

Deputy Commander of NATO Land Command speaks with School of Strategic Landpower

Deputy Commander of NATO Land Command speaks with School of Strategic Landpower NATO continues to be relevant, and the Deputy Commander of NATO's Allied Land Command detailed why that is in an address and exchange of comments with faculty, students, and International Fellows of the School of Strategic Landpower here, Jan. 30.

Lt. Gen. Gordon Messenger spoke with a standing-room-only audience that relished the opportunity



to ask questions and probe behind the scenes.

Messenger told the audience that NATO remains relevant across the spectrum of threats. Using Libya as an example, Messenger explained how such a short notice mission required existing NATO infrastructure to respond to a rapidly worsening situation. The operation's success hinged upon involving partners in the region and sharing the burden amongst treaty members.

"NATO is the most enduring and successful alliance the world has seen," he said. "NATO must adapt to remain relevant." Allied Land Command is retaining and using the lessons learned and level of cooperation gained as part of the International Security Assistance Forces in Afghanistan, he noted.

Messenger, a U.K. Royal Marine, is a veteran of several tours in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Kosovo with extensive experience in worldwide joint operations.

While the U.S. carries a disproportionate burden of support to NATO, a reduction in U.S. military presence in Europe does not have to equate to a reduction in NATO, he said.

