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# The Blue Shield and Heritage Protection

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Blue Shield International

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# The Blue Shield organisation

- The Blue Shield is an organisation that is
- *committed to the protection of the world's cultural property, and is concerned with the protection of cultural and **natural** heritage, tangible and **intangible**, in the event of armed conflict, **natural- or human-made disaster**.*
- (Article 2.1, 2016 Statutes)



Checkpoint Charlie today - perhaps the best-known Berlin Wall crossing point between East Berlin and West Berlin, Germany

By Anne Lindemann (Own work) [CC BY-SA 3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0>)], via Wikimedia Commons

# Blue Shield Approach

- Primary context is the 1954 Hague Convention
- But also the post-conflict period
- Natural and environmental disasters
- Heritage destruction outside “official” armed conflicts
- Tackling looting and ensuing illicit trafficking
- Intangible heritage

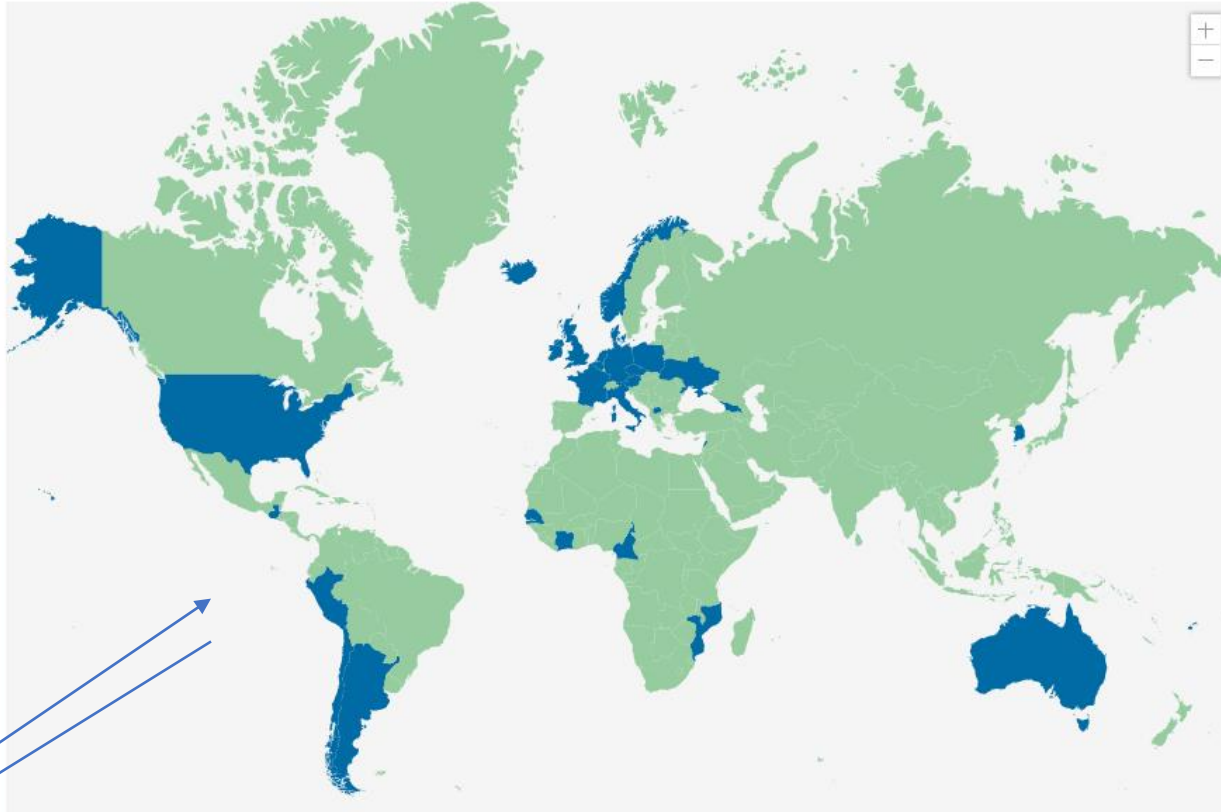


Nepal military and police assisting museum staff from the Nepal Department of Antiquities in salvaging collections and architectural fragments, Kathmandu, Nepal, 8 June 2015.

