



Recruit Florentino A. Buck, Platoon 1050, Charlie Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, is a Navajo who is following in his ancestors footsteps by joining the Corps. He is a descendant of three great grandfathers who served America with the Corps during World War II as Navajo Code Talkers. Buck is a Shiprock, N.M., native.

# Great grandson of Navajo Code Talkers carries on family tradition

STORY & PHOTOS BY  
SGT. WALTER D. MARINO II  
*Chevron staff*

Navajo Code Talkers used their language to assist Marines in every assault in the Pacific during World War II including Guadalcanal, Tarawa, and Iwo Jima. Now more than 65 years later, their descendants are carrying on their tradition

of military duty in the Marine Corps. Recruit Florentino A. Buck, Platoon 1050, Charlie Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, has three great grandfathers who were Navajo Code Talkers. Buck said once he learned of his ancestors’ legacy, he was immediately inspired to follow in their footsteps. Buck is the youngest of eight siblings and said although his family pushed him

to do something great with his life, it was not until he heard of their stories that his fate was decided. “Hearing their story made me feel good and filled me with a lot of pride,” said 22-year-old Buck. “I decided to join the Marines and give it a shot. Since then it’s all I’ve really wanted to do.”

see TALKER ▶4

## Charlie Company takes off on motivational run



Cpl. Jericho Crutcher

The new Marines of Charlie Company begin their last formation run, known as the Motivational Run, on Family Day. The event is held the day before graduation. During this run friends and family witness the transformation their loved ones underwent during the 13 weeks of recruit training.

### BRIEFS

#### Duncan Hall closed

Duncan Hall will be closed during the Martin Luther King Day weekend, Jan. 17 to 19. During this period, Marines may dine at the Recruit Mess Hall. The hours are:

- breakfast 4:45 to 7 a.m.
- lunch 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- dinner 4 to 6 p.m.

Diners may enter through the D.I. entryway and use the D.I. serving line. Duncan Hall will reopen for breakfast on Tuesday, Jan. 20.

#### VITA MCRD Tax Center

The depot’s VITA Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Center will open Jan. 26 and will operate from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The center is located in Bldg. 12 and is free for service members, dependents and prior service. Bring two forms of identification, personal and dependent social security cards and last year’s tax returns.

#### Father-Daughter Dance

The depot’s Marine Corps Community Services is sponsoring an “Under the Sea” Father-Daughter Dance Jan. 30, from 5 to 8 p.m., at the Field House, Building 690. The evening includes dancing and activities such as games and treasure hunts. Appetizers and a special cake will be served and a commercial photographer will be available. Tickets are available at Building 6 East, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. starting Monday. Tickets are \$15 per person. The dance is open to all active duty military, reservists, retirees and DoD eligible patrons. Mothers are not allowed. For information contact Allison Santiago at (619) 718-3764 or via e-mail at allison.m.santiago@usmc-mccs.org.

#### Boots to Business training

The Personal & Professional Development team is scheduled to host a Boots to Business class from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Jan. 27 and 28, in the P&PD classroom, Building 14. The intent of the class is to enhance future business planning. For information or to register call Mina Threat at (619) 524-1283 or 8440.

#### Super Bowl party

MCRD is sponsoring a Super Bowl party as a troop appreciation event, Feb. 1 in the recreation center. Doors will open at 10 a.m. The first 100 patrons (age 18+) to arrive will receive a free T-shirt and automatic entry into the Squares Game. Pizza, wings and drink specials will be available and the game will be viewed on 25 large flat screen TVs and on a 200 inch projection screen television.

#### Send briefs to:

rdsd\_pao@usmc.mil. The Chevron staff reserves the right to publish only those briefs that comply with Department of Defense regulations and the standards of the U.S. Government.





Marines with Tank Platoon, Company B, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, fire the 120mm main gun of the M1A1 Abrams tank during a live-fire training exercise at Range SR-10, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Jan. 13. The Marines conducted offensive and defensive engagements to prepare for an upcoming assessment at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif. From now through July, the GCEITF will conduct individual and collective level skills training in designated ground combat arms occupational specialties in order to facilitate the standards based assessment of the physical performance of Marines in a simulated operating environment performing specific ground combat arms tasks.

# Integrated Task Force Tank Platoon unleashes firepower

STORY & PHOTOS BY  
SGT. ALICIA R. LEADERS  
*Marine Corps Ground Combat Element  
Integrated Task Force*

**MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.** – In the pouring rain and gusty winds with temperatures as low as 39 degrees, Marines kept warm in 70 tons of steel as they lit up targets on Range SR-10 at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Jan. 13.

Marines with Tank Platoon, Company B, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, conducted live-fire gunnery training in preparation for their upcoming assessment at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Tank Platoon Marines rolled out to gun positions with 70-ton M1A1 Abrams tanks, complete with a 120 mm main gun, a .50-caliber machine gun, M240 coaxial machine gun, and M240E machine gun to engage targets in the offense and defense in order to grasp the basic skills of tank gunnery and work together as a team.

