Blue Helmet Forum Austria 2019
An Initiative of the Association of Austrian Peacekeepers

Protection of Cultural Heritage in Peace Operations

Vienna, September 26th – 27th, 2019
National Defence Academy, Stiftgasse 2a, 1070 Wien, Austria
Sala Terrena

www.peacekeeper.at

Engaging for peace

In cooperation with

Directorate General for Security Policy
National Defence Academy
The Association of Austrian Peacekeepers (AAP) annually organizes the Blue Helmet Forum Austria (BHFA) in cooperation with the Austrian Ministry of Defence, especially the Directorate General for Security Policy and the National Defence Academy. The BHFA brings together international, regional and local experts of the peacekeeping community to discuss issues that are at the heart of their agenda.

Since military targets have changed from purely opposing armed forces to the identity of the opponent, the conflict between cultures and the destruction of cultural heritage have become an integral part of armed conflict. What can be considered a type of cultural genocide has become a weapon of war, hence the international community is slowly but surely now including cultural protection in its peace operations.

Not only military targets have changed, but legislation has also changed. The military perception of legislation stems from World War II, when the bombing of Dresden and Coventry was not deliberate destruction of cultural heritage but was part of psychological war and destruction of cultural heritage was collateral damage. The 1954 Hague Convention, which established rules for the protection of cultural goods during armed conflict, is the first international treaty designed to protect cultural heritage in war and conflict, and led to the establishment of the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS) in 1996 aimed at protecting the world’s cultural heritage threatened by wars and natural disasters. The Second Protocol of 1999 to the 1954 Hague Convention was important because it brought the destruction of cultural heritage into the realm of criminal law, including the role of the individual soldier.

The next major legal step was the establishment of the International Criminal Court at The Hague, a legal institution which could pursue and prosecute (as it did, for example, the Malian fighter who destroyed shrines and historic sites in Timbuktu in 2012). In response to increasing challenges, the international community has launched a number of initiatives to strengthen the protection of cultural heritage in conflict situations and to combat the illicit trafficking of cultural property. The UNESCO Military Manual and newly developed NATO heritage protection training materials are useful tools for insights and a solid understanding of the legal and operational aspects of the protection of cultural property in armed conflict, in the framework of the 1954 Hague Convention.


The Blue Helmet Forum Austria 2019 is held in cooperation with Blue Shield Austria in line with the Blue Helmet Blue Shield Memorandum which was signed in Vienna 2016. The memorandum was triggered by the recognition of the necessity of a sustainable and prompt
integration of cultural property protection in the planning and operations of all UN Peacekeeping missions as well as in the training of UN Peacekeeping officers.

The Blue Helmet Forum Austria 2019 is devoted to cultural property protection as new and important agenda in training and in peacekeeping missions.

It will furthermore explore in a comparative approach the status of cultural property protection in NATO as well as in national armed forces in cooperation between different actors in the broad field of cultural property protection, including civilian experts and academia.

The Forum will be held in English and will be open to a limited number of participants. The conference fee covers all costs for administration, meals, conference documents and the cultural program. Accompanying partners are welcome to participate in all social and cultural events at a reduced fee. The publication of the Forum proceedings will be sent to all participants and relevant organisations and institutions.

Dress Code: Military Class A Uniform, Civilian Business Attire

President: GEN Günther GREINDL (ret)
Academic Directors: COL Dr. Georg EBNER, NDA and CPT Julia LECHNER, NDA

Blue Helmet Forum Austria 2019
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Programme

Thursday, September 26th

09:00 – 10:00  Registration

10:00 – 10:15  Opening Remarks
  Günter HÖFLER, GEN (ret), President of the Association of Austrian Peacekeepers (AAP)

10:15 – 12:00  Panel I: International Framework
  Chair: Günther GREINDL, GEN (ret), hon. President of the Association of Austrian Peacekeepers (AAP)

  Karl HABSBURG-LOTHRINGEN, President Blue Shield International

  Erik KLEIJN, LTC, UNESCO, Paris

  Joseph KREIDI, UNESCO Beirut

  Dr. Laurie RUSH, RPA, FAAR, US Army Fort Drum

  Frederik ROSÉN, PhD, MSc, Nordic Centre for Cultural Heritage and Armed Conflict

12:00 – 13:00  Lunch (hosted by the Directorate General for Security Policy)
13:00 – 14:30 Panel II: Special Experiences  
Chair: Günter HÖFLER, GEN (ret.), President of the Association of Austrian Peacekeepers (AAP)  

Stefano BERGONZINI, Lgt.C.S. (ITA CC) &  
Andrea PARIS, COL (req.)  
NATO Stability Policing Centre of Excellence Vicenza  

Tiziano Coiro, CPT, Carabinieri Command for the Protection of Cultural Heritage (TPC)  
The Carabinieri Command for the Protection of Cultural Heritage and the Task Force "Unite4Heritage"  

Joanne Farchakh BAJJALY, Blue Shield Lebanon  

Dr. Christian ORTNER, COL, Director Military History Museum, Vice President Blue Shield Austria  

14:30 – 15:15 Coffee break  

15:15 – 16:45 Panel III: International Training: Example UNIFIL  
Chair: Karl HABSBURG-LOTHRIGEN, President Blue Shield International  

Svetlana JOVIC, Deputy Chief Civilian Affairs, UNIFIL  

Franz HOLLERER, COL, Theresian Military Academy  

Dr. Friedrich SCHIPPER, Land Forces Command, Blue Shield Austria, University of Vienna  

17:00 – 17:30 Shuttle to Military History Museum (bus transfer)  

17:30 – 18:30 Special guided tour Military History Museum  

18:30 – 21:00 Social Event – Military History Museum (hosted by the Association of Austrian Peacekeepers)  

21:00 – 21:30 Shuttle to the National Defence Academy (bus transfer)
Friday, September 27th

08:30 – 10:30  Panel IV: National/International Training  
Chair: Bernhard BAIR, LTG (ret.)

Dr. Anna KAISER, CPT, Danube-University Krems

Dr. Prof. Alois HIRSCHMUGL, BG, Austrian Armed Forces, Trainer KAIPTC
International disaster relief- hybrid threats and international disaster relief training

Stefan JANGL, COL, President of the Association of Slovakian Peacekeepers

10:30 – 11:00  Coffee break

11:00 – 12:30  Expert Discussion - Recommendations  
Co-Chair: Günther GREINDL, GEN (ret) hon. President of the Association of Austrian Peacekeepers (AAP) &
Dean Prof. Christian Hanus, Danube-University Krems

12:30 – 13:00  Way ahead, Concluding statement, Award of certificates  
Günter HÖFLER, GEN (ret), President of the Association of Austrian Peacekeepers (AAP)

13:00 – 14:00  Lunch (Hosted by the NDA)