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Feb. 26, 2013 -- As part of the Kermit Roosevelt Lecture Program, British Lt. Gen. Sir James J. C. Bucknall, Allied Rapid Reaction Corps Commander, spoke to the Army War College Class of 2013 Feb. 26.

Bucknall's presentation focused on his observations about interventions from the past decade. He argued that globalization has changed how countries deal with interventions and how countries will continue to use interventions in the future.



British Lt. Gen. Sir James J. C. Bucknall, Allied Rapid Reaction Corps Commander, speaks to the Army War College Class of 2013 in Bliss Hall Feb. 26 as part of the Kermit Roosevelt Lecture Program.

The lecture program is part of an ongoing relationship between the U.S. and the U.K. for the past 67 years. Bucknall took a moment to reflect upon the two countries' shared relationships, mentioning they were rooted in family, forged in combat and had constructive tension.

Bucknall's military service began in 1977 as a guardsman. During his career, he commanded the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards, was Chief of Staff of the 1st (UK) Armoured Division in 1998 and commanded the 39 Infantry Brigade. He became the Ministry of Defence's Counter-Terrorism and UK Operations Director in 2004 and served as the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps Chief-of-Staff. In Feb. 2011, Bucknall became the Commander of the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps.

Lecture series background

The Kermit Roosevelt Exchange Lecture Series began in 1947. The idea for an annual exchange of American and British military lecturers came from Mrs. Kermit Roosevelt, who intended it as a memorial to her late husband.

The U.S. Congress enacted legislation in 1945 which authorized the Kermit Roosevelt Fund and established in the War Department a Board of Trustees to implement and administer the exchange program, "...for the purpose of fostering a better understanding and a closer relationship between the military forces of the United States and those of the United Kingdom by sponsoring lectures or courses of

instruction..."

The exchange lectures have been held every year since 1947. As of 1997, the lecturer from the United Kingdom spoke at the United States Military Academy, the U.S. Army War College, and the Armed Forces Staff College in addition to the Command and General Staff College. The lecturer from the United States spoke at the Military College of Sciences, The Royal Military Academy, the Joint Services Defence College and the Ministry of Defence. The Kermit Roosevelt Fund was sustained through 1957 by Mrs. Kermit Roosevelt, and through 1969 by grants from the Rockefeller and McCormick Foundations. In 1970, it was mutually agreed that the Kermit Roosevelt Lecture Series would be officially support by the United Kingdom and the United States as a continuation of the program formerly sponsored by the Kermit Roosevelt Fund.

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