

SOUNDOFF!



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902d Military Intelligence Group volunteers assist Special Olympics

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By Tina Miles

Special to Soundoff!

Included among 100 volunteers in the 5th Annual "Run, Jump 'n' Throw" were personnel from the 902d Military Intelligence (MI) Group, and its subordinate units.

The yearly event sponsored by Partners for Success, Special Olympic Maryland, Anne Arundel County and Anne Arundel Public Schools was held at Ridgeway Elementary School in Severn, Md, May 29.



Signs of support and encouragement were held up by fellow students for the special olympians at each phase of the "Run, Jump 'n' Throw" competition.

Partners for Success is an Anne Arundel County resource center for families and schools having children with disabilities and is a partnership between the Maryland State Department of Education and the local school system.

One of the annual activities provided is the Ridgeway Invitational, also called "Run, Jump 'n' Throw."

The Ridgeway Invitational partners special needs students with those who are non-disabled in a Special Olympics type competition.

This year's olympians were from Ridgeway Elementary, Marley Elementary, Millersville Elementary, Brock Bridge Elementary and Meade Heights Element

ary schools, with whom the 902d MI Group volunteers as a Partner in Education.

The invitational consisted of four events for each athlete: standing long-jump, 50-meter dash, softball throw and a turbo-javelin competition.

The 902d volunteers served as escorts, event monitors and scorekeepers. Escorts followed their athletes to each event, tracking score-cards and keeping the groups organized. As they moved from one venue to the next, including lunch together, they exchanged jokes and camaraderie.

The good-sportsmanship was out-measured only by the shouts of support and signs waved by fellow elementary students as athletes took their starting positions and gave each competition their best effort.

At the closing, each special olympian was awarded an achievement medal, which they proudly displayed around their necks for all to see. The medals received by the volunteers were the kind that cannot be displayed, but carried in the heart.

Editor's note: Tina Miles is the public affairs officer for 902d Military Intelligence Group's here.



David, a student from Ridgeway Elementary, studies the course before making his throw in the turbo-javelin competition May 29.