On September 17, 2016 I Job Shadowed Brenda Torres an active Marine in the United States Marine Corps at camp Lejeune, North Carolina. I choosed to job shadow a marine because I’ve always been interested in the United States military and thought about it as a career. I also wanted to see what the life of a marine was like and what it took to become one.

I got to camp Lejeune around 10 a.m. and I was already sweating feeling like I needed another shower. The weather was horrible so humid it just felt really uncomfortable, luckily the platoon that Brenda Torres was in were in class learning just like students and I got to sit in with them. Brenda the marine I was shadowing told me when they had class in which they would learn about marine history, regulations, and got a bit of medical education. She also told me classes would range from three to four hours long. I also asked Torres if this is how they started every morning with class, she giggled and said “ no our day starts at 4 a.m. almost every day then we’ll get dressed and go to chow after that” “ wait what’s chow?” I responded before she went on. “ It’s food haha it’s either breakfast, lunch or dinner” Torres responded. She then went on to tell me that after chow they would either have PT or class, PT is physical training for those wondering. Torres also added that some days they’ll have both PT and class and today was one of those days.

After class Torres and I headed towards the cafeteria, the marines were going in for lunch or as I should say chow. I noticed that a lot of marines were drinking gatorade, so I asked Brenda “hey they let you guys drink gatorade?” “yeah it helps us stay more hydrated than just drinking water all the time and as you can see most of us sweat the whole day because of this horrible weather.” Chow ended, the marines started to put on different boots on but they looked exactly the same as the ones they had on.Before I could even asked Brenda said “ We have drill right now so we have to put on our nicer pair of boots.” “what’s drill?” “it’s like marching well it is marching except with yelling involve mostly by the drill instructor haha.” We went back outside, I sat down on some bleachers and watch the marines practice drill. It was pretty cool, it looked like a movie. They practiced drill for a couple of hours I left around mid practice, I thanked Brenda for taking time out of her busy schedule to show me what a day in basic marine boot camp was like and let her continue onto her schedule.

I learned a lot during my visit, I learned that the marines hold a lot of discipline. I learned that you become a well organized person in the marines as well as a really responsible one. I asked some other marines what it took to become one and they all said “ a strong mindset, you must be mentally prepared, it’s not just about being physical here.” I didn’t just go for my job shadow in camp Lejeune but to see my sister graduate from basic boot camp and I also found out why they practiced drill it was because they also do it during the graduation ceremony. I liked a lot of the things you get out of the marines, but one thing I disliked was that during the basic boot camp you get about 2 or 3 phone calls home which really sucks because you’re barely getting use to being away from home and being away from your support system like family and friends. This is where your mindset gets tested.

Would I still consider the military as a career? Honestly I would, I think after my visit I’m even more interested in these types of careers. You get to find out your limits, you become a better person more prepared for life not only that but there is so many opportunities in the military and if you want to go to college after or during your service the military pays for it. I am definitely going to be looking more into this military thing especially into the marines.