Photo: Corine Wegener, Smithsonian Institution



NATIONAL COMMITTEES AROUND THE GLOBE



25 registered committees

3 under construction

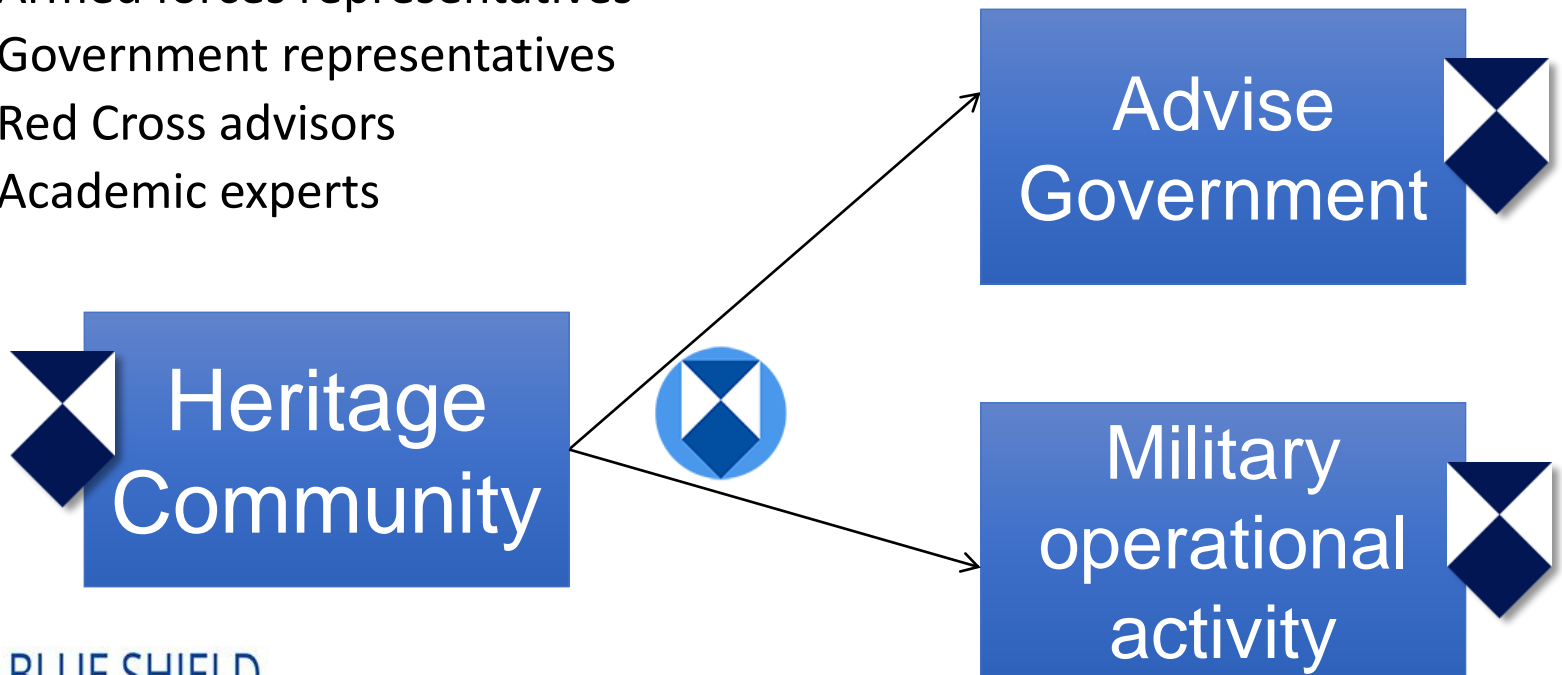
2 considering construction

# Blue Shield organisation

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## Composed of:

- Heritage professionals (e.g. libraries, archives, museums, sites, antiquities trade representatives, UNESCO)
- Lawyers
- Armed forces representatives
- Government representatives
- Red Cross advisors
- Academic experts

