**List of U.S. government and military acronyms**

List of initialisms, acronyms ("words made from parts of other words, pronounceable"), and other abbreviations used by the government and the military of the United States. Note that this list is intended to be specific to the United States government and military—other nations will have their own acronyms.

This is a dynamic list and may never be able to satisfy particular standards for completeness. You can help by expanding it with reliably sourced entries.

Contents:

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0–9[edit]

0K – Zero Killed (pronounced OK, as the expression that everything is okay)

1LT – First Lieutenant (U.S. Army) (USAF uses "1st Lt")

2LT – Second Lieutenant (U.S. Army) (USAF uses "2d Lt")

2IC – Second In Command

1SG – First Sergeant (E-8 Army)

A[edit]

A – Analog

A1C – Airman First Class (USAF E-3)

A2C2 – Army Airspace Command And Control

A-3 – (Operations Directorate (COMAFFOR))

A-5 – (Plans Directorate (COMAFFOR))

AA – Anti-Aircraft

AA – Armed Forces America

AA – Assembly Area
AA – Assessment Agent

AA – Avenue Of Approach

AAA – Army Audit Agency

AAA – Antiaircraft Artillery

AAA – Arrival And Assembly Area

AAA – Assign Alternate Area

AAAD – Airborne Anti-Armor Defense[1]

AAAS – Amphibious Aviation Assault Ship

AABB – American Association of Blood Banks

AABWS – Amphibious Assault Bulk Water System

AAC – Activity Address Code

AACG – Arrival Airfield Control Group

AADC – Area Air Defense Commander

AADP – Area Air Defense Plan

AA&E – Arms, Ammunition, And Explosives

AAEC – Aeromedical Evacuation Control Team

AAFC – Australian Air Force Cadets (Australia)

AAFES – Army and Air Force Exchange Service

AAFIF – Automated Air Facility Information File

AAFS – Amphibious Assault Fuel System

AAFSF – Amphibious Assault Fuel Supply Facility

AAGS – Army Air-Ground System
AAI – Air-To-Air Interface
AAM – Air-To-Air Missile
AAMDC – US Army Air And Missile Defense Command
AAOE – Arrival And Assembly Operations Element
AAOG – Arrival And Assembly Operations Group
AAP – Allied Administrative Publication
AAP – Assign Alternate Parent
AAR – After Action Report
AAR – After Action Review
AAS – Army Apprentice School (Australia)
AAST – Aeromedical Evacuation Administrative Support Team
AAT – Automatic Analog Test
AAT – Aviation Advisory Team
AAU – Analog Applique Unit
AAV – Amphibious Assault Vehicle
AAW – Antiair Warfare
AB – Airbase
AB – Airman Basic (USAF E-1)
ABCA – American, British, Canadian, Australian Armies Program
ABCS – Army Battle Command System
ABD – Airbase Defense
ABV – Assault Breacher Vehicle (U.S. Army)
ABFC – Advanced Base Functional Component
ADOS – Active Duty, Operational Support
ADSW – Active Duty, Special Work
AE – Armed Forces Europe
AEW&C – Airborne Early Warning And Control
AFI – Awaiting Further Instruction/Air Force Instruction (requirement guide)
AFMC – Armed Forces Medical College
AFOQT – Air Force Officer Qualifying Test
AFOSI – United States Air Force Office of Special Investigations
AFSC – Air Force Specialty Code
AHA – Ammunition Holding Area
AIM – Airborne Intercept Missile (U.S. Military)
AIPD – Army Institute For Professional Development
AIS - Automated Information System
AIT – Advanced Individual Training (U.S. Army)
Amn – Airman (USAF E-2)
ALCON – All Concerned (U.S. Military)
AMU – Aircraft Maintenance Unit
AMXG – Aircraft Maintenance Group
AMXS – Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
AOL – Absent Over Leave (U.S. Navy)
AO – Area Of Operations
A&P – Administrative And Personnel

AP – Armed Forces Pacific

AP – Armor-Piercing

APC – Armored Personnel Carrier

APFSDS – Armor-Piercing Fin-Stabilized Discarding Sabot

APO – Army Post Office; See Also FPO

APPN – Appropriation Number (U.S. Military)

APRT – Army Physical Readiness Test (U.S. Army)

ARCENT/TUSA US Army Forces Central Command (CENTCOM)/Hq Third US Army (TUSA)[2]

ARPANET – Advanced Research Projects Agency Network (e.g., 1969 to 1989; antecedent of the information superhighway; now DARPA)

ARM – Anti-Radar Missile

ARM – Anti-Radiation Missile

ARMS – Automated Recruit Management System (U.S. Military)

ARMS – Aviation Resource Management System (USAF)

ART – Alarm Response Team (USAF)

ARVN – Army Of The Republic Of (South) Viet Nam (U.S. Military)

ASAP – Army Substance Abuse Program (U.S. Military)

ASAP – As Soon As Possible

ASEAN – Association Of South East Asian Nations

ASM – Air-To-Surface Missile

ASCM – Anti-Ship C Missile

ASV – Anti-Surface Vessel (airborne radar)
ASVAB – Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery

ASW – Anti-Submarine Warfare

ATC – Air Training Corps

ATC – Air Traffic Control

ATFU – Ate The Fuck Up (not squared away)[3]

ATO – Air Tasking Order

ATO – Antiterrorism Officer

ATRRS – Army Training Requirements And Resources System

AWACS – Airborne Warning and Control System

AWOL – Absent Without Leave

B[edit]

BAMCIS – Begin planning Arrange Recon Make the plan Complete the plan Issue the order Supervise (US Marine Corps)

BAH – Basic Allowance for Housing

BAR – Browning Automatic Rifle

BAU – Behavioural Analysis Unit

BCD – Battlefield Coordination Detachment

BCD – Bad Conduct Discharge (aka Big Chicken Dinner)

BCG – Birth Control Glasses (U.S. Military Slang)

BCT – Basic Combat Training (U.S. Army)

BCT - Brigade Combat Team

BDF – Barbados Defence Force (Barbados)

BDU – Battle Dress Uniform (U.S. Military)
Be – Beriev (Russian)

BEA – Budget Execution Authority (U.S. Navy)

BFT – Blue Force Tracker (U.S. Military)

BG – Bodyguard

BGHR – By God He's Right (U.S Military)

BLUF – Bottom Line Up Front (US Military)

BMNT – Begin Morning Nautical Twilight (U.S Army)

BN – Battalion (U.S. Army)

BDE – Brigade (U.S. Army)

BOHICA – Bend Over Here It Comes Again (US Military Slang)

BRAC – Base Realignment And Closure

BRAT (American)– Born Raised And Transferred (American usage, refers to dependent children of military personnel) Usually Pronounced "Military Brat" (Or "Air Force BRAT", or Army "Brat", Navy "Brat" etc.).[4]

BRAT (British)– British RegimentAttachedTraveler (British military usage, may have been the original usage, which was later adapted to the American military: Means "child that travels with a soldier") Usually pronounced "Military Brat" or "Base Brat".[5][6]

BUB – Battle Update Brief

BVR – Beyond Visual Range (USAF)

BX – Base Exchange (USAF)

BZ – spoken "Bravo Zulu", meaning "congratulations, job well done"

C[edit]

C1 – Command

C2 – Command And Control
C3 – Command Control And Communication

C4IR – Command Control Communication Computers Intelligence And Recognition

CAC – Common Access Card (U.S. DoD, pron. "cac")

CAG – Commander, Air Group (U.S. Navy, pron. "cag")

CAG – Civil Affairs Group. Term used for military members assigned to assist civilian governments with restoring infrastructure (All U.S. branches, pron. "cag")

CAGE – Commercial and Government Entity

CALL – Center for Army Lessons Learned

CAPT – Captain (US Navy, USCG O-6)

Capt – Captain (USMC, US Army, USAF O-3)

CAS – Close Air Support

CASEX – Coordinated Anti-Submarine EXercise[7]

CASEVAC – Casualty Evacuation

CAT – Combat Application Tourniquets

CBRN – Chemical Biological Nuclear Radiological

CBU – Cluster Bomb Unit

CCIP – Continually Calculated Impact Point (USAF/USMC Aviation)

CCIR – Commanders Critical Information Requirements

CCP – Casualty Collection Point

CCRP – Continually Calculated Release Point (USAF/USMC Aviation)

CDAT – Computerized Dumb Ass Tanker (M1 Abrams Crewmen)

CDIAC – Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center

CDRUSPACOM Commander United States Pacific Command
CENTCOM – Central Command (U.S. Military)

CF – Cluster Fuck (always pronounced phonetically "Charlie Foxtrot")

CH – Cunt Hair (a unit of measurement)

CHU – Containerized Housing Unit

Chief – Chief Warrant Officer

CIA – Central Intelligence Agency

CIB – Combat Infantry Badge

CIC – Command Intelligence Center (U.S. Navy)

CINCLANT – Commander-in-chief, Atlantic Forces (U.S. Navy before 2002)

CINCLANTFLT – Commander-in-chief, Atlantic Fleet (U.S. Navy before 2002)

CINCPAC – Commander-in-chief, Pacific Forces (U.S. Navy before 2002)

CIWS – Close-In Weapon System

CMSgt – Chief Master Sergeant (USAF E-9; highest AF enlisted rank)

CMSAF – Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force (USAF E-9 – Senior Enlisted Member)

CO – Commanding Officer

COA – Course of Action

COB – Chief Of the Boat (Chief Petty Officer in charge of the Boat usually a Master Chief (USN Submariner Terminology))

COCOM – Combatant Commander

CODELS – Congressional Delegations

Col – Colonel

COMINT – Communications Intelligence

COMPACFLT – Commander, Pacific Fleet (U.S. Navy)
COMSEC’ – Communication Security

CONUS – Continental United States (U.S. military, pron. "cone-us")

CONUSA – Continental United States Army (numbered Armies of U.S. military)

CORDS – (U.S. military, Vietnam era)

COP – Combat Out Post

CoS – Chief of Staff

COT – Commissioned Officer Training

CPL – Corporal (U.S. Army and Marine Corps E-4)

CPO – Chief Petty Officer (USCG/USN E-7)

CPT – Captain (US Army O-3)

CP – Check Point (Usually Numbered i.e. "CP1")

CPX – Command Post Exercise

CQB – Close Quarters Battle

CRC – CONUS Replacement Center (a military processing center at Fort Benning, Georgia, US)

CSM – Command Sergeant Major (U.S. Army E9 highest Army enlisted rank))

CSAR – Combat Search And Rescue

CT – Counter-terrorism Team

CTR – Close Target Reconnaissance

CUB – Commander Update Brief

CVN – Nuclear-powered Aircraft Carrier (NOTE: the V comes from the expression "heavier than air flying machine")

CWO – Chief Warrant Officer
CZN – Nuclear-powered Airship Carrier (NOTE: the Z comes from the use of the word Zeppelin although non-Zeppelin airships would also be transported on a CZN)

D[edit]

DA – Defence Attaché

DAC – Department of the Army Civilian

DAGR – Defense Advanced GPS Receiver

DARPA – Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (U.S. Military)

DC3 – Department of Defense Cyber Crime Center

DCAA – Defense Contract Audit Agency

DCMA – Defense Contract Management Agency

DEVGRU – the United States naval special warfare DEVelopment GRoUp

DFAC – Dining Facility (U.S. Military)

DFAS – Defense Finance and Accounting Service (U.S. Military)

D.I.A – Defensive Intelligence Agency

DINFAC – Dining Facility (U.S. Military)

DISA – Defense Information Systems Agency

DLB – Dead Letter Box

DMDC – Defense Manpower Data Center

DME – Depot Maintenance Enterprise (U.S. Military)

DMEA – Defense Microelectronics Activity

DMS – Defense Message System (U.S. Military)

DMZ – Demilitarized Zone

DOA – Dead on Arrival
DoDAAC – Department of Defense Activity Address Code (U.S. Military)

DoDAF – Department of Defense Architectural Framework (U.S. Military)

DoDIC – Department of Defense Identification Code (U.S. Military)

DOEHRS – Defense Occupational and Environmental Health Readiness System (U.S. Military)

DOP – Drop-Off Point

DPMs – Disruptive Pattern Material

DRT – Dead Right There; wounded in such a way as to indicate immediate and/or unavoidable death; often used as a sarcastic form of the civilian acronym DOA (Dead On Arrival)

DTO – Daily Tasking Order

DTRA – Defense Threat Reduction agency

DZ – Drop Zone

E[edit]

E&E – Escape and Evade

EA – Electronic Attack

ECP – Entry Control Point

EDCSA – Effective Date of Change of Strength Accountability (obsolete for U. S. Army)

EHRS - Electronic Health Records (Software)

EI – Engineering and Installation

EIS – Engineering and Installation Squadron, Environmental Impact Statement

EI SIT – Engineering and Installation Site Implementation Team

EKIA- Enemy Killed in Action

ELINT – Electronic Intelligence

EMI – Extra Military Instruction
ENS – Ensign (US Navy junior officer rank, O-1)

EOD – Explosive Ordnance Disposal

EOS – End of Service

EP – Electronic Protection

EPW – Enemy Prisoner of War

ERV – Emergency Rendezvous

ESSENCE – Electronic Surveillance System for Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (U.S. Military)

ETA – Estimated time of arrival

ETS – Estimated Termination of Service

EUCOM – European Command (U.S. Military)

EW – Electronic Warfare (comprises EA, EP)

Exfil – Exfiltration (Opposite of infiltration; exiting undetected)

F[edit]

FA – Field Artillery

FAK – First Aid Kit

FAR – Federal Acquisition Regulation

FBCB2 – Force XXI Battlefield Command Brigade and Below

FBI – Federal Bureau of Investigation

FEBA – Forward Edge of the Battle Area

FFE – Fire for effect

FIDO – Fire Direction Officer

FIGMO – Fuck It, Got My Orders
FIST – Fire Support Team

FISTer – Member of a Fire Support Team

FIST-V – Fire Support Team Vehicle

FISINT – Foreign Instrumentation Signals Intelligence

FISHDO – Fuck It, Shit Happens, Drive On

FitRep – Fitness Report

FLOT – Forward Line of Troops

FLOTUS – First Lady of the United States (U.S. – see POTUS)

FM – Field Marshal; more commonly "Field Manual"

FMC – Fully Mission Capable

FNG – Fucking New Guy

FO – Forward Observer

FO – Foxtrot Oscar (i.e. Fuck Off) (US/UK Forces)

FOB – Forward Operating Base

FOD – Foreign Object Damage (U.S.)

FOD – Foreign Object Debris (U.S.)

FPO – Fleet Post Office; See also APO

FSA – Force Structure Allowance

FSTE – Foreign Service Tour Extension

FTUS – Full Time Unit Specialist

FUBAR – Fouled Up Beyond All Recognition or Fucked Up Beyond All Repair

FYSA – For Your Situational Awareness
FYI – For Your Information

G[edit]

G1 – General Staff Level office for Personnel and Manpower (Division and Above)

G2 – General Staff Level office for Military Intelligence (Division and Above)

G3 – General Staff Level office for Operations and Plans (Division and Above)

G4 – General Staff Level office for Logistics (Division and Above)

G5 – General Staff Level office for Military/Civil Affairs (Division and Above)

G6 – General Staff Level office for Signal and Communication (Division and Above)

G7 – General Staff Level office for Training and Exercises (Division and Above)

G8 – General Staff Level office for Force Development and Analysis (Division and Above)

G9 – General Staff Level office for Civil Operations (Division and Above)

GBU – Guided Bomb Unit

GEN – General

GI – Government Issue

GIG – Global Information Grid

GIGO – Garbage In Garbage Out

GM – Gone Mersault

GO – General Officer

GOCO – Government owned, contractor operated

GPMG – General Purpose Machine Gun

GPS – Global Positioning System

GS – General Schedule
HALO – High Altitude Low Opening (Airborne)
HAHO – High Altitude High Opening
HAAMS – High Altitude Airdrop Missions
HBL – Holiday Block Leave (U.S. Army)
HE – High Explosive
HEAT – High Explosive Anti-Tank warhead
HEP – High Explosive, Plastic (US usage)
HESH – High Explosive Squash Head (British anti-tank round)
HMAS – Her Majesty's Australian Ship (Australia)
HMCS – Her Majesty's Canadian Ship (Canada)
HMFIC – Head Motherfucker In Charge – colloquialism for the highest-ranking person present; more commonly used by NCO’s than by officers (U.S. Military)
HMMWV – High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (U.S. Military) (Pronounced Humvee)
HMNZS – Her Majesty's New Zealand Ship (New Zealand)
HMS – Hans Majestät's Skepp (His Majesty's ship, Sweden)
HMS – Her Majesty's Ship (Royal Navies such as Royal British Navy) (His Majesty's Ship if King)
Hr.Ms – His/Her Dutch Majesty's Ship (Dutch Royal Navy ship)
HOMSEC – Homeland Security
HRAP – Hometown Recruiter Assistance Program
HQ – Headquarters
HHB – Headquarters and Headquarters Battery
HHC – Headquarters and Headquarters Company
HHT – Headquarters and Headquarters Troop

HUMINT – Human Intelligence

HVI – High Value Individual

HVT – High Value Target

HYT – High Year Tenure

I[edit]

IAF – Indian Air Force

IAF – Israeli Air Force

IAVA – Information Assurance Vulnerability Alert (U.S. Military)

ICBM – Intercontinental Ballistic Missile

ICE – Individual Carrying Equipment

ID – IDentification

IED – Improvised Explosive Device

IFAK – Individual First Aid Kit

IFF – Identification Friend or Foe

IFF – Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals (USAF)

IG – Inspector General (US Military)

IFV – Infantry Fighting Vehicle

IN – Infantry

INSCOM – United States Army Intelligence and Security Command

Il – Ilyushin

Interpol – International Criminal Police Organization
ISO – Inter School Course

ISR – Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance

IYAAYAS – If You Ain't AMMO, You Ain't Shit

JA – Judge Advocate [General]

JAFO – Just Another Fucking Observer[8]

JAG – Judge Advocate General

JDAM – Joint Direct Attack Munition

JSF – Joint Strike Fighter

JATO – Jet-assisted Take Off

JETDS – Joint Electronics Type Designation System

JSAM – Joint Service Achievement Medal

JSTARS – Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System

JSOC – Joint Special Operations Command

JTF – Joint Task Force

JEEP – Just Enough Essential Parts

KATUSA – Korean Augmentation Troops to the United States Army

KIA – Killed In Action

KISS – Keep It Simple, Stupid – USAF

KP – Kitchen Police or Kitchen Patrol

KBO – Keep Buggering On
LAAD – Low Altitude Air Defense
LAV – Land Artillery Vehicle
LCDR – Lieutenant Commander (US Navy)
LCPL – Lance Corporal (US Marines)
LES – Leave and Earnings Statement
LP – Listening Post
LP/OP – Listening Post Observation Post
LPC – Leather Personnel Carrier (boot)
LGOP – Little Group Of Paratroopers
LPO – Leading Petty Officer (US Navy)
LT – Lieutenant
LTC or Lt Col – Lieutenant Colonel
LTG or Lt Gen – Lieutenant General
LTJG – Lieutenant, Junior Grade (US Navy)
LUP – Lying-Up Point
LZ – Landing Zone
MACV/SOG – Military Assistance Command Vietnam / Special Operations Group
MAJ – Major
MARCORSYSCOM – MARine CORps SYStems COMmand (U.S. Military)
MARCENT Marine Corps Central Command[2]
MARFORRES – MARine FORces REServe (U.S. Marine Corps)

MARSOC – Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command

MAV – Micro Air Vehicle

MAW – Maximum Allowable Weight

MBT – Main Battle Tank


MCCS – Marine Corps Community Services (also known by the humorous backronym Marine Corps Crime Syndicate)

MCEN – Marine Corps Enterprise Network (U.S. Military)

MCEITS – Marine Corps Enterprise Information Technology Service (U.S. Military)

MCPO – Master Chief Petty Officer (USCG/USN E-9)

MedEvac – Medical Evacuation

MFA – Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MG – Machine Gun

MG – Major General

MI – Military Intelligence

Mi – Mil Moscow Helicopter Plant (Russian)

MIA – Missing In Action

MICV – Mechanized Infantry Combat Vehicle

MiG – Mikoyan-Gurevich (Russian)

MILCON – Military Construction

MK – Mark
MK – Machinery Technician (U.S. Coast Guard)
MLRS – Multiple Launch Rocket System
MMFD – Miles and Miles of F...ing Desert (unofficial report in Gulf War)
MOA – Military Operating Area (USAF Airspace)
MOAB – Massive Ordnance Air Blast bomb, also known as "Mother Of All Bombs". (U.S. military)
MOAC – Mother of All Coffee (Green Bean Coffee)
MOB – Main Operating Base
MOBCOM – MOBILE COMMAND
MOPP – Mission Oriented Protective Posture
MOUT – Military Operations in Urban Terrain
MPDS – Military Planning Data Allowance
MRAP – Mine Resistant Ambush Protected
MRE – Meal Ready to Eat (U.S. Military)
MRX – Mission Rehearsal Exercise
MSG – Master Sergeant (US Army E-8)
MSgt – Master Sergeant (USAF E-7)
MTOE – Modified Table Of Organizational Equipment
MTS+ – Movement Tracking System Plus
MSDC+ – Marine Science Diving Club (Diving Club Of Hasanudin University)
N[edit]
NAFTA – North American Free Trade Agreement
NAS – Naval Air Station
NATO – North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

NCIS – Naval Criminal Investigative Service (U.S. Navy)

NAVAIR – Naval Air Systems Command

NAVCENT – Naval Forces Central Command (U.S. Navy)[2]

NAVOCEANO – Naval Oceanographic Office

NBACC – National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center

NCI – National Cancer Institute

NCO – Non-Commissioned Officer

NCOIC – Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge

NCOES – Non-Commissioned Officer Education System

ND – Negligent Discharge

NEFF – New Equipment Fielding Facility

NIBC National Interagency Biodefense Campus

NICBR – National Interagency Confederation for Biological Research

NMC – Not Mission Capable

NME – Non-Mission Essential

NMCI – Naval Marine Corps Intranet (U.S. Navy)

NNMSA – Non-Nuclear Munitions Storage Area

NORAD – North American Aerospace Defense Command

NPDES – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

NS – Network Services

NSA – National Security Agency
NSW – Naval Special Warfare
NSWGD – Naval Special Warfare Development Group
NUB – Non-Useful Body / Nuclear Unqualified Bitch (U.S. Nuclear Navy)
O[edit]
OBE – Overcome By Events (DoD)
OCONUS – Outside Continental United States
OCS – Officer Candidate School
ODA – Operational Detachment-Alpha (the standard 12-man team composed of US Army Special Forces operators)
ODU – Operational Dress Uniform (U.S. Coast Guard)
OIC – Officer in Charge
OIG - Office of Inspector General
OM – On the Move (Normally just spelled out Oscar Mike)
O&M, MC – Operations & Maintenance, Marine Corps (U.S. Navy)
O&M, N – Operations & Maintenance, Navy (U.S. Navy)
OODA – Observe, Orient, Decide, and Act
OP – Observation Post
ORM – Operational Risk Management
OSM – Oh Shit Moment (U.S. Marine Corps)
OSP – On Site Procurement
OPORD – Operations Order
OPSEC – Operations Security
OTF – Out There Flapping (Airborne)
OTS – Officer Training School

OTV – Outer Tactical Vest

P[edit]

PACOM – Pacific Command

PCS – Permanent Change of Station

PDS – Permanent Duty Station (U.S. Military)

PDT – Pre-Deployment Training

PE – Plastic Explosive

PFC – Private First Class (U.S. Military)

PFM – Pure Fuckin Magic (U.S. Military)

PFT – Physical Fitness Test

PII – Personally Identifiable Information or Personal Identity Information

PL – Platoon Leader (U.S. Army)

PLT – Platoon (U.S. Army)

PMC – Partially Mission Capable

PME – Professional Military Education

PMS – Planned Maintenance Schedule (U.S. Navy)

PNG – Passive Night Goggles

PO – Post Office

PO1 – Petty Officer 1st Class (USCG/USN E-6)

PO2 – Petty Officer 2nd Class (USCG/USN E-5)

PO3 – Petty Officer 3rd Class (USCG/USN E-4)
POBCAK – Problem Occurs Between Chair And Keyboard

POL – Petroleum Oil & Lubricants (U.S. Air Force)

POC – Point Of Contact

POTUS – President of the United States

POG – Person Other than Grunt (All non-combat arms job fields i.e. any MOS or CMF other than infantry, cavalry, armor, and artillery; among infantrymen, refers to anyone other than infantry or Special Forces)

POW – Prisoner Of War

POV – Privately Owned Vehicle

PPG – PT Parade Games

PPPPPPP – Proper Prior Planning Prevents Piss Poor Performance

PRP – Personnel Reliability Program

PRP – Pretty Retarded Program

PRT – Provincial Reconstruction Team

PRT – Physical Readiness Training (U.S. Army)

PT – Physical Training

PTB – Powers That Be

PV2 – Private 2nd class (U.S. Army E-2)

PVT – Private (U.S. Army and Marine Corps E-1)

PX – Post Exchange (U.S. Army)

R[edit]

RAAF – Royal Australian Air Force (Australia)

RAF – Royal Air Force (UK)

RAN – Royal Australian Navy (Australia)
RATO – Rocket Assisted Take Off

RCSC – Royal Canadian Sea Cadets (Canada)

REMF – Rear Echelon Mother Fucker

RFL – Response Force Leader

RMC – Royal Military College of Canada (Canada) in Kingston, Ontario

RN – Royal Navy (UK)

ROE – Rules Of Engagement

ROMA Data, Right Out Of My Ass Data. Unverifiable created data (different from SWAG)

ROWPU – Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit

RNZAF – Royal New Zealand Air Force (New Zealand)

ROZ – Restricted Operating Zone

RPG – Rocket-Propelled Grenade

RPM – Rounds per minute

RS – RatShit (Australia – related to US – Unserviceable)

RSS – Regional Security System (Caribbean)

RTB – Return To Base

RV – Rendez-Vous

RTO – Radio Telephone Operator

S[edit]

SWAK – Sealed With A Kiss

SA – Seaman Apprentice (USCG/USN E-2)

SA – Situation Awareness
SAS – Special Air Service (British special forces)

SBS – Special Boat Service (British special forces)

SAAS – Standard Army Ammunition System (U.S. Army)

SAM – Surface-to-Air Missile

SARSS – Standard Army Retail Supply System (U.S. Army)

SCIF – Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility

SCO – Squadron Commander (Squadron as used in the U.S. Army Regimental System)

SCOTUS – Supreme Court of the United States

SCPO – Senior Chief Petty Officer (USCG/USN E-8)

SD – "Status Destroyed" or "Salty Dog". (Equipment that is written off as unrepairable and unsalvageable.)

