

# Stronger Installation Management Community, stronger support for Soldiers, Civilians and Families

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When Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch took command of the Installation Management Command two years ago his goals were to make sure IMCOM was doing the right things and doing things right and to find better ways of doing business.

“This self-evaluation was particularly important at the time, as the Army was focused on finding the right kinds and levels of support for Soldiers and Families stressed by repeated and extended deployments,” said Lynch in his monthly D6 Sends report.

“First we started expanding our identity. Today when we talk about providing for Soldier, Civilian and Family quality of life, we don’t just mean the Installation Management Command—we mean the Installation Management Community,” he said.

“Over the past two years the IMCOM has reviewed programs, services and infrastructure in areas such as child care, youth development, housing, education, employment, recreation and behavioral health,” said Lynch. “As a result, a number of programs and services have been enhanced, to include Survivor Outreach Services, the Exceptional Family Member Program, the Army Community Service, Child, Youth and School Services, the Army Substance Abuse Program, the Total Army Sponsorship Program, the Army Career and Alumni Program, and Soldier and Family Assistance Centers.”

Carlisle Barracks has also been reviewing and changing many of their programs.

“In the last two years the Carlisle Barracks Army Community Services has expanded our programs by incorporating the Survivor outreach Service to our program list,” said Jeff Hanks, Carlisle Barracks Employment Readiness officer.

“We have also expanded the Transition Assistance Program/ Army Career Alumni Program (ACAP) which used to be 3 1/2 days to a 4 1/2 day workshop. This allows the transitioning service member and their spouses to gain more valuable information which will help make their transition smooth in the event they retire or separate from the military.

“The Family Advocacy Program has increased the demands for services to support families at risk,” said Anne Hurst, Carlisle Barracks Family Advocacy Program Manager.

“We are also working to make sure that the Exceptional Family Member Program reaches all active duty Soldiers within central Pennsylvania, by providing them with advocacy and respite care.”

"We at Carlisle Barracks have worked hard to make sure our programs are the best they can be to thank the Soldiers and their families for their dedication, support and service to the military and their country," said Elaine Leist, Carlisle Barracks deputy garrison commander.

“As we moved IMCOM’s headquarters from Virginia to Texas under Base Realignment and Closure, we also integrated a subcommand, the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command, into the headquarters, and reduced from seven to four regions worldwide,” said Lynch. “In doing so, we reduced overhead costs and streamlined delivery of services to our customers.

Even as we are addressing today’s fiscal challenges, we are looking to the future and how we will support the Army of 2020. Through BRAC, our installations have built and renovated facilities to support the reshaped Army,” he said.

“IMCOM has a huge impact on the lives of Soldiers, Civilians and Families—on how we work, train, live and play. The immediate resource challenges only intensify our focus on the mission. We are dedicated to doing our best in serving Soldiers and Families today—and we will find ways to serve even better tomorrow.”

*This is Lt. Gen. Lynch’s last article as IMCOM commander. He will be retiring on Dec. 1. Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter has replaced him as IMCOM commander.*