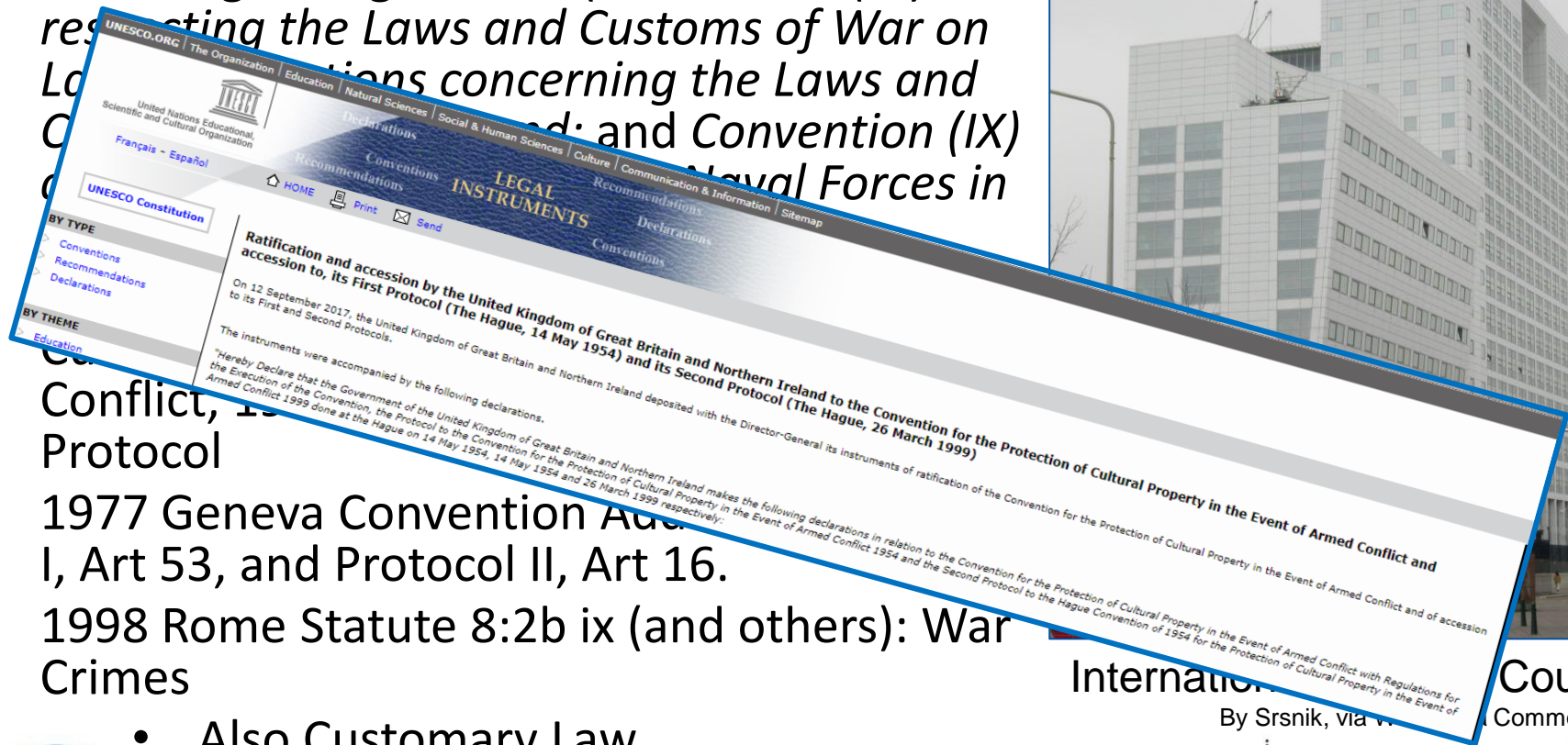
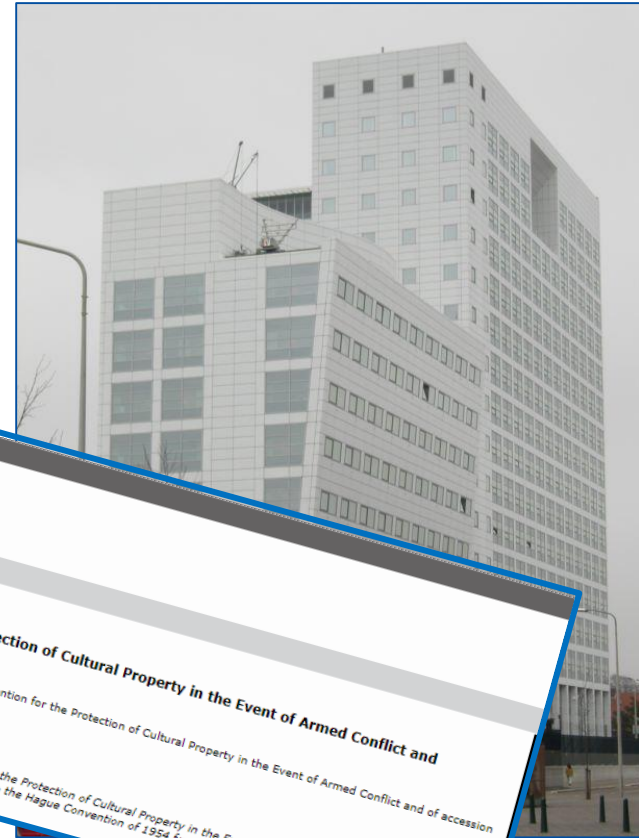