SEAC – Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

SEAL – Sea, Air and Land (US Navy SEALs)

SERE – Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape

SFC – Sergeant First Class (U.S. Army E7)

SGM – Sergeant Major (U.S. Army E9 – Sometimes referred to as Staff Sergeant Major)

SGT – Sergeant (U.S. Army E5) (U.S. Marines uses Sgt)

SITREP – Situation Report

SOCCENT – Special Operations Command CENTCOM[2]

SDD – Solution Delivery Division (Military Health)

SJA – Staff Judge Advocate

SLAM – Standoff Land Attack Missile

SMA – Sergeant Major of the Army (U.S. Army E9 – Senior Enlisted Member)
SMEAC – Situation Mission Execution Admin/logistics Command/signal (US Marine Corps basic knowledge)

SMSgt – Senior Master Sergeant (USAF E-8)

SN – Seaman (USCG/USN E-3)

SNAFU – Situation Normal: All Fucked/Fouled Up

SOCOM – United States Special Operations Command

SOFA – Status of Forces Agreement

SOP – Standard Operating Procedures

SOS – Shit On a Shingle, or creamed chipped beef on toast.

SPC – Specialist (U.S. Army E-4)

SR – Seaman Recruit (USCG/USN E-1)

SrA – Senior Airman (USAF E-4)

SRR – Special Reconnaissance Regiment (British special Forces)

SSDD – Same Shit Different Day

SSDDBS – Same Shit Different Day Bigger Shovel

SSG – Staff Sergeant (US Army E-6)

SSgt – Staff Sergeant (US Air Force E-5) (U.S. Marines E-6)

SOL – Shit Out of Luck (US Army)

SOLJWF – Shit Out of Luck and Jolly Well Fucked (U.S. Marines)

STOVL – Short Takeoff, Vertical Landing

SUSFU – Situation Unchanged, Still Fucked Up

SWAG – Scientific Wild Ass Guess

T[edit]
TACP – Tactical Air Control Party (USAF)
TAD – Temporary Additional Duty (U.S. Military)
TAO – Tactical Action Officer (U.S. Military)
TBD – To Be Determined
TC3 – Tactical Combat Casualty Care
TCCC – Tactical Combat Casualty Care
TDPFO – Temporary Duty Pending Further Orders (U.S. Military)
TDY – Temporary Duty (U.S. Military)
TF – Task Force
TFOA – Things Falling Off Aircraft
TG6 – Task Group 6 (group designation for NZ SAS – NZ Army)
TOC – Tactical Operations Center
TIC – Troops In Contact
TSgt – Technical Sergeant (USAF E-6)
TU – Tits Up (Dead, Inoperable), a.k.a. "tango uniform"
TARFU – Things Are Really Fucked Up, or Totally And Royally Fucked Up
UA – Unauthorized Absence
UAS – Unmanned Aerial System
UAV – Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
UCAV – Unmanned Combat Air Vehicle
ULLS – Unit Level Logistics System (U.S. Army)
UMA – Unit Mobilization Assistor
UN – United Nations
US – Unserviceable
USSS – United States Secret Service
USAF – United States Air Force
USAFA – the United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colorado
USAFE – United States Air Forces in Europe
USAMRICD – United States Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense
USAMRIID – United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Disease
USAMRMC – United States Army Medical Research and Materiel Command
USAMRAA – United States Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity
USA PATRIOT Act – Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act
USAREC – US Army Recruiting Command
USAREUR – US Army European Command
USMA – the United States Military Academy (US Army) at West Point, New York
USMC – United States Marine Corps
USN – United States Navy
USNA – the United States Naval Academy (US Navy) at Annapolis, Maryland
USO – United Service Organizations (U.S. Military)
USR – Unit Status Report
UUV – Unmanned Underwater Vehicle
UXB – Unexploded Bomb (bomb disposal; British)
UXO – Unexploded Ordnance

V[edit]

VBIED – Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device

VDM – Visual Distinguishing Mark

VFD – Volunteer Fire Department

VFR – Volunteer Fire and Rescue (or in Aviation Visual Flight Rules)

VPOTUS – Vice President of the United States

W[edit]

WIA – Wounded In Action

WO1 – Warrant Officer 1

WSA – Weapons Storage Area

WMD – Weapons of Mass Destruction

WILCO – Will Comply

X[edit]

XO – Executive Officer

Y[edit]

YGBSM – You Gotta Be Shitting Me

**List of U.S. Air Force acronyms and expressions**

A/C – Aircraft
A1C – Airman First Class; enlisted pay grade E-3, known as Airman Second Class (A2C) from 1952 to 1967

A2C – Airman Second Class; former enlisted pay grade E-3 from 1952 to 1967, now designated as A1C

A3C – Airman Third Class; former enlisted pay grade E-2 from 1952 to 1967, now designated as Amn

AADS – Alaskan Air Defense Sector

AAFES – Army and Air Force Exchange Service (pronounced "A-Fees")

AB – Airman Basic; enlisted pay grade E-1

AB – Air Base

ABDR – Aircraft Battle Damage Repair

ABM – Air Battle Manager

ABU – Airman Battle Uniform

ABW – Air Base Wing

ACA – Airspace Control Authority

ACC – Air Combat Command

ACOT – Advanced Communications Officer Training

ACSC – Air Command and Staff College

ACW – Air Control Wing

ADC – Area Defense Counsel

ADC – (Obsolete term) Air Defense Command, later Aerospace Defense Command (disestablished MAJCOM)

ADCON – Administrative Control
ADP – Airman Development Plan
ADPE – Automated Data Processing Equipment
ADR – Airfield Damage Repair
ADSC – Active Duty Service Commitment
AEF – Aerospace Expeditionary Force
AES – Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron
AETC – Air Education and Training Command
AEW – Air Expeditionary Wing
AFA – Air Force Academy
AFA – Air Force Association
AFAA – Air Force Audit Agency
AFAM – Air Force Achievement Medal
AFAMS – Air Force Agency for Modeling and Simulation
AFB – Air Force Base
AFC2IC – Air Force Command and Control Integration Center
AFCA – Air Force Communications Agency
AFCAA – Air Force Cost Analysis Agency
AFCAT – Air Force Catalog
AFCEC – Air Force Civil Engineering Center
AFCEE – Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment
AFCENT – Air Forces Central
AFCESA – Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency
AFCFM – Air Force Career Field Manager
AFCLC – Air Force Culture and Learning Center
AFCM – Air Force Commendation Medal
AFDC – Air Force Doctrine Center
AFDW – Air Force District of Washington
AFE – Aircrew Flight Equipment
AFETS – Air Force Engineering and Technical Services
AFFMA – Air Force Frequency Management Agency
AFFSA – Air Force Flight Standards Agency
AFFSC – Air Force Financial Services Center
AFGSC – Air Force Global Strike Command
AFH – Air Force Handbook
AFHRA – Air Force Historical Research Agency
AFI – Air Force Instruction; or as a duty status, awaiting further instructions
AFIA – Air Force Inspection Agency
AFIAA – Air Force Intelligence Analysis Agency
AFIS – Air Force Inspection System
AFISRA – Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency
AFIT – Air Force Institute of Technology
AFLC – Air Force Logistics Command (disestablished MAJCOM; merged with AFSC in 1992 to form AFMC)

AFLMA – Air Force Logistics Management Agency

AFLOA – Air Force Legal Operations Agency

AFMA – Air Force Manpower Agency

AFMAN – Air Force Manual

AFMC – Air Force Materiel Command

AFMOA – Air Force Medical Operations Agency

AFMPC – Air Force Military Personnel Center (obsolete), replaced with AFPC

AFMS – Air Force Medical Service or Air Force Manpower Standards

AFMSA – Air Force Medical Support Agency

AFNIC – Air Force Network Integration Center

AFNOC – Air Force Network Operations Center

AFNORTH – Air Forces Northern

AFNSEPO – Air Force National Security Emergency Preparedness Office

AFNWCA – Air Force Nuclear Weapons and Counterproliferation Agency

AFOG – Air Force Operations Group

AFOQT – Air Force Officer Qualifying Test

AFOTEC – Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center

AFPAA – Air Force Public Affairs Agency

AFPAM – Air Force Pamphlet
AFPC – Air Force Personnel Center
AFPCA – Air Force Pentagon Communications Agency
AFPD – Air Force Policy Directive
AFPEO – Air Force Program Executive Office
AFPET – Air Force Petroleum Agency
AFPOA – Air Force Personnel Operations Agency
AFRBA – Air Force Review Boards Agency
AFRC – Air Force Reserve Command
AFRIMS – Air Force Records Information Management System
AFRL – Air Force Research Lab
AFROTC – Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps
AFRPA – Air Force Real Property Agency
AFS – Air Force Station
AFSA – Air Force Sergeants Association
AFSC – Air Force Safety Center
AFSC – Air Force Specialty Code
AFSC – Air Force Systems Command (dissolved MAJCOM; merged with AFLC in 1992 to form AFMC)
AFSFC – Air Force Security Forces Center
AFSO 21 – Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century
AFSOC – Air Force Special Operations Command
AFSOUTH – Air Forces Southern
AFSPC – Air Force Space Command
AFSVA – Air Force Services Agency
AFT – Alert Fire Team
AFTO – Air Force Technical Order
AFVA – Air Force Visual Aids
AFVEC – Air Force Virtual Education Center
AFWA – Air Force Weather Agency
AG (TAG) – Adjutant General, (The)
AGE – Aerospace Ground Equipment; analogous to Ground Support Equipment (GSE) in USN, USMC and USCG (Naval Aviation)
AGE Ranger – An AGE Technician
AGR – Active Guard and Reserve
AGS – Aircraft Generation Squadron
AGSM – Anti-G Straining Maneuver
AGOW – Air-Ground Operations Wing
AKRAOC – Alaska Region Air Operations Center
ALCM – Air Launched Cruise Missile
ALCON – All Concerned (used in message headers for mass emailings)
ALO – Air Liaison Officer
ALS – Airman Leadership School
AMC – Air Mobility Command

AMJAMS – Automated Military Justice Analysis and Management System

Amn – Airman; enlisted pay grade E-2

AMMO Troop – Munitions Systems Technician AMMO (U.S. Air Force)

AMMS – Airborne Missile Maintenance Squadron Missile Badge

AMS – Academy of Military Science

AMT – Aircraft Metals Technology

AMW – Air Mobility Wing

AMXS – Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

ANG – Air National Guard

ANR – Alaskan NORAD Region

AO – Authorized Outage

AOC – Air and Space Operations Center

AOG – Aircraft On Ground

AP – Air Police (Obsolete term); now called Security Forces (SF)

APS – Aerial Port Squadron

ARI – Alcohol Related Incident

ARS – (Obsolete term) Air Rescue Squadron; formerly ARRS, now known as a Rescue Squadron (RQS)

ARRS – (Obsolete term) Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron

ART – AEF (Air Expeditionary Force) Reporting Tool
ART – Air Reserve Technician
ART – Armed or Alarm Response Team
ARW – Air Refueling Wing
AS – Airlift Squadron
AS – Air Station
ASAP – As Soon As Possible
ASBC – Air and Space Basic Course
ASI – Authorized Service Interruption
ASR – Airport Surveillance Radar
ATAG – Assistant to the Adjutant General
ATC – Air traffic control
ATC – Air Training Command (diseestablished MAJCOM; superseded in 1992 by AETC)
ATCALS – Air Traffic Control and Landing Systems
ATO – Air Tasking Order
ATO – Anti-Terrorism Officer
AU – Air University
AU-ABC – Air University Associate to Baccalaureate Cooperative
AW – Airlift Wing
AWACS – Airborne Warning and Control System on the E-3 Sentry aircraft
AWACS – A War Against Common Sense
AWC – Air War College
AWOL – Absent Without Leave

AWP – Awaiting Parts

B[edit]

BAH – Basic Allowance for Housing

BAS – Basic Allowance for Subsistence

BASH – Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard

BAQ – Bachelor Airman Quarters

BCOT – Basic Communications Officer Training

BDOC – Base Defense Operations Center

BDU – Battle Dress Uniform

BEQ – Bachelor Enlisted Quarters

BIT – Bystander Intervention Training

BITC – Base Information Transfer Center

BITS – Base Information Transfer System

BFM – Basic Fighter Maneuvers

BFT – Blue Force Tracking

BLUF – Bottom Line Up Front

BMT – Basic Military Training

BOHICA – Bend Over, Here It Comes Again; used in response to unfavorable orders.

BONE – Nickname for the B-1 Lancer, as in "B-ONE"

BOQ – Bachelor Officer Quarters
BOS – Base Operating Support

BOT – Basic Officer Training

Box Nasty – A sandwich & snack meal in a cardboard box handed out for flights

BPZ – Below Primary Zone; early promotion of an officer ahead of peers to controlled statutory pay grades of O-4, O-5 and/or O-6

BRAC – Base Realignment and Closure

Brig Gen – Brigadier General; officer pay grade O-7

BRM – Base Records Manager

BS – Bomb Squadron

BSA – Basic Surface Attack

BTZ – Below the zone; USAF early promotion program from E-3 to E-4

BUFF – Big Ugly Fat Fucker (Nickname for Boeing B-52 Stratofortress)

BW – Bomb Wing

BX – Base Exchange (see AAFES)

C[edit]

C-Day – The unnamed day on which a deployment operation begins or is to begin

C2 – Command and Control

C4ISR – Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance

CA – Combat Arms

CAF – Combat Air Force

CAFSC – Control Air Force Specialty Code
CAI – Computer Aided Instruction
CAOC – Combined Air and Space Operations Center
CAMS – Core Automated Maintenance System (database behind IMDS)
CAP – Civil Air Patrol, the civilian USAF Auxiliary
Capt – Captain; officer pay grade O-3
CAS – Close Air Support
CAST – Combat Airman Skills Training
CAT – Crisis Action Team
CAT – Camper Alert Team (Security Forces, Missile Field Security)
CATM – Combat Arms Training and Maintenance
CBCS – Combat Communications Squadron
CBMC – Communications Battlespace Management Course
CBT – Computer Based Training
CBRNE – Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High Yield Explosives
CC – Commander
CCAF – Community College of the Air Force
CCE – Executive Officer
CCF – First Sergeant
CCT – Combat Control
CD – Deputy Commander
CDC – Career Development Course
CE – Civil Engineering or Civil Engineers

CEG – Combat Evaluation Group

CEM – Chief Enlisted Manager

CES – Civil Engineering Squadron

CEVG – Combat Evaluation Group

CFEPT – Career Field Education and Training Plan

CFP – Communications Focal Point

CFR – Crash Fire Rescue

CFT – Cockpit Familiarization Trainer

CGO – Company Grade Officer (lieutenants and captains)

CGOC – Company Grade Officers' Council

Charlie Bravo – Cut-back, or being released early from duty

Charlie Foxtrot – Cluster Fuck

Chief – Proper term of address for Chief Master Sergeant. Also frequently used by pilots to informally refer to maintenance personnel, specifically "Crew Chiefs."

CI – Counterintelligence, Compliance Inspection

CISM – Close In Security Mobile

Class Six – BX-administered store where beer, wine & liquor is sold at a discounted price with no sales tax

CJCS – Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

CMO – Civil-Military Operations
CMO – Chief Medical Officer (term for senior medical officer at each MEPS—Military Entrance Processing Station)

CMSAF – Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force; senior active duty enlisted member of the Air Force and a direct advisor to CSAF (holds enlisted pay grade E-9)

CMSgt – Chief Master Sergeant; enlisted pay grade E-9

CNA – Computer Network Attack

CND – Could Not Duplicate

CND – Computer Network Defense

CNO – Computer Network Operations

CNT – Counter Narco-Terror

COA – Course of Action

Col – Colonel; officer pay grade O-6

COLA – Cost of Living Adjustment

COMINT – Communications Intelligence

CONOPS – Concept of Operations

CONS – Contracting Squadron

CONUS – Continental United States

COMAFFOR – Commander, Air Force Forces

Cop – Term for Air Force Security Forces personnel

COT – Commissioned Officer Training

CPF – Civilian Personnel Flight

CPTS – Comptroller Squadron
Crew Chief – Generally used as an informal slang term for Aerospace Maintenance Personnel, AFSC 2A5. More formally used to refer to an individual in charge of an aircraft maintenance related task requiring multiple people.

CRO – Combat Rescue Officer; commissioned officer equivalent of an enlisted PJ

CRO – COMSEC Responsible Officer

CS – Communications Squadron

CSAF – Chief of Staff of the Air Force; senior ranking active duty General in USAF unless the CJCS or VCJCS post is held by a USAF General (holds officer pay grade O-10)

CSAR – Combat Search and Rescue

CSC – Central Security Control

CSS – Commander’s Support Staff (orderly room)

CSO – Combat Systems Officer; a commissioned officer aeronautical rating known as Navigator until 1992

CUI – Combined Unit Inspection

CWO – Chief Warrant Officer; commissioned officer pay grades W-2 through W-5, currently discontinued in USAF

D[edit]

D-Day – The unnamed day on which an operation begins or is to begin

DACBT – Dissimilar Air Combat Training

DAFSC – Duty Air Force Specialty Code

DART – Dumbass Radio Troop

DAS – Date Arrived Station

DBA – Dirtbag Airman (An Airman who does not represent the Air Force Core Values)
DCO – Defensive Cyber Operations

DEAD – Destruction of Enemy Air Defenses

DEERS – Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System

DEROS – Date Estimated Return from OverSeas

Dependent – Non-Military family member of a service member, typically a non-military spouse and/or children, entitled to a DD 1173 Military Dependent ID Card

DFAC – Dining Facility

DFAS – Defense Finance and Accounting Service

Dickbeaters – term referring to one's hands. Often yelled by MTIs in the form of "pin those Dickbeaters to your side!"

DINSTAAR – Danger Is No Stranger To An AGE Ranger (See AGE)

DMSP – Defense Meteorological Satellite Program

DNIF – Duties Not Including Flying

DOE – Date of Enlistment

Dollar Ride – A pilot's first flight in an airframe

Doolie – nickname for a first year Air Force Academy cadet

DOR – Date of Rank

Double Dip – Term used for certain full-time Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard personnel when in a dual status and receiving income from two sources (e.g., Air Reserve Technician on civilian military leave as a Department of the Air Force civil servant and on concurrent active duty USAF orders)

DRSN – Defense Red Switch Network

DRU – Direct Reporting Unit
DSCS – Defense Satellite Communications System

DSD – Developmental Special Duty

DSN – Defense Switched Network

DSP – Defense Support Program

DSPD – Defense Support to Public Diplomacy

DT – Development Team

DTS – Defense Travel System

DV – Distinguished Visitor; visiting enlisted personnel in pay grade E-9, visiting officer personnel in pay grades O-6 through O-10, or visiting civilian equivalents such as GS-15, SES or politically-appointed or elected government officials

DVQ – Distinguished Visitors Quarters

DVOQ – Distinguished Visiting Officers Quarters

DWC – Deputy Wing Chaplain

E[edit]

EAD – Extended Active Duty

EADS – Eastern Air Defense Sector

ECM – Electronic Counter Measures

ECP – Entry Control Point

EELV – Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle

EET – Exercise Evaluation Team

EFMP – Exceptional Family Member Program

EI – Engineering & Installation
EIS – Engineering & Installation Squadron

ELINT – Electronic signals Intelligence

EGI – Embedded GPS/Inertial Navigation

Embrace The Suck – Slang used among junior enlisted referencing they have little say in undesirable decisions, effectively advice that one should not worry themselves over things they cannot control

EMEDS – Expeditionary Medical Support

EMSEC – Emission Security

ENJJPT – Euro NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training

EO – Equal Opportunity

EOC – Emergency Operations Center

EOD – Explosive Ordnance Disposal

EPR – Enlisted Performance Report

ERCC – Engine Run Crew Change

E-VAR – Electronic Visitor Access Request

ERO – Engine Running Onload/Offload

EW – Electronic Warfare

EWO – Electronic Warfare Officer

F[edit]

FA – Fitness Assessment

FAA – Federal Aviation Administration

FAB – Forward Air Base
FAC – Forward Air Controller

FAIP – First Assignment Instructor Pilot

FAM – Functional Area Manager

Farts and darts – clouds and darts embroidery found on field grade and general officers’ service cap visors

Fat Albert – Nickname used for the C-5A Galaxy until revoked by USAF as “derogatory”. Name came from Bill Cosby's recording of “Revenge” in 1968, with the story of “Buck Buck” and Fat Albert shaking the ground as he ran.

FGO – Field Grade Officer (majors, lieutenant colonels, and colonels)

FIGMO – Fuck it I Got My Orders

Fini Flight – A pilot’s last flight in the aircraft before he/she leaves a squadron, a wing, or retires from the Air Force

FLPP – Foreign Language Profeciency Pay

FM – Financial Management Comptroller

FMC – Fully Mission Capable

FMS – Foreign Military Sales

FMS -Field Maintenance Squadron

FNG – Fucking New Guy

FOA – Field Operating Agency

FOD – Foreign Object Damage or debris that can cause damage

FOUO – For Official Use Only

Four Fan Trash Can – Nickname for the C-130 Hercules

Four Fans of Freedom – Nickname for the C-130 Hercules
FRED – Fucking Ridiculous Economic Disaster (term for the C-5 Galaxy)

FS – Fighter Squadron

FSB – Force Shaping Board

FSS – Force Support Squadron

FTAC – First Term Airman's Center

FTS – Flying Training Squadron

FTU – Formal Training Unit

FTW – Flying Training Wing

FUBAR – Fucked Up Beyond All Recognition

FW – Fighter Wing

G[edit]

G-LOC – G-induced Loss of Consciousness

GBS – Global Broadcast Service (pronounced: jibz—IPA: dʒɪbz)

GC / GNC – Guidance and Control

GCCS – Global Command and Control System (pronounced: geeks—IPA: ɡɪks)

GCIC – Global Cyberspace Integration Center

GCS – Ground Control Station

GDT – Ground Data Terminal

Gen – General; officer pay grade O-10

GLCM – Ground Launched Cruise Missile
GO – General Officer; officers in pay grades O-7, O-8, O-9 and O-10 – analogous to Flag Officer in USN and USCG

GOCO – Government Owned, Contractor Operated

GOGO – Government Owned, Government Operated

GOV – Government Owned Vehicle

Gp – Group

GPC – Government Purchase Card

GPS – Global Positioning System

GTC – Government Travel Card

GWOT – Global War On Terrorism

H[edit]

HAF – Headquarters Air Force

HALO – High Altitude, Low Opening

HAHO – High Altitude, High Opening

Hangar "[#]" – A nonexistent hangar (e.g., if there are 4 hangars, then it would be Hangar 5); heard most often over radios as slang code for latrine/bathroom/Porta John. Example: "Get me to Hangar 5!"