“While out in the field, we are trying to get more experience in firing at moving targets, stationary targets, troops and personnel carriers in order to prepare ourselves for our upcoming evaluation,” said Sgt. Michelle A. Svec, tank crewman with Tank Platoon, Company B, GCEITF. “This allows us to get more unit cohesion between the crews and get more experience amongst the crews as far as the driver,

loader, gunner and tank commander.

“Before the Marines start firing, they are given a brief from the tank commander, whose job it is to inform the rest of the crew of the current situation and enemy threats. Once the brief concludes, the crew prepares their stations and gets into position ready to engage targets,” said Svec.

“The crews are evaluated on their ability to pull up and engage targets quickly and get back down into a defilade position to not expose the tank to enemy fire,” said Staff Sgt. Eric W. Hill, master gunner with Tank Platoon, Company B, GCEITF. “The quicker they (execute), the more points they get toward their engagement time in accordance to their overall evaluation.”

Marines engaged targets in both defensive and offensive positions. If the Marines are in an offensive engagement, they are trained to shoot whatever they see first.

From the defense, the Marines first engage the most dangerous target before moving to a less dangerous target.

“The Marines are progressing pretty well,” said Hill. “They started out pretty rough, and as they transitioned into each engagement downrange, they’re learning little by little. This is the only time that they are going to actually get the chance to do live fire.

There are a few things they can review in training, but it won’t show until they actually put the rounds downrange.

Day by day, they’re transitioning more, learning more and adapting better.”


From now through July, the GCEITF will conduct indi-

vidual and collective level skills training in designated ground combat arms occupational specialties in order to facilitate the standards based assessment

of the physical performance of Marines in a simulated operating environment performing specific ground combat arms tasks.



Sgt. Michelle A. Svec, tank crewman, and Cpl. Nick A. Buenviaje, tank gunner, both with Tank Platoon, Bravo Company, Ground Combat Element Integrated Task Force, check for loose track pads, which is known as ‘walking the track,’ on an M1A1 Abrams tank during vehicle maintenance at Range SR-10, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Jan. 9.



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**EDITOR**  
ROGER EDWARDS

CHEVRON/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE  
1600 HENDERSON AVE. #120  
SAN DIEGO, CA. 92140  
(619) 524-8722  
WWW.MCRDSD.MARINES.MIL

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Staff Sgt. B. T. Griffin

**PLATOON HONOR MAN**  
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**HIGH PFT (300)**  
Pfc. E. A. Rosete  
Seattle  
Recruited by  
Sgt. L. M. Hurtado



# CHARLIE COMPANY

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Sergeant Major  
Battalion Drill Master

Lt. Col. L. M. Schotemeyer  
Sgt. Maj. M. S. Seamans  
Staff Sgt. J. E. Barnes



**COMPANY C**  
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Company First Sergeant  
1st Sgt. C. Demosthenous

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Chief Drill Instructor  
Staff Sgt. D. F. Martin

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Drill Instructors  
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Sgt. K. C. Collis

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Drill Instructors  
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Staff Sgt. B. J. Tegeder  
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Sgt. W. I. Leopold

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Drill Instructors  
Sgt. J. E. Austin  
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Pvt. L. G. Ortiz-Armendariz  
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Pvt. P. J. Riley  
Pvt. R. L. Roesner  
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Pvt. K. J. Brooks  
Pvt. B. J. Cabezas  
Pfc. C. R. Clary  
Pfc. D. J. Curley  
Pvt. J. T. Currie  
Pvt. S. B. Dopler  
Pvt. R. Espinoza Jr.

Pfc. J. L. Fivecoats  
Pvt. J. M. Flores  
Pvt. J. M. Foster  
Pvt. C. A. Hadaway  
Pvt. C. R. Hadaway  
Pvt. A. L. Hebel  
Pfc. J. P. Johnson  
Pvt. S. T. Johnson  
Pvt. J. E. Karcher  
Pvt. A.D. Kaufman  
Pfc. C. J. Lewis  
Pvt. B. Lopez  
Pvt. T. J. Mackelprang  
Pfc. M. A. Mar  
Pfc. B. J. Marburger  
Pvt. K. T. Marti  
Pfc. E. P. Martinez II  
Pvt. A.W. Mehling  
Pvt. J. A. Mehling  
Pvt. M. A. Miller  
Pfc. T. G. Percoili  
Pvt. A. E. Ponder  
\*Pfc. Z. D. Rorick  
Pfc. E. A. Rosete  
Pvt. C. K. Ryan  
Pvt. T. D. Sliwoski  
Pfc. R. A. Slusser  
Pvt. B. A. Smith  
Pfc. J. M. Smith  
Pvt. M. A. Spaulding  
Pvt. A. E. Stanage  
Pfc. B. J. Strickland Jr.  
Pvt. T. D. Taborn  
Pvt. T. D. Underwood  
Pvt. L. C. Uragami  
Pvt. O. H. Urquieta  
Pvt. A.R. Valtierra-Morales  
Pvt. J. L. Vance  
Pvt. M. Vang  
Pvt. N. V. Vang  
Pvt. S. H. Vasse  
\*Pfc. T. D. Villalba  
Pvt. Z. R. Ward  
Pfc. C. A. Weaver  
Pfc. J. A. Wernett  
Pvt. D. D. Whatley  
Pvt. B. M. White  
Pvt. T. J. Wiens  
Pvt. J. S. Wiggins  
Pvt. R. T. Wilbert II  
Pfc. C. J. Wills  
Pvt. I. M. Wilson  
Pvt. J. L. Wilson  
\*Pfc. J. G. Winter-Sasamoto  
Pfc. P. A. Woehle  
Pfc. D. J. Wongwai  
\*Pfc. C. C. Workman  
Pvt. K. F. Wright  
\*Pfc. J. W. Young  
Pvt. S. A. Zuniga