# CPP: The Legal Obligation

Cultural property protection is legally mandated:

- 1907 Hague Regulations (*Convention (IV) respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land*) and *Convention (IX) concerning the Laws and Customs of War on Naval Forces in the Event of Armed Conflict*
- 1949 Geneva Convention Aug. 1949, I, Art 53, and Protocol II, Art 16.
- 1998 Rome Statute 8:2b ix (and others): War Crimes

- Also Customary Law



International Court of Justice  
By Srsnik, via v. v.

# PART II - GENERAL PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY

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## 6. Safeguarding cultural property in times of peace

- (a) designating competent authorities, including within the armed forces of [insert country name], responsible for the safeguarding of cultural property;
- (b) ensuring wide dissemination of knowledge regarding of the Convention and Protocols among military personnel and the general population;
- (c) identifying cultural property and preparing inventories;
- (d) planning emergency measures for the protection of cultural property against fire or structural collapse;
- (e) preparing for the removal of movable cultural property or the provision of adequate in situ protection of such property;
- (f) incorporating guidelines or instructions on the protection of cultural property in military doctrine, procedures, regulations and training materials;
- (g) marking cultural property with the cultural-property emblem

UNESCO MODEL LAW ON THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT

# Blue Shield Activities: Safeguarding CP in times of peace

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(b) ensuring wide dissemination of knowledge regarding of the Convention and Protocols among military personnel and the general population;

- Raising public awareness of the importance of CPP; working to make decision makers, armed forces and professional staff aware of the Convention's requirements

(c) identifying cultural property and preparing inventories;

- Collecting and sharing information on CP and threats to it

(d) planning emergency measures for the protection of cultural property against fire or structural collapse;

(e) preparing for the removal of movable cultural property or the provision of adequate in situ protection of such property;

- Promoting good standards of risk management, identifying resources for disaster prevention and rapid intervention, and providing professional expertise

(f) incorporating guidelines or instructions on the protection of cultural property in military doctrine, procedures, regulations and training materials;

- Enrich decision making by bringing expertise to military command processes, support training and doctrine development



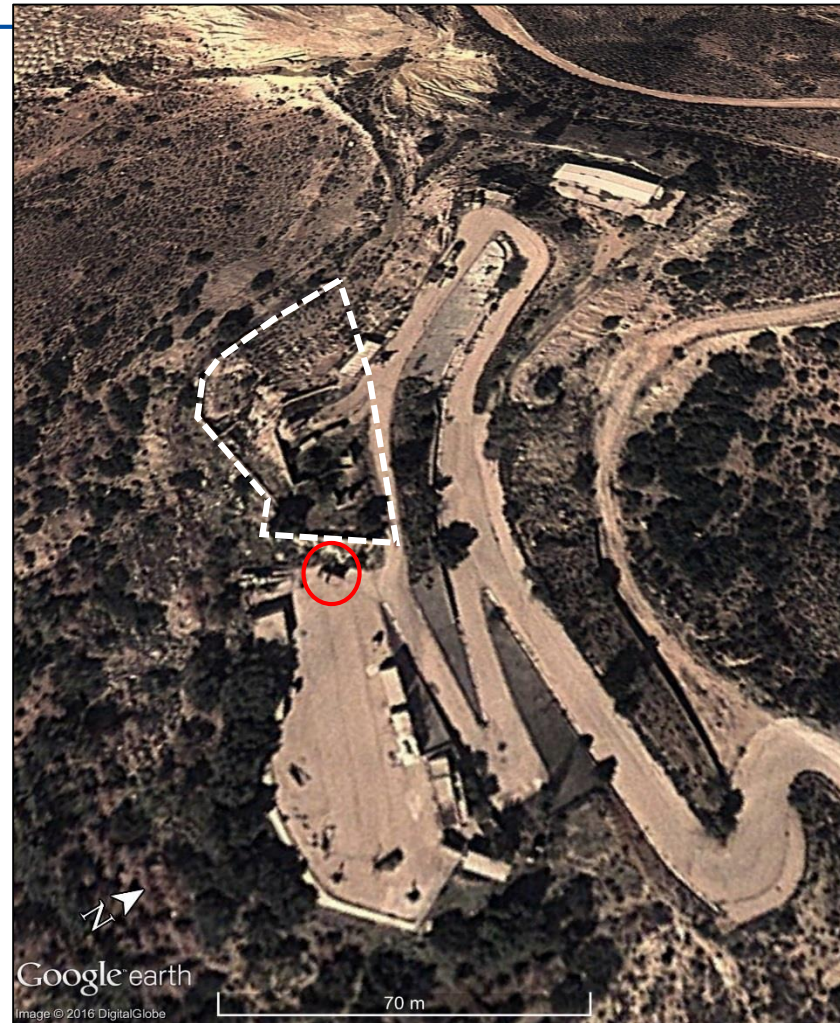
# Identifying CP and preparing inventories

