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

Dr. Laurie W. Rush
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Lesson 1 – Military Personnel Need to be Prepared
Overcoming the Effects of Babylon

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]

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

Protecting Trajan’s Column in Rome and Arch in Benevento

Dr. Cesare Fasole, Uffizi Librarian
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

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.

Hafedd Waelda, 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.
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

Reconsider the project

Implement plan, move out
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

(Courtesy CPT Benjamin Roberts)
Response to Baghdad Museum

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