



## Marine Corps Cost Benefit of In-House ESRI Training Program

To support the growing number of new GIS users throughout the Marine Corps Installations West region, the Western Regional Geospatial Data Center (GEOFIWEST) located at Camp Pendleton, California implemented an in-house GIS Training Program. The GIS Training Program is led by a Technology Associates staff member that has also become an ESRI Authorized Instructor. More than 250 new GIS users have attended either ArcGIS Desktop I or II, since the training program's initialization in July 2008. The ESRI Authorized classes are offered to train and familiarize civilian, contract, and military personnel on the use of the Marine Corps' GIS program and ESRI software at a substantial cost savings. Based on the number of classes taught from July 2008 – May 2010, GEOFIWEST has been able to offer ESRI Authorized classes for one-sixth of the cost the Marine Corps would have incurred to send attendees to the ESRI Training Program located in Redlands, CA.

In addition to the financial element, there are added benefits to hosting classes on-site with an Authorized Instructor who is familiar with the Marine Corps' *GEOFidelis* program. Each class includes added customization that teaches students how to access applications via CITRIX and troubleshoot potential issues that may occur with the system. Marine Corps specific examples and applications have been incorporated into the curriculum because the Instructor has a working knowledge and familiarity with the installation's existing data. If students attend classes the ESRI Training Center in Redlands, then they would require additional training to gain the necessary familiarity with the USMC *GEOFidelis* environment. Knowledge of this environment is essential to properly accessing and utilizing Marine Corps GIS data. Another added benefit of having an ESRI Authorized Instructor on the GEOFIWEST Regional staff is the security requirements for gaining access to the individual Installations and NMCI network are already in place.

By successfully implementing an in-house ESRI Authorized Instructor program the Marine Corps is realizing continued cost benefits and is looking to expand the program to meet the emergent demands of its growing user base.

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