working with deploying personnel and who understand the mission, as conduits in this information transfer. The goal is to produce effective planning, education, and training assets that military personnel at all levels will actively use and understand.

Time Line

- 2006
 - Project Initiation – Development of Earliest Awareness Materials like Playing Cards and Field Training Assets
 - Positive Journalism in the US and Global Media
- 2007
 - First Partnership Meeting with Concerned Academic Archaeologists from the Archaeological Institute of America
 - Participation in the Bright Star War Games
- 2008
 - Continued Development of Curricula and Awareness Materials
 - WAC, Dublin, DoD Panel
 - Initiation of Central Command Historical/Cultural Advisory Group, now Action Group
 - Initiation of Cultural Resources GIS for Iraq and Afghanistan
 - Initiation of Coordination with State Department

2009

- Signature on Central Command ENV Regulation 200-2 that Includes an Historical/Cultural Chapter
- Translation of the Iraq Archaeology Atlas into English
- Continued Participation in Middle Eastern Exercises and On-Site Training Opportunities
- Establishment of International Military Cultural Resources Working Group (IMCuRWG)

2010

- Completed Revised Websites, Iraq, Afghanistan, Egypt
- In Country Coordination, Afghanistan
- WAC Intercongress Vienna, DoD Panel
- Coordination with Army PKSOI and the University of Kansas and Command and General Staff College
- Developed Comprehensive Set of Historical Cultural Lessons Learned - Iraq and Afghanistan
- Continued Development and Distribution of Awareness Materials

2011

- Day Long AIA/DoD Partnership Seminar at the Archaeological Institute of America Annual Meeting
- Continued Curricula Development, Awareness Materials, Research, and International Initiatives

Benefit:

The long term benefit will be better education of US, Coalition, and International military personnel for recognition and appropriate response to cultural property during global military operations. In addition to improved stewardship, this project provides DOD with an opportunity to increase public awareness of its strong conservation and stewardship program.

Accomplishments:

To date, this project has produced:

- Cultural Heritage Expertise for Middle Eastern Military Exercises and Environmental Partnerships
- On-site Training Opportunities in the Middle East
- Guidelines for Identifying Cultural Property in Cross Cultural Environments and Reference Materials
- Professional Military Education Curricula
- Case Studies, Scenarios, and Lessons Learned
- Awareness Training Materials for Military Personnel
- Cultural Heritage Mapping Information for Global Operations Planning
- Field Training Assets for Cultural Property Encounters
- A Catalog of Project Products
- Partnership Meetings and Shared Initiatives with International Subject Matter Experts

Contact Information:

Dr. Laurie W. Rush
Cultural Resources Program Manager
85 First Street West, Fort Drum, NY 13602
Phone: 315-772-4165; laurie.rush@us.army.mil