



**Antiquities under Siege: Cultural Heritage Protection after the Iraq War -  
Chapter 16. The Role of NATO and Civil Military Affairs**

Lt. Col. Joris D. Kila

**SUMMARY**

The chapter gives a practical insight on current cultural military and joint interagency activities on the subject mainly from the European context. Examples and problems are presented. Taken into account also are archaeological, art historical and cultural policy matters as well as the broad range of cultural differences between military and civilian parties, between militaries and methods for the transfer of knowledge between stakeholders focusing on training military and last but not least the differences between the European and US military.

**Main topics:**

- Military necessity versus protection of cultural heritage according to the Hague Convention and protocols especially the 2<sup>nd</sup> protocol's new provisions
- Cultural Affairs and/or Cultural emergency response units and the relation with Civil Affairs and/or CIMIC
- Why Should NATO Deal with Culture? Opportunities following the NATO CIMIC AJP-9 doctrine what is keeping them?
- Interagency coordination concerning cultural emergency response in times of conflict
- Conclusions and recommendations

Matters explored include: basic problems and prejudices deriving from opposing cultures such as military rules versus international law, civil military cooperation versus civil development aid, reserve military versus professional military etc.

Field experiences and lessons learned are illustrated in number of case studies from Iraq such as: the rescue of Uruk (Al Muthanna Iraq) from looting utilizing Dutch military experts, local civilians and the tribal structures of the area. The cultural activities of the Polish Multinational Division Central South (MND CS) and the EU (Euromed).

The dilemma of "to be in support of the mission as described in the NATO CIMIC doctrine AJP-9 or making a wrong decision according to the Hague Convention".

Other issues are conflicting interests on the political level involving humanitarian aid, cultural policy strategy as well as ministerial and defense issues. Attention is given to the appraising of status and relevance concerning cultural emergency response in a military setting.