

Exercise EAGLE OWL

What is it? Exercise EAGLE OWL is a two-week United States and United Kingdom combined staff exercise conducted at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas twice annually. The exercise combines about 200 United Kingdom majors from the Intermediate Staff and Command Course (Land) with their U.S. counterparts from the Intermediate Level Education course. Students and faculty use collaborative discussion and tactical planning at the brigade combat team level in irregular warfare and stability operations.

What has the Army done? In recognition of the United Kingdom's place as the staunchest United States ally in Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO), Fort Leavenworth's Combined Arms Center provides a multitude of training resources and opportunities to the United Kingdom. The Army National Guard's Battle Command Training Center-Leavenworth provides the logistical platform for the exercise and has been instrumental in hosting the U.S. Army's global partners. This ensures a successful combined exercise increasing the knowledge and understanding of field grade officers of both countries.

Why is this important to the Army? In light of current operations in southern Afghanistan, where British Soldiers fight alongside American Soldiers and Marines, it is critical that the Army leverage the opportunity to learn from and with United Kingdom warriors in combined seminar discussions on irregular warfare, history, and leadership in a small staff group setting. Exercise EAGLE OWL gives British and American officers the chance to increase understanding of U.S. and UK cultural and procedural similarities and differences, experience combined planning for irregular warfare, and build professional relationships to facilitate future partnerships in combined operations.

What continued efforts does the Army have planned for the future?

The Deputy Commandant of Command and General Staff College and the Director of the UK Army Division have directed the staffs of both schools to develop a new scenario that exposes students to potential operational environments and develops increased knowledge of combined operations under NATO leadership. The scenario development process is ongoing and will be the basis for future exercises.