## NATO - Operation Unified Protector, Libya 2011

6 radar vehicles identified

- Joint Targeting System database indicated proximity of Roman Building (<500m)

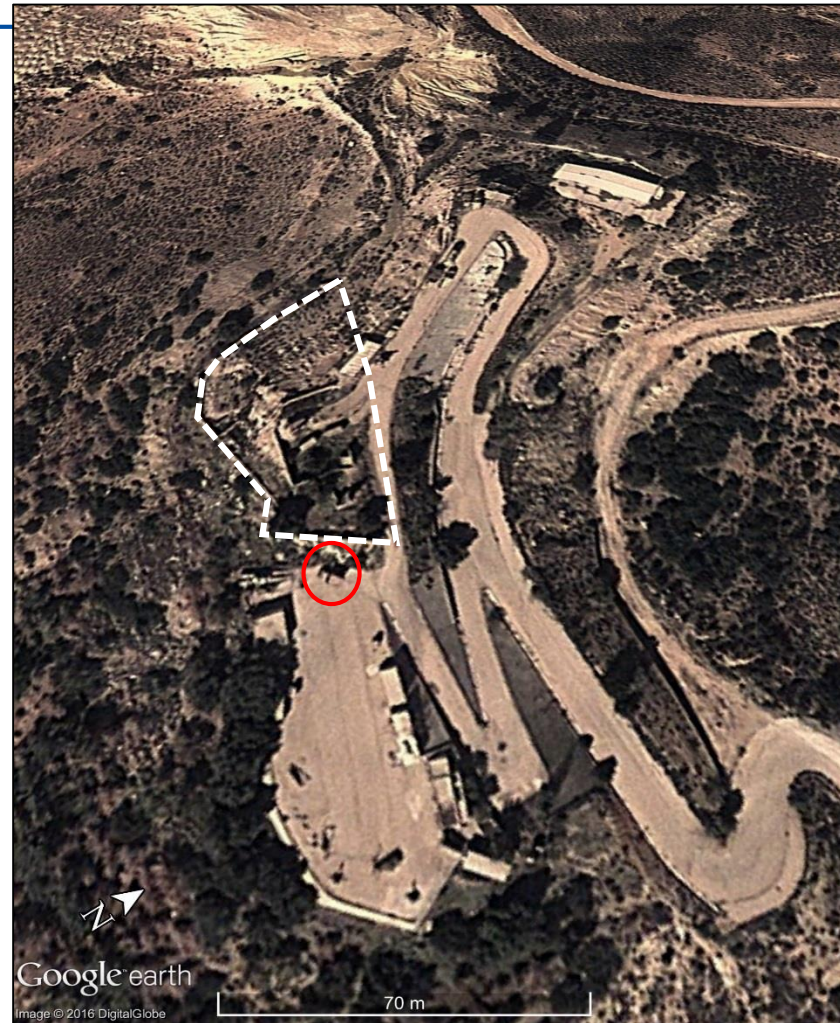
Ras al-Mergeb Italian fort / Roman fortified farm (white) on Digital Globe satellite image 28 Feb 2011, via Google Earth.  
One radar station highlighted (red)



# Identifying CP and preparing inventories

- Targeting Board reconvened
  - Could threat be neutralised / avoided?
  - Weaponising options reviewed
- Unit to be attacked with small caliber, precision weapons to minimise collateral damage

Ras al-Mergeb (white) on Digital Globe satellite image 28 Feb 2011, via Google Earth. One radar station highlighted (red)



# Identifying CP and preparing inventories





Multinationales Kommando Operative Führung  
*Multinational Joint Headquarters Ulm*



CJ9 Division MN JHQ ULM

TRIDENT JAGUAR 18  
CMI-/CIMIC-Seminar  
20 - 23 November 2017

# Exercise Support and Training: Exercise Trident Jaguar: 2018



BLUE SHIELD INTERNATIONAL

EXERCISE TRIDENT JAGUAR  
2018  
REPORT

9 July 2018



Left: Dr Paul Reynard,  
Commissioner-General for Cultural  
Property (Arnland) with Lieutenant  
General, Commander,  
Military Assistance Force Arnland

Photos: BSI, 2018.



