

# Sunburst FORWARD



## Battle Buddies

One of the concepts ingrained in Soldiers from the beginning of Basic Combat Training is the concept of having a battle buddy.

We're taught that having a battle buddy is important, because it gives Soldiers someone to share experiences with and help with tasks that would otherwise be more difficult with just one Soldier attempting to perform.

The importance of hav-

ing a battle buddy doesn't diminish as Soldiers progress through their careers.

Sgt. 1st Class Yolanda Rhyne, a plans and operations noncommissioned officer with personnel plans and operations, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and her battle buddy, Master Sgt. Kimberly Bergman, NCOIC, personnel plans and operations, 13th ESC, have only known each other for about a year, but have embraced the concepts of the battle buddy system.

Bergman, a first-time deployer said, "Honestly, it was Sgt. 1st

Class Rhyne taking me under her wing."

"She had been deployed before, and I hadn't, so she made me a packing list, provided me with her cell number and answered all of my questions."

Originally, Rhyne and Bergman were supposed to have different battle buddies, but during the deployment ceremony, and the process of deploying in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, they said they started working as a support system for each other.

"Sometimes in Kuwait, we got lost, but we got lost together,"



## What's your favorite Olympic sport?



**Master Sgt. Willie Charles**, LOGCAP operations NCOIC, HHC, 13th ESC, Harker Heights, Texas, native.

**"Hockey, because of the physical toughness and its a team sport, just like the Army."**

**Sgt. 1st Class Larrie Rocha**, theater transportation mission supervisor, HHC, 13th ESC, Austin, Texas, native.

**"Curling, because its amazing how they can clear the path so fast. It takes coordination and teamwork, just like the Army."**

**Sgt. 1st Class Carlos Encarnacion**, support operations, mobility, container management, HHC, 13th ESC, San Juan, Puerto Rico, native.

**"Ice skating, because Canadian figure skater Joannie Rochette's mother passed away suddenly, and she won a Bronze medal in her mother's honor."**

**Sgt. 1st Class Hee Yi**, movement supervisor, HHC, 13th ESC, Orange County, Calif., native.

**"Short track speed skating, because its fast and it takes strategy."**

## Promotions! LTC's Wallace, Corbett and Berrios , MSG Fair, SGT Smith and SPC Posey



## Battle Buddies (continued)

Rhyne said.

In addition to working together, Rhyne and Bergman have a lot of shared interests.

**"She's into fitness, I'm into fitness, so that really works out,"** said Bergman.

They both lead a workout once a week. Bergman coordinates a gospel spin class, which is im-

mediately followed by Rhyne's abdominal class.

**"I think we create a balance professionally and personally,"** said Bergman, **"Being in G-1, one of our big responsibilities is suicide prevention.**

**"We can both speak from experience that having a battle buddy will help you through the**

hard times.

**"Battle buddies are not just for junior enlisted Soldiers, because there are experiences here that you just can't talk about with Family members back home, and every Soldier needs someone they can talk to."**

# Photos from Iraq (Hat Day)



## Get to know your 13th ESC Soldier: HHC first sergeant

**1st Sgt. Francis Halmsteiner:** First Sgt. Francis Halmsteiner, senior noncommissioned officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 13th ESC, was born in Naval Control Station Guam. His mother was a native Guamanian and his father was a first generation American whose family was originally from Germany. He moved from Guam in 1978 to Fairfield, Calif., after his father retired from the Navy as a chief petty officer with a background in military intelligence. After one year of college, he joined the Army in May of 1990 as a medical specialist because he believed he needed something more.

"I made the decision to join the Army because I wanted to be different," said Halmsteiner.

Following training he was assigned to the 2-64th Armor, 3rd Infantry Division, in Schweinfurt, Germany.

"I enjoyed being in Germany because I got to see how my dad's side of the family lived," said Halmsteiner.

Since he joined the Army, Halmsteiner has left active service twice; once he joined the Army Reserve in Washington and in the California Army National Guard.

"I came back because I missed the structure of the Army," said Halmsteiner.

His most proud moment in the Army was when he was promoted to the rank of master sergeant.

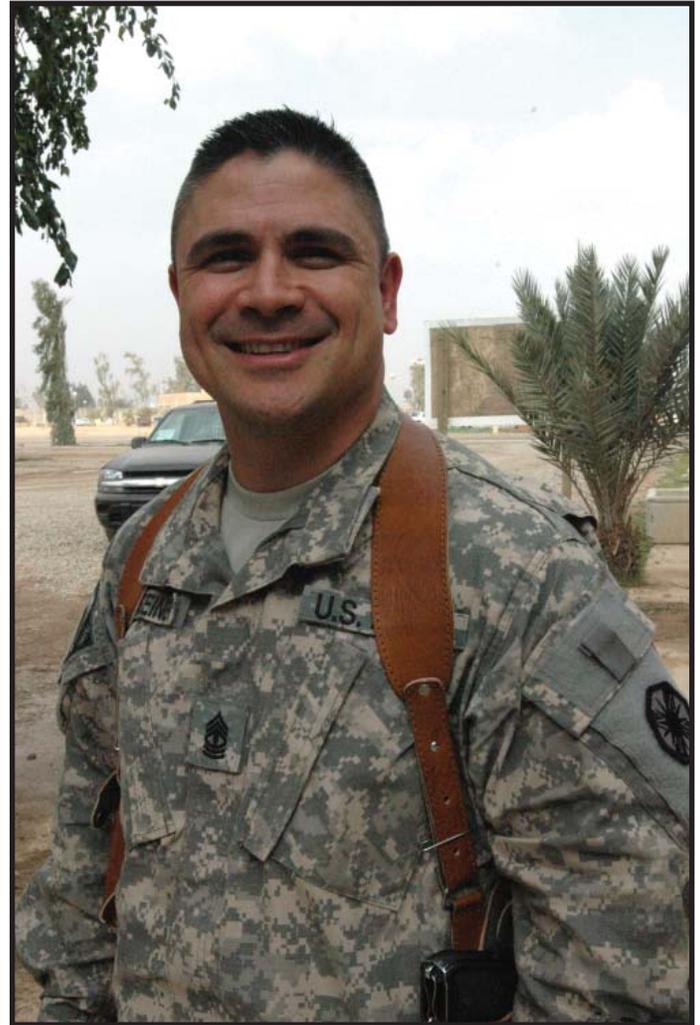
"That was the first time my dad came to any of my military functions," said Halmsteiner.

"He pinned on my rank. That was a defining moment."

Halmsteiner and his wife, Jessica, have been married for about 18 months and have one "awesome" son, Sunny, Jr., who is four months old. With his family behind him, he has big plans to further his career and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice.

"I have plans to make it to the top of the mountain and become a sergeant major," said Halmsteiner. Though he loves The Great Place, he hopes his career will take him to his wife's home of Fort Lewis, Wash.

"Being able to call my wife and see pictures of my son everyday is great," said Halmsteiner. "But teaching the Soldiers to be proactive and not reactive is a good attribute to learn in anything you do. I enjoy seeing Soldiers being promoted and accomplishing their goals and giving them credit for what they do."



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