What is Distance Learning?
Distance Learning (DL) describes a broad range of training and education products designed and delivered to support students at their time and location, as opposed to in a specific school or with a specific instructor.

The Marine Corps has a long history of offering DL to support the professional and technical advancement of its Marines. During the past decade, MarineNet has leveraged information technology and interactive multimedia to expand DL opportunity and capabilities.

The traditional notion of distance learning focuses on the individual Marine and courses as elective options to increase skills and performance. While this self-initiating concept remains valid, MarineNet provides a powerful capability to support leaders with unit training.

DL Support for the Individual
Leveraging distance learning products has become intuitive to most Marines. Some courses are required (compliance), some increase professional advancement (incentive), and some increase individual skills (initiative). Some important MarineNet features to the individual student are:

- No permission required
- Access via government and personal devices
- Enrollment and completion recording

DL Support for the Trainer
The same features that support individual students provide significant capabilities for the Marine trainer—both in the formal school and in the small unit. The standardization of DL products make them ideal for use as a training pre-work.

A pre-work is instruction required prior to some follow-on training—often an instructor-led class. Enforcing pre-work training and assessment helps ensure that all students arrive with a common and standard understanding of basic concepts and knowledge, thus allowing instructors to focus on practical application and decision making experiences.

MarineNet features provide many capabilities to trainers who want to incorporate pre-work into their instruction:

- Standardized courses are available for dozens of subjects
- Course includes standardized assessments and reporting
- Courses are available for use during training and afterward for sustainment

DL Support for the Leader
The hundreds of courses in MarineNet provide countless options to support any unit training plan. MarineNet courses target 1000- and 2000-level individual skills that Marines need for initial, sustainment and refresher training. Writing distance learning into unit training plans is central to establishing the appropriate foundation for follow-on collective unit training. MarineNet supports unit leaders with:

- Annual training courses with approved content and automatic completion reporting to MCFTS
- Standardized training materials to support unit train-the-trainer programs
- Course materials to support on-the-job training
- Training and education options for Extra Military Instruction
- Diverse courseware to support incidental and collateral duty training and skill progression
- Unit Training Manager account to ease reporting and record-keeping
Interactive Multimedia Instruction (IMI) Offers Multiple Benefits Across the T&E Continuum

Benefits for USMC Training and Education:

- Standardize training and education
- Reach a dispersed audience
- Train effectively for a range of outcomes: information delivery, response strengthening, knowledge construction
- Reduce overall time to train
- Ensure every Marine learns—promote individual accountability
- Track and report course completion
- Re-use multimedia and instructional assets—both online and in the classroom—to save $$$
- Provide anytime, anywhere access for on-the-job task review, reference, and performance support