

Boot Camp Looks at Military

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participants something different, Sheerer said, from target practice, and riding in jets and cargo plane rides and viewing the latest technological advancements. At the Marine Corps base, participants stepped out from the bus and immediately into military formation. They donned combat boots and fatigues, and even enjoyed a military-style lunch of MRE's – at 3,500 calories a pouch.

“They wanted to simulate what recruits experience. When you get off the bus, you have to stand in these little yellow

footprints. One participant even had his head shaved,” she said.

Sheerer said she learned of a great demand for more Arabic speakers and that, despite every effort being made to lessen terrorism and to increase national security, threats still loom large. “Safety is a relative term, but we’ve all got to be as cognizant as we can be to defend ourselves. I feel privileged to have seen all of this. They went out of their way to make sure we had good experiences,” Sheerer said. “There are some very thoughtful, smart people in the military who care about what we’re doing and how we are doing it.”