HARM – High Speed Anti-Radiation Missile

HARM – Host Aviation Resource Management

HARRT – Humanitarian Assistance Rapid Response Team

Hawg – Nickname for the A-10 Thunderbolt II

HAZCON – Hazardous Condition
HC – Chaplain Headquarters
HIA – Held in Abeyance
HO – Historian's Office
HPC – Historic Properties Custodian
HTS – HARM Targeting System
HUA – Heard, Understood, Acknowledged
HUAW – Hurry Up and Wait
HUD – Head-Up Display
HUMINT – Human Intelligence
I[edit]
IA – Information Assurance
IAW – In Accordance With
ICBM – Intercontinental Ballistic Missile
ID 10 T Problem – A problem that is created by an "idiot"
IFE – In-Flight Emergency
IFF – Identification Friend or Foe
IFF – Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals
IFFCC – Integrated Flight and Fire Control Computer
IFS – Introductory Flight Screening
IFT – Introductory Flight Training
IG – Inspector General
ILS – Instrument landing system

IMDS – Integrated Maintenance Database System

IMINT – Imagery Intelligence

INOP – Inoperative/Inoperable

INOSC – Integrated Network Operations and Security Center

IP – Instructor Pilot

IPB – Intelligence Preparation of the Battlespace

IO – Information Operations

IOC – Initial Operational Capability

IOIC – Information Operations Integration Course

IS – Intelligence Squadron

ISR – Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance

ITT – Information, Tickets, and Travel

IYAAYAS – If You Ain't Ammo, You Ain't Shit

IYAAYWOT – If You Ain't Ammo, You're Waitin' On Them

J[edit]

J-STARS – Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System on the E-8 JSTARS aircraft

JA – Judge Advocate

JA/ATT – Joint Airborne/ Air Transportability Training

JAOC – Joint Air and Space Operations Center

JATO – Jet-Assisted Take-Off
JDAM – Joint Direct Attack Munition

JEEP – Just Enough Education To Pass

JEEP – Just Entering Electronic Principals

JEEP – Just Educated Enough to Post (Security Forces)

JFACC – Joint Forces Air Component Commander

JEIM – Jet Engine Intermediate Maintenance

JOAP – Joint Oil Analysis Program

JOPES – Joint Operation Planning and Execution System

JPATS – Joint Primary Air Training System

JPME – Joint Professional Military Education

JPPT – Joint Primary Pilot Training

JSF – Joint Strike Fighter

JSOW – Joint Standoff Weapon

JSUPT – Joint Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training

JWICS – Joint Worldwide Intelligence Communications System

K[edit]

KISS – Keep It Simple Stupid

L[edit]

LAPES – Low Altitude Parachute Extraction System.

LATN – Low Altitude Tactical Navigation.
Lawn Dart – Nickname for F-16 Fighting Falcon or any other fast, pointy-nosed, single-engine fighter aircraft.

LCAP – Logistics Compliance Assessment Program.

LEAP – Language Enabled Airman Program.

LG – Logistics Group.

LGB – Laser-Guided Bomb.

LIFT – Lead In Fighter Training.

LIMFAC – Limiting Factor.

Linda Lovelace (Reference to the C-5 Galaxy aircraft, because it kneels and takes it from both ends.)

LMR – Land Mobile Radio

LOA – Letter of Admonishment.

LOA – Letter of Appreciation.

LOAC – Law of Armed Conflict.

LOC – Letter of Counseling.

LOGI – Logistics NCOIC (Squadron, Group, Wing).

LOR – Letter of Reprimand.

LOWAT – Low Altitude Training.

LRS – Logistics Readiness Squadron.

LT – Familiar term for a Lieutenant, Second or First; usually used as a form of address by those under his/her command.

Lt Col – Lieutenant Colonel; officer pay grade O-5.
Lt Gen – Lieutenant General; officer pay grade O-9.

LWOP – Leave Without Pay.

M[edit]

MAC – Military Airlift Command (disestablished MAJCOM)

MAF – Mobility Air Force

Maj – Major; officer pay grade O-4

Maj Gen – Major General; officer pay grade O-8

MAJCOM – Major Command

MANPADS – Man-Portable Air Defense System

MARE – Major Accident Response Exercise

MASINT – Measurement and Signature Intelligence

MATS – Military Air Transport Service (disestablished command, superseded by MAC and then AMC

MDG – Medical Group

MDS – Mission Design Series of aircraft; analogous to T/M/S for Type/Model/Series in USN & USMC (Naval Aviation)

MEO – Military Equal Opportunity

MEPS – Military Entrance Processing Station

METL – Mission Essential Task Listing

MFLC – Military and Family Life Counselor

MFT – Mobile Fire Team

MICAP – Mission Incapable
MICT – Management Internal Control Toolset

MIF – Maneuver Item File

MILDEC – Military Deception

MILSTRIP – Military Standard Requisitioning and Issue Procedure

MLR – Management Level Review

MOAB – Massive Ordnance Air Blast Bomb/Mother Of All Bombs

MOOTW – Military Operations Other than War

MOS – Maintenance Operations Squadron

Mosquito Wings – Nickname for the Airman rank insignia

MPF – Military Personnel Flight

MRE – Meal Ready to Eat

MS – Missile Squadron

MSG – Mission Support Group

MSME – Medical Standard Management Element

MSgt – Master Sergeant; enlisted pay grade E-7

MSS – Mission Support Squadron

MTI – Military Training Instructor

MTL – Military Training Leader

Mud Hen – Nickname for the F-15E Strike Eagle

MW – Missile Wing

MWR – Morale, Welfare and Recreation
MWS – Major Weapons System
MX – Maintenance
MXG – Maintenance Group
MXS – Maintenance Squadron
N[edit]
NAF – Numbered Air Force
Nav – Navigator, now known since 2009 as a Combat Systems Officer
NCC – Network Control Center
NCO – Non-commissioned Officer
NCOA – Non-commissioned Officer Academy
NCOIC – Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge
NCW – Network-Centric Warfare
NDI – Nondestructive Inspection
NEADS – Northeast Air Defense Sector
NGB – National Guard Bureau
NIPR – Non-secure Internet Protocol (IP) Router Network
NKAWTG – Nobody Kicks Ass Without Tanker Gas
NMC – Non Mission Capable
NMSA – Non-Nuclear Munitions Storage Area
NMUSAFA – National Museum of the United States Air Force
Nonner – "Non-sortie generating." Derogatory term used by aircraft maintenance personnel when referring to enlisted and officers who are not directly involved in aircraft maintenance or manning aircraft

Non-rated Officer – USAF commissioned officer not holding an aeronautical rating

NOSC – Network Operations and Security Center

NOTAM – Notice To Airmen

NSI – Nuclear Surety Inspection

NVG – Night Vision Goggles

NUB – New Useless Bitch (reference for new person on station; contraction from newbie (which was originally new boy), and then backronymed)

O[edit]

OA – Occupational Analysis

OA – Outstanding Airman

OAPT – Officer Awaiting Pilot Training.

OAPTer – An officer in OAPT status. While other 2nd Lt's begin their flight training, non-flying technical training and/or initial leadership roles, OAPTer s complete menial tasks in support of the mission while they wait for their assigned training date (this is known as "casual status"). It is important for all operational bases, as OAPTers are most often supplemental to the assigned commissioned officer workforce.

OAR – Occupational Analysis Report

OAY – Outstanding Airman of the Year

OAYA – Outstanding Airman of the Year Award

OCO – Offensive Cyber Operations

OCONUS – Outside the Continental United States
OCR – Office of Collateral Responsibility

OFO – Out Fucking Off

OG – Operations Group

OIC – Officer in Command

OL – Operating Location

OODA – Observe Orient Decide Act

OPCON – Operational Control

OPR – Office of Primary Responsibility

OPR – Officer Performance Report

OPSEC – Operations Security

OPTN – Operationalizing and Professionalizing the Network

ORI – Operational Readiness Inspection

ORM – Operation Risk Management

OSI – Office of Special Investigation

OSR – Occupational Survey Report

OSS – Operations Support Squadron

OT&E – Operational Test and Evaluation

OTS – Officer Training School

P[edit]

PA – Public Affairs

PACAF – Pacific Air Forces
PAFSC – Primary Air Force Specialty Code
PAR – Precision Approach Radar
PAS – Political Affairs Strategist
PAX – Air passengers
PCS – Permanent Change of Station
PDS – Permanent Duty Station
PERSCO – Personnel Support for Contingency Operations
Perpes – Humorous nickname for PRP, takeoff on herpes
PFE – Promotion Fitness Examination
PFM – Pure Fucking Magic; Term to refer to a technical problem that somehow resolved itself
PFT – Physical Fitness Test
PICNIC – Problem In Chair, Not In Computer; Used by help desk personnel to indicate user ignorance
PING – Person In Need of Graduation
PITT – Person In need of Technical Training
PJ – Pararescueman
PMC – Partially Mission Capable
PME – Professional Military Education
PMEL – Precision Measurement Equipment Laboratory
Pocket Rocket – Term for the missile badge on the uniforms of current and former ICBM and cruise missile launch operations and missile maintenance personnel
Pop Tart – Airman whose technical career schools are 6 weeks or less
posn – position

Prime Beef – Prime Base Engineer Emergency Force

PRF – Promotion Recommendation Form

PRP – Personnel Reliability Program

PSDM – Personnel Services Delivery Memorandum

PSYOP – Psychological Operations

PTL – Physical Training Leader

Q[edit]

QAF – Quality Air Force

Queep – A task or duty that is completely useless and ultimately unrelated to your primary job. It is often assigned by superiors not of your career field as they assume that you have time to constantly work these tasks. Example: "I have a lot of queep to do before I go home." "I need to finish all of this queep before I can go fly."

R[edit]

RA – Resource Advisor

RAF – Royal Air Force

Rainbow Flight – Fresh trainees at BMT who have not yet received uniforms (clothing colors represent the rainbow)

RAM – Random Antiterrorism Measure

RAPCON – Radar Approach Control

RAS – Regional Affairs Strategist

Rated Officer – USAF commissioned officer holding an aeronautical rating as a Pilot (to include Astronaut), Combat Systems Officer (to include Astronaut), Navigator (to include Astronaut), Air Battle Manager, Observer (Astronaut) or Flight Surgeon
RED HORSE – Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers

RET, Ret, (Ret) – Designations for retired military personnel, typically following the service designation in a title, e.g., Col USAF (Ret)

RF – Radio frequency

RFF – Request [F]or Forces (initiated by Army)

RHIP – "Rank Has Its Privileges"

RIF – Reduction In Force

RIP – Report on Individual Personnel

RNLTD – Report No Later Than Date

ROAD – Retired On Active Duty

RON – Remain overnight

ROTC – Reserve Officers' Training Corps

RPA – Remotely Piloted Aircraft

RQG – Rescue Group

RQS – Rescue Squadron (formerly ARS)

RQW – Rescue Wing

RTB – Return To Base

RTIC – Real Time In the Cockpit

RS – Reconnaissance Squadron

RW – Reconnaissance Wing

S[edit]
SAASS – School of Advanced Air and Space Studies

SABC – Self Aid Buddy Care

SAC – Strategic Air Command (disestablished MAJCOM)

SAF/SECAF – Secretary of the Air Force

SAM – Surface to Air Missile

SAPR – Sexual Assault Prevention and Response

SARC – Sexual Assault Response Coordinator

SATCOM – Satellite Communications

SAV – Staff Assistance Visit

SBIRS – Space-Based Infrared System

SCOD – Static Close Out Date

SDF – Standard Deployment Folder

SEAD – Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses (pronounced "seed")

SEADS – Southeast Air Defense Sector

SEI – Special Experience Identifier

Secret squirrel stuff – Material classified above secret or special compartmentalized information.

Senior – Informal shortening for Senior Master Sergeant

SEPCOR – Separate Correspondence

SERE – Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape

SF – Security Forces
SFS – Security Forces Squadron

Sgt – Sergeant; a since discontinued additional rank in enlisted pay grade E-4 from 1976 to 1991

Shirt – A unit first sergeant

Short – Close to a PCS date or retirement

Sierra Hotel (SH) – Shit Hot

SIGINT – Signals Intelligence

SIPR – Secret Internet Protocol

SKT – Specialty Knowledge Test

Slick Sleeve – Nickname for an Airman Basic (owing to the absence of rank insignia on an individual's sleeve)

SLUF – Short Little Ugly Fucker (Derogatory nickname for the LTV A-7 Corsair II)

SME – Subject Matter Expert

SMSgt – Senior Master Sergeant, enlisted pay grade E-8

SNAFU – Situation Normal All Fucked Up

SNCO – Senior Non-commissioned Officer; enlisted pay grades E-7, E-8 and E-9

SNCOA – Senior Non-commissioned Officer Academy

Snacko – A highly underestimated, mission critical position held most often by newly reported Lieutenants in a flying squadron. Doing well at the Snacko position will prompt one for a laudable career. Failing at such a job will often entail severe ridicule and, if necessary, replacement and retraining by the flying squadron.

Snuffy – Generic term given to any Airmen of lower rank. "And here came Airman Snuffy late to the party as usual."

SOP – Standard Operating Procedure
SOPS – Space Operations Squadron
SOS – Squadron Officer School
SOS – Special Operations Squadron
SOW – Special Operations Wing
SOWT - Special Operations Weather Technician

Spark Chaser – Nickname for aircraft maintenance personnel dealing with electronic, non-mechanical systems

Spirit Mission – A good-natured act, commonly in the form of a prank, banner, or...reacquisition...of a person/thing, to show pride for a group of individuals. Usually harmless.

Sq – Squadron
SrA – Senior Airman; enlisted pay grade E-4

SRC – Solid Rock Cafe (new as of 2011, located at Sheppard AFB, TX – unofficial anogram that is used by officers as well as students)

SRT – Security Response Team
SSgt – Staff Sergeant; enlisted pay grade E-5

SST – Supervisor Safety Training

Staff – Informal shortening for Staff Sergeant

STEP – Stripe Through Exceptional Performance

Stick Actuator – Pilot

Stink Bug – Nickname for the F-117 Nighthawk

Strike Eagle – Nickname for the F-15E Strike Eagle

STS – Special Tactics Squadron
SURF – Single Uniform Request Format

SVS – Services Squadron

SW – Space Wing

SWA – Southwest Asia

SWAG – Scientific Wild-Ass Guess

SWO – Staff Weather Officer

T[edit]

T&A – Test and Acceptance

TAC – Tactical Air Command (disestablished MAJCOM)

TAC-P – Tactical Air Control Party

TACAN – Tactical Air Navigation

TACON – Tactical Control

TAFCSD – Total Active Federal Commission Service Date

TAFMSD – Total Active Federal Military Service Date

TAG (AG) – The Adjutant General

Tail-End Charlie – Person bringing up the rear of a formation or a tail gunner

TAP – Transition Assistance Program

TBA – Training Business Area

TCNO – Time Compliance Network Order

TCTO – Time Compliance Technical Order
TDY – Temporary Duty; analogous to Temporary Additional Duty (TAD / TEMADD) in USN, USMC and USCG

Tech – Informal shortening of Technical Sergeant

TFCSD – Total Federal Commissioned Service to Date

TGP – Targeting Pod

TIG – The Inspector General

TLAR – That Looks About Right

TLF – Temporary Living Facility

TO – Technical Order

TOT – Time Over Target

Tracking – Reference to offensive avionics on combat aircraft. Following and understanding the subject at hand. (IE: "I need this done yesterday, Airman. Are you tracking?")

TRG – Training Group

TRS – Training Squadron

TRW – Training Wing

TSgt – Technical Sergeant; enlisted pay grade E-6

TST – Time-Sensitive Target

TTP – Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures

TU – Tango Uniform, slang for 'tits up'.

U[edit]

UAS – unmanned aircraft system

UAV – unmanned aerial vehicle
UCI – unit compliance inspection

UCSOT – Undergraduate Combat Systems Officer Training

UHT – Undergraduate Helicopter Pilot Training

UIF – unfavorable information file

ULN – unit line number

UMD – unit manpower document

UNT – Undergraduate Navigator Training (superseded by UCSOT)

UNWT – Undergraduate Network Warfare Training

UPT – Undergraduate Pilot Training (superseded by ENJJPT, JSUPT and UHT)

USAF – United States Air Force

USAFA – United States Air Force Academy

USAFE – United States Air Forces in Europe

USAFEC – United States Air Force Expeditionary Center

USAFR – United States Air Force Reserve

USAFWC – United States Air Force Warfare Center

V[edit]

VAQ – visiting airman quarters

VFR – visual flight rules

Viper – nickname for the F-16 Fighting Falcon

VML – vulnerable to move list

vMPF – virtual military personnel flight
VOQ – visiting officer quarters
VOR – VHF omnidirectional range
V/R – virtual regards / very respectfully (closing salutation)
vRED – virtual record of emergency data
VSP – voluntary separation pay
W[edit]
WADS – Western Air Defense Sector
WAF – Women in the Air Force
WAG – wild-ass guess
WAPS – Weighted Airman Promotion System
WASP – Women Airforce Service Pilots
WC – wing chaplain
WG – wing
WIC – weapons instructor course
WIT – wing inspection team
Winchester – out of ammo
WOWWAJAA – with out weapons we are just another airline
WRM – war reserve material
WRT – with regard to / with reference to
WSA – weapons storage area
WSO – weapon systems officer
WX – weather

X[edit]

X-plane – experimental aircraft

Y[edit]

Y-plane – prototype aircraft

Z[edit]

Zero – officer

Zoo – nickname for the Air Force Academy

Zoomie – nickname for an Air Force Academy graduate or cadet

**List of United States Marine Corps acronyms and expressions**

1st Civ Div – 1st Civilian Division. Civilian life, usually applied to Marines facing discharge or retirement. As in "getting assigned to 1st Civ Div." Also occasionally referred to as "1st Couch Company."

360 – Forming a complete circle (as in on a compass (360°)); to put protection all around.

48, 72, 96 – In hours, the standard liberty periods of two, three, four days.

4th Battalion – Pejorative used to describe an individual or unit lacking toughness as in "He was trained in 4th Battalion". Derived from the 4th Battalion of the Recruit Training Regiment at MCRD Parris Island, which trains female enlisted Marines.

4th Marine Division – Derogatory term for the 4th Marine Division, the division to which the ground combat element of the Marine Forces Reserve is assigned; used by active duty Marines to denote displeasure with the difference in culture and operating procedures within the division as opposed to active duty units.
5.56 hickey – A scar or blister resulting from a burn suffered (usually on the neck) due to hot brass.

7 Day Store/Troop Store/Mini P – Convenience store (Mini-P denotes a "mini" or smaller sized version of the PX, or Post-Exchange).

Deuce Gear – Standard issue web gear, combat gear, or field equipment, such as ALICE, MOLLE, or ILBE. Named after standard Marine Corps Form 782, which Marines formerly signed when they took custody of and responsibility for their equipment.[1]

8 bells – Signal for the end of a four-hour watch, so named for the increase in bell strike each half-hour of the watch.[2]

8th & I – Nickname for Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C. so named from its street address at the corner of 8th and I Streets SE.

A[edit]

Aboard – Term for all personnel being accounted for in a building, such as a classroom.

Above my/your pay grade – Expression denying responsibility or authority (indicating that the issue should be brought to higher-ranking officials); alternatively, a semi-sarcastic way of telling someone that they’re not authorized to receive certain information.[3]

Acquire(d) – Euphemism denoting theft.

ALICE equipment

Air Crew – Personnel that work on board any aircraft that can carry a crew (i.e. huey, CH-46, CH-53, V-22, etc.), and are normally charged with loading gear, passengers, and manning the door/ tail guns.

Air Force pockets or Army gloves – An individual's hands being inside his or her pockets.

ALICE – All-purpose Lightweight Individual Carrying Equipment, an older form of combat gear still in occasional use in some Marine activities, replaced by MOLLE and ILBE[4]

All Hands – entire ship's company or unit personnel, including all officers and enlisted personnel; also, the official Navy magazine
Alphas or Class As – Service Alpha uniform from the phonetic letter A

AMTRAC – Portmanteau for amphibious tractor; not to be confused with the railroad company Amtrak. Also referred to as "Tracks."

ANGLICO – Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company

Ant Farm – Area of an encampment where the radio antennae are emplaced.

ARMY – Ain't Ready to be a Marine Yet – backronym used for the Army.

ASP – Ammunition Supply Point, where ammo is stored and issued.

ASVAB waiver – Insinuates someone's inability to pass the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery

As You Were – Order to disregard the immediately preceding order[5][6]

Asiatic - World War II term for eccentric behavior characteristic of men serving too long in the Far East[7]

Aviation Units – See also active squadrons, inactive squadrons, & aviation support units

HAMS – Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron, also H&MS

HMA – Marine Attack Helicopter Squadron

HMH – Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron

HMHT – Marine Heavy Helicopter Training Squadron

HML – Marine Light Helicopter Squadrons

HMLA – Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron

HMLAT – Marine Light Attack Helicopter Training Squadron

HMM – Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (formerly HMR)

HMMT – Marine Medium Helicopter Training Squadron
HMR – Marine Helicopter Transport Squadron

HMT – Marine Helicopter Training Squadron (General designation prior to specific communities (i.e. HMHT(CH-53), HMLAT(H-1))

HMX-1 – Marine Helicopter Squadron One (divided into operational test & Executive transport support)

LAAD Bn – Low-altitude Air Defense Battalion

MABS – Marine Air Base Squadron

MACG – Marine Air Command Group

MACS – Marine Air Control Squadron

MAMS – Marine Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

MASS – Marine Air Support Squadron

MAUS – Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron

MATCS – Marine Air Traffic Control Squadron

MCAS – Marine Corps Air Station

MOTS – Marine Operational Training Squadrons

MTACS – Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron

MWSS – Marine Wing Support Squadron

MWCS – Marine Wing Communications Squadron

MWHS – Marine Wing Headquarters squadron

MWSG – Marine Wing Support Group

SOES – Station Operations and Engineer Squadron

VMAQ – Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron
VMA – Marine Attack Squadron
VMAT – Marine Attack Training Squadron
VMB – Marine Bombing Squadron
VMC – Marine Composite Squadron
VMCJ – Marine Composite Reconnaissance Squadron
VMD – Marine Photographic Squadron
VMF – Marine Fighter Squadron
VMF(N) – Marine Night Fighter Squadron
VMFA – Marine Fighter Attack Squadron
VMFA(AW) – Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron
VMFAT – Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron
VMFP – Marine Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron
VMGR – Marine Aerial Refueler/Transport Squadron
VMGRT – Marine Aerial Refueler/Transport Training Squadron
VMJ – Marine Reconnaissance Squadron / Marine Target Towing Detachments
VML – Marine Glider Squadron
VMM – Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (formerly HMM, HMH & VMFA)
VMMT – Marine Medium Tiltrotor Training Squadron (formerly HMMT)
VMO – Marine Observation Squadron
VMP – Marine Patrol Squadron
VMR – Marine Transport Squadron
VMS – Marine Scouting Squadron

VMSB – Marine Scout Bombing Squadron

VMTB – Marine Torpedo Bombing Squadron

VMTD – Marine Target Towing Detachment

VMU – Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron

VMX – Marine Tiltrotor Operational Test and Evaluation Squadron

WES – Wing Engineer Squadron

WTS – Wing Transport Squadron

ZMQ – Marine Barrage Balloon Squadrons

Aye-Aye – Nautical term used as a response to orders meaning "I understand the orders I have received and will carry them out"; aye (descended from Middle English yai) dialectical for 'yes',[8] once common in the regions from which the Royal Navy drew its sailors

B[edit]

bag nasty, breakfast version

Back on the Block – Behaving like a civilian.

Bag Nasty a.k.a. "Box Nasty"– A-ration Brown-bag meal issued to Marines (usually recruits or those in-field): it often contains a sandwich, a boiled egg, fruit, potato chips, juice or milk.[9]

BAH (a.k.a. "bee ay aych" – Basic Allowance for Housing: Supplemental pay for living off-base; previously known as Basic Allowance for Quarters (BAQ).

BAMCIS – a mnemonic For military tacticians: Begin the planning, Arrange reconnaissance, Make reconnaissance, Complete the planning, Issue orders, Supervise.[10] It is also used as an exclamation of success or accomplishment.
Barney-style – to perform strictly according to regulation; idiot proof; simplified for the benefit of mental underachievers; often said as "Breaking it down Barney-style" or "Mr. Potato Head style"; Bert and Ernie for the 1980s and 1990s Marines[11]

Barracks – On base housing for Marines who have no dependents, any dependents living with them. Military dormitory rooms.

Barracks Cover – Fabric-cover frame cap worn green with the service uniform and white with the dress uniform; traditionally officers wear this cap with quatrefoil and gilt devices that increase with rank.

Barracks Rat – Guy who stays in the barracks instead of going into town.[12]

Barracks Bunny – Common term for Female Marines that tend or are rumored to sleep around in the barracks, also referred to as "hopping from room to room".

BAS – Battalion Aid Station: A unit's medical post for routine ailments and injuries; also Basic Allowance for Subsistence. See also sick bay.

Battery Operated Grunt – combat radio operator.

Battle Blaze – original name for the 1st & 2nd Marine Division shoulder sleeve insignias commemorating service in the Battle of Guadalcanal.

Battle Pin – Tie clasp or tie tack; until the start of World War II a metal bar worn on shirt collar.

Battle Sight Zero or BZO – calibrated settings on a gunsight that contribute to accuracy; used as default before adjusting windage or elevation; also used as verb when triangulating a BZO.

BCGs

BB Counter – Marine whose duties are the handling, storage, issue of ordnance.[13]

BCGs or BCs – Birth Control Glasses or Boot Camp Glasses: military issue glasses worn at recruit training; so called because they make the wearer too ugly to engage in sexual relations. See also portholes & RPGs.

Beans, Bullets, and Band-Aids – Meant to imply the basic supplies that military logisticians must provide for: rations, ammunition, medical care.
Beer Garden – Social area permitting the consumption of alcohol etc.; may contain barbecue or picnic facilities.

Belay – To cancel an order; to stop; to firmly secure a line.

Below Decks – Area below the surface (deck) of a ship.

BEQ – Bachelor Enlisted Quarters: living spaces for single enlisted Marines; usually a barracks.[14]

BCD – Bad Conduct Discharge; also known as Big Chicken Dinner.

Big Green Weenie – Denotes that a Marine has been "screwed over" or cheated by the Marine Corps.[15]

Bird, Ball & Fish Hook – derogatory term used to describe the Eagle Globe and Anchor of the beloved Marine Corps Emblem.

