

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE CIVIL AFFAIRS REGIMENT



**MAJOR
CORINE A. WEGENER**

Inducted 26 October 2017



Major Corine A. Wegener enlisted in the Army Reserve in 1982. She attended basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and Advanced Individual training at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana. In 1984, she joined the Army ROTC at the University of Nebraska where she was the first woman to serve as the unit's battalion commander. She was commissioned in the Army Quartermasters Corps in 1986.

In the spring of 1992, she deployed to Germany in support of Operation Desert Storm as an Ammunition Control Officer. Maj. Wegener transferred to Civil Affairs in 1992. In 1996, as a member of the 407th Civil Affairs Battalion, she deployed to Guam in support of Operation Pacific Haven that supported the evacuation of 5,000 Kurds to the United States. She again deployed in 1997 to Bosnia and Herzegovina in support of Operation Joint Endeavor. There, she oversaw numerous economic development projects while serving as the G5 Special Projects Officer for the British Command in Multi-National Division South.

In 2003, Maj. Wegener was mobilized as an individual in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as the Arts, Monuments and Archives Officer for the 352nd Civil Affairs Command. She was assigned to the military-civilian team assisting the Iraq National Museum and providing support to the Iraq Ministry of Culture. Maj. Wegener was then appointed as the leader of the team securing, preserving and transporting 27 trunks containing the water-soaked Iraqi Jewish Archive recovered from the Iraq Secret Police. This highly successful endeavor received international acclaim from the Jewish community and historians. All of this was achieved as a direct result of her technical expertise in cultural property preservation, her knowledge of international law governing cultural heritage and her ability to coordinate the transfer of the material with the Iraqi Government, the Multi-National Military Coalition and the U.S. Department of State. Maj. Wegener retired from the Army Reserve in 2004 with 21 years of service.

In 2006, she organized and became president of the first U.S. chapter of the Committee of the Blue Shield; the international non-governmental organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of cultural heritage during periods of armed conflict. In this capacity, she worked with the Army's Office for the Law of Land Warfare and other cultural heritage organizations to obtain U.S. Senate ratification of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. Maj. Wegener has received international recognition for her leadership in the field of arts and monuments rescue activities. She received the International Service Citation from the U.S. Committee of the International Council of Museums in 2007, the Presidential Award from the Society for American Archeology in 2013, the Ralph Temple Award from the Civil Affairs Association in 2014, and the Blue Shield International President's Award for Merit in Military Cultural Property Protection in 2017.

Maj. Wegener is the Cultural Heritage Preservation Officer for the Smithsonian Institution. Her responsibilities include liaison with the Departments of State and Defense regarding cultural property protection, including information for protected target lists for Libya, Syria and Iraq. In this position, she does field work to protect and preserve cultural heritage in Haiti, Mali, Iraq, Syria, Nepal and Egypt.

Her military awards and decorations include two Joint Service Commendation Medals, three Army Achievement Medals, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Iraqi Service Medal, the NATO Medal and the Joint Meritorious Unit Award.

Maj. Wegener is married to Maj. (Ret.) Paul Wegener, who also served in Civil Affairs.