

U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army

contact: paoci@eur.army.mil
phone: 49-6221-57-5815 / DSN 370-5815
fax: 49-6221-57-6376 / DSN 370-6376



RELEASE #2008-11-07-01

Nov. 7, 2008

U.S. Army Europe comptroller earns prestigious award for contributions to defense resource management

HEIDELBERG, Germany -- Making the most of limited resources, while supporting the global war on terrorism, a transforming force, leader development and a high standard of living for U.S. Army Europe Soldiers and their Families are Irma Finocchiaro's priorities today.

Maintaining those kinds of priorities during four decades of service to the Army may well be what recently earned Finocchiaro, USAREUR's deputy chief of staff for resource management, the 2008 Leonard F. Keenan Memorial Award from the Syracuse University School of Management.



U.S. ARMY PHOTO

Irma Finocchiaro, U.S. Army Europe's deputy chief of staff for resource management, talks about earning the 2008 Leonard F. Keenan Memorial Award from the Syracuse University School of Management.

The award honors a graduate of Army comptroller training at the New York university who has

“demonstrated personal leadership, technical competence, dedication to excellence and significant contribution toward improving DoD resource management.” Its namesake was a former deputy comptroller of the Army credited with improving the professionalism and development of career Army comptrollers.

In remarks at Syracuse, Finocchiaro said she began her Army civil service career as a part-time clerk-typist just shy of 41 years ago, and the developmental opportunities the

service provided led to her senior position in USAREUR today. She called serving in that position and earning the Keenan award privileges.

“To me, the award recognizes contributions made to the resource management community and ... it sort of culminated for me what I've been doing for so many years,” she said.

A key part of those contributions, Finocchiaro said, has been focusing on a “cost culture” in managing resources for USAREUR.

“We live in an environment of constrained resources, and every day there are new requirements that are competing for what is already available. So it is imperative that we understand how cost factors into decisions and that we make the best use of available resources and get the most bang for our buck,” she said. “From that standpoint I think cost is very, very important, and helps us to determine where we can take risks, and it also helps us determine ... what is the best decision for the Army today.”

Finocchiaro said transformation, leadership and quality of life are key elements of USAREUR that must all be supported by those available resources -- but the mission still comes first.

“As the comptroller for U.S. Army Europe, I feel that our number-one priority is to have adequate resources to support the global war on terrorism. That's our number-one priority,” she said.

In her Syracuse speech, Finocchiaro challenged her colleagues to continually improve their proficiency as resource managers and to maintain the ethics, credibility and professionalism of the Army's comptroller community.

Speaking as someone who praised the opportunities she was given to advance in civil service, she also said mentoring and coaching the resource managers of tomorrow is critical.

“Every one of us is where we are because someone took the time to help us get there,” she said.



www.hqusareur.army.mil