Binnacle List – sick list: those excused from duty for health reasons; traditionally posted on or near the binnacle.

Blanket Party – Group assault: victim's head is covered by a blanket so the perpetrators can't be identified.

Blood stripe – Red band on dress uniform trousers; traditionally said to symbolize blood shed by Marine officers and NCOs during the Battle of Chapultepec; worn by NCOs and officers.

Blooper – Grenade launcher: from the distinctive noise made when one is fired. See also thump gun.

Blousing Garters – The correct name for "boot bands."

BLT – Battalion Landing Team: the ground combat element of a MEU; not to be confused with a Bacon, Lettuce, and Tomato sandwich.

Blues or Dress Blues – Blue Dress uniform.

BLUF – Bottom Line Up Front.

Bn – battalion.
boondoggle – project or trip on government time and/or expense that serves no purpose other than to entertain the person making it.

Boot – A term for Marines who are new to the Marine Corps. Derived from the term "boot camp", to insinuate that the Marine is fresh out of boot camp. Generally used as a pejorative term (even if in an affectionate manner) in the Fleet and elsewhere, sometimes as a way to explain that new Marines should know their place. It can also be used as a term for a Marine who is new to a rank or billet. e.g. – "He's a boot Corporal". Meaning, said Marine was just recently promoted to Corporal. Also used by infantry Marines as a pejorative for any other Marine who has not gone on a combat deployment, regardless of rank or time in service.

The first thing a recruit sees at boot camp

Boot Bands – Elastic bands or metal springs rolled into the hem of the trousers to blouse them near the top of the boot.

Boots and Utes – The utility uniform without the normal uniform blouse, typically used for PT.

boot camp – Training hub for new Marines at Parris Island, SC and San Diego, CA.

BOQ – Bachelor Officer Quarters: housing for single Marine officers.[16][17]

Box-kicker – Pejorative for a Marine who works in supply (either the MOS 3043 (Supply Administration) or usually a 3051 – (Basic Warehouseman)). warehouse clerk.[18]

brave

Brain Bucket – Helmet.[19]

Brain-housing Group – Pejorative for a Marine's head or skull.[20]

Brain Strap – Elastic strap used for securing eyeglasses during rigorous activities; often found on BCG's.

Brass – 1) Shell casings; 2) Uniform insignia; 3) Senior officers (cf. rank insignia); 4) (BRASS) USMC shooting technique: Breathe, Relax, Aim, Slack, Squeeze.

brat – A servicemember's child.
Break-off Session – Extraordinarily strenuous or tiring physical activity; usually PT.

Brig – Military prison on ship or ashore.

Brig Rat – Marine who has served much brig time; also used to refer to the 5831 MOS Marines who serve as corrections specialists (guards).[21]

Brightwork – Shiny metal that Marines must polish.[22]

Broke-dick – Any person who does not perform up to standards, or a sorry piece of equipment.[23]

Broke – Feeling severe fatigue. Also refers to anything that isn't working.

Brown-bagger – Marines (usually married) who live off base; instead of eating at mess halls they pack meals to work.[24]

Buddy-fucker, (Blue Falcon) – One who disregards a team-member's welfare; a Marine who will turn on a fellow Marine in order to save himself/herself.[25]

Bug Juice – Insect repellent.

Bulkhead – A wall.[26]

Bum Scoop – Bad information.[27]

Burning Man – A Marine who is scorched by hot gun casings.

Bus Driver – Air Force pilot; so called because early USAF uniforms were said to resemble those of municipal streetcar officials.

Busted – Reduced in rank.

Butt Pack – Small pack fastened to the waist in the back. Usually the field issued first aid kit. See also Fanny pack.[28]

Butter Bar – A second lieutenant, due to the gold color of his rank insignia.

"By your leave sir/ma'am." – Used with a salute prior to passing senior officers who might be advancing in the same direction; protocol states the senior must acknowledge by returning salute with phrase "Carry on" before the junior passes on the left.[29]
C & S – “Clean & Sober” notation formerly entered on the liberty list beside the names of Marines returning from liberty in that condition.

CACO – Casualty Assistance Calls/Counseling Officer, a Marine detailed to help the family of a Marine killed, wounded, or captured in the line of duty.[30][31]

Cadillacs – boots; method of transportation when no other vehicle is available. Also refers to all leather combat boots.

Call Out – To challenge, often by announcing incriminating information about a person. See also drop a dime.

Cammies – camouflage utility uniform.[32]

Camp Living Room – Duty station after discharge. Civilian life. 1980s usage.

Campaign Cover – Official term for the green campaign hat worn by drill instructors and designated rifle range personnel. Occasionally referred to as a "Smokey Bear" for obvious reasons. See also field hat, hat, & smokey bear/brown.

Cannon Cocker – artilleryman.[33] See also gun bunny and red leg.

Cannon Fodder – Marines regarded merely as material to be expended in war.

Canoe U. – nickname for United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland.[34] See also South Maryland Small Boat & Barge Institute.

CAR – Short for Combat Action Ribbon

Captain's Mast – Office Hours afloat. The term "Captain's Mast" is almost universally negative, implying non-judicial punishment. The modern Navy and Marine Corps use the term "Meritorious Mast" to announce any ceremony involving the meritorious award of a higher rank or of a particular recognition or honor. USA & USAF refer to this as "Article 15" hearing.[35]

Carry On – Order to continue after being interrupted. Also music played immediately following playing of "colors" to inform people to resume activities.
CAS – Close Air Support, aircraft fire on ground troops in support of nearby friendly troops.

CASEVAC – CASualty EVACuation, emergency evacuation of injured personnel from combat zone by any modes transport available to nearest triage area, treatment area, or field hospital. As opposed to a MEDEVAC which is the transport from a field hospital to a Medical Treatment Facility.[36] See also MEDEVAC.

Casual Company – A holding unit/formation of Marines awaiting one of the following: discharge from the Corps, training (usually at a formal school), or deployment to a unit.[37]

CAX – Combined Arms eXercise. Outdated term, it has since been replaced by the ITX (Integrated Training eXercise).[38]

CBRN – Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear. See also NBC.

CCU – Correctional Custody Unit, a hard-labor and heavy discipline unit overseen by MPs or Navy Masters-at-Arms to which Marines and Sailors found guilty of minor UCMJ offenses through NJP are sent for up to 30 days in lieu of confinement in the brig.[39][40]

Chair Force – Derogatory term for the US Air Force.

Chairborne or Chairborne Ranger – Someone who works in an office environment, a play on airborne.[41]

A single chevron

Charlies or Chucks – The service "C" uniform, consisting of the short-sleeve khaki shirt and green trousers.

Chaser – Pejorative for a Marine assigned prisoner escort duties, an escort for a single prisoner or detail of prisoners.[42]

Check Fire – Order to stop firing due to a safety condition, possible error or mistarget.

Chest Candy – Used in reference to the ribbons and medals on a Marine's uniform.

chevron – Symbols of enlisted ranks above private, usually not acceptably called "stripes" unless describing the rank insignia itself.
China Marines – Those United States Marines from the 4th Marine Regiment who were stationed in Shanghai, China during 1927–1941

Chinese Field Day – A form of field day where every item from a room is removed for cleaning; when tending to last much longer than necessary, it is used as a punishment, typically for unsatisfactory performance in routine field day. [citation needed]

Chit – Voucher, receipt, letter, or note, entitling the bearer to special treatment, such as medical restrictions from duty; derived from Hindi word for "letter", "chitti". [43]

CIF – Consolidated Issue Facility, a place on a station where all personal equipment is stored and issued, often contracted to civilians. [44]

CID – Criminal Investigation Division, is an accredited Federal law enforcement agency of the U.S. Marine Corps whose mission it is to conduct official criminal investigations into misdemeanor and felony offenses committed on Marine Corps installations as may directed and not under the primary jurisdiction of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS). These Marines are not formal law enforcement officers per se, and only perform investigations under the cognizance of NCIS.

Civvies – Civilian clothing or mufti. [45][46][47]

CLP – Cleaner, Lubricant, Preservative, teflon-based cleaning and lubricating fluid used for maintaining small arms. Also slang for coffee.

Cluster fuck – Chaotic and messy situation from multiple mistakes or problems happening in rapid succession. See also goat rope / goat rodeo / goat screw.

CMC – Acronym for Commandant of the Marine Corps. [48]

COB – Close Of Business, the end of working hours; or Close Order Battle, a synonym for CQB.

COC – Combat Operations Center, the command post for a combat arms unit, usually of battalion-size or larger; personnel assigned to the COC may derisively refer to such duty as "coc-watch" or "working the coc".

COG – Corporal Of the Guard, The acting corporal, (or near rank) that acts under the SOG Sgt. of the Guard on watch, radio watch, or post.

Colonel – Proper means of addressing lieutenant colonels and colonels.
Commie Killer – Derogative term used for the hand which a Marine masturbates with, originates from the fact that most men masturbate with their dominant hand, i.e. their firing hand.

CONUS – CONtinental United States (48 states excluding Alaska and Hawaii), as opposed to OCONUS.

Corfams – Uniform dress shoes made from poromeric imitation leather.

Corpsman – Navy hospital corpsman attached to a Marine unit; also known as "doc"; inappropriate to address as "medic" or "aid man".[49] See also boxsee.

Cover – Headgear (a hat) protection from enemy fire.

Cover and Alignment – When in a formation, this refers to the proper distance between those next to, in front of, and behind a person; to seek the proper interval.[50]

CQB or CQC – Close Quarters Battle/Combat, combat within a confined space, such as urban warfare. See also MOUT.

Crew-Served – Short for crew-served weapon; also large and very powerful, based on a crew-served weapon being such.

Cruise – Deployment aboard ship; or enlistment period, inappropriately called a stint.

CS – 2-chlorobenzalmalononitrile, a white solid powder commonly used for CBRN defense training.

Cumshaw – Something extra or free, given as a favor or gift; pidgin expression using the Chinese word for "grateful thanks", "kamsia".[51]

D[edit]

D & D – Drunk and Disorderly, an entry formerly made on the liberty list beside the name of any Marine returning from liberty in that condition.

Daijoubu – OK, from Japanese for "don't worry".

Daily 7 or Daily 16 – stretches and exercises used as a warmup for other, more strenuous physical training.
Dark Green/Light Green – Common reference to a Marine’s skin color. Marines are not black or white, the saying goes, only different shades of green.

Dead Horse – To draw advance pay out of the normal pay cycle, the Marine is then obligated to repay the debt at the government’s convenience.

desk – Floor or surface of the earth; to punch or knock down with one blow.[26]

Devil Dog

Deep Six – To dispose of by throwing overboard ship.

Detachment – A portion of a unit sent independently of its parent organization, usually in support of a larger headquarters; or a small stand alone unit isolated geographically from its parent command.

Deuce – Reference to the number two in various unit or equipment names; the senior intelligence officer for a unit;

Deuce Gear – See 782 gear, from the last digit in that term.

Devil Dog or Devil – Nickname for Marines, from the German word "Teufelhunden", supposedly given by German troops at the Battle of Belleau Wood,[52] though the correct grammatical form would be "Teufelshunde".[53][54]

Devil Nuts – A regional variation of devil dog and nickname for Marines. Popular with Marines serving at Marine Barracks Japan (Late 1990s era).

Devil Pup – Nickname for a Marine's child(ren); a member of the Young Marines; a patronizing nickname for a junior Marine. Mostly used by senior Marines to reference junior Marines in a polite way, and commonly used around higher ups.

DGAF – Doesn't/Don't Give A Fuck. Generally coincides with one who is OFP.

DI – Drill Instructor, inappropriate to use the Army term "drill sergeant".

DI Hut – Office for drill instructors in a platoon's squad bay; doubles as sleeping quarters for the drill instructor on duty. See also house mouse.
Dickskinner or Dickbeater – Human hand.

DI

Diddy Bop – Poor performance in close order drill, or marching in a manner that does not present a crisp military appearance. One who conducts himself/herself in this manner is labelled a diddy bopper.

Diet Recruit or Diet Tray – A recruit in Boot Camp who has been deemed overweight according to regulations. These recruits are usually the last through the chow line and have their meals inspected by DI's.

Digis or Diggis – Digital camouflage such as MARPAT; also refers to the digital-patterned MCCUU.

Dime Out – To reveal incriminating information about a person. See also call out.


Doc or Devil Doc – Navy hospital corpsman attached to the Marines; Devil Doc is a term of respect normally reserved for Corpsmen who are Fleet Marine Force qualified or who have served in combat with Marines.

Dog and Pony Show – Any display, demonstration, or appearance by Marines at the request of seniors for the pleasure of someone else, such as a ceremony or parade; also, pejorative for the requirement for over-perfection of such a venue.

Doggie – Enlisted member of the United States Army, from the diminutive "dog-face".

Donkey Dick – Specifically, a jerrycan fuel spout. Alternatively, slang for virtually any piece of equipment having a generally cylindrical or phallic shape with unknown, or obscure official name. For example, a static hook suspended from an overhead helicopter for the purpose of picking up external loads.

Dope – Data On Previous Engagements, information, or sight settings and/or wind corrections for a rifle under given conditions.
DPICM – Dual-Purpose Improved Conventional Munitions, a specialized artillery round that releases sub-munitions.

Drill – Close order drill, the procedures and methodology of handling weapons and moving troops about in an orderly fashion, used to indoctrinate recruits in obedience to commands and military appearance.[55][56]

Drill Hat – A Drill Instructor, usually the second most senior behind the SDI and who specializes in the instruction of close order drill.

DRMOed – To dispose of an item by taking it to the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO).

Drug Deal – To obtain needed supplies, equipment or services outside official channels via barter rather than theft.

Dry fire – Practice firing of a weapon without using ammunition in order to refine body position and other shooting fundamentals.

DTG – Date-Time Group, a numeric code denoting the time and date of a message.

Dual-cool or Double-trouble – A Marine that possesses both the parachutist and diver badges, usually associated with the Reconnaissance community.[57]

Dummy Cord – Lanyard or tether used to secure a piece of equipment to an anchor to prevent losing it.

Duty NCO or Duty – Sentry responsible for patrol and security of a specific area (usually a barracks and/or working space in garrison). See also fire watch and OOD

EGA

EAS – End of Active Service, the date of discharge from active duty.

EGA – Eagle, Globe, and Anchor, the emblem of the Marine Corps. The usage of the term discouraged by older Marines.
Eight Ball – A Marine who lacks an aggressive spirit.

Eighth & I or Eighth & Eye – Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., located at 8th and I Streets SE. See also 8th & I.

Einstein – A derogatory term for a Marine who is found to be responsible for a particularly notable unwise action or plan.

EM – Enlisted Marine/Man, very inappropriate to use today.

Elephant Hat – Pith helmet first issued in 1940 and worn by rifle range coaches today.

Embed – To place within, or fix in place.

National Ensign – A.k.a. colors, national flag.

EOD – Explosive Ordnance Disposal, responsible for the safe handling, deactivation, and removal of unexploded ordnance, the military version of a bomb squad.

EPD – Extra Punitive Duties, punishment assigned where the individual is required to perform cleaning duties after working hours (on his or her liberty time).

EPW – Enemy Prisoner of War.

F[edit]

Fallen Angel – Marine Officer who failed out of flight school and is now in another MOS.

FAP – Fleet Assistance Program, a program designed to assign Marines to extra duties outside his or her normal chain of command. Long seen as a means for commands to "reassign" their lowest-performing or misbehaving Marines.

AH-1W Cobras at a FARP during Op Iraqi Freedom

FARP – Forward Area Refueling/Rearming Point or Forward Arming Refueling Point, a space on the battlefield designated for the re-arming and re-fueling of aircraft.

Fart Sack – Cotton mattress cover; large sack made of linen that a mattress is inserted into. Serves as a military form of a fitted sheet.
FAST – Fleet Anti-terrorism Security Team, sarcastically referred to as Fake Ass SEAL Team.

Fast-mover – Fast-moving fixed-wing aircraft; term popular during the Vietnam War but fallen into disuse as jets replaced propeller-powered aircraft. Also used to describe a Marine moving fast (promoted) up the ranks.

Fat Barrel – Round in the chamber, no magazine inserted.

Fat-body – Overweight recruit or servicemember.

FEBA – Forward Edge of the Battle Area, the line of departure where a unit enters enemy territory.

Felony Creek – Slang for the French Creek area of Camp Lejeune. French Creek is the home for the Marine units that are service and support. Some Marines who reside there think they are back on the block.

Fiddler’s Green – Imaginary afterlife; paradise.

Field 10 – A physically unattractive female servicemember who becomes an object of desire for male servicemembers after extended time in a field or combat environment away from civilian women. A perfect "10" in the field.

Field Day – Day or portion of day set aside for top-to-bottom cleaning of an area; also as a verb for the act of conducting a field day.

Field Expedient – Improvisation, to make do with what's available.

Field Meet – Organized sporting competition, often involving athletics and/or soldierly skills.

Field Music – Drummer, trumpeter, bugler, fifer; mostly an antiquated term.
Field-Strip – To disassemble a piece of ordnance or weapon to the major part groups for routine cleaning or lubricating; to strip cigarette butts to their filters before throwing away. Also to remove unwanted items from an MRE in order to save space.

Fifty-cal – M2 Browning machine gun, from its .50 caliber ammunition. See also Ma Deuce.

Fighting Hole – A defensive position dug into the ground; can be dug for one Marine, a pair, or a weapon crew; formerly known as a "foxhole" by the Army. Marine Corps is "firing hole" "Forward Firing Position" should be considered.

Final Duty Station – A reference to a Marine's final posting, i.e., Heaven, referencing the last verse of the Marine's Hymn.

Final Protective Fire or FPF – The last volley sent toward an advancing enemy during a Marine unit's withdrawal from defensive position. All weapons are fired simultaneously at maximum rate of fire.

Fire for Effect – Indicates that the adjustment/ranging of indirect fire is satisfactory and the actual effecting rounds should be fired; also a euphemism for the execution of a plan.

Fire Watch – Sentry on duty specifically guarding a person, place, object, or area in a non-combat area (such as a barracks); considered under arms but usually unarmed. See also duty & OOD.

Fire Watch Medal – Pejorative for National Defense Service Medal, so named because even recruits rate it despite firewatch being their most important duty.

First Lieutenant, Second Award – Derogatory term used to describe a former First Lieutenant who has been frocked (promoted ahead of schedule) to Captain.

First Shirt – company or battery First Sergeant.

Fitness Report or FITREP – Evaluation report written on Marines (sergeant and above) detailing proficiency and conduct and fitness for command, reviewed for promotion.
Five-jump Chump – A servicemember who has only performed the minimum five paratrooper jumps to receive the Basic Parachute Insignia, as opposed to the Navy and Marine Corps Parachutist Insignia, which requires additional jumps.[26][59]

Flak Jacket – Antiquated term for ballistic vest or body armor.

Flak and Kevlar – Used when referring to body armor and a helmet respectively (the standard US Military issued helmet is made out of kevlar).

Float – Deployment aboard ship.

Float Widow – Unfaithful wife of a Marine or Sailor deployed aboard a ship. a.k.a. Med Float Widow.

FMC – Fully Mission Capable, refers to equipment such as aircraft that need no repairs and are fully capable of their intended mission.

FMF or Fleet – Fleet Marine Force, the operational forces of the Corps, as opposed to reserve or supporting establishment.

FMTU – Foreign Military Training Unit.

FNG – Fucking New Guy, derogatory term for a Marine recently graduated recruit training and new to a unit. It has far and wide been replaced by the term "boot".

Fobbie or Fobbit – A Marine who rarely sees combat; pejorative term for Marines stuck inside a forward operating base.

Form ID-10T or ID-Ten-Tango – Pejorative for "idiot".

Fortitudine – Former motto of the Marine Corps in the 19th century (replaced by Semper Fidelis), from the Latin word for "fortitude"; also the name of the Marine Corps History Division's quarterly magazine.

Four Fingers of Death – Nickname for the ill famed frankfurter MRE (Meals-Ready-to-Eat) with four small hot dogs as the main meal MRE[60]

Foxhole – Fighting hole as termed by the Army and Marines of the past, no longer appropriate for Marine use. "Fighting hole," "firing hole," and "Forward Firing Position" should be considered. There is a difference between 1 MARDIV and 2 MARDIV[clarification needed].
FRAGO – FRAGmentary Order, an addendum to published operational orders.

FRO – Family Readiness Officer

Frock – To be authorized to wear the next higher grade before promotion, confers authority but not pay grade.

Frock You – Response to an inappropriate request to be promoted to a Marine's selected rank, ahead of their scheduled promotion.

FUBAR – Fucked/Fouled Up Beyond All Recognition/Repair.

FUBIJAR – Fuck yoU Buddy, I'm Just A Reservist.[61][62]

Full-Bird – Colonel, as opposed to a half-bird, light-colonel, or short-bird / short colonel, Lieutenant Colonel; so named because his or her rank insignia is a silver eagle.

G[edit]

G-2 – An individual's intellect, from designation for a staff intelligence organization.

Gaff Off – To disregard or ignore a person or order, context usually denotes insubordination.[63][64]

Gagglefuck – Group of Marines grouped too closely or in an unorganized fashion; from gaggle, the term for a flock of grounded geese, and clusterfuck, a term for a messy situation.

Gangway – Ship's passageway; also used to order juniors to give way to seniors in passageways, and particularly when going up and down ladders.

Garrison – In addition to the traditional meaning, an adjective referring to not being deployed or deployable, such as buildings at a unit's home base.

Garrison Cover – Soft green folded cap worn with the service uniform. See also fore-and-aft cap and piss cover/cutter.

Gate Fishing – An off-duty Marine who chats up a girl who may or may not be loitering outside the main gate of Yokosuka, Naval Base (Late 1990s era).

Gear – Property or equipment; usually referring to an individual's combat equipment.
Gear Adrift – Gear found left lying around or unguarded, from the saying "gear adrift, must be a gift!".

Geedunk – Candy and other sweets, or a location where such items are obtained (such as a store or vending machine); borrowed from the comic strip Harold Teen.[65] See also pogey bait.

General – One method of addressing a Brigadier General, Major General, Lieutenant General, or General. The other would be either "Sir" or Ma'am.

General Orders – List of 11 General Orders for Sentries detailing rules for guard or sentry duty.

Get Some – Spirited cry expressing approval and the desire for more or to continue, traditionally associated in the Vietnam War to killing or sex.

GI Shower – Bathing with limited water (often with the use of wet wipes); forcibly bathing an individual who refuses to meet minimum hygiene standards.[66]

GITMO – U.S. Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Glow Belt – A reflective belt used when running on or near hard-surfaced roads that makes pedestrians more visible to motorists.

Go-fasters – Running shoes or sneakers, named so because they help a person run faster than boots.[citation needed]

Goat Rope – A chaotic and messy situation.[67] See also cluster fuck.

Going High and to the Right – losing one's temper or rationality; from the common error of a poor shooter to jerk the trigger and impact the upper right side of a target.

Gomer or GOMER – Antiquated slang for a stupid person, from the character Gomer Pyle; or as a backronym for "Get Out of My Emergency Room" used by corpsmen to refer to malingerers who faked illness to avoid duties.

Good Cookie – Good Conduct Medal.

Good to Go – Expression denoting that difficulties will be overcome; ready; well done or satisfactory.[68]
Gook – Anything foreign or strange.[69] In modern US usage, "gook" refers particularly to Communist soldiers during the Vietnam War. It is generally considered to be highly offensive and viewed as a racial slur.

Gore-Tex – All Purpose Environmental Clothing System (APECS), a cold/wet weather protective parka and trousers, based on the Extended Cold Weather Clothing System, usually in reference to the parka; from the fabric it is made from.[70]

Gouge – Information or news. See also word.

Grab-Ass – Horseplay, usually wrestling.[19]


Grape – A Marine's head, as in: "Keep on grab assing and you're going to fall and bust your grape!"

Greens – service uniforms in reference to their color.

Gunny

Grid Squares – Marked reference lines on a map; often used as a prank fool's errand where an unsuspecting Marine is asked to find a box of them when they don’t physically exist.

Grinder – parade ground or deck used primarily for drill and/or formations.[71]

Ground Guide – A person who walks in front of a vehicle in order to detect and avoid obstacles and guide the driver to the proper spot.[72]

Grunt or Ground Pounder – Infantryman, formerly a pejorative that has taken more neutral tones.

GT Score – Intelligence, from the General Technical score on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery and the minimum scores that many Military Occupational Specialties require to qualify.[73]

Guide – Unit guidon-bearer; in recruit training, also the senior recruit and responsible for the actions of all recruits in a platoon.[74]
Gumby Suit – Two pieced wet weather gear consisting of a hooded jacket and overalls used until the mid-1990s when the Gore-Tex replaced it. So named because it is green in color and the wearers tended to look like the character Gumby. Those who have worn them can remember its distinctive rubber cloth odor. Gumby Suits can still be found for purchase at military surplus stores.

Gun Bunny – Artilleryman. See also cannon cocker and red leg. Also refers to a Marine unit's Armorers, as they spend long hours inside the armory conducting maintenance on weapons.

Gun Club – slang term for the USMC at-large as in "I've been in this gun club longer than you." Use in presence of senior personnel is inappropriate. Use by civilians or members of other services is considered disrespectful.

Gung ho – Chinese phrase meaning "work together," it became the battle cry of the Marine Raiders.