Recruits of Bravo Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, work together to find their way to their next point during the Land Navigation Course at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Jan. 6. Each navigation point is marked with a numbered ammunition can and each pair of recruits was given a different route to follow.

# Recruits search for their land navigation skills

STORY & PHOTOS BY  
CPL. TYLER VIGLIONE  
*Chevron staff*

In this day and age of smart-phones and Global Positioning Systems, most people don't know how to use a compass or map. For a Marine, this knowledge must be second nature. Armed with compasses and maps, recruits of Bravo Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, maneuvered through the Land Navigation Course at Edson Range on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Jan. 6. During Field Week or week seven of recruit training, throughout the hilly terrain of Camp Pendleton recruits learned the basic fundamentals of combat skills ranging from formations to land navigation. The practice course is buried deep in the midst of the mountainous terrain of Camp Pendleton, covered with cacti, brush and wildlife.

"Prior to recruits using prac-

tical application they received classes on the basics of plotting points, finding their azimuth and doing a pace count," said Sgt. William P. Robinson, drill instructor, Platoon 1022. They recruits learned how to measure ground distance using pace count. A pace count is how many steps it takes a person to walk a known distance. It allowed them to keep track of how far they had traveled from their starting points. "The recruits were broken up into teams of two and were given six points to plot with different distances and obstacles," said Robinson, a native of Erect, N.C. Each navigation point is marked with a numbered ammunition can. Each pair of recruits is given a different route. "Recruits had two hours to find each of their points," said 25-year-old Robinson. "Once they thought they had found all of their points, they would check with one of us (drill in-

structors) to see if they were all correct, if not, they would have to go back out and find their mistakes. According to Recruit Devon M. Ghiloni, Platoon 1022, being out in the field seemed a lot harder than he thought it would be. "At first when I was in class, it seemed like it wouldn't be that hard," said Ghiloni, a native of Burkburnett, Texas. "Once I had to maneuver around bushes and objects that threw our entire route off, it was pretty difficult." The land navigation course seemed more than just land navigation, explained Ghiloni. "We really haven't had this type of freedom from the beginning of training," said the young recruit. "We had the chance to take initiative and lead our fellow recruits to get the job done." During recruit training, recruits learn how to take charge and lead each other both using confidence and leadership

traits that they learn in various events. Events like Land Navigation allow recruits to practice those skills. Recruits will be able to utilize their land navigation skills again once they are Marines after they graduate recruit training when they move onto the School of Infantry. "There is always a chance that a group of Marines can end up getting lost, anywhere in the world," said Robinson. "These are the basic fundamentals that these recruits will develop and one day it might bring them to safety."



Bravo Company recruits use a map and compass to find their way to their next navigation point.

## TALKER ◀ 1

As a recruit, Buck isn't the strongest or loudest but that doesn't stop him from giving his all and helping others. "I like helping others in my platoon," said Buck, a Shiprock, N.M, native. "Our drill instructors are always talking about taking care of the people to your left and right because they are your brothers and sisters; even people who aren't Marines. "The platoon says I motivate them because I have gotten the most intensely trained for helping the platoon." His drill instructors took notice of his demination and drive. "He has a lot of heart. He never quits," said Staff Sgt. Nicholas A. Carrel, senior drill instructor, Platoon 1050. "Heart is everything. He keeps pushing until he gets through. He has a lot of pride in himself and his heri-

tage. The Navajo Code Talkers were brave for what they did and there is no doubt in my mind Buck will carry on the honorable service that his grandfathers did." Buck admits recruit training is difficult, but said he hopes that by graduating recruit training he will inspire other Navajo from his hometown just as his great grandfathers inspired him. He explained he knows many from his tribe who aren't going to school or working and still live at home. He hopes his story shows them that if he can do it, so can they. "It's up to the individual to do something with his life. I just hope that by doing something positive it inspires others back home to do the same," said Buck. "If you focus on problems, you'll get more problems. If you focus on possibilities, you get more opportunities."



Recruit Florentino A. Buck, Platoon 1050, Charlie Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, practices his land navigation while on duty at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Dec. 22.