

Chapter 6
HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION

6-1. SCOPE. This chapter establishes criteria to ensure the proper protection of historic and/or cultural resources within USCENTCOM AOR countries engaged in contingency operations.

6-2. BACKGROUND. Historical/cultural protection is becoming more important around the world. In 2008, the USG ratified the 1954 Hague Convention (Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict). Accordingly, USCENTCOM personnel should expect future misconduct and poor decisions involving HN natural and cultural resources to have more severe consequences.

6-3. ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES. The LEC will have the following procedures in place for the management of HN historical/cultural properties:

a. A process to ensure each base camp Commander take into account the effect of any proposed military action on property listed on the World Heritage List (WHL) and/or on the HN equivalent of the U.S. National Register of Historic Places.

(1) Proposed military actions should attempt to avoid and/or mitigate any adverse effects to such historic or cultural resources.

(2) Proposed military actions include, but are not limited to, the following actions:

- (a) Construction
- (b) Demolition
- (c) Combat operations
- (d) Training
- (e) Land-use

b. World Heritage List (WHL): Ensure base camps have access to the WHL and/or the HN equivalent of the National Register of Historic Places to assist in historical/cultural planning and decision making.

c. Inventories: Base camps are required to do an archaeological inventory to record and report all historic and/or culturally significant locations at and near the base camp. The LEC will keep a master inventory.

d. Archaeological Maps: Each base camp is required to keep an updated map of all known or suspected archaeological and other historical/cultural resources at and near their base.

e. Interim Measures: Establish interim measures sufficient to protect archaeological or other historical/cultural resources until appropriate mitigation or preservation can be completed (e.g. signage, declaring the area off limits, or removal).

f. Infrastructure Improvements: Each base camp will take into consideration the possible harm to HN relationships and the potential damage to HN historic/cultural properties during base camp infrastructure improvements, new construction, demolition and/or mitigation projects. See Appendix K: Historical/Cultural Flowchart

g. Historical/Cultural Discoveries made on a Base Camp: Items of potential historical/cultural importance that are discovered during the course of construction and/or demolition work on a base camp will be preserved and protected. The base commander will consult with the LEC and then make a decision on final disposition. If possible, include coordination with the HN authorities and do the following:

(1) Temporarily suspend work within a 5 meter radius of the find.

(2) Do not search for additional cultural material by digging or exploring within a 5 meter radius.

(3) Contact local or reach back historical/cultural experts to determine the significance of find.

(4) Document the date, location, and nature of the find with GPS, photography, and notes.

(5) Leave the find in place if possible and protect it from damage and/or additional damage.

(6) Place historical/cultural materials in a protective container (bag or box) and label the container with the location, date of encounter, name of contents, and name of recorder if they must be removed.

(7) Report the encounter and site location through the proper chain of command. All photographs, notes, and objects must

remain together. Turn them into the nearest local museum as soon as possible if they are significant.

h. Historical/Cultural Discoveries off Base Camp: Items of potential historical/cultural importance discovered off base camp will be reported to the LEC. Record the location, description, and if possible pictures of the discovered items. This information will be transferred to the appropriate HN authorities if it is significant.

i. Proper Conduct: USCENTCOM personnel (military, civilians, contractors) must not pick up or disturb artifacts found on or below ground surface without proper authorization.

(1) Do not alter any standing monument or building suspected to be protected cultural property.

(2) Do not make military use of any protected cultural property, monument, archaeological site, historic or religious building unless there exists a genuine and imperative military necessity with no feasible or logical alternative.

(3) Do not purchase artifacts, antiquities, or cultural heritage items without proper authorization.

(4) Do not dig without first determining whether the location is a protected archaeological or historical/cultural site.

j. Training: Units involved in construction and/or ground disturbing activities will designate a historical/cultural resources manager. This individual will complete a basic archaeology awareness training course.

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