

# Strategy Conference speaker GEN Lamb: Confronting the world as it is

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April 10, 2014 -- Lt. Gen. Sir Graeme Lamb chose to use his closing address for the Army War College Strategy Conference to speak to the Army War College students who are positioned to be the next

leaders  
in



militaries across the globe that will see change.

In his lecture titled, ‘Confronting the world as it is,’ he made the future of conflict very personal, April 10 in Bliss Hall. Where you are now is absolutely critical to your future, our nations’ and our future for our children’s children, he said.

Lamb related a story from Gen. James Mattis, who in 2008 told him he came up with ‘EI<sup>2</sup>’, which was the power of Experience, Instinct, and Intuition; the difference is four years of combat, which is exponential. “You all are absolutely in this space,” said Lamb. You have had the ability to reflect, to think to consider deeply of what you heard. It is really important that these last three days are not about just listening, about hearing what matters, but setting the conditions of reflecting and discussing in order to do something.

What you must do is invest in yourself and your people, stressed Lamb. “What matters on the battlefield is six inches that is between your two d--n ears,” he said. But experience isn’t quite enough. It’s the species that adapts that survives. Because change is absolutely coming and you must embrace it. If you defend the past you will surely lose the future, he said.

In the last century we worked within a need to know, but in this century not sharing information has been our weakness, said Lamb. We have achieved situational awareness, but what we need now is situational understanding. People are now connected, but not necessarily informed.

“We need to be concerned about weapons of mass disorder – the loss of electricity, logistics the essential parts of our life we take for granted.

“Nothing is quite as we think it is,” he said.

You are in a very strong position here in the United States, he said. What is really important is that you must be able to articulate and define a strong narrative for defense. Justify the need. There is no end to clear and present dangers, said Lamb.