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Course helps make better Marine Corps working environment

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The "Marines working with Civilian Marines class was held at the Religious Ministries Center Sept. 26, to aid Marines in creating a more productive working environment alongside their civilian counterparts.

"The main purpose of this class is to adhere to the Commanding Generals Strategic Plan of cohesion between the Marines and Civilian Marines, said Mick Arps, the Depots Civilian training officer.

"This course is opposite of what was taught to the Civilian Marines earlier in the year, where they were instructed about USMC core values, history, leadership traits and principles

from life as a civilian. To facilitate the most productive environment these sessions help identify what can cause problems as well as success.

"These courses have allowed the Marines and Civilian Marines to appreciate their differences and similarities," she added. "Working together to uphold the USMC core values, leadership traits, and principles will create an atmosphere that engenders cohesion."

Many feel they gained from the class, although some Marines have long had work relationships with Civilian Marines.

"I've had a great time working alongside civilians, said Sgt. Samuel Thomas, protocol clerk working at the Depot Headquarters. "By taking the class, its helped me understand how

values and principles.

Arps added, the course is designed to convey workplace similarities and techniques to better form communication among a work setting.

Additionally, stressing cohesion between active duty and civilians in the same work space is key to a successful work environment with such a diverse civilian workforce Corps wide, he said.

Ingrid Tugwell, the course facilitator, has worked aboard various military installations since 1991.

“We work with all military branches,” Tugwell said. “Military installations across the board are seeing an influx of civilian personnel. Learning to work together is imperative to support the overall mission of the installation as the influx of civilians will continue to grow.”

Working as a service member differs

similar we are, and that we live by the same code of ethics.

During the class, Marines of all ranks were divided into four different groups. Once organized, they were asked a series of questions and given a time limit to write down their collective thoughts. Some of the questions asked were, what are the differences between a Marine and a Civilian Marine?”and what are some similarities?”

All four groups reviewed their answers aloud, giving other Marines the opportunity to look outside of their personal views.

Thomas said he was surprised when he learned Civilian Marines were taught similar ethical values. He