

This is a note I received from one of the corpsman assigned to the unit we have adopted. There is not a name on this note for his privacy.

Ed Sorace

I was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division as an HM3 (E4) on Nov. 15 2009 and was placed with 1/1 on Nov. 17 2009. This would be my first time with the Marines after being stationed at Navy Hospital at Bethesda, MD for 2 years. I had gone to Field Medical Training School right before Bethesda, so I tried hard to remember everything I learned about being a greenside (Marine) corpsman.

I was part of H&S Company when I first checked in and while I was part of them I learned mostly the sick-call procedures and the other tasks that were performed in the Battalion Aid Station (BAS). I went to the field a couple times as a safety corpsman and it was at this time that I learned the job of a line corpsman. I learned how my rate integrates with the Marines during patrols and during live fire ranges. It wasn't until I was attached to Alpha Company that I began the mastering my skills as a line corpsman. Our first major field training exercise was Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course (WTI) which was done in Yuma, AZ from April 15 2010 to May 18 2010. Until this point I had mostly just observed the Marines doing their field exercises as a safety corpsman but now I would actually participate in all of their training throughout WTI. I was part of first platoon and started off by doing patrols and contact to movement drills during the first couple days. From there we moved on to doing squad rushes all the way to company size attacks and helo operations. During these exercises I would be right alongside the Marines doing everything they did until we had simulated casualties and at this time I would perform the procedures I had learned since corps school which set

me apart from the rest of my platoon. Whether it was giving an IV to a heat casualty to stopping a simulated arterial bleed with a tourniquet, the Marines looked to me to make sure I knew and was capable of doing everything that needed to be done, when the time came, to save their lives and keep them in the fight as long as possible. After the month long training evolution ended I got promoted to HM2 and became the senior line corpsman of Alpha Company. My job now would be to supervise junior corpsman of my company and make sure they are trained to be line corpsman. I would also be in charge of making sure the whole company's medical readiness was sufficient for deployment.

Alpha Company 1/1 Senior Corpsman