Gunner – shortened form of Marine Gunner, a nickname for an Infantry Weapons Officer; used informally to refer to all warrant officer ranks.

Gunny – Nickname for Gunnery Sergeant, improper to call a Master Gunnery Sergeant this.[75]

Gyrene – Nickname for a Marine, considered to be a grievous insult; combination of the words "GI" and "Marine".[76][77]

H[edit]

half-mast

H&S – Headquarters & Service/Supply Company, much like a Headquarters Battalion.

hack – arrest.

Haji (hah-je) – Arab or Middle Eastern person or object, from the Arabic term for one who has completed a pilgrimage to Mecca, or "hajj"

Half-bird – Lieutenant Colonel, as opposed to a full-bird. See also short colonel.

Half-Mast – position of the ensign when hoisted to one flag/ensign height below the top, usually done in respect to a deceased person; also called "half-staff" among non-naval forces.
Half-Mast is also a term used by aircraft personnel and aircrew, describing the wearing of the flight suits and coveralls (a one piece uniform) rolled down to the waist so as to only look like pants.

Hard Charger or Hard – term of endearment from a senior to a junior Marine when he or she completes a difficult task, so named for charging through the assignment; or general toughness.

Hashmark – service stripe worn on the uniform sleeve by enlisted men and women for completion of four years of honorable service in any of the U.S. Armed Services and Reserves.

Hatch – Door; more specifically, the watertight cover over an opening between compartments or that leads to the ladder wells between decks of a ship.

HBT – HerringBone Twill; the cotton material of Marine utilities from 1941 to the late 1950s.

HDR – Humanitarian Daily Ration, a variation of the MRE used to feed a single malnourished person for one day with 2,300 calories.

HE – High Explosive, used to describe various kinds of ordnance, or Heavy Equipment.

looking out the hell hole

head – bathroom or latrine, a nautical term from the days of sailing ships when the designated place to defecate and urinate was forward, at the bow or "head" of the ship.

Head Shed – Command post or other headquarters area where senior Marines gather.

Headgear – Hats, helmets, caps, etc.

HEAT – High-Explosive AntiTank, type of tank round.

Heavy Hat – Second-most senior drill instructor in a platoon.

Hell Hole – Hatch mounted in the deck of many helicopters (such as the CH-53E Super Stallion) for rappelling and cargo lifting.

Helo – Helicopter. "Chopper" is an Army term.

HEDP – High-Explosive Dual Purpose, type of armor-piercing ammunition.
High and Tight – Nickname for a common variant of the buzz cut, where the hair is clipped very close. Although having become heavily associated with Marines (giving rise to the term "jarhead"), it's generally not the most common or preferred haircut worn among most Fleet Marines. Also referred to as a "High reg(ular)."

"Higher-ups" – Nickname for Marines above the rank of E-5 Sergeant.

High-speed – New, interesting, or cool; often used to sarcastically denote that the subject looks good, but performance is dubious.

Hillbilly Armor – improvised vehicle armor.

HIMARS – High Mobility Artillery Rocket System.

Hippity-hop, mob stop! – Used in place of "Platoon, halt!" by a drill instructor displeased with a platoon's drill performance.

HMMWV or Humvee – High-Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle, common utility vehicle.

Hollywood Marine – Marine who has graduated from Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, stemming from rivalry between the two recruit depots (the other being Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island).

Homeslice – Person, often a sarcastic overture to civilians from a drill instructor; from the terms homie and homeboy.

Homesteading – Remaining at one duty station for an extended tour or consecutive tours.

Honcho or Head Honcho – Person in charge, from the Japanese word for "boss", "hanchō"; also a nickname for Okinawan taxi drivers.

Hooch – Field living quarters. Also tied into the term Hooch maid, which referred to a woman in Vietnam who would clean the dwellings of soldiers, which were deemed "hooches."

Hot-Shit – Sarcastic reference to an overly arrogant person.

Horse-cock Sandwich – Any sandwich or meal created using an unknown or mystery meat. Often, specifically, sliced balogna. Occasionally served as breakfast meat.
House Mouse – Recruit tasked with cleaning and performing domestic chores in drill instructor-only areas. See also DI hut.

Housewife – Girlfriend; also sewing kit.

HQMC – Headquarters Marine Corps.

Hump – Carry or lift a load, originally an Australian term meaning "to carry one's swag."; also a forced march carrying full equipment loads.

Hurry up and wait – Expression denoting inefficient time management or planning, often when a senior rushes a unit into a situation too fast that subsequently makes them wait. This can refer to the period between receiving a Warning Order and actually implementing an Operations Order.

Huss – To give a helping hand, so named because the H-34 Choctaw helicopter's utility configuration was designated as the "HUS-1 Seahorse," leading to Vietnam-era Marines that needed a medical evacuation helicopter to ask for or to be "cut a huss".

IAW – In Accordance With, term often used to denote compliance with published orders or procedures.

IG – Inspector General.

ILBE – Improved Load Bearing Equipment, the newest iteration of personal combat gear, utilizes the PALS, replaced MOLLE.

In Country – Phrase referring to being within a war zone.

Incentive/Individual Training or IT – Physical training used as a punishment, especially in recruit training, sometimes nicknamed "incentive torture," "indoor tennis," or getting "thrashed/bent/slayed/destroyed" by recruits. See also pitting & quarterdecking.

Inkstick – Pen

Irish Pennant or IP – Any loose thread, string, or strap on a uniform or equipment that detracts from a perfect appearance.
Iron Mike – Originally a nautical term for a gyrocompass; name for various memorial statues, such as at Parris Island, SC, Quantico, VA, and Belleau, France; nickname bestowed on Marines who score a perfect 300 points on the Physical Fitness Test; nickname for a company or battery named "M or "Mike" in NATO phonetic alphabet.

IRR – Individual Ready Reserve, branch of the reserve that most former servicemembers fall under upon the end of active service, may be called to involuntarily return to active status.

J[edit]

JAG – Judge Advocate General, colloquial name for the legal entity within the Marine Corps, more properly called Judge Advocate Division, from the Judge Advocate General of the Navy, the naval officer who oversees both the Navy's and Marine Corps' legal entities; also, a television show by the same name.

Jarhead – Pejorative term for a Marine. Jarhead has several supposed origins: the regulation "High and Tight" haircut resembles a mason jar (to add insult, some note that the jar is an empty vessel, also therefore a Marine's head an empty vessel); the Mason Jar Company stopped making jars and made the helmets for Marines during World War II.


Jesus slippers or Jesus boots – Government-issue sandals or flip-flops for sanitation in showers. Also known as a "Boot from the Heavens". "Best boot I ever had". See also shower shoes.

JETDS – Joint Electronics Type Designation System, used to categorize the nomenclature of electronic equipment.

JEW – Junior enlisted warrior, E-3 and below.

JJ DID TIE BUCKLE – Mnemonic for the 14 leadership traits: Justice, Judgement, Dependability, Initiative, Decisiveness, Tact, Integrity, Enthusiasm, Bearing, Unselfishness, Courage, Knowledge, Loyalty, Endurance.

John Wayne
JOB – Junk On the Bunk, a formal inspection of gear that takes place in the squad bay where the gear is placed on the rack in a predesignated order. Also known as 'Things On the Springs'.

John Wayne – P-38 can opener, a small folding blade used to open canned rations (such as K-rations or C-rations), so named because the actor was shown in a training film using it.

Joker – Military journalist, from Private Joker from the movie Full Metal Jacket; also a derogatory term for a junior enlisted servicemember. Also, used by aviators, the time at which only 60 minutes of fuel remain.

Jungle Bunny – Vietnam War–era phrase for infantry.

Junk on [the] Bunk – Inspection where all uniforms and equipment to be displayed is laid on the Marine's rack.

K[edit]

KA-BAR

K or klicks – Kilometer.

KA-BAR – Fighting/utility knife first issued during World War II Knife Accessory – Browning Automatic Rifle.

K-Bay – Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

Keeper – Cloth loop on the green service blouse to hold the cloth belt neatly in place.

Kelly Helmet or K-pot – 1917-model basin helmet worn during World War I until 1942.

Kevlar – Helmet made from kevlar.

Keyboard Jockey – Person whose job causes him or her use a computer for a length of time.

Kill – A positive affirmation.

Kill Hat – A junior Drill Instructor who specializes in discipline and punishment. See also heavy hat.
Kin Town – A small town located just outside Camp Hansen, Okinawa. Also called Kinville or Sinville. Great place to get Taco rice and cheese and Yakisoba.

Kit – another term for the old wb gear (LBE) when it included the butt-pack.

Kuni – Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni.

L[edit]

Lad – term that came out of WW I for a young Marine.

Ladder Well – Stairway or ladder connecting different decks of a ship, so named because naval stairs tend to be so steep as to almost be vertical.

Laminated – Perceived semi-permanent state of issue for a normally temporary status.

Lance Colonel – Derivation of Lance Corporal denoting a junior Marine with extended time in service or grade. See also terminal lance.

Lance Coolie, Lance Criminal, or Lance Coconut – derogatory terms for Lance Corporal.

Lance Corporal Underground or Lance Corporal Network – Joking reference to the gulf between non-NCOs and their superiors; also refers to the spread of foolish rumors that a more experienced Marine would immediately recognize as false.[81][82]

Landing Gear – Crossed rifles exposed on the rank insignia of Lance Corporals, Corporals, and Sergeants.

Land of the big PX – Used in reference to CONUS by Marines deployed overseas.

Lawn Dart – Pejorative for various aircraft, possibly from the lawn dart effect.[83]

LBV – Load Bearing Vest, personal equipment used to keep the most commonly used items within easy reach utilizing the PALS, usually a component of MOLLE or ILBE.

LCPLIC – Lance Corporal in Charge. A salty Lance Corporal.

Leatherneck – Nickname for Marine, so named for legends stating that stiff leather collars were once worn to protect the throat from sword-blows (also thought that high stocks were worn for discipline, to keep Marines' heads high and straight). The dress blue uniform still bears a high stock collar today. Also, Leatherneck Magazine.
Leg – Servicemember who does not rate to wear the Parachutist Insignia, borrowed from the Army Airborne.

Leggings – Leg coverings made of canvas with eyelets and laces or buckles to secure the trouser legs over boots.[84]

Liberty – Authorized free time ashore or off station, not counted as leave, known in the Army as a "pass".

Liberty List – List containing the names of Marines entitled to liberty and those employed by the guard during the liberty period (and thus not entitled to leave post).

Liberty Risk – A Marine with a high risk of getting into trouble on liberty.

Lifer – Career servicemember, as opposed to one who serves for a single enlistment.

Lima Charlie or Lickin' Chicken – Loud and Clear, an expression meaning that the communication has been received and understood; originally exclusive to radio traffic.

Line Company – Lettered Marine companies or the aviation term for ground units, originally, an infantry company.

1st Lt (left) and Chief Warrant Officer 3 (right) insignias

Lipstick Lieutenant – Pejorative for warrant officer, so named from the appearance of their rank insignia: the addition of red to the gold and silver bars of a lieutenant.[85]

Lollygag – Dawdle or fool about.

Long Handles – Long sleeved/legged undershirt/shorts.

Long War – Term for the War on Terrorism favored by senior military leaders.

Lost Lieutenant Finder – Hand-held GPS unit, a joke term on the reputation for new lieutenants to be incompetent in land navigation.

LPCs – Abbreviation for Leather Personnel Carriers, aka combat boots
LPD – Abbreviation for Landing Platform/Dock, aka Amphibious transport dock

LT – Abbreviation for lieutenant, inappropriate to address as such verbally.

LWH – LightWeight Helmet.

LZ – Landing Zone, a clearing designated as the place where a helicopter (or other VTOL aircraft) can land.

M[edit]

M – A prefix to the model number of a specific nomenclature of equipment, generally considered to denote "model" or "mark". Also us in the phonetic alphabet for "Mike".

Ma'am – Proper method of addressing female officers.

Mac Marine – Nickname for Marine, popular during World War II, also the career planner popular on posters of the 1960s.

Mad Max – term for a military vehicle that is irregular in appearance due to repairs, modifications or the presence of extra equipment. See also hillbilly armor.

Maggie's Drawers – Red flag attached to a pole, used to signal a miss on the rifle range, replaced by a red disk.

MAGTF – Marine Air-Ground Task Force.

MAGTFery – i.e., "Mag-taf-ery." Anything associated with MAGTF-type operations, or the unique structure of the Marine Corps MAGTF.

Master Guns

Major – A Captain in command of a ship's Marine detachment, so titled because a ship may have only one Captain, the commanding officer.

Mama-san – Term of endearment for an elder Japanese woman, often a maid, cook, or tailor/seamstress performing services for Marines; from the Japanese honorific "san".
MARINE – Muscles Are Required, Intelligence Non-Essential or My Ass Really Is Navy Equipment, pejorative backronyms used by other branches.

Marine – The following nicknames are usually acceptable: leatherneck, devil dog, sea soldier, warrior, hard charger, motivator; the following are acceptable from other Marines: jarhead, gyrene; the following are grievous insults: soldier, seabag.

Marine house – Security Guard term for living quarters for Marines, on or off embassy grounds.

Master Guns or Master Gunny – Master Gunnery Sergeant. Also sometimes referred to as "Maverick" due to the combination of slang for Master Sergeant "Top" and Gunnery Sergeant "Gunny".

Marine Mattress – A woman who is thought to be sexually promiscuous with other Marines. The plural form is colloquially referred to as M&Ms.

MATMEP – Maintenance Training Management and Evaluation Program. Used to document individual formal and informal training in 6XXX series occupations (i.e., aviation maintenance); this information then rolls up to show an aviation unit's overall readiness to sustain operations. Sometimes referred to as "Me And The Marines Enjoy Paperwork" from the voluminous amounts of documentation generated.

MCI – Marine Corps Institute, a distance education program; also, the courses available to Marines for bonus promotion credit.

MCCS – Marine Corps Community Services (also known by the humorous backronym Marine Corps Crime Syndicate)

MCMAP, MCNinja – Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.

MCT – Marine Combat Training, infantry skills training for non-infantry Marines.

MCSF- Marine Corps Security Forces (Company) usually a company size unit assigned to the security of Naval assets. MOS 8152, MCSF School is at NSGA Northwest VA, and due to the intense marksmanship training Marines are known as 'Gunslingers', Marine Corps Super Friends.

Meat Gazer – Urinalysis observer who observes the servicemember peeing into the sample container to prevent tampering with the sample.
MEB – Marine Expeditionary Brigade.

MEDEVAC or Medivac – MEDical EVACuation, removing a wounded person to the closest medical or triage facility using designated ambulance equipment, vehicles, or aircraft. See also CASEVAC.

Med Float Widow – Unfaithful wife of a Marine or Sailor deployed from the East Coast on a float a.k.a. float widow

MEF – Marine Expeditionary Force.

MEPS – Military Entrance Processing Station, facility where prospective recruits are screened medically, psychologically, and legally for recruit training.

Mess Hall – Cafeteria. See also chow hall.

Messman – cook.

MEU – Marine Expeditionary Unit.

MEU(SOC) – Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable); 11th MEU(SOC), 13th MEU(SOC), 15th MEU(SOC), 22nd MEU(SOC), 24th MEU(SOC), 26th MEU(SOC) or 31st MEU(SOC).

Mickey Mouse Boots – Boots designed for extreme cold weather using an air bladder for insulation, so named for their oversized and bloated appearance.

Midrats – Midnight (or other late-night) rations provided for servicemembers who work late hours.[86]

Mike – Minute.

Mike-mike – Millimeter.

Military Left – Pertaining to the left side of something or the direction to the left of the subject in question. Used sarcastically when giving orders when a subordinate turns the wrong way or is unsure of which way to turn.
Military Right – Pertaining to the right side of something or the direction to the right of the subject in question. Used sarcastically when giving orders when a subordinate turns the wrong way or is unsure of which way to turn.

Military Time – The time of day on a 24-hour clock. General Wallace M. Greene forbade the practice of suffixing the unnecessary word "hours" after each indication of time of day ("1330" or "thirteen-thirty" instead of "1330 hours"); the practice of saying "oh" instead of "zero" for hours before 1000 has diminished as well.

MOPP equipment

MOLLE – MOdular Lightweight Load-carrying Equipment, type of load-bearing equipment utilizing the PALS, replaced ALICE and replaced by ILBE.

Molly Marine – Nickname associated with World War II era female Marines. Also the name of the award given to the top ranking female Marine in her recruit platoon.

Monkey Suit – Slang for the MARPAT uniform, otherwise known as digital cammies.

Moonbeam – flashlight.

MOPP – Mission Oriented Protective Posture, or an out-of-date term for the defense equipment (gas masks and overgarment suits) worn to protect against Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical weapons.

Mosquito Wings or Skeeter Wings – Rank insignia for a Private First Class, a single chevron.

Motivator – Term of endearment from a senior to a junior Marine, so named when the junior displays motivation for his or her duties.

Moto – Motivated/motivating, often used to describe a person, object, or event that would motivate an individual Marine.

Moto Tats – tattoos displaying USMC logos or slogans, often gotten by young Marines right out of basic training, that are looked upon as being overly gratuitous and boastful.

Motarded – Displaying excess motivation, often in the form of visual symbols and lore (such as unit logos); a combination of the terms "moto" and "retarded".
Motor T or MT – Motor Transport, a subunit of Marines responsible for the operation and maintenance of wheeled non-combat and non-engineer vehicles.

MOUT – Military Operation in Urban Terrain. See also CQB/CQC.

MOS – Military Occupational Specialty, a job classification.

MP – Military Police, mostly replaced by PMO.


MRE bomb – Bursting plastic bag made from chemical heating pouches found inside of a standard MRE.


MTO – Motor Transport Officer, the Marine in charge of maintenance and operation of a unit's trucks.

MTV – Modular Tactical Vest, the newest type of ballistic vest for Marines.

MTVR – Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement See also 7-ton.

Mustang/Mustanger – Marine Officer who has previously served in the enlisted ranks.

MWD – Military Working Dog, a trained government canine for law enforcement, detection of explosives and/or drugs, sentry, or other military use(s).

Mystery Meat – A low quality unknown type of meat patty served at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

N(edit)

NCIS logo
NAVY – Never Again Volunteer Yourself, Never Actually Ventures Yonder, pejorative backronym used by sailors who regret volunteering or are otherwise dissatisfied with their post.

NBCD – Nuclear, Biological, Chemical Defense. See also CBRN. Need Bitches Call, No Body Cares.

NCIS – Naval Criminal Investigative Service, the primary law enforcement agency of the DoN, also a television show of the same name.

NCO – Non-commissioned officer: corporal or sergeant; the Army term "noncom" is no longer appropriate.

NCOIC – Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge, an NCO responsible for a group of Marines, but without the authority of a commissioned officer; some also the senior enlisted Marine acting with the officer in charge. See also OIC & SNCOIC.

NJP or Ninja Punch – Non-Judicial Punishment, a legal proceeding much like a court-martial of much smaller scope. A commanding officer is authorized to issue summary punishments at office hours (called Captain's Mast afloat) under Article 15, UCMJ, to punish offenses too serious to be dealt with by a mere rebuke, but not serious enough to warrant court-martial.

NMCI – Navy/Marine Corps Intranet, the program that outsources garrison information technology services for the Department of the Navy, sometimes jokingly referred to as "Non-Mission-Capable Internet".[87][88]

Non-rate – Junior to the NCO ranks: a Private, Private First Class, or Lance Corporal; borrowed from naval use, where personnel below the petty officer ranks had no rating, thus "non-rated men."

No impact, no idea – Expression denoting a miss on a weapons range (the scorer cannot find an impact on target); also used as an "I don't know" response.

North Carolina Lawn Dart – Expression denoting the AV-8 and the many mishaps that took place during the aircraft’s development and testing.

NROTC – Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps, a college-based recruiting program for officers for the Navy and Marine Corps.

O[edit]
OCS logo

OCONUS – Outside CONtinental United States, as opposed to CONUS.

O-Course – Obstacle course.

OCS – Officer Candidate School, recruit training for officers.

O-dark thirty – Very early hours before dawn. See also military time, Zero-dark thirty. The custom of saying "oh" instead of zero has diminished, but remains in this expression.

Office Hours – Administrative ceremony where legal, disciplinary, and other matters (such as praise, special requests, etc.) are attended, designed to dramatize praise and admonition, in a dignified, disciplined manner, out of the ordinary routine. Known as Captain's Mast afloat. An award given during a positive office hours or Mast is known as a Meritorious Mast, a negative office hours with punishment awarded is an example of non-judicial punishment.

Officers' Country – Living spaces for officers aboard ship, or portion of post or station allocated for the exclusive use of officers.

Oki – Okinawa.

Old Asia Hand – Person with more than one tour in Asia.

Old Man – Very informal nickname for the commanding officer, considered an inappropriate term of endearment for use by a junior, thus used in reference but never in address.

OMPF – Official Military Personnel File, a record of all awards, punishments, training, and other records compiled by Headquarters Marine Corps.

Oorah – Spirited cry used since the mid-20th century, comparable to Hooah used in the Army or Hooyah by Navy SEALs; most commonly used to respond to a verbal greeting or as an expression of enthusiasm. The origin is often disputed.

OP – Observation Post, a position used for reconnaissance; also, the post newspaper of Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms.

OQR – Officer Qualification Record, a service record for officers, much like an enlisted Marine's SRB.
OOB – Out Of Bounds, or straying into an area restricted from use by normal traffic, prohibited to Marines, or too far from base for a given liberty period.

OOD – Officer Of the Deck, or the senior Marine responsible for the patrol and security of a unit's garrison working spaces and sleeping quarters after working hours, usually responsible for subordinate sentries and acts as a guard commander. See also duty & firewatch

Oscar Mike – On the Move, the names of the two NATO phonetic alphabet letters O and M, which stand for the phrase. Used on the radio and in shorthand to each other. See also NATO phonetic alphabet

OTV – Outer Tactical Vest, militarized version of Interceptor body armor, a common type of ballistic vest; being replaced by the MTV.

Outside – Civilian life after discharge. See also real world.

Overhead – Ceiling.

Over the Hill – Excessively old, or a Marine so long in the service they have become institutionalized.

P[edit]

padre conducting mass

padre – chaplain, usually Catholic, from the Spanish and Italian terms for "father".

PALS – Pouch Attachment Ladder System, a webbing system used to attach combat accessories to MOLLE and ILBE equipment.

Page 11 – NAVMC 118(11), a page of a Marine's Service Record Book or Officer Qualification Record where administrative remarks are made concerning a Marine's performance and conduct, and which may contain negative recommendations regarding promotion or re-enlistment; while not a punishment itself or inherently negative, it is part of a Marine’s permanent service record and used as a basis for administrative decisions regarding a Marine's career; the term commonly refers to an entry itself made in this section.
Parade Deck – Area set aside for the conduct of parades, drill, and ceremonies, often paved or well-maintained lawn. See also grinder.

Paradise Island – Nickname for Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island.

Passageway – Corridor or hallway.

Passed over – Having failed selection for the next higher rank (for SNCOs and officers).

Pay Grade – DOD system of designating a U.S. serviceperson's pay (E-1 through E-9, W-1 through W-5, and O-1 through O-10), not to be confused with rank (though the two usually correspond) or billet.

PCP – Physical Conditioning Program, exercise regimen for Marines failing to meet the minimum physical requirements; also Physical Conditioning Platoon, for the unit where a physically unfit recruit is sent prior to recruit training, nicknamed Pork Chop Platoon.

PCS – Permanent Change of Station, transfer to another post, station, base, or installation.

PFC – Private First Class.

PFT – Physical Fitness Test, a semiannual test measuring strength, agility, and endurance by scoring performance in pull-ups (flexed-arm hang for females), abdominal crunches, and a 3-mile run.

PRT – Physical Readiness Test, an annual test conducted in utilities, with rifle and web gear. consisted of a rope climb, step-ups, fireman's carry, fire & maneuver course and a 3-mile run.

Phrog – Nickname for CH-46 Sea Knight.

Phone Watch – Duty where a Marine is responsible for answering phones when others are busy or unavailable (such as lunch hours); also the person filling the duty.

PI – Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island; formerly also Philippine Islands, a frequent port of call for Pacific Marines until 1992

Pickle Suit – Service "A" uniform, from its all over green appearance.

pogey rope
Pinning or Pinning On – Promotion by pinning the new rank insignia onto the MCCUU collar; also a form of hazing by striking the pins into the wearer's chest.

Pisscutter – Nickname for soft green garrison cap worn with the service uniform.[89] See also fore-and-aft cap.

(The) Pits – Depressed area on a shooting range where the targets are located, shooters staff it by marking, raising, and lowering targets from behind a berm.[90] See also butts and pulling butts / pits.

Pitting – Incentive training for a large group of recruits, so named for the sandy pits set aside for such events.[citation needed] See also quarterdecking.

Pizza Box – The Marksman Weapons Qualification Badge, so named for its square shape.

Pizza Stain – A nickname used by some Marines during recruit training to refer to the National Defense Service Medal, so named for the red and yellow appearance, like the cheese and sauce of a pizza.

Platoon Sergeant – SNCO executive to the platoon commander, usually the senior enlisted man.

PMCM – Equipment such as aircraft that are partially mission capable due to maintenance that needs to be performed. Parts are available but not manpower.

PMCS – Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services, regularly performed maintenance on equipment, as opposed to corrective maintenance. Also, partial mission capability of equipment such as aircraft due to parts shortage in the supply chain.

