Cultural Property Protection Field Cards

RECOMMENDED CONSTRUCTION SITE SURVEY PROCESS IN THE AOR
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Conduct a field review/preliminary survey. Note the surface presence of archaeological or historic resources:

- **Artifacts.** For example, broken ancient (>100 years old) pottery, stone tools, metal tools or jewelry, decorative art, beads, carved bone or wood.
- **Features.** For example, ancient storage and trash pits, individual burials and cemeteries (note: burials may be marked, e.g., by plain or marked stone tablets, circles of stone; or they may be evidenced simply by the presence of raised earth or soil disturbance)
- Ruins or standing architecture,
### Step 1: Perform a Site Inspection of Existing Conditions (cont.)

- e.g., remnants of walls, floors, and collapsed ceilings. Depending on the local climate and natural building materials, these are typically mud-brick or stone where preserved. Structures of wood or other organic material tend to disintegrate in a few years in most environments.
  - Earthen mounds that are not part of the natural topography. These often represent accumulated debris and soil of past settlements.
  - Caves or rock shelters often contain archaeological remains.
  - Rock art/writing. Flat rock surfaces are sometimes decorated with painted or...
Step 1: Perform a Site Inspection of Existing Conditions (cont.)

- Take digital color photos of any observed cultural resources.
- Make a sketch of the site and note areas where artifacts, features, or ruins are seen. Include the date, your name and unit, a north arrow, a scale, and a legend.
- Record the GPS location of resources on a military quad sheet, using points and polygons as appropriate.
- Describe the general surface appearance. If present, note existing site disturbances, e.g., irregular holes and trenches from vandalism/looting; regular emplacements from recent military or other use.
Conduct a background records search at main base to determine if there are any previously recorded sites in the projected use area.
Consult reachback expert sources through the combatant command and supporting service organizations. For example, DoD has the Combatant Command Cultural Heritage Action Group (CCHAG) that provides a conduit for this type of reachback. Interviews should also include coordination with State Department staff and local antiquities authorities, if available and feasible given operational conditions.
Step 4: Assess Impact Level

- **Level 1: “No impact.”** There are no apparent historic/cultural resources or the proposed mission use of the site would avoid them if present.

- **Level 2: “Less than significant impact.”** Resources are present but proposed mission use would have only minor effects without implementation of any mitigating actions.

- **Level 3: “Less than significant impact with mitigation incorporation.”** Resources are present, but with implementation of mitigating actions effects can be minimized to an acceptable level. For example, installation of communications or utility lines can be routed around sensitive resource concentrations.
• **Level 4: “Potentially significant impact.”** The proposed action would likely cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource, disturb a known religious, traditional, or cultural resource, or disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.
Step 5: Document Results of the Field Survey and Background Searches

- Document any sources and references used to prepare this portion of the EBS.
- Document any conversations with government or tribal officials, property owners, etc.
- Distribute copies of the EBS to the local commander, main base unit environmental coordinator, and combatant command. This information is considered confidential.