Lessons Learned from Culture in Crisis
Protecting the Past to Save the Future

Dr. Laurie W. Rush
US Army, Fort Drum, NY
Lesson 1 –
Military Personnel Need to be Prepared
Remember this international symbol for a PROTECTED CULTURAL SITE.

Ancient cultural artifacts and objects of art are also heritage resources that must be protected. Remember! The buying and selling of antiquities is not condoned by the U.S. Armed Forces.

A mound or small hill in an otherwise flat landscape could be a sign of ancient human occupation. [Tell Rimah, Iraq]

No graffiti! Defacing walls or ruins with spray paint or other material is disrespectful and counterproductive to the Mission. Ancient Iraqi heritage is part of your heritage. Old stories say that Jonah of the bible was buried in this hill. [Nabi Yunis Mosque in Mosul, Iraq]

Future generations will be thankful for the monuments and sites spared today. ["Bent Minaret" of Mosul’s Great Mosque, Iraq]

Respect ruins whenever possible. They protect you and your cultural history. [Ancient minaret at Samarra, Iraq]

This site has survived for seventeen centuries. Will it and others survive you? [Ctesiphon, Iraq]

Stop digging immediately if you find buried walls, broken pottery, or other artifacts. Report what you find! (Ancient walls near the ziggurat of Ur, Iraq)

Drive around--not over--archaeological sites. The DoD needs your help in protecting cultural heritage resources.

Look before you dig! Overcoming the Effects of Babylon
On Site Archaeology Awareness Training for Military Personnel
Real and Replica Field Training
And Opportunities to Practice
Lesson 2 – Heritage Matters
Even When Lives are on the Line

Maliens Risked their Lives to Rescue Manuscripts from Timbuktu

Dr. Cesare Fasole, Uffizi Librarian

Protecting Trajan’s Column in Rome and Arch in Benevento
Recognizing Relationships - Sardis
Lesson 3 –
Objects and Collections are also Important
“E tutto quello che ci rimane”
Lesson 4 – An Effective Cultural Property Protection Program has Strategic Value
Lesson 5 – You Have to Have a List

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**Expert: NATO raids spared Libyan antiquities**

ROME — Libya’s famed ancient Roman sites, including the sprawling seaside ruins of Leptis Magna, were spared damage by NATO during the recent airstrikes, says a London-based Libyan archaeologist.

Hafed Walda, a research fellow at Kings College, said Friday that he wants to "say thank you to NATO for achieving precision strikes" during its campaign to protect civilians from late dictator Moammar Gadhafi’s regime.

Libya boasts many ancient Roman structures, along with a wealth of ancient artifacts in its major museum in the capital, Tripoli, and in other museums countrywide.
DoD Map for Afghanistan

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES OF AFGHANISTAN

- Islamic period, 9th - 17th centuries AD
- Later Silk Road period, 2nd - 6th centuries AD
- Early Silk Road period, 4th century BC
- Bronze and Iron ages, 6,000 BC - 400 BC
- Prehistoric sites, 15,000 - 8,000 years ago

Selected present-day cities:
- Merv
- Balkh
- Bamiyan
- Herat

Present-day country boundaries are shown.
What Should Be on the List?
Lesson 6 – You Need Rules and Processes
Like a Check List

Does the Archaeology appear to be significant?  
YES

Is the project mission critical?  
NO

Is there a mitigation plan coordinated with reach back experts, other government agencies, and host nation representatives?  
YES

Implement plan, move out

Reconsider the project
Lesson 7 – Cultural Property is More Than Bricks, Mortar, Artifacts, and Works of Art

Camadoli, Sacred Forest Threatened by British WW II

Taliban Takes the Fight to the Pomegranate Orchards 10th Mountain Division, Helmand Province, 2010
Lesson 8 – Recognize Mission Requirements

US Marines Take Afghan Fortress of Khan Neshin
While Respecting Historic Property

Villa Reale Poggio a Caiano
Also the 54th South African Field Dressing Station
While Respecting Historic Property

US Marines Bedding Down in Regional Museum Nasriyah
And Recognizing What We Are Asking of the Force

Insurgents used a house across from the mosque as a fighting position. MINUSMA forces used smaller weapons rather than aerial bombardment.
Lesson 8 – Saving Heritage Can Build a Future

The Ziggurat

Café Damaged by Vandals

Rebuilding Agar Quf

US Soldiers Conferring with Local Officials

(Courtesy CPT Benjamin Roberts)
US Army Major Cori Wegener assisted the Museum in post looting recovery efforts.

By 2009, Iraqi school children were able to visit the galleries again.
International Cooperation for Military Training Programs

The NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme
What do we want our legacy to be?

“... I’m satisfied, not with what I’ve done but with what the job stands for.”

George Stout in a letter to Langdon Warner, October 4, 1944
Questions?

“And, lastly, you are reminded to loot, pillage, and burn responsibly.”