

AAPA-OM Outreach Program

The American Academy of Physician Assistants in Occupational Medicine (AAPA-OM) was founded in the late 1970's. It was the first specialty organization that was recognized by the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA). Physician Assistants (PAs) working in occupational and environmental medicine perform similar medical duties to those performed by Navy Hospital Corpsmen in the late 1960's to early 1970's, as well as to the work they continue to do today. The corpsman's duties are to keep the military personnel of their assigned units healthy and fit. They have the responsibility of preventative medicine and welfare of their patients. It is interesting to note that the first physician assistants were all former Navy Hospital Corpsmen.

The Plan

The AAPA-OM wants to reach out to our military brothers and sisters who are now on active duty. Several of our members are former Navy Hospital Corpsmen who spent time with the U. S. Marines and felt this branch of the service would be the unit of choice. One of our members served with the 2nd platoon of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Division (better known as Alpha 1/1.) By adopting this small unit, AAPA-OM could have a significant impact on that unit. Also, it will introduce the AAPA-OM to possible ex-corpsmen entering a PA program and then specializing in Occupational Medicine.

We started this program by sending 5 boxes of goodies to the Marines for Thanksgiving. They were very appreciated of these gifts and were able to share with the 60 members of this unit. Our Fifth shipment is scheduled to be received by Thanksgiving 2010. Please send any item, gift card, or a check and I will purchase a gift card or items needed and send you a receipt if requested. I would like to thank everyone who sent items for the first four shipment, it was way more then I was expecting, and I'm sure it was the same for the Marines.

Future donation shipments will be sent to our adopted unit to reach them by the following holidays:

January 24, 2011	February 1, 2011	Valentine's Day
April 25, 2011	May 16, 2011	Memorial Day
July 25, 2011	August 15, 2011	Labor Day
October 31, 2011	November 14, 2011	Thanksgiving

We will send reminders to alert you of upcoming deadlines.

We will send them a “Care Package,” no matter where they were deployed. It would always go to 2nd platoon Alpha 1/1. AAPA-OM leadership decided to gather items from our members that this unit could use and send this “Care Package” to them at least four times a year. Suggested items that Alpha 1/1 will need include such items as phone cards, soap, AA and AAA batteries, and non-expendable goodies. Below is a list of other items that could be sent. I understand that Beef Jerky is a commodity that they really like.

ITEMS THAT COULD BE INCLUDED IN EACH CARE PACKAGE:

Maruchen® Ramen	Peanuts
Noodles	Sunflower Seeds
Chewing gum, blister pack	Assorted hard candies
Crystal Light® or	Paperback novel (titles and author vary)
Gatorade® drink mix	Pad of paper and/or envelopes
Baby wipes	Ink pen
Chapstick® brand lip balm	Socks, black or white
Phone cards	Toiletry: either deodorant, lotion, or body wash
Batteries AA and AAA size	5 Single-dose Bayer® aspirin packages
Small size toothpaste	Playing cards, single-use camera, DVD, or
Small size shampoo	other entertainment items
Razors and shaving cream	Beef Jerky
Toothbrush	

The Delivery

All items will be shipped to Ed Sorace’s home address, and he will package and send the items collected to the Platoon Commander to be distributed to the 2nd Platoon, Alpha Company, 1st Marine Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. Ed has agreed to cover the postage, but he will gladly accept donations to help cover this cost.

There will not be any expense for the Academy in implementing this program.

As mentioned above, this program will serve the dual purpose of letting the troops know that we support them while seeking feedback and communication from them and, hopefully, publish an article from a corpsman serving with A 1/1

in the AAPA-OM Newsletter. We plan to submit a summary of this outreach program to the AAPA Awards Committee. A 1/1 is currently in California awaiting orders for deployment overseas.

I would like to thank the leadership of the AAPA-OM and the staff at Noley Group for assisting in this "plan". I would also like to thank the Marine Officers of Alpha 1/1 and Mr. Rick Anderson (the Family Readiness Officer for 1/1) for assisting me in getting this project started. Now let's show how AAPA-OM and friends can support the troops. Keep receipts and they should be tax deductible.

Send all items to my home address:

Edward Sorace
174 Monticello Place
Elizabethtown, Kentucky 42701