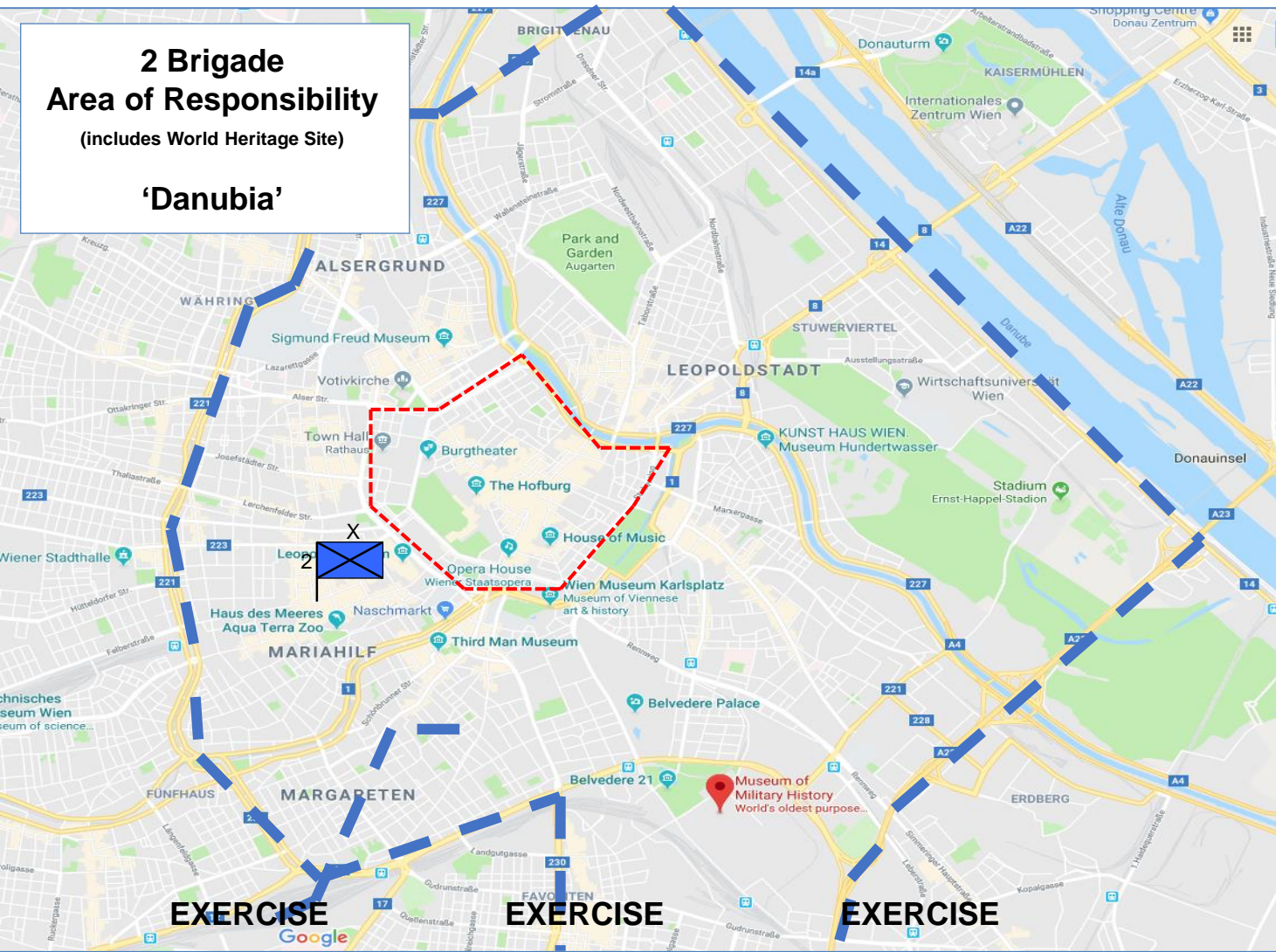
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and Peace



# Scenario

*Coping with Culture*  
Vienna 2018

CPP contribution to operational planning – the CPP Estimate



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

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and Peace

# Exercise support and training:

***With*** heritage community



Curators, Archivists, Military staff officers,  
Museum managers, *Etc...*

Photos: BSI, 2018.



