



Learning from each other paving the way towards Cultural Heritage protection during armed conflicts.

Civil-Military Relations X Seminar - Strategic Culture and Civil-Military Interoperability in the Post-modern Era: Challenges for the Social Sciences and Humanities.

The 10th Seminar on Civil Military relations took place on November, 6th to 9th, 2007 at the National Defense Academy in Vienna (Austria). The Seminar this year focused on two propositions: first, that the social sciences and the humanities contribute to a better understanding of respective national civil military ideas about war and peace and the contemporary evolution of the profession of arms on a democratic basis; second, these disciplines are crucial to counter the present tendency to weaponize the idea of culture and thereby undermine the basis of soldierly existence. The Seminar, that this year reached its 10th edition, offers a unique opportunity for exchange between civil and military experts. No doubts that the development of civil military relations is basic for a mutual understanding on the importance of setting the required measures to protect cultural heritage when conflicts erupt. WATCH decision to take an active role in the seminar confirms the Association commitment to undertake every step necessary to secure the development of a military culture that cares for the protection of Cultural Heritage during times of armed conflicts. Securing that military forces engaged on war theatre are well aware of their responsibilities towards Cultural Heritage protection under the international conventions is a priority. However, on the other hand it is imperative to develop a clear understanding of the limitations and the possible level of engagement on the ground for a direct intervention of civil operators (especially Cultural Heritage experts) in the event of armed conflict. WATCH

presentations' at the seminar included the following papers for a book to be published by the National Defence Academy in 2008:

"From Strategic Culture to Cultural Strategy. Strategic Culture and subcultures and their influences on and interactions with contemporary civil military cooperation focusing on cultural property protection. Projecting the concept of strategic culture on cultural property protection utilizing military experts in times of peace and conflict."

by: Lieutenant Colonel (R) Joris Kila - WATCH (Director of Civil Military Relations/ member of the BOT)

"Cultural awareness and the protection of cultural heritage in peacekeeping".

by: Ms Sigrid van Der Auwera" - WATCH (Junior - Associate member)

"Cultural Heritage under threat during armed conflicts. Drawing scenarios for an active Civil Society in times of crisis"

by: Dott. Claudio Cimino - WATCH (Secretary General)