



Nile Smith, Counselor, Dakota Ridge High School, Littleton, Colo., rushes forward with fellow teachers during the Bayonet Assault Course portion of the Educators Workshop Jan. 12. The week-long workshop allows educators from across the Western Recruiting Region to experience Marine Corps life and take the information back to their students. *Cpl Shawn M. Dickens/Chevron*



Peggy Alameda, Advancement Via Individual Determination teacher, Gila Ridge High School, Yuma, Ariz., recovers her Kevlar helmet after exiting a tunnel obstacle during her run through the Bayonet Assault Course, Jan. 12. During the week-long workshop, educators see how Marine Corps recruits are trained here at the depot, and then travel to Weapons and Field Training Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton Calif., to witness the Crucible and an Emblem Ceremony.

Cpl Shawn M. Dickens/Chevron.

Educators get a taste of the Corps

BY CPL. SHAWN M. DICKENS
Chevron staff

High school administrators, teachers and counselors from Recruiting Stations Denver and Phoenix participated in a week-long synopsis of Marine Corps recruit training during the Educators Workshop Monday through today.

The educators began their first day aboard the depot by being greeted the same way every new recruit experiences.

When the bus screeched to a halt in front of the famous yellow footprints, drill instructors quickly bombarded the vehicles and made their intimidating presence known to the educators.

After yelling for the educators to exit the bus and line up on the yellow footprints, the drill instructors paced up and down the rows barking orders and ensuring the educators got into the proper position of attention. After several minutes of controlled chaos, the drill instructors stopped their yelling and took a moment to congratulate the educators because they had survived the first two minutes of Marine Corps recruit training.

The educators were then taken on a tour of the rest of the receiving process by their drill instructor guides.

The educators also attended classroom briefs describing the entire enlistment process, including recruiting, joining the Marine Corps, boot camp graduation, the Fleet Marine Force, and Marines' lifestyles.

They also visited various

training sites around the depot. They watched demonstrations of water survival training at the depot Swim Tank; Marines tackling the confidence course; and even received a class and some brief training on the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.

Educators were also invited at the end of the first day to take part in the Bayonet Assault Course on the depot. They maneuvered through obstacles; crawled through tunnels; and navigated a rope bridge, suited in flak jackets and Kevlar helmets, while carrying rubber M16A2 service rifles with training bayonets attached to engage the training targets at the end of the course.

"It was more rigorous than it looks," said Catie Riessen, counselor, Bennett High School, Bennett, Colo. "It was fun. I enjoyed being able to get down and dirty like the Marines."

"It was a lot more difficult than I thought," said Jessica Gilmore, assistant principal, Fruita Monument High School, Fruita, Colo. "I admire the physical aspect of what the Marines have to do now and how they have to think on the spot."

The educators also visited Weapons Field Training Battalion, Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., to witness weapons firing and field training, and watch Company B participate in the Emblem Ceremony.

Educators leaving the depot today said that they now have a better understanding of the Marine Corps and the young men and women who embody it.



Kat Pastor, guidance counselor, Flagstaff High School, Flagstaff, Ariz., executes an elbow strike while Peggy Alameda, Advancement Via Individual Determination teacher, Gila Ridge High School, Yuma, Ariz., holds the target bag during their Marine Corps Martial Arts Program training. During the workshop, educators received a demonstration of the MCMAP program as well as demonstrations of the Confidence Course, water survival and the Combat Fitness Test. *Cpl Shawn M. Dickens/Chevron*

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