

British General Sir Richard Shirreff delivers Roosevelt Lecture at USAWC

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British General Sir Richard Shirreff, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, speaks to the Army War College Class of 2012 in Bliss Hall March 8 as part of the Kermit Roosevelt Lecture Program.

March 15, 2012 -- As part of the Kermit Roosevelt Lecture Program, British General Sir Richard Shirreff, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, spoke to the Army War

College Class of 2012 March 8.

Using recent conflicts as examples Shirreff reminded the students that the hybrid conflicts witnessed in recent years may most likely continue to be the way conflict is fought. He reminded the students that the essences of leadership are timeless and that especially at the strategic level they must be prepared to deal with the complexities these conflicts present.

Shirreff stressed the importance of relationship, like the string one between the United Kingdom and the U.S. He said he felt it was necessary to have clear communication between partners, to ensure a unity of purpose.

Shirreff commanded the 7th Armored Brigade in Kosovo from 1999-2000 and 3rd (UK) Division in Iraq from 2005-2007. Assuming command of the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps in December 2007, he also oversaw the relocation of the corps from Germany to the United Kingdom. He became the 27th DSACEUR on March 4, 2011.

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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