PMO – Provost Marshal's Office, the military police force of a Marine installation.

P.O.A – Position Of Attention [2].

Pogue – Marine not of the combat arms (infantry), etymology is disputed: possibly "pogue" derived from the Tagalog word meaning "prostitute" or the Erse Gaelic word meaning "to kiss [my ass]", while "POG" could be from the acronym Persons Other than Grunt, but could be a backronym.

Poguey or Pogey Bait – Candy or sweets. See also geedunk.
Poguey or Pogey Rope – The French Fourragère authorized for wear by members of the 5th and 6th Marine Regiments.

Police – To pick up items (such as litter or expended ammunition casings), to return an area to a natural state, or to correct another Marine.

Poncho Liner – Insulating blanket used to warm the individual wearing a rain poncho, often used as a stand-alone blanket.

Pop Smoke – To leave quickly or hastily; from the method of throwing a smoke grenade to mark a landing zone or conceal a retreat.

Port – Naval term for "left side of ship" when on board a ship and facing forward, opposite of starboard. "Port" is the same with respect to a ship regardless of where a person is located or which way a person is facing, whereas "left" might be ambiguous.

Portholes – military issue eyeglasses, or the wearer of glasses. See also BCGs & RPGs.

Pot Shack – Place where cooking utensils are washed.

Possible – Slang term for the highest score possible in a marksmanship exercise as in "shooting a possible"; used on the rifle range during Recruit Training to denote the shooter possibly achieving a perfect score in a given round of firing.

Pos – Radio lingo for position.

PowerPoint Ranger – Pejorative for Marines (usually officers) who have spent too much time in an office.

Prick – Slang for any equipment bearing the "PRC" JETDS designator, usually man-portable radios.

Pro & Cons – Contraction of "Proficiency and Conduct marks", a numeric system for evaluating enlisted Marines. Usually written or spoken consecutively, with the first being Proficiency and the second being Conduct, e.g. 4.5/4.8. Hypothetically, the scale is from 0.0 to 5.0, but a perfect 5.0 is so rare that a Marine who receives it is called a "water-walker" (in reference to Mark 6:48) and the worst marks awarded almost never fall below 2.0.

Property Cage – Place where organizational property is stored, often a warehouse.
PT – Physical Training, physical exercise to build or maintain strength, agility, and flexibility.

Pucker Factor – High level of anxiety experienced by those in tight situations, usually aircrew.

Pull Butts – To mark and score targets on a shooting range from behind a berm. See also butts & pits.

PX – Post eXchange; more properly the Marine Corps Exchange.

Q[edit]

QRF – Quick Reaction Force, a highly mobile stand-by force designed to add firepower in precise places as the commander decides on a changing battlefield, often used for MEDEVAC purposes.

Quarter Deck – A location of prominence in a barracks or office; in recruit training, this area by the drill instructor's office is usually off-limits to recruits except during ceremonial discipline; the term comes from the quarter deck of a ship defined as "the part of the upper deck abaft the mainmast, including the poop deck when there is one. Usually reserved for ship's officers, guests, and passengers."

Quarterdecking – Incentive training at recruit training by means of repetitive and constant physical exercises, so named because it is usually a recruit’s only opportunity to visit the quarter deck. See also pitting.

Quarters – Housing, whether bachelor (barracks) or family (government-leased apartments or houses); or periodic, muster of a ship's company.

Quatrefoil – Four-pointed embroidered pattern stitched on to the top of a Marine officer's barracks cover, from the tradition of wearing it to be identified as friendly to Marine sharpshooters during boarding actions in the era of wooden sailing ships.

R[edit]

R/S – Respectfully Submitted, used as an end greeting in written communication.

Rack or Sack – Bed, inappropriate to use the Army term "bunk" except when used in conjunction with "junk on the bunk".
Radio Watch – Duty monitoring radio networks for relevant traffic, also; the person filling that duty.

Rah – A shortened version of Ooh-rah

Raider Cap – cover worn with the M1941 HBT utilities

Rain Locker – Shower.

Ranks – There are no acceptable contractions or shortened ways of addressing the following: Private, Lance Corporal, Corporal, Sergeant, Staff Sergeant, Sergeant Major, Warrant Officer/Chief Warrant Officer, Major, Colonel, and General. The following may be addressed with permission or informally: Private First Class as PFC, a Gunnery Sergeant as "Gunny", a Master Sergeant as "top", a Master Gunnery Sergeant as "Master Gunny" or "Master Guns", a Second Lieutenant or First Lieutenant as "Lieutenant", a Captain as "Skipper", a Lieutenant Colonel as "Colonel", and a Brigadier General, Major General, and Lieutenant General as "General". It is inappropriate to abbreviate an enlisted Marine's rank (Staff Sergeant or above) as "Sergeant," nor can the nickname "sarge" be used. Appropriate written abbreviations for all ranks can be found on United States Marine Corps rank insignia.

Ratfuck – Taking the best available selection and leaving less desirable alternatives for others.

RCO – Rifle Combat Optic, optical sight issued for use with the M16A4 service rifle or M4 carbine; see also Advanced Combat Optical Gunsight.

Real World – Civilian life after discharge. See also outside.

Rear Echelon Pogue – Pejorative for a person who chooses to stay behind the lines to avoid danger; someone assigned to duty to the rear of the battle lines.

Recon – Used as a verb to denote stealthy acquisition by theft. Not to be confused with "Recon". See also acquire.

Red Leg – Artilleryman. See also cannon cocker and gun bunny.

Red Patch – Device worn on the uniforms of landing support Marines to distinguish the shore party from landing troops.

Request Mast – Appealing to increasingly higher links in the chain of command in order to seek satisfaction for a grievance the requester feels was not adequately handled at a lower level;
DoN orders permit any Marine to request mast up to the individual's commanding general without repercussions.

Re-up – Reenlist, an Army term that has made its way into the vernacular for volunteering for an additional period of service. The correct term is Ship-over.

Reverse Raider – Derogatory term for MARSOC Marines, due to their reputed tendency to assume they are superior to regular Marines. Many in the Marine Reconnaissance community see MARSOC as wanting to emulate the Marine Raiders of WWII, which they are not meant to be.

RFI – Request For Information.

Roach coach – Civilian vehicle allowed on base to sell fast food (see Pogey Bait).

Rocks and Shoals – Articles for the Government of the Navy, the pre-UCMJ code of law for the United States Department of the Navy.

Rotate – Return home at the end of a deployment.

ROE – Rules Of Engagement, the restrictions on when and how a servicemember may use force on the enemy and other forces.

Rubber Bitch – Name given to the ISO mat or sleeping pad made of a rubber foam-like material. It is used by Marines when sleeping on the ground or other hard surfaces. It is sometimes used during PT (physical training) for calisthenics.

Running Lights – Navigational night lights on a ship; or the small red rectangular Red Patch sewn onto the uniforms of landing support team Marines; a person's eyes.

S[edit]

Peter Pace's salad

SACO – Substance Abuse Control Officer, a Marine responsible for the initial screening and evaluation of a Marine or sailor with alcoholism or illegal drug use issues to the proper medical facilities for rehabilitation & treatment.
SAFE – Mnemonic for the set up of weapons in small-unit defense, denotes: Security, Automatic weapons, Fields of fire, Entrenchment.[91]

Safety Brief – Usually given by an NCO to junior enlisted Marines prior to being released for liberty. "Marines if you are going to drink, don't drive, if you are going to drive, don't drink, if you meet some gal be smart and use a condom (if you can't wrap it, smack it, as my sergeant would tell us) etc..."

S/F – Abbreviation for Semper Fidelis when used as an end greeting in written communication.

Sailor – The following nicknames are usually acceptable: bluejacket, tar, whitehat; while the following are considered insults: gob, swab, swabbie, swab jockey, squid, anchor clanker, rust picker, deck ape.

Salt, Salty, or Salt/salty dog – Experienced or well-worn person or object, from the salt that would accumulate after long-term exposure to salt water.

Salty Language – Profanity.

Sandbox – Iraq or other desert area.

Sand Monster – To bury/hide something in the sand, usually MRE trash and brass. (Locale to 29 Palms)

SARC – Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, a Marine (usually an SNCO) assigned as the point of contact for personnel who are victims of or witnesses to sexual assault. Such duty is often ironically assigned to one of the least tactful/sensitive members of a unit.

Say Again (Your Last) – Request to repeat a statement, question, or order, especially over a radio, or as "I say again" to preface a repetition by the sender; the word "repeat" is not to be used in this context, as it calls for a preceding fire mission to be fired again.

Sayōnara – Japanese for "goodbye".

Schmuckatelli – Generic, unnamed junior Marine, from the Yiddish pejorative "schmuck".

SCIF – Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility, a place classified materials are processed and/or stored.
scrambled eggs – Gold oak leaf embroidery found on field grade and general officers' barracks cap visors and mess dress cuffs.

Scrounge – Appropriate, borrow, or acquire (possibly by doubtful means); derived from "scringe," meaning to search about, rummage, or pilfer.

Scullery – Place where dishes are washed.

Scuttlebutt – Gossip; or a drinking fountain, from "butt" (cask) and "scuttle" (a hole in a ship's side at deck level that allows water to drain from the deck), a cask that had an opening fitted with a spigot used to contain fresh water for drinking purposes. Because people gathered around a scuttlebutt, gossip, rumors, and sea stories are also known as scuttlebutt.[92][93]

seabags

SDI – Senior Drill Instructor, the leader of a recruit platoon.

Seabag or Sea Bag – Duffel bag used to carry one's personal belongings. "Duffel bag" is an Army term not used by Marines.

Seabag Drag – Manually carrying personal items (often within seabags) to new or temporary living quarters.

Seagoing Bellhop – Derogatory term for a Marine stationed aboard a ship on sea duty.

Sea Lawyer – Person who attempts to argue by continually providing explanations for minutiae.

Sea Story – Story, tale, or yarn calculated to impress others, often contains exaggeration or even outright lies.

Secret Squirrel – Intelligence personnel or activity.

Secure – Stop, cease; or put away and lock.

Semper Fi – Shortened version of "Semper Fidelis", the motto of the Corps, Latin for "always faithful". Can be used ironically, as in, "Semper Fi, Mac", which basically means, "That's the breaks," or "Too fucking bad."
Semper Gumby – Colloquialism denoting tactical flexibility and the ability to quickly adapt to changing circumstances.

Semper I – Colloquialism denoting selfish or self-centered behavior.

Semper Sometimes – Appropriation of Semper Fi used to deride the part-time nature of service in the Marine Corps Reserve.

Shellback – Marine who has taken part in the crossing of the line ceremony or crossing the equator ceremony while on a Naval vessel.

Ship Over – To reenlist for an additional period of service.

Shit Bag or Shitbird – Habitually unkempt or undisciplined Marine. Also called a "10 percenter."

Shit-Brick – Useless or ignorant person.

Shit Detail – An undesirable (usually temporary) assignment.

Shit-Hot – Term used to notify something as exceptional or very good. Not to be confused with Hot-Shit

Shitter – Bathroom, head, or latrine, most often an outdoor portable toilet or outhouse. Also a nickname for the CH-53 helicopter.

Shooter – Person whose primary duty involves marksmanship with a rifle or pistol, such as students at a rifle range or competition team members.

Shore Party – Landing support specialists that direct the disposition of troops during an amphibious assault.

Short-timer – Person nearing the completion of his/her present tour of duty or enlistment.

Short-timer's Disease – Apathy to duties and regulations from a person nearing EAS.

Shove Off – To leave the vicinity, from the naval term meaning to push a boat off the shore or pier.

Shower Shoes – Pair of rubber sandals issued to recruits to prevent infections from the use of community or shared showers. See also Jesus shoes. Also sometimes used as a facetious,
almost-always joking pejorative term for new Marines. That is to say that they're so new that they don't even rate to be called "boots".

Sick bay – Infirmary or other medical facility aboard ship, can also refer to aid stations ashore. See also BAS.

Sick Call – Daily period when routine ailments are treated at sick bay.

Sick Call Commando – Person who constantly finds medical reasons to avoid work, may suffer from a factitious disorder such as hypochondriasis, Munchausen syndrome, or malingering. More commonly referred to as sickbay commando.

Sidearm – Weapon (usually a pistol) carried by a sentry under arms; also, cream and sugar in coffee.

Side Straddle Hop – Jumping Jack.

Silver Bullet – Rectal thermometer used to check the core temperature of a person suffering from heat-related injuries, such as hyperthermia; often referred to as an incentive to avoid dehydration.

Skate – Avoiding work by finding an excuse to be elsewhere or unavailable by doing something easier (but important enough to avoid re-tasking); also used as an adjective to describe such an easier duty.

Skid squadron – Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron, so named because the assigned helicopters (AH-1 & UH-1) utilize skids instead of wheels for undercarriage.

recruits wearing skivvies

Skipper – Informal term of respect for a Marine captain (who is equivalent in rank to a Navy Lieutenant) who is in command of an infantry company or US Navy Commanding Officer of a ship or aviation squadron.

Skivvies – Underwear: skivvie shirt (T-shirt) and skivvie drawers (underwear).

Skuzz – To wash a deck or floor with a brush or towel (skuzz rag) in place of a mop, used in Boot Camp as a method to physically toughen recruits while cleaning the squadbay.
Skylark – To casually frolic or take excess time to complete a task, from the old naval term to run up and down the rigging of a ship in sport.

Slick sleeve – A private in the Marine Corps; refers to the fact that this person does not wear any rank insignia.

Slide Bite/Beretta Bite – Pinching or abrasions of hand due to holding a semi-automatic pistol too closely to a recoiling slide.

Slider – A hamburger so greasy that it slides right through you—typical of those served at flight line galleys. This meaning is evidently lost on restaurants whose menus proudly feature "sliders."

Slop chute – Impolite term for restaurant within the PX or beer garden. Enlisted Marine’s club.[94]

SMAT – Supply maintenance assistance team, provide the commanding general with a technical supply inspection and assistance capability to improve control and management of all organic supply operations.

Smokey Bear or Smokey Brown – The campaign cover worn by a drill instructors, so named because of their similarity to the hat worn by Smokey Bear. See also campaign cover, field hat, & hat.

Smokin’ and Jokin’ / Smoke and Joke – When a mass of Marines is acting unproductively.

SNCO – Staff Non-Commissioned Officer, Enlisted Marines of a rank having a pay grade of E-6 or higher: Staff Sergeant, Gunnery Sergeant, Master Sergeant, First Sergeant, Master Gunnery Sergeant and Sergeant Major.

SNCOIC – Staff Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge, a SNCO responsible for a group of Marines, but without the authority of a commissioned officer; sometimes also the senior enlisted Marine acting with the officer in charge. See also NCOIC & OIC.

Snap In – Conduct sighting in or aiming exercises with an unloaded weapon.

SNM – Said Named Marine. Used in written communications to avoid having to repeatedly type the Marine's rank and name after the first instance.

Snow Job – Misleading or grossly exaggerated report; sales talk.
Snuffie or Snuffy – Junior Marine, Lance Corporal and below.

SOC or (SOC) – Special Operations Capable used in conjunction with MEU written as MEU (SOC).

SOG Sgt. of the Guard – The acting Sgt (or near rank) Commanding the 'COG'Corporal of the Guard and all other marines for watch, radio watch, and/or post.

Soup Cooler – Synonym for the mouth. Term oft used by DIs in reference to the mouth of a recruit, or other senior person in reference to trainees.

Soup Sandwich – Refers to a disorganized operation or a gaggle.

South Maryland Small Boat & Barge Institute – Nickname for the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland. See also Canoe U.

SOTG – Special Operations Training Group

Spit and Polish – Extreme individual or collective military neatness, extreme devotion to the minutiae of traditional military procedures and/or ceremonies; from spit-polishing boots and dress shoes.

Spit-Shine – polish leather footwear (boots and dress shoes), employing spittle to remove excess grease and produce a high polish.

Splice the Mainbrace – Invitation to drink, from the old naval custom of drinking grog after repairing battle-damage to the main braces.

Spud Locker – Place where fresh vegetables are stored, after the nickname for potatoes.

Squadbay – Living quarters with open rooms and shared head, as opposed to the more common barracks that offer individual rooms.

Square(d) Away – Make neat and regulation appearance, to be in a neat and regulation appearance.

Squid – Pejorative for sailor.

SRB – Service Record Book, an administrative record of an enlisted Marine's personal information, promotions, postings, deployments, punishments, and emergency data; much like an officer's OQR.
SSDD – Same Shit, Different Day, euphemism denoting frustration with an unchanging situation or boredom.

Stacking Swivel – Oblong-shaped link with an opening screwed to the rifle that allowed other rifles to be hooked and stacked (the M1 Garand was the last service rifle to have a stacking swivel, this function is now held by the weapon's sling); "Grab him by the stacking swivel" infers grabbing a person's throat.

Staff NCO – Staff Non-Commissioned Officer, Enlisted Marines of a rank having a pay grade of E-6 or higher: Staff Sergeant, Gunnery Sergeant, Master Sergeant, First Sergeant, Master Gunnery Sergeant and Sergeant Major.

Stage - To pre-position something.

Stand By – Command to wait.

Starboard – Naval term for "right side of ship" when on board a ship and facing forward; opposite of port. "Starboard" is the same with respect to a ship regardless of where a person is located or which way a person is facing, whereas "right" might be ambiguous.

STEAL- Stealthily Transport Equipment to Another Location.

stick – Squad of servicemembers being transported either via aircraft or ground vehicle. (Term "Chalk" is used by Army to reference platoon plus size unit.)

STOL – Short TakeOff/Landing, takeoff and landing technique needing only a short runway to become airborne. See also STOVL, VTOL, & V/STOL.

STOVL – Short TakeOff, Vertical Landing, takeoff and landing technique where a V/STOL aircraft will make a non-vertical take-off to carry greater weight, such as fuel and weapons, expend that weight, and make a vertical landing. See also STOL, VTOL, and V/STOL.

Suck – Mouth.[26]

The Suck – Miserable situation or place, often used to describe the Marine Corps or a combat zone.

Survey – Medical discharge or to effect discharge/retirement of an individual for medical reasons; dispose of an item of government property by reason of unserviceability.
Swab – Mop; also pejorative for sailor, so named because sailors of wooden ships had to swab the decks to keep them from warping.

Swamp-ass – Unpleasant collection of sweat soaking undergarments.

Swinging Dick – Vulgarity for male Marine, usually used as "every swinging dick" to emphasize an order to a whole group instead of individual(s).

Swoop – Make a long trip in a short period of time, usually in reference to returning to post after liberty to avoid an UA status.

Sympathy Chit – Voucher sarcastically authorizing the recipient sympathy from others.

T[edit]

Thousand-yard stare

Taco Rice – A popular dish invented and served on Okinawa. It's basically a taco without the shell served on rice. Every Marine, Sailor, Airman and Soldier on Oki has their favorite taco rice place which they swear is the best on the island.

TAD – Temporary Assigned Duty, a duty where the Marine or Sailor is detached from his or her unit temporarily and serves elsewhere; comparable to the Army term TDY.

TBS – The Basic School, the six-month combat training school for new Marine officers.

Terminal Lance – Marine nearing the end of his enlistment at the rank of lance corporal and unlikely to get promoted; also a webcomic of the same name.[95][96] Also referred to as Lance Colonel.

The Rock – Okinawa.

Thousand-yard stare – unfocused gaze of a battle-weary servicemember.

Thump Gun – grenade launcher, from the distinctive noise made when firing. See also blooper and gerbil launcher.

TIC- Troops In Contact
Tie-ties – Straps or strings used to tie items to another line, such as laundry or rifle targets.

Tight-jawed – Angry, so named from the human tendency to clench the jaw when angered.

Tip of the Spear – Term for a unit or subunit that enters enemy territory first.

T/O&E – Table of Operations and Equipment, a list authorizing a unit personnel of a particular rank and MOS, as well as organic equipment; often seen separately as T/O and T/E.

Top – informal nickname for a Master Sergeant or Master Gunnery Sergeant, inappropriate to use without permission.

Topside – Ship's upper deck.

Tore up – Broken, messy, unserviceable.

Trade-school- Refers to graduate of one of the Military Academies.

TRAM – Tractor, Rubber-tired, Articulated steering, Multi-purpose.

T-Rats – Tray ration, nickname for Unitized Group Ration, a ration heated and served to a group of servicemembers.

Trooper – Soldier, considered a grievous insult to refer to a Marine unless plural.

TS Chit – A "Tough Shit" Chit is a (fictitious) small card, to be punched by a senior person upon hearing a high-grade TS (very sad) story. When completely punched around the edge, the bearer is entitled to a half hour with the chaplain. "That story is so sad I'll punch your TS Chit twice."

Two-block – Hoist a flag or pennant to the peak, truck, or yardarm of a staff; or a tie with the knot positioned exactly in the gap of a collar of a buttoned shirt. Correctly, "to-block"—hoisted all the way to the block (pulley) at the top of signal halliard.

Two-digit Midget- An enlisted Marine with 99 or fewer days remaining on his or her enlistment or tour of duty. A variation is the single-digit midget, with nine or fewer days remaining.

U[edit]

UA – Unauthorized Absence, the naval version of the term AWOL.
UCMJ – Uniform Code of Military Justice (Public Law 506, 81st Congress) 1951, the system of military law, both judicial and non-judicial.

UD – Unit Diary, the computerized system that maintains all administrative records for a unit. Also, Uniform of the Day (or UD) – prescribed uniform for the day; more generally associated with 'Charlies'

Un-fuck – To correct a deficiency, usually on a person.

Under Arms – Status of having a weapon, sidearm, "MP" or "SP" brassard, or wearing equipment pertaining to an arm such as a sword sling, pistol belt, or cartridge belt as part of guard duty; Marines under arms do not remove covers indoors.

Under Canvas – Living under temporary sheltering, such as a tent.

utilities

Under Way – To depart or to start a process for an objective.

UNQ – Unqualified, usually in reference to training events. Pronounced "unk."

Unsat – Abbreviation of unsatisfactory.


Utilities – field and work uniforms (currently the MCCUU), formerly called dungarees, inappropriately called the Army term BDU.

V[edit]

VERTREP – vertical replenishment, the use of helicopters for cargo transfer to ships or distant outposts.

VEERP – Voluntary Enlisted Early Release Program, getting out of the Marine Corps early
VTOL – Vertical TakeOff/Landing, takeoff and landing technique that does not need a runway to become airborne. See also STOL, STOVL, & V/STOL.

V/R – Very Respectfully, used as an end greeting in written naval communication to senior.

V/STOL – Vertical/Short Takeoff and Landing, a type of aircraft that can perform STOL, STOVL, and VTOL.

Walking John – Nickname for a Marine marching in dress blues uniform that appeared on World War I-era recruiting posters.[97][98]

War Belt – A web belt used to carry canteens in pouches and other miscellaneous equipment.

War Paint – Camouflage face paint.

Watch – Formal tour of duty of prescribed length, usually a guard-related task.

Water Bowl – Synonym for a canteen (1990s era).

Water Buffalo or Water Bull – 400-gallon potable water tank, trailer-mounted, towed behind a truck.

Wetting-down or Wet Down – Celebration in honor of one's promotion as an officer or to the SNCO ranks, so named for the tradition of wetting the recipient and/or the promotion warrant.[99]

Whiskey Locker – Supply locker/closet.

WP or Willie Pete[r] – White Phosphorus munition, whether in grenade, mortar, artillery, or aerial bomb form, so named from the pre-1956 phonetic alphabet letters "William" and "Peter."

Wilco – Voice procedure term shortened from "Will Comply".

Willie Pete Bag – Waterproof bag.

Wing Wiper – Aviation person, usually a maintenance person and not a pilot.

Winger – Aviation Marine.
WIR – DRMO; Washed-out In Repair; waste incidental to reprocessing; collection of items and/or equipment for turn-in that may be re-used by someone else at a later time, preferably at a savings to the government.

The Wire – Defensive perimeter of a firm base, crossing it denotes the end of relative safety

Wook – a female marine

Wooly Pully – Green wool sweater worn with the service uniform (or blue with the dress uniform) over the khaki shirt.

Word – General term for instructions, orders, and information that is required for all members of a unit to know; or the act of passing information to a collected group of servicemembers. See also gouge.

WM – Unofficial acronym for a Woman Marine.

Work your Bolt – resort to special measures, either by energy or guile, in order to attain a particular end; from the action of racking a rifle's bolt to clear a stoppage.

X[edit]

Y[edit]

YAT-YAS on the tracks museum

YATYAS or YAT YAS – You ain't tracks, You ain't shit, an amtrac slogan or term for AAV Marines.[100]

Yellow leg – Marine, nickname given by North Korean Army in reference to Korean War-era discolored, yellow-looking leggings.[101][102]

You-who -When an NCO or Higher wants the attention of a Junior/Boot and does not know his name

Yut or Yut Yut – Young underaged Twat

Z[edit]
Zero – Pronounced zee-ROW in an exaggerated manner, as used by Drill Instructors at the end of a count-down implying that recruits are to immediately cease all activity and remain silently in place. Used by Marines to gain the immediate attention of all personnel in the area without calling attention on deck.

Zero – Disparaging term used amongst enlisted personnel when referring to officers. Derived from the "o" in officer.

Zero-dark thirty – Very early hours before dawn. See also military time, O-dark thirty.

Zero-stupid thirty – An unnecessarily early time for which personnel are required to assemble for an activity. See also Zero-dark thirty, O-dark thirty.

