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Army commits to families

[By Henry Cuningham](#)

Military editor

The Army will not back away from its commitments to families even as budgets shrink, a senior leader said Friday in Fayetteville.

"Our Army won't break because of the wear and tear of our soldiers," Lt. Gen Rick Lynch said. "But our Army may break based on the wear and tear on our families."

Lynch is the Army assistant chief of staff for installation management and commanding general of U.S. Army Installation Management Command in Arlington, Va. He is responsible for 163 Army installations worldwide.

He spoke to about 160 civic and military leaders at a luncheon of the N.C. Defense Business Association at the Crown Center.

"What's going on now with our families is almost unbelievable and almost unbearable," Lynch said. "What we are trying to do is get some balance back."

Next year, the Army will be able to guarantee soldiers two years at home for every year deployed, he said.

Larger numbers of soldiers back home will create strains on housing and transportation, he said.

"A concern is the transportation infrastructure," Lynch said.

At Fort Bragg, those problems include roads and intersections.

Lynch's organization has 120,000 people with 3,000 soldiers and the rest civilians.

"Candidly, I worry that when you are all walking down the streets and you see a soldier and you tell them thanks," Lynch said. "Then you see a (Department of the Army) civilian and you walk by them. I think that's wrong. The stress and strain on our civilian work force is as demanding as it is on our military, our uniformed work force, and we've got to do a better job of telling them thank you."

Lynch also expressed concern about the nation's overall awareness of the military's sacrifices, adding that his hometown of Hamilton, Ohio, has no Veterans Day celebrations planned.

"That's happening across our nation," he said.

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