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COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN GIVES MORE THAN \$100,000 FOR DIRECT SUPPORT OF YOUTH, FAMILY PROGRAMS IN EUROPE

By Spc. Joseph McAtee

U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs Office

HEIDELBERG, Germany -- For decades Soldiers have been giving to the Combined Federal Campaign, a program whose 2006 drive collected \$271.6 million for hundreds of charitable organizations. Today, the campaign gave back.



SPC JOSEPH McATEE

Lt. Gen. Gary D. Speer, acting U.S. Army Europe commanding general, expresses his thanks for a donation of more than \$100,000 presented to Diane Devens, Installation Management Command-Europe regional director (right) by Renee Acosta, chief executive officer of Global Impact, in the USAREUR headquarters May 30. The funds, collected during the 2007 Combined Federal Campaign, will go directly to Army family and youth programs in Europe.

In a ceremony at U.S. Army Europe headquarters on Campbell Barracks here May 30, Renée Acosta handed Lt. Gen. Gary D. Speer, acting U.S. Army Europe commander, and Diane M. Devens, regional director of Installation Management Command-Europe, a check for \$113,900.

Speer introduced Acosta to those assembled for the brief ceremony, both on site and watching by video teleconference from across USAREUR, and expressed his gratitude to CFC for its support of local programs.

“Thank you for this return to our communities,” the general said.

Acosta is chief executive officer of Global Impact, which manages the CFC for all overseas Department of Defense commands.

Last year's CFC included an option to make direct contributions to youth programs. The check Acosta presented was made possible by donors who used that option, and will go towards funding garrison-level family support and youth programs within IMCOM-E.

“It's a program (boost) that provides individual program managers with the extras they need to make programs excellent,” said Devens. “It gives us a lot of flexibility.”

Devens added that she was personally touched by the fact that contributors opted to earmark their contributions in support of family and youth programs.

“It warms my heart. It goes to show that Soldiers care about the community they live in and that the programs we provide make a difference to them,” she said.



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