Zoomie – pilot, usually an Air Force pilot.[103]

Zoomie U – United States Air Force Academy

**List of U.S. Navy acronyms**

1MC - 1 Main Circuit, shipboard public address system

3M - Maintenance and Material Management (3M System)

3MC - Maintenance Material Management Coordinator

5MC - 5 Main Circuit, Carrier Flight Deck address system

A[edit]

A-STRIKE - Assistant STRIKE Operations Officer (Carrier Scheduler/Planner)

AA - Airman Apprentice[1]

AAW - Anti-Air Warcraft

AB - Aviation Boatswain's Mate[1]

ABE - Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Launching and Recovery)[1]
ABF - Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Fuels)[1]

ABH - Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Aircraft Handling)[1]

AC - Air Traffic Controlman[1]

ACR - Armored cruiser

AD - Aviation Machinist's Mate[1]

ADCON - Administrative control

ADNS - Automated Digital Network System

ADSW - Active Duty Special Work (U.S. Navy Reserve, type of active duty orders, typically 6 months in duration)

ADT - Active Duty Training (U.S. Navy Reserve, type of active duty orders, typically more than 30 days but less than 6 months)

AE - Aviation Electrician's Mate[1]

AF - Aviation Photographer's Mate[1]

AFC - Aviation Fire Control[1]

AFCM - Master Chief Aircraft Maintenanceman[1]

AFFF - Aqueous Film Forming Foam

AFSB - Afloat Forward Staging Base [2]

AG - Aerographer's Mate[1]

AIMD - Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department (or Detachment)

AK - Aviation Storekeeper[1] (outdated; merged into LS rating)

ALNAV - All Navy

ALPO - Assistant Lead Petty Officer
AM - Aviation Structural Mechanic

AME - Aviation Structural Mechanic - Environmental (Air Conditioning, Oxygen, and Ejection Seats), Aviation Mechanical Exception

AMH - Aviation Structural Mechanic - Hydraulics

AMMRL - Aviation Maintenance Material Readiness List

AMO - Assistant Maintenance Officer

AMS - Aviation Structural Mechanic - Structures

AN - Airman

AO - Aviation Ordnanceman

AOE - Fast Combat Support-Supply ship, operated by Military Sealift Command (US Merchant Marines)

AOW - Auxiliaryman of the Watch

AR - Airman Recruit

ARRS - Afloat Readiness Reporting System

AS - Aviation Support Equipment Technician

ASAU - Air Search and Attack Unit

ASUW - Anti-Surface Warfare

ASVAB - Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery

ASW - Auxiliary Seawater system

ASW - Anti-Submarine Warfare

ASWO - Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer

AT - Annual Training (U.S. Navy Reserve, type of active duty orders, typically less than 30 days)
AT - Aviation Electronics Technician[1]

AUTEC - Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center

AUXO - Auxiliaries Officer

AVCM - Master Chief Avionics Technician

AVGAS - Aviation Gasoline

AWCS - Assistant Work Center Supervisor

AZ - Aviation Maintenance Administrationman[3]

B[edit]

B/N - Bombardier/Navigator; NFO in A-3B Skywarrior, A-5A Vigilante and A-6 Intruder attack aircraft (no longer used)

BAM - Bad Ass Marine ("Broad Ass Marine" if used in reference to a female)

BB - Battleship

BCD - Bad Conduct Discharge (also colloquially known as "Big Chicken Dinner")

BCGs - Birth Control Glasses

BCM - Beyond Capable Maintenance. Equipment status that indicates the item cannot be repaired and must be sent out for rework or disposed.

BESS - Basic Enlisted Submarine School

BJOQ - Blue Jacket Of the Quarter

BJOY - Blue Jacket Of the Year

BM - Boatswain's Mate[1]

BMOW - Boatswain's Mate Of the Watch

BOHICA - Bend Over Here It Comes Again
BOL - Bupers Online[4]

BT - Boiler Technician

BU - Builder[1]

BUMED - Bureau of Medicine and Surgery[5]

BUPERS - Bureau of Naval Personnel[6]

BUSANDA - Bureau of Supplies and Accounts

BUWEPS - Bureau of Naval Weapons

BZ - Bravo Zulu (meaning well done)

C[edit]

CA - Construction Apprentice[1]

CA - Heavy Cruiser (outdated)

CAG - Guided Missile Heavy Cruiser (outdated) or Commander, Air Group

CAPT - Captain

CDB - Career Development Board

CDO - Command Duty Officer

CDR - Commander

CE - Construction Electrician's Mate[1]

CEC - Civil Engineer Corps

CEC - Cooperative Engagement Capability

CENTCOM - U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM)

CF - Charlie Foxtrot, Polite form of "Cluster Fuck"
CG: Guided Missile Cruiser

CGN: Guided Missile Cruiser, Nuclear Powered (outdated)

CHENG: Chief Engineer (Surface only)

CIC - Combat Information Center

CICO - Combat Information Center Officer

CIS - CASREP Information System

CIVLANT - "Civilian Life" as defined by Atlantic Fleet personnel

CIVPAC - "Civilian Life" as defined by Pacific Fleet personnel

CIWS - Close-In Weapon System

CM - Construction Mechanic[1]

CMC - Command Master Chief[3]

CMDCM - Command Master Chief

CMDCS - Command Senior Chief

CMS-ID - Career Management System-Interactive Detailing

CN - Constructionman[1]

CNATRA - Chief of Naval Air Training

CNAVRES - Chief of Navy Reserve

CNET - Command Naval Education and Training

CNO - Chief of Naval Operations

CO - Commanding Officer[NB 1]
COB - Chief of the Boat (traditionally found only on submarines; pronounced "cob"). Can also be used for "close of business" (pronounced "C-O-B").

COD - Carrier Onboard Delivery

COMCVW - Commander, Carrier Air Wing

COMDESGRU - Commander, Destroyer Group

COMDESRON - Commander, Destroyer Squadron

COMEX - Commence Exercise

COMLANTFLT - Commander, U.S. Atlantic Fleet

COMMO - Communications Officer

COMNAVAIRES - Commander, Naval Air Force, Reserve

COMNAVAIRFOR (also CNAF) - Commander, Naval Air Forces

COMNAVAIRLANT (also CNAL) - Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic

COMNAVAIRPAC - Commander, Naval Air Force Pacific

COMNAVRESFOR - Commander, Navy Reserve Forces

COMNAVSEASYSCOM - Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command

COMNAVSECGRU - Commander, Naval Security Group

COMPACFLT - Commander, Pacific Fleet (formerly CINCPACFLT)

COMPATRECONGRU - Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group

COMPATRECONWING - Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing

COMPTUEX - Composite Training Unit Exercise

COMSEC - Communications Security
COMSUBFOR - Commander, Submarine Force
COMSUBLANT - Commander, Submarine Force Atlantic
COMSUBPAC - Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet
COMTACGRU - Commander, Tactical Air Control Group
COMTRA WING - Commander, Training Air Wing
CORTRAMID - Career Orientation and Training for Midshipmen
COS (also CoS) - Flag Officer's Chief of Staff
CPO - Chief Petty Officer
CPOM - Chief Petty Officer's Mess
CR - Construction Recruit[1]
CRG - Coastal Riverine Group
CS - Culinary Specialist[1]
CSADD - Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions
CSC - Combat Systems Coordinator
CSC - Command Senior Chief
CSC - Culinary Specialist Chief (E-7)
CSEC - Computerized Self Evaluation Checklist
CSMC - Combat Systems Maintenance Center
CSOOW - Combat Systems Officer of the Watch
CSOSS - Combat Systems Operational Sequencing Systems
CT - Cryptologic Technician
CTI - Cryptologic Technician Interpretive
CTM - Cryptologic Technician Maintenance
CTN - Cryptologic Technician Networks
CTR - Cryptologic Technician Collection
CTT - Cryptologic Technician Technical
CVN - Nuclear-powered Aircraft Carrier (Aircraft Carrier, Nuclear),[7] i.e. CVN-72 USS Abraham Lincoln
CVW - Carrier Air Wing
CWO - Chief Warrant Officer
D[edit]
DAPA - Drug and Alcohol Programs Advisor
DC - Damage Controlman[1]
DCA - Damage Control Assistant
DCAG - Deputy Air Wing Commander (see CAG)
DCC - Damage Control Central
DCO - Damage Control Officer (Chief Engineer) or Direct Commission Officer
DCPO - Damage Control Petty Officer
DD - Destroyer
DDG - Guided Missile Destroyer
DDR - Radar Picket Destroyer
DE - Destroyer Escort
DESDIV - Destroyer Division

DESRON - Destroyer Squadron

DEVGRU - Naval Special Warfare Development Group, formerly (and informally still) SEAL Team SIX

DFM - Diesel Fuel Marine (F-76), standard Navy bunker fuel

DIRNSA - Director of the National Security Agency

DL - Destroyer Leader (outdated)

DLG - Guided Missile Destroyer Leader (outdated)

DLGN - Nuclear-powered Guided Missile Destroyer Leader (outdated)

DM - Destroyer Minelayer (outdated)

DM - Illustrator Draftsman

DMHRSi - Defense Medical Human Resources System - internet

DOD (also DoD) - Department of Defense

DoN - Department of the Navy

DRB - Discipline Review Board

DRRS-N - Defense Readiness Reporting System - Navy

DSG - Defense Strategic Guidance [2]

E[edit]

EAOS - End of Active Obligated Service

EAWS - Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist

ECRC - Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center
EDMC - Engineering Department Master Chief (Submarines)

EDO - Engineering Duty Officer

EEBD - Emergency Escape Breathing Device

EIDWS - Enlisted Information Dominance Warfare Specialist

EM - Electrician's Mate[1]

EM - Emergency Management

EMCON - Emissions Control

EMI - Extra Military Instruction

EMO - Electronics Materiel Officer

EN - Engineman[1]

ENS - Ensign

EO - Equipment Operator[1]

EOD - Explosive Ordnance Disposal

EOOW - Engineering Officer of the Watch

EOS - Enclosed Operating Space

EOSS - Engineering Operational Sequencing Systems

ERS - Engineroom Supervisor

ESWS - Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist

ET - Electronics Technician[1]

EW - Electronic Warfare

EWS - Engineering Watch Supervisor
EXW - Expeditionary Warfare

F[edit]

F/MC - Fleet (or Force) Master Chief

FA - Fireman Apprentice[1]

FAC - Forward Air Controller

FAC/A - Forward Air Controller/Airborne

FC - Fire Controlman[1]

FCDSSA - Fleet Combat Direction Systems Support Activity

FCF - Functional Check Flight

FCPCP - Fleet Computer Programming Center of the Pacific

FCPOM - First Class Petty Officer's Mess

FDO - Flight Deck Officer

FICEURLANT - Fleet Intelligence Center Europe & Atlantic

FIS - Fire Inhibit Switch

FMF - Fleet Marine Force

FMSS - Field Medical Service School

FN - Fireman[1]

FOD - Foreign Object Damage (Debris and Detection also used in some cases)

FR - Fireman Recruit[1]

FRC - Fleet Readiness Center

FRS - Fleet Replacement Squadron (Formerly RAG)
FSA - Food Service Attendant

FSO - Food Service Officer

FT - Fire control technician

FTN - Forget the Navy (polite form)

FTN - Full-time Navy (humorous form)

FTS - Full-time Support (full-time, active-duty personnel in U.S. Navy Reserve)

G[edit]

GCCS-M - Global Command and Control System-Maritime

GM - Gunner's Mate[1]

GQ - General Quarters (Call to battle stations)

GSA - General Services Administration

GSE- Gas Turbine Systems Technician - Electrical

GSM- Gas Turbine Systems Technician - Mechanic

H[edit]

HA - Hospital Apprentice[1]

HEDSUPPACTLANT - Headquarters, Support Activity Atlantic

HELO - Helicopter

HM - Hospital Corpsman[1]

HMFIC - Head Mother Fucker In Charge (See SOPA Below)

HN - Hospitalman[1]

HR - Hospital Recruit[1]
HS - Helicopter Squadron (HS-4 Black Knights)

HT - Hull Maintenance Technician[1]

IAMM - Individual Augmentation Manpower Management

IAP - In Assignment Processing

IAW - In Accordance With

IC - Interior Communications Electrician[1]

ICO - In Case Of (or In Care Of)

IHO - Industrial Hygiene Officer

IMF - Intermediate Maintenance Facility

IMRL - Individual Material Readiness List

IP - Irish Pennant - A loose thread of a Naval or Marine uniform.

IRT - In Reference To

IT - Information System Technician

ITS - Information Technology Submarines

J[edit]

JAG - Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Navy

JBD - Jet Blast Deflector (carriers)

JHSV - Joint High Speed Vessel [2]

JO - Journalist[1] (obsolete), Junior Officer

JP-5 - Jet Propellant no. 5, standard Navy jet fuel (F-44, AVCAT)
JTF - Joint Task Force

JTFEX - Joint Task Force Exercise

K[edit]

KISS - Keep It Simple, Stupid

L[edit]

LANTCOM - Atlantic Command

LAWS - Laser Weapon System

LCDR - Lieutenant Commander

LCPO - Leading Chief Petty Officer

LDO - Limited Duty Officer

LES - Leave and Earnings Statement

LHA - Landing Helicopter Assault (Amphibious Class Ship)

LHD - Landing Helicopter Deck i.e. LHD-1 USS WASP[8] i.e. LPD-18 USS New Orleans

LKA - Amphibious Cargo Ship i.e. LKA-117 USS El Paso

LPD - Land Platform Dock (Amphibious Class Ship, Diesel Propulsion),

LPO - Leading Petty Officer

LPOD - Last Plane On Deck

LRAD - Long Range Acoustic Device

LS - Logistics Specialist

LSO - Landing Signal Officer

LT - Lieutenant
LTJG - Lieutenant Junior Grade

M[edit]

MAA (also MA) - Master-at-Arms

MALS - Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron

MC - Mass Communication Specialist

MCO - Material Control Officer

MCPO - Master Chief Petty Officer

MCPON - Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (pronounced "Mick Pon")

MIDN - Midshipman

MIDRATS - Midnight Rations

MM - Machinist's Mate[1]

MMCO - Maintenance/Material Control Officer

MMCPO - Maintenance Master Chief Petty Officer

MO - Maintenance Officer (pronounced "Moe")

MOA - Memorandum of Agreement

MOU - Memorandum of Understanding

MPA - Main Propulsion Assistant

MPA - Military Patrol Craft (P-3 Orion, etc.)

MRDB - Material Readiness Database

MSG - Message

MSW - Main Seawater System
MT - Missile Technician

MTS - Master Training Specialist

MU - Musician

N[edit]

NAB - Naval Amphibious Base

NAF - Naval Air Facility

NALCOMIS - Naval Aviation Logistics Command Management Information System

NAS - Naval Air Station

NAS JRB - Naval Air Station / Joint Reserve Base

NATOPS - Naval Air Training and Operational Procedure Standardization

NAVAIR - Naval Air Systems Command

NAVCOMP - Comptroller of the Navy

NAVEDTRA - Chief of Navy Education and Training

NAVFAC - Naval Facilities Engineering Command

NAVFLIGHTDEMRON - Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron (Blue Angels)

NAVMAT - Naval Material Command

NAVMILPERSCOM - Navy Military Personnel Command

NAVSEA - Naval Sea Systems Command

NAVSECGRUACT - Naval Security Group Activity

NAVSTA - Naval Station

NAVSUBASE - Naval Submarine Base
NAVSUP - Naval Supply Systems Command

NAVTRA - Chief of Naval Training

NAVY - Never Again Volunteer Yourself

NAWCAD - Naval Air Warfare Center - Aircraft Division

NAWCWD - Naval Air Warfare Center, Weapons Division (formerly Pacific Missile Test Center)

NBSD - Naval Base San Diego

NCDU - Navy Combat Demolition Unit

NCF - Naval Construction Force (Seabees)

NCIS - Naval Criminal Investigative Service

NCM - Navy Commendation Medal

NCTAMS - Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station

NCTS - Naval Computer Telecommunications Station

NECC - Navy Expeditionary Combat Command

NeL - Navy eLearning

NEX - Navy Exchange

NFAAS - Navy Family Accountability and Assessment System

NFO - Naval Flight Officer / Normal Fuel Oil

NJROTC - Navy Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps

NKO - Navy Knowledge Online

NMCI - Navy/Marine Corps Intranet

NMPS - Navy Mobilization and Processing Site
NMTI - Navy Military Training Instructor

NNSY - Norfolk Naval Shipyard

NOSC - Navy Operational Support Center (a U.S. Navy Reserve shore command)

NOSR - Network On-Site Representative

NPC - Navy Personnel Command[9]

NROTC - Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps

NS - Naval Station

NSAWC - Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center

NSGA - Naval Security Group Activity

NSIPS - Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System

NSWC - Naval Surface Warfare Center

NSWG - Naval Special Warfare Group

NSY - Naval Shipyard

NTC - Naval Training Center

NUWC - Naval Undersea Warfare Center

NWTD - Non Watertight Door

NWU - Navy Working Uniform

O[edit]

OAE - Old Antarctic Explorer

OBA - Oxygen Breathing Apparatus

OCS - Officer Candidate School, located at Naval Station Newport
OFS - Out Freaking Standing (polite)

OM - On the Move

OMPF - Official Military Personnel File

OOD - Officer of the Deck

OOMA - Optimized Organizational Maintenance Activity

OPCON - Operational control

OPNAV - Office of the Chief of Naval Operations

OPS-O - Operations Officer

OSA - Overseas Contingency Operation Support Assignments

OSTR - Optimal Ship Track Route[10]

P[edit]

PACOM - Pacific Command

PAPERCLIP - People Against People Ever Reenlisting Civilian Life Is Preferred

PAX - Passengers[11]

PCO - Prospective Commanding Officer

PCS - Permanent Change of Station

PDHA - Post-Deployment Health Assessment

PDHRA - Post-Deployment Health Re-Assessment

PFA - Physical Fitness Assessment

PHA - Physical Health Assessment

PHRA - Physical Health Re-Assessment
PIR - Pass in Review

PO(3/2/1) - Petty Officer (Third/Second/First Class)

POC - Point of Contact

POD - Plan of the Day

POM - Plan of the Month

POOW - Petty Officer of the Watch

POTUS - President of the United States

POW - Plan of the Week

POW - Prisoner of War

PRD - Projected Rotation Date

PRIFLY - Primary Flight Control (Aircraft carriers)

PRT - Physical Readiness Test

PSNS and IMF - Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility

PT - Physical Training

PTS - Perform to Serve

PWD - Public Works Department

PXO - Prospective Executive Officer

Q[edit]

QAWTD/QAWTH - Quick Acting Water Tight Door/Quick Acting Water Tight Hatch

QM - Quartermaster[1]

QMOW - Quartermaster of the Watch
RADCON - Radiation Control

RADM - Rear Admiral (United States) (Upper Half)

RAG - Replacement Air Group, now known as Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS)

RCA - Reactor Controls Assistant

RDC - Recruit Division Commander

RDML - Rear Admiral (United States) (Lower Half)

RHIB (RIB) - Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat

RIMPAC - Rim of the Pacific

RIO - Radar Intercept Officer (NFO in F-4 Phantom II and F-14 Tomcat)

RL - Restricted Line Officer

RMD - Restricted Maneuvering Doctrine

Roof - Aircraft Carrier Flight Deck

RPOC - Recruit Petty Officer in Charge or Recruit Chief Petty Officer

RT - Radiotelephone (voice radio)

RTC - Recruit Training Command

S1C - Seaman 1st Class

S2C - Seaman 2nd Class

S2F - Speed to Fleet

SA - Seaman Apprentice
SAG - Surface Action Group
SAM - Surface-to-Air Missile [NB 1]
SAPR - Sexual Assault Prevention and Response
SARC - Special Amphibious Reconnaissance Corpsman
SAU - Search and Attack Unit
SCAT - Small Craft Attack Team
SCBA - Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus
SCPO - Senior Chief Petty Officer
SCW - Seabee Combat Warfare Specialist insignia
SE - Support Equipment
SEALs - United States Navy SEALs (stands for Sea, Air, Land), officially termed Special Warfare Operators (SO)
SEAOPDET - Sea Operational Detachment
SECDEF - United States Secretary of Defense
SECNAV - United States Secretary of the Navy
SICLOS - Shift Inspect Clean Lube Oil Strainers
SLBM - Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missile
SN - Seaman [1]
SNA - Student Naval Aviator
SO - Special Warfare Operator, aka US Navy SEAL.
SOFA - Status of Forces Agreement
SOP(A) - Senior Officer Present (Ashore)

SOPA - Senior Officer Present Afloat

SOQ - Sailor of the Quarter

SOY - Sailor of the Year

SPAWAR - Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command

SPAWARSYSCEN - Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center

SR - Seaman Recruit[1]

SRB - Selective Reenlistment Bonus

SRW - Shutdown Roving Watch

SS - Submarine Specialist or Submersible Ship

SSBN (aka Boomers) - Hull classification symbol for ballistic missile submarine. The SS denotes submarine, the B denotes ballistic missiles, and the N denotes nuclear-powered.

SSES - Ships Signals Exploitation Space. A compartment on a ship where embarked NAVSECGRU personnel, known a Cryptologic Technicians, do their work.

SSGN - Hull classification symbol for cruise missile submarine. The SS denotes submarine, the G denotes guided missile, and the N denotes nuclear-powered.

SSN - Hull classification symbol for general-purpose fast attack submarines. The SS denotes submarine, while N denotes nuclear-powered.

SSOQ - Senior Sailor of the Quarter

SSOY - Senior Sailor of the Year

SSTG - Ships Service Turbo Generator

STG – Sonar Technician Surface

STREAM - Standard Tension Replenishment Alongside Method
STS – Sonar Technician Submarines

SUBRON - Submarine Squadron

SUBSAFE - Submarine Safety Program

SUPPO - Supply Officer

SWCC (swick) - Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen, the Special Operations Forces who operate and maintain an inventory of boats used to support special operations missions, particularly those of the U.S. Navy SEALs.

SWO - Surface Warfare Officer

T[edit]

TACK - Meaning dash or hyphen.

TAD - Temporary Additional Duty

TADcen - Training and Distribution Center

TAO - Tactical Action Officer (Fights the ship under the supervision of the Captain)

TAR - Training and Administration of the Reserve (U.S. Navy Reserve, former designation for FTS personnel)

TE - Task Element

TF - Task Force

TFO - Temporary Flight Orders. Non-aircrew personnel that have passed the minimum requirements to act as part of the aircrew for some purpose, e.g. secondary door gunner.

TFOA - Things Falling Off Aircraft

TG - Task Group

TILLIE - Large mobile crane on Flight Deck to pick up and move disabled aircraft. Came from original crane designation: T1-E
TM - Torpedoman's Mate[1]

TOPGUN - United States Navy Fighter Weapons School

TSP - Troubled Systems Process

TU - Task Unit

TYCOM - Type Commanders

UA - Unauthorized Absence, equivalent to Army absent without leave (AWOL)

UA - Urinalysis

UAS - Unmanned Aerial System

UAV - Unmanned Aerial Vehicle

UCMJ - Uniform Code of Military Justice

UDT - Underwater Demolition Team

UNODIR - Unless Otherwise Directed

UNREP - Underway Replenishment

UNSAT - Unsatisfactory

URL - Unrestricted Line Officer

USMC - United States Marine Corps, organized under the United States Department of the Navy

USN - United States Navy

USNA - United States Naval Academy (Annapolis)

USS - United States Ship

UWT - Underwater Telephone
VA/VAM - Fixed Wing Attack/Fixed Wing Medium Attack (no longer used)
VAQ - Fixed Wing Electronic-Attack Squadron
VAW - Fixed Wing Airborne Early Warning Squadron
VBSS - Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure
VCNO - Vice Chief of Naval Operations
VDS - Variable Depth Sonar[2]
VERTREP - Vertical Replenishment
VF - Fixed Wing Fighter (no longer used)
VFA - Fixed Wing Strike Fighter Squadron
VP - Fixed Wing Patrol Squadron
VRC - Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VRC-30 Providers)
VTU - Volunteer Training Unit
VX - Air Test & Evaluation Squadron (VX-4 Evaluators)
WAVES - Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service
WCS - Workcenter Supervisor
WO - Warrant Officer
WSO - (Wizzo) - Weapon Systems Officer (Naval Flight Officer) in USMC F/A-18D Hornet and USN F/A-18F Super Hornet
WTC - Watertight Compartment
Voice procedure

Words in voice procedure

Some words with specialised meanings are used in radio communication throughout the English-speaking world, and in international radio communication, where English is the lingua franca. Note that the following list commingles incompatible terms used in different communication modes, each of which has its own terminology (e.g., no air-to-ground controller would ever use the term "10-4", a CB radio term).

10-4 — Message received; I understand; ok; all right

Affirmative / Affirm — Yes.[1][2]

Break — Signals a pause during a long transmission to open the channel for other transmissions, especially for allowing any potential emergency traffic to get through. (Not used in British Army)

Break-Break — Signals to all listeners on the frequency, the message to follow is priority. Almost always reserved for emergency traffic or in NATO forces, an urgent 9 line[3] or Frag-O. In Aviation, it signifies the end of a transmission to one call-sign and the commencement of
transmission to another, e.g., "G-WXYZ Standby. Break-Break. G-ABCD Cleared to Land Runway 17" etc.

