



**U.S. European Command Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. John B. Sylvester polishes the new chief warrant officer 5 rank insignia he has placed on the shoulders of Chief Warrant Officer 5 Ronald Peterman, the technical warrant officer assignment manager for U.S. Army, Europe and 7th Army. Peterman was the keynote speaker at the July 9 ceremony that marked the end of the warrant officer corps' use of the "eagle rising" insignia.**

## Stuttgart ceremony marks end of warrant officer insignia

*'Eagle rising' replaced by branch-specific signifiers*

Story & photos by Hugh C. McBride

It's not every day that an icon of the counterculture is quoted during a military ceremony. But for members of the U.S. Army's warrant officer corps, July 9 was far from just another day.

"The times they are a-changin'," said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Ronald Peterman, using the words of Bob Dylan to express the sentiment of the day.

After 83 years perched on the uniforms of all warrant officers, the "eagle rising" insignia was officially exchanged for branch-specific signifiers in a Patch Chapel ceremony that coincided with the warrant officer corps' birthday.

The 11 a.m. gathering also marked one other change, as a new insignia for the rank of chief warrant officer 5 also went into effect.

"At the heart of the change is the complete integration of the warrant officer into the larger officer corps," Peterman said. "It will eliminate the perception of the warrant officer as 'a different animal.'"

In such a tradition-rich environment as the military, the loss of the cherished symbol did not occur without regret — though as U.S. European Command Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. John B. Sylvester told the assembled warrant officers, "You aren't going to give [the insignia] up on the inside. Inside you know that that eagle holds the essence of what being a warrant officer is all about."

Reflecting on his early days in the military and the mentoring he received from warrant officers, Sylvester said the sight of the eagle rising insignia "absolutely did strike fear into the hearts of us mere mortals."

Putting the change in historical perspective, Peterman said military tradition has always been tempered with transformative efforts, noting that at one time female service members wore different insignia than did their male counterparts.

"Don't get caught up in the minutiae," he told his fellow warrant officers. "Don't let it keep you from becoming the best Soldier, teacher and technician you can be."

The historical role of warrant officers, Peterman said, has been to instruct young Soldiers and mentor new officers "who



**From left, Warrant Officer 1 Jeff Rudyk, Lt. Gen. John B. Sylvester and Chief Warrant Officer 5 James Jackson cut the warrant officer corps' birthday cake at the end of the July 9 ceremony in the Patch Chapel.**

will tell their story for the rest of their career about 'the warrant officer who took care of me.'

"Never forget," Peterman concluded, "that we are here first to defend and always to serve."

Though the rising eagle will no longer appear on the uniforms of warrant officers, it has not completely disappeared from the ranks. Warrant officer candidates will wear the symbol until they graduate from the warrant officer basic course.

For more about the warrant officer corps visit the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Career Center Web site at <http://leav-www.army.mil/wocc/index.htm>.

## News & Notes

### Patch front gate closures

The Patch Barracks main gate will be closed to incoming traffic July 20 and 21, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Incoming traffic will be rerouted through the main gate exit lane.

The Patch Barracks main gate outbound lane will be closed July 22, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. due to construction. Traffic will exit through the K & K gate.

### Area closures, changes

- The **Patch Community Club's** Wednesday and Friday lunch program will be closed July 14, 16, 21 and 23.

- The **AAFES Kelley Shoppette** has changed its hours of operation to Mondays to Fridays, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### RB Chapel Annex reopens

The Religious Education Facility, building 116 on Robinson Barracks, celebrates its grand reopening July 23 at 2 p.m. The community is invited to join in the celebration.

For details call the 6th ASG Chaplain's Office at 430-5000/civ.0711-680-5000.

### ODP soccer coaches sought

The Olympic Development Program is accepting applications for qualified coaches for the 2004-05 soccer season.

Applicants should have a valid USSF D state coaching license or higher or be willing to become licensed.

Responsibilities include scheduling regular practices as well as participating in local tournaments or leagues.

For details call Sven Stadtrecher at 0170-270-3763 or Stephan Zappey at 0711-577-9243.

### AFCEA technology expo

The Stuttgart Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association hosts the Stuttgart military community Technology Expo July 27, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Patch Fitness Center, building 2337.

More than 50 exhibitors will be on hand demonstrating the latest in emerging technologies, hardware, software and services.

Entrance is free. For more information e-mail Melanie Yanon at [yanon@ncsievents.com](mailto:yanon@ncsievents.com).

### Volunteers needed for event

The 6th Area Support Group Equal Opportunity/Equal Employment Opportunity Office is seeking volunteers for the upcoming Hispanic Heritage Month celebration.

The first meeting is July 21 at noon in the Patch Community Club. For more information call Sgt. 1st Class Williams at 421-2892/civ.0711-729-2892, e-mail [williamsc@6asg.army.mil](mailto:williamsc@6asg.army.mil), or contact Cheryl Stovall at 421-2649/civ.0711-729-2649, e-mail [cheryl.stovall@us.army.mil](mailto:cheryl.stovall@us.army.mil).

### 24-Hour Marathon captains meet

A 24-Hour Marathon and Music Fest team captain's meeting is scheduled for July 20 at 2 p.m. in the Patch Barracks Commandant's conference room, building 2316.

For more information visit [www.stuttgart-community-marathon.com](http://www.stuttgart-community-marathon.com).

### Free concert at Patch Skate Park

There will be a free "21 and under" concert held July 30 at 6 p.m. at the Patch Skate Park.

Three local bands, 12 on the Meter, BruSworn and Apathy, will perform. For details call 434-5567/civ.0711-68639-5567.

### SNAP meetings scheduled

Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program training will be held July 14, 10 a.m., in the Robinson Barracks Community Theater, building 145 and July 28, 10 a.m., in the Panzer Kaserne Installation Coordinator's Office, building 2974.

For more information about SNAP or to volunteer, contact Program Coordinator Ernest Epps at 421-4615/civ.0711-729-4615 or e-mail [eppse@6asg.army.mil](mailto:eppse@6asg.army.mil).

### Yoga classes move to the SWC

Yoga classes are now held in the Stuttgart Wellness Center, Patch Barracks building 2307, 2nd floor.

Basic Yoga for beginners is held Tuesdays, 6 p.m. and Intermediate Yoga is held Thursdays, 6 p.m.. The first class is free. For details call 430-5386/civ.0711-680-5386.