BLUE SHIELD  
International

HGM  
HEERESGESCHICHTLICHES MUSEUM



INNERE FÜHRUNG



# Exercise support and training



## Emergency measures & proactive preparation

### Hague Convention: state party imperatives

#### Peacetime

Have *YOU*, collectively, **prepared**:

- **Inventories?**
- **Plans?**
- **Command and control** arrangements?
- **Decision points** (triggers)?

Have *YOU*:

- **Trained and rehearsed?**

#### Armed conflict

- **Take operational control**
- **Activate Special Protection measures**
- **Transport** cultural property to **refuges**
- **Deploy Distinctive Emblems**



# Blue Shield United Kingdom Activities

- Identifying cultural property and preparing inventories
  - Lobbying for clarity in government policy
- Awareness raising among military personnel and the general population \*
  - E.g., lectures, supporting the planned 2019 IWM and Historic England exhibition
- Planning emergency measures for the protection of cultural property against fire or structural collapse
  - Working to factor HC54 planning into (for example) Museum Accreditation
- Instructions on the protection of CP in military [...] training materials
  - Working with UK CPP Unit to support HC54 training needs as required
- At the cutting edge of current CPP issues
  - Planning training with Dr Mol, UWE Bristol, and the National Trust to develop, test, and train armed forces in a Guided Documentation Platform (GDP) for post conflict / disaster CPP response
  - Supporting the March 2019 NCL Conference: *“Protecting Cultural Heritage in Armed Conflict and Situations of Forcible Displacement: An (Emerging) Individual Right?”*



\* Whilst not included in the list of safeguarding measures, this activity is derived from Article 25 of the Convention and Article 30 of the Second Protocol.



# Identifying CP and preparing inventories

*“8. The government considers that cultural property in the following categories meets the definition set out in Article 1 of the Convention and is therefore protected by the Convention and Protocols.” (Guidance P6)*

- A. All listed buildings of Grade I (England and Wales), Category A (Scotland) and Grade A (Northern Ireland) status
- B. All historic parks and gardens of Grade I status in England and Wales
- C. All UK World Heritage Sites, excluding those which are inscribed as natural sites only
- D. The collections of the museums and galleries that are sponsored by Her Majesty's Government, the Scottish Government, the Welsh Government and the Northern Ireland Executive
- E. Designated Collections in England and Recognised Collections in Scotland (covering collections at museums, galleries, libraries, archives and universities)
- F. The records and collections of the National Record Offices, the five legal deposit libraries in the UK and the British Film Institute National Archive
- G. Properties in state guardianship in the UK (including properties in the National Heritage Collection in England; Properties in Care of the Scottish Ministers; Properties in Care of the Welsh Ministers; and Monuments in State Care or Guardianship in Northern Ireland).

**c.18, 000 sites**

Of estimated national  
inventory totals  
c.545,000 – 550,000

No sites added to the  
Special or Enhanced  
Registers for greater  
protection

# Identifying CP and preparing inventories

“7. This list [...] is indicative and non-exhaustive and is published for guidance only. Inclusion in the list is not a prerequisite for protection by the Convention and its Protocols. Any cultural property which meets the definition set out in the Convention is protected, whether or not it is included in the list.” (Guidance. P6)

Archaeological sites and monuments which meet the test of national importance may be scheduled. A Schedule (as we know it today) has been kept since 1913 of **monuments considered to be of national importance by the government...**

→ **c. 50,000 monuments**



Grimes Graves, 5,000 year old Prehistoric flint mine, Norfolk.

(Scheduled Monument Entry:1003619)

By Ron Strutt, via Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 2.0

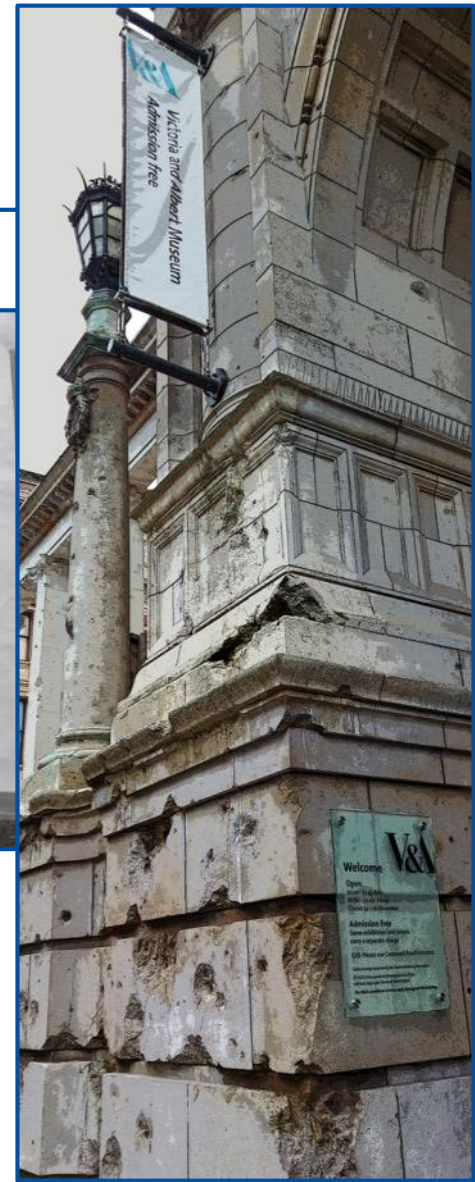
# Emergency measures & proactive preparation

*“The government considers that there is no need for immovable cultural property to display the cultural emblem during peacetime and therefore does not intend to grant permissions to do so except where a strong and persuasive case can be made for display. This will help to protect the integrity of the cultural emblem as a symbol of protection during armed conflict.”*

(Guidance, P10)



Top: Blue Shield on Rathaus, Koblenz



Right: Victoria and Albert Museum, London  
BSI, 2017

# Emergency measures & proactive preparation

“The government considers that [these measures] are **common sense precautions** which are likely to be covered by existing contingency planning for an emergency or natural disaster.

*“The owners, guardians and trustees of protected cultural property will not be required to take any new measures to comply with this obligation. [...] [Government] does not intend to impose any additional safeguarding requirements during peacetime.”*

**In the event of armed conflict** affecting the United Kingdom, the government will work with both agencies and other partners to provide, where appropriate, additional advice on safeguarding cultural property.

# Emergency measures & proactive preparation



Image: Iain Watson, Director of Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums; Councillor Ged Bell, Cabinet Member for Investment and Development; Trevor Stephenson, Lord Mayor's Consort and The Lord Mayor, Councillor Hazel Stephenson. Photo: Steve Brock.

Taken from

<https://discoverymuseum.org.uk/challenger-plaza>

Challenger 2 Tank outside Discovery Museum, Newcastle

# Emergency measures & proactive preparation

## Ziggurat, Ur, Iraq

### Operation Desert Storm:

“the Iraqis had parked two MIG-21 fighter jets at the entrance to the temple at Ur. But rather than take out the planes, as would have been allowed under the doctrine of military necessity, [US] Commanders decided to by-pass the jets and not open fire, since reportedly the jets "were incapable of military operations from their position". ”

*The Impact of War on Iraq's Cultural Heritage: Operation Desert Storm.* Cultural Property Training Iraq website, US Department of Defence

<https://www.cemml.colostate.edu/cultural/09476/chp04-11iraqenl.html>



UH-60 Black Hawk hovers above the ancient Ziggurat of Ur

United States Forces Iraq Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 2.0 Generic (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0) via Flickr



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Educational, Scientific and  
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“The Italians published the great cultural propaganda piece *Che Cosa Hanno Fatto Gli Inglesi in Cirenaica* [Trans: *What the English have Done in Cyrenaica*] [...]

What a black eye the whole episode had caused the War Office. [...] No one in the army had considered the historic and cultural value, and therefore propaganda value, of Cyrene at all.

Now Wheeler stood in the centre of Leptis Magna, watching in amazement as the British Army repeated that mistake. To his left, equipment trucks were grinding over the ancient Roman paving stones. To his right, troops were climbing on fallen walls [...] A tank drove right past him and into the temple. [...]

Robert Edsel and Bret Witter, *Monuments Men*, 2009:34



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# Thank you

<https://theblueshield.org/>

@Blueshield\_Int

@UKBlueShield