Callsign-Actual/Callsign-Niner — Sometimes an individual (generally a superior) may have a person monitor the network for them. Saying "actual" after their callsign asserts you wish to speak to the specific person the callsign is attached to. ex: calling the callsign "Headquarters" would often get junior clerk or similar. Calling (or identifying yourself as) "Headquarters-Actual" would indicate that the commander of the headquarters detachment, and thus the entire unit to which it is attached, is requested to be spoken to, or is actually speaking. (In Canadian use, this is Callsign-Niner, with "9" designating a unit commander. An individual monitoring the net but is not the actual commander may use the call-sign "Niner-Zulu". As well, the codeword "Sunray" is also used to designate a unit commander.)

Come in — You may begin speaking now

Copy (U.S.) — I heard what you just said; ok; all right.

Falcon — prefix followed by a (usually three-digit) code number for an Army creole phrase.[4]

Go ahead or Send your traffic — Send your transmission.

Interrogative — A question follows.

Mayday — Maritime/aviation distress call. Repeated three times and at beginning of every following transmission relating to the current distress situation. Has priority over urgency and safety calls.

Negative — No

Niner — For the number nine. It is used to avoid confusion with five, as the two numbers can easily be mixed up when there is a lot of static. The German word for no is "nein" (/oræn/) and would cause confusion with the number 9.

Out — I have finished talking to you and do not expect a reply.

Over — I have finished talking and I am listening for your reply. Short for "Over to you."

Pan-pan — Maritime/aviation urgency call. Repeated three times. Has priority over safety calls.

Reading you Five / Loud and clear / Your signal is clear; 5×5.
Ready to Copy — Write down (e.g., "Prepare to copy" - I am going to give you detailed instructions, have something ready to write them down with; or 'I am ready to write down' when used in a reply transmission).

Repeat — "Repeat last fire mission," or "Fire again." Used when on an artillery net, or when speaking to tank or mortar crews, to indicate that the gun battery should fire another salvo using the same target information.

Roger — "I have received all of the last transmission" in both military and civilian aviation radio communications. This usage comes from the initial R of received: R was called Roger in the radio alphabets or spelling alphabets in use by the armed forces at the time of the invention of the radio, such as the Joint Army/Navy Phonetic Alphabet and RAF phonetic alphabet.[5][6] It is also often shortened in writing to "rgr". The word Romeo is used for "R", rather than "Roger" in the modern international NATO phonetic alphabet.

Contrary to popular belief, Roger does not mean or imply both "received" and "I will comply." That distinction goes to the contraction wilco (from, "will comply"), which is used exclusively if the speaker intends to say "received and will comply". The phrase "Roger Wilco" is procedurally incorrect, as it is redundant with respect to the intent to say "received".[7]

Roger So Far — Confirm you have received and understood the contents of my transmission so far. This is used during Long Message Procedure (Messages lasting over 20 seconds prefixed by the Pro-Word 'Long Message' and the initiating C/S must give a gap of five seconds after the receiving station has replied with 'Roger'. This five seconds is to allow other Stations onto the net if they have important messages.

Say again repeat; Please repeat your last message (Repeat is only used in Australian/Canadian/UK/US military radio terminology to request additional artillery fire)

Sécurité — Maritime safety call. Repeated three times. Has priority over routine calls.

Standby or Wait, out — Pause for the next transmission. This does not usually entail staying off the air until the operator returns as they have used the word 'Out', which indicates the transmission has ended. The net is now free for other traffic to flow but users should be aware that the previous C/S may re-initiate a Call as per their 'Wait, out'. As with 'Wait', this can be appended with a number to indicate estimated number of minutes. For example: "We are on the phone with them trying to sort this out, standby five."
Wait, over — I do not have the answer or information to hand, I will attempt to source the answer or information requested shortly but until then I have finished talking and do not expect a reply. Can be suffixed with a number to indicate estimated number of minutes until a reply can be expected. ex: WAIT TWO indicates "you should expect my reply in approximately two minutes."

Wilco — Will comply (after receiving new directions, implies Roger).

Each area of usage will have its own subset of prowords, usually derived from the NATO set, but sometimes from earlier Q-code and morse operator practices.

Furthermore, the use of some special prowords is tightly controlled, with that word never used on the air in other contexts within that area of usage. Examples include "repeat" (for additional artillery fire in military communications), "take off" (granting permission for aircraft take off in airfield tower communications), "rescue" (rescue in progress in surf life saving), and "mayday" (safety-of-life emergency in maritime and aeronautics).

Example usage[edit]

Aeronautical mobile procedure[edit]

See also: Tenerife airport disaster § Safety response

The Federal Aviation Administration uses the term phraseology to describe voice procedure or communications protocols used over telecommunications circuits. An example is air traffic control radio communications. Standardised wording is used and the person receiving the message may repeat critical parts of the message back to the sender. This is especially true of safety-critical messages.[8] Consider this example of an exchange between a controller and an aircraft:

Aircraft: Boston Tower, Warrior three five foxtrot (35F), holding short of two two right.

Tower: Warrior three five foxtrot, Boston Tower, runway two two right, cleared for immediate takeoff.
Aircraft: Roger, three five foxtrot, cleared for immediate takeoff, two two right.

On telecommunications circuits, disambiguation is a critical function of voice procedure. Due to any number of variables, including radio static, a busy or loud environment, or similarity in the phonetics of different words, a critical piece of information can be misheard or misunderstood; for instance, a pilot being ordered to eleven thousand as opposed to seven thousand. To reduce ambiguity, critical information may be broken down and read as separate letters and numbers. To avoid error or misunderstanding, pilots will often read back altitudes in the tens of thousands using both separate numbers and the single word (example: given a climb to 10,000 ft, the pilot replies "[Callsign] climbing to One zero, Ten Thousand"). However, this is usually only used to differentiate between 10,000 and 11,000 ft since these are the most common altitude deviations. The runway number read visually as eighteen, when read over a voice circuit as part of an instruction, becomes one eight. In some cases a spelling alphabet is used (also called a radio alphabet or a phonetic alphabet). Instead of the letters AB, the words Alpha Bravo are used. Main Street becomes Mike Alpha India November street, clearly separating it from Drain Street and Wayne Street. The numbers 5 and 9 are pronounced "fife" and "niner" respectively, since "five" and "nine" can sound the same over the radio. The use of 'niner' in place of 'nine' is due to German-speaking NATO allies for whom the spoken word 'nine' could be confused with the German word 'nein' or 'no'.

Over fire service radios, phraseology may include words that indicate the priority of a message, for example:[9]

Forty Four Truck to the Bronx, Urgent!

or

San Diego, Engine Forty, Emergency traffic!
Words may be repeated to modify them from traditional use in order to describe a critical message:[10]

Evacuate! Evacuate! Evacuate!

A similar technique may be used in aviation for critical messages. For example, this transmission might be sent to an aircraft that has just landed and has not yet cleared the runway.

Echo-Foxtrot-Charlie, Tower. I have engine out traffic on short final. Exit runway at next taxiway. Expedite! Expedite!

Police Radios[where?] also use this technique to escalate a call that is quickly becoming an emergency.

Code 3! Code 3! Code 3!

Railroads have similar processes. When instructions are read to a locomotive engineer, they are preceded by the train or locomotive number, direction of travel and the engineer's name. This reduces the possibility that a set of instructions will be acted on by the wrong locomotive engineer:

Five Sixty Six West, Engineer Jones, okay to proceed two blocks west to Ravendale.

Phraseology on telecommunications circuits may employ special phrases like ten codes, Sigalert, Quick Alert! or road service towing abbreviations such as T6. This jargon may
abbreviate critical data and alert listeners by identifying the priority of a message. It may also reduce errors caused by ambiguities involving rhyming, or similar-sounding, words.

Maritime mobile procedure[edit]

(Done on VHF Ch 16)

Boat "Albacore" talking to Boat "Bronwyn"

Albacore: Bronwyn, Bronwyn, Bronwyn* this is Albacore, over. (*3×1, repeating the receiver's callsign up to 3 times, and the sender's once, is proper procedure and should be used when first establishing contact, especially over a long distance. A 1×1, i.e. 'Bronwyn this is Albacore,' or 2×1, i.e. 'Bronwyn, Bronwyn, this is Albacore,' is less proper, but acceptable especially for a subsequent contact.)[11]

Bronwyn: Albacore, this is Bronwyn, over. (** At this point switch to a working channel as 16 is for distress and hailing only**)

Albacore: This is Albacore. Want a tow and are you OK for tea at Osbourne Bay? over.

Bronwyn: This is Bronwyn. Negative, got engine running, 1600 at clubhouse fine with us. over.

Albacore: This is Albacore, Roger, out.
"Copy that" is incorrect. COPY is used when a message has been intercepted by another station, i.e. a third station would respond:

Nonesuch: Bronwyn, this is Nonesuch. Copied your previous, will also see you there, out.

One should always use one's own callsign when transmitting.

British Army[edit]

Station C21A (charlie-two-one Alpha) talking to C33B (charlie-three-three Bravo):[12]

C21A: C33B, this is C21A, message, over.

C33B: C33B, send, over.

C21A: Have you got C1ØD Sunray at your location?, over.

C33B: Negative, I think he is with C3ØC, over.

C21A: Roger, out.

The advantage of this sequence is that the recipient always knows who sent the message.
The downside is that the listener only knows the intended recipient from the context of the conversation. Requires moderate signal quality for the radio operator to keep track of the conversations.

However a broadcast message and response is fairly efficient.

Sunray (Lead) Charlie Charlie (Collective Call - everyone), this is Sunray. Radio check, over.

C-E-5-9: Sunray, this is Charlie Echo five niner, loud and clear, five by five over.

Y-S-7-2 Sunray, this is Yankee Sierra Seven Two, reading three by four. over.

B-G-5-2: Sunray, this is Bravo Golf Five Two, Say again. over.

E-F-2-0: Sunray, this is Echo Foxtrot Two Zero, reading Five by Four over.

Sunray: Charlie Charlie this is Sunray, out.

The "Say again" response from B-G-5-2 tells Sunray that the radio signal is not good and possibly unreadable. Sunray can then re-initiate a Call onto B-G-5-2 and start another R/C or instruct them to relocate, change settings, etc.

So it could carry on with:
Sunray: Bravo Golf Five Two this is sunray, radio check over.

B-G-5-2: Sunray this is Bravo Golf Five Two, unclear, read you 2 by 3 over.

Sunray: Sunray copies, Relocate to Grid One Niner Zero Three Three Two for a better signal over.

B-G-5-2: Bravo Golf Five Two copies and is Oscar Mike, Bravo Golf Five Two Out.

**Procedure word**

**Universal prowords**

Affirm, Affirmative

"Confirm" or "Yes", used in Aviation. Some air arms of military forces also use a "double click" sent over the radios by keying the mic twice to produce a "--" like Morse code, this is usually used when the pilot is unable to talk due to heavy workload or stress.

Clear[edit]

In amateur radio transmissions, the transmitting station's call sign followed by the word "clear" is used to indicated the sending station is done transmitting and leaving the airways, i.e. turning off the radio.
Negative[edit]

"No" or "NEG". Because over a poor quality connection the words "affirmative" and "negative" can be mistaken for one another (for example over a sound-powered telephone circuit), United States Navy instruction omits the use of either as prowords. Sailors are instructed to instead use "yes" and "no".

Out[edit]

"This is the end of my transmission to you and no answer is required or expected."

Over[edit]

"This is the end of my transmission to you and a response is necessary. Go Ahead: transmit."

Contrary to popular belief, "Over" and "Out" are never used at the same time, since their meanings are mutually exclusive. With spring-loaded PTT buttons on modern combined transceivers, the same meaning can be communicated with just "Out", as in "Ops, Alpha, ETA five minutes. Out."

Roger, Received, Romeo, Copy[edit]

"I have received your last transmission satisfactorily, radio check is loud and clear." "Roger" is used occasionally to mean "yes", but the proword for "yes" is "Affirm".

Romeo is sometimes used for the same purpose, mainly in Australian Maritime Operations.[citation needed]
For Maritime VHF, Copy does not mean the same as Roger or Received. It is used when communications between 2 other stations which includes information for your station that has been overheard and received satisfactorily.

Send[edit]

"I have received your initial call; send me your message."

Wilco[edit]

"I understand and WILL COMply." Used on receipt of an order. "ROGER" and "WILCO" used together are redundant, since WILCO includes the acknowledgement of ROGER.[3]

Maritime/amateur VHF prowords[edit]

Radio check[edit]

What is my signal strength and readability; how do you hear me?

5 by 5 is an older term used to assess radio signals, as in 5 out of 5 units for signal strength and for readability. Other terms similar to 5x5 are "loud and clear" or "Lima and Charlie". Example:

ALPHA 12: X-RAY Two-Three, THIS IS ALPHA One-Two, RADIO CHECK, OVER

X-RAY 23: ALPHA One-Two, THIS IS X-RAY Two-Three, I READ YOU 5 BY 5, OVER

ALPHA 12: ALPHA One-Two ROGER, OUT

US ARMY correct Radio check:
Receiver: A-11 (Alpha 11) Sender: D-12 (Delta 12)

A-11 This is D-12 "Radio Check Over"

D-12 This is A-11 "Roger Over"

A-11 this is D-12 "Roger Out!"

Army Retired Tank Commander 8th Infantry Mech.

ALPHA 12: X-RAY Two-Three, THIS IS ALPHA One-Two, RADIO CHECK, OVER

X-RAY 23: ALPHA One-Two, THIS IS X-RAY Two-Three, ROGER OUT

If the initiating station (ALPHA 12 in the example) cannot hear the responding station (X-RAY 23 above), then the initiator attempts a radio-check again, or if the responder's signal was not heard, the initiator replies to the responder with "NEGATIVE CONTACT, ALPHA 12 OUT".

The following readability scale is used: 1 = Bad (unreadable); 2 = Poor (readable now and then); 3 = Fair (readable but with difficulty); 4 = Good (readable); 5 = Excellent (perfectly readable).

Amateur radio[edit]

Amateur radio operators use a different scale, called R-S-T, for readability, strength and tone (the latter only used with CW transmission, the best rating being 5-9-9. [4]

Read back for check[edit]

Instruction to receiving station to read back the information it has received for confirmation. Same as HOW COPY. Reply from receiving station will be preceded by I READ BACK or I COPY,
confirmation by transmitting station takes the form of the proword CORRECT or GOOD COPY. See example 2, below. The U.S. Army uses "HOW COPY" only.

Say again[edit]

"I have not understood your message, please say again". Usually used with prowords ALL AFTER or ALL BEFORE. Example: radio working between Solent Coastguard and a motor vessel, call-sign EG 93, where part of the initial transmission is unintelligible

- All stations, all stations, this is Solent Coastguard, Solent Coastguard. Be advised large shipping vessel entering Southampton Water, currently at position ...[transmission unintelligible]...Out.

- Solent Coastguard, Solent Coastguard, this is Echo Golf Niner Three. Say again all after position. Over.

At this juncture, Solent Coastguard would reply, giving the position of the shipping vessel preceded with the prowords I SAY AGAIN:

- All stations, All stations, this is Solent Coastguard. I say again, large shipping vessel entering Southampton water, currently at position one decimal two miles from Calshot Spit on bearing one six five degrees. Vessel restricted in ability to deviate from its course. Do not impede. Out.

The word "REPEAT", is in most cases not used in place of SAY AGAIN, especially in the vicinity of naval or other firing ranges, as REPEAT is an artillery proword with a wholly different meaning. However, in aviation pilots say "Please say again" or "please repeat". However, REPEAT may be used in the middle of a signal to emphasise information. Example:

VJ50: Echo Golf Niner-Three, this is Victor Juliet Five-Zero. I require six five - repeat six five - litres of diesel. Over.

Or alternatively:

VJ50: Echo Golf Niner-Three, this is Victor Juliet Five-Zero. I require six five litres of diesel. Repeat six five litres. Repeat diesel. Over

Instead of 'REPEAT', wording such as 'I SAY AGAIN' or 'WORDS TWICE' or 'FIGURES TWICE', may be said, as in:

VJ50: Echo Golf Niner-Three, this is Victor Juliet Five-Zero. I require six five litres of diesel. I say again six five litres of diesel. Over

Station calling[edit]

This proword is used when addressing an unidentified station which has just hailed the receiver. For example, Cowes VTS has received a transmission from an unidentified station. The correct reply would be:

"Station calling Cowes VTS, Station calling Cowes VTS - this is Cowes VTS. Over."

This is[edit]

This transmission is from the station whose designator immediately follows. For clarity, the station called should be named before the station calling. So, "Mike Juliet Zero, THIS IS Golf Whiskey Three..." or for brevity, "Mike Juliet Zero, Golf Whiskey Three, ROGER and OUT". Never "This is GW3 calling MJ0", "Ground control to Major Tom" nor any other reversed combination.
So far

During transmission with lots of information, this proword can be used between transmissions, to ensure all information is passed on correctly.

Examples of radio communication using procedure words

Example 1

2 helicopters are flying in formation, Indian 610 and Indian 613:

Indian 610: "613, I have a visual on you at my 3 o'clock. 610"

Indian 613: "Roger. 613"

Indian 610: "613, Turn right to a heading of 090. 610"

Indian 613: "Wilco. 613"

Anytime a radio call is made (excepting 'standby' where the correct response is silence), there is some kind of response indicating that the original call was heard. 613's "Roger" confirms to 610 that the information was heard. In the second radio call from 610, direction was given. 613's "Wilco" means "Will comply."

Reading back an instruction confirms that it was heard correctly. For example, if all 613 says is "Wilco," 610 cannot be certain that he correctly heard the heading as 090. If 613 replies with a read back and the word Wilco ("Turn Right zero-niner-zero, Wilco") then 610 knows that the heading was correctly understood, and that 613 intends to comply.

Example 2
The following is the example of working between two stations, EG93 and VJ50 demonstrating how to confirm information:

EG93: "Victor Juliet Five-Zero, Victor Juliet Five-Zero, this is Echo Golf Niner-Three. Request rendezvous at 51 degrees 37.0N, 001 degrees 49.5W. Read back for check. Over."

VJ50: "Echo Golf Niner-Three, Echo Golf Niner-Three, this is Victor Juliet Five-Zero. I read back: five one degrees three seven decimal zero North, zero zero one degrees four niner decimal five West. Over."


Distress, urgency and safety prowords (used for maritime and aeronautical VHF)[edit]

Mayday (distress)[edit]

Main article: Mayday (distress signal)

I, my vessel or a person aboard my vessel is in grave and imminent danger, send immediate assistance. This call takes priority over all other calls.

The correct format for a Mayday call is as follows:

[The first part of the signal is known as the call]

"Mayday, Mayday, Mayday,

This is (vessel name repeated three times, followed by call sign if available)

[The subsequent part of the signal is known as the message]
Mayday (vessel name)

My position is (position as a LAT-LONG position or bearing and distance from a fixed point)

I am (type of distress, e.g. on fire and sinking)

I require immediate assistance

I have (number of people on board and their condition)

(Any other information e.g. "I am abandoning to life rafts")

Over"

VHF instructors, specifically those working for the Royal Yachting Association, often suggest the mnemonic MIPDANIO for learning the message of a mayday signal: Mayday, Identify, Position, Distress, Assistance, Number of crew, Information, Over.

In aviation a different format is used:

[First part of the message] Mayday, Mayday, Mayday
Callsign is stated at the end, followed by either "Heavy" or "Super", though this is not always necessary.

Nature of the emergency

For example: Mayday, Mayday, Mayday, Earth Air 999, we have lost both of our engines, due to a bird strike, we are gliding now.

After that pilot can give, or the controller can ask for, additional information, such as, fuel and number of passengers on board.

Pan pan (urgency)[edit]

Main article: Pan-pan

(pronounced /ˈpænˈpæn/) [5]

I, my vessel or a person aboard my vessel requires assistance but is not in distress. This overrides all but a MAYDAY call, and is used, as an example, for calling for medical assistance or if the station has no means of propulsion. The correct call is:

Pan pan, Pan pan, Pan pan

All stations, all stations, all stations
This is [vessel name repeated three times]

My position is [position as a LAT-LONG position or bearing and distance from a fixed point]

I am [type of urgency, e.g. drifting without power in a shipping lane]

I require [type of assistance required]

[Any other information e.g. size of vessel, which may be important for towing]

Over

Securité (safety)[edit]

pronounced /seɪˈkjuːrᵻteɪ/ say-KEWR-i-tay

I have important meteorological, navigational or safety information to pass on. This call is normally broadcast on a defined channel (channel 16 for maritime VHF) and then moved onto another channel to pass the message. Example:

[On channel 16]

Securité, Securité, Securité.
All stations, all stations, all stations.

This is Echo Golf Niner-Three, Echo Golf Niner-Three, Echo Golf Niner-Three.

For urgent navigational warning, listen on channel six-seven.

Out.

[Then on channel 67]

Securité, Securité, Securité.

All stations, all stations, all stations.

This is Echo Golf Niner-Tree (three), Echo Golf Niner-Tree, Echo Golf Niner-Tree.

Floating debris sighted off Calshot Spit.

Considered a danger to surface navigation.
Out.

ACP 125(F) procedure words[edit]

Proword Explanation Prosign/ OPSIG

ACKNOWLEDGE (ACK) An instruction to the addressee that the message must be acknowledged ZEV or QSL

ADDRESS GROUP The group that follows is an address group

ALL AFTER The portion of the message to which I have reference is all that follows............... AA

ALL BEFORE The portion of the message to which I have reference is all that precedes............ AB

ANSWER AFTER The station called is to answer after call sign........when answering transmissions. ZGO

ASSUME CONTROL You will assume control of this net until further notice ZKD

AUTHENTICATE The station called is to reply to the challenge which follows INT ZNB

AUTHENTICATION IS The transmission authentication of this message is............

BREAK I hereby indicate the separation of the text from other portions of the message BT

BROADCAST YOUR NET Link the two nets under your control for automatic rebroadcast

CALL SIGN The group that follows is a call sign

CLOSE DOWN Stations are to close down when indicated. Acknowledgments are required ZKJ

CORRECT You are correct, or what you have transmitted is correct. C

CORRECTION An error has been made in this transmission. Transmission will continue with the last word correctly transmitted.

An error has been made in this transmission (or message indicated). The correct version is......
That which follows is a corrected version in answer to your request for verification. EEEEEEEE

C

C

DISREGARD THIS TRANSMISSION – OUT This transmission is in error, disregard it. (This proword shall not be used to cancel any message that has been completely transmitted and receipted. EEEEEEE AR

DO NOT ANSWER Stations called are not to answer this call, receipt for this message, or otherwise transmit in connection with this transmission. When this proword is employed, the transmission shall be ended with the proword OUT. F

EXECUTE Carry out the purport of the message or signal to which this applies. (To be used only with the Executive Method.) IX-----

EXECUTE TO FOLLOW Action on the message or signal which follows is to be carried out upon receipt of the proword EXECUTE. (To be used only with the Delayed Executive Method.) IX

EXEMPT The station(s) immediately following is (are) exempted from the collective call or from collective address XMT

FIGURES Numerals or numbers follow.

FLASH Precedence FLASH. Z

FROM The originator of this message is indicated by the address designator immediately following FM

GRID The portion following is a grid reference

GROUPS This message contains the number of groups indicated by the numeral following. GR

GROUP NO COUNT The groups in this message have not been counted. GRNC

I AM ASSUMING CONTROL I am assuming control of this net until further notice ZKA

I AUTHENTICATE The group that follows is the reply to your challenge to authenticate ZNB

IMMEDIATE Precedence IMMEDIATE O
IMMEDIATE EXECUTE Action on the message or signal following is to be carried out on receipt of the EXECUTE. (To be used only with the Immediate Executive Method.) IX

INFO The addressees immediately following are addressed for information INFO

I READ BACK The following is my response to your instructions to read back IRB

I SAY AGAIN I am repeating transmission or portion indicated. IMI

I SPELL I shall spell the next word phonetically.

I VERIFY That which follows has been verified at your request and is repeated. (To be used only as a reply to VERIFY.) C

MESSAGE A message which requires recording is about to follow. (Transmitted immediately after the call. This proword is not used on nets primarily employed for conveying messages. It is intended for use when messages are passed on tactical or reporting nets.) ZBO

MORE TO FOLLOW Transmitting station has additional traffic for the receiving station. B

NEGATIVE (NEGAT) No. Cancel message(s) sent by the Delayed Executive Method. (NEGAT may be used to cancel a single message or a group of messages awaiting execution.) ZUG

NET NOW All stations are to net their radios on the unmodulated carrier wave which I am about to transmit. ZRC2

NO PLAY During exercises the words NO PLAY are used to distinguish real activity from messages concerned with exercise play e.g. a real emergency or real casualty. The first words of any message is to contain the words exercise (nickname e.g.Red Flag) NO PLAY

NOTHING HEARD To be used when no reply is received from a call station. ZGN

NUMBER Station serial number. NR

OUT This is the end of my transmission to you and no answer is required or expected. AR

OVER This is the end of my transmission to you and a response is necessary. Go ahead, transmit K

PRIORITY Precedence PRIORITY P
READ BACK Repeat this entire transmission back to me exactly as received.

REBROADCAST YOUR NET Link the two nets under your control for automatic rebroadcast.

RELAY (TO) Transmit this message to all addressees (or addressees immediately following this proword). The address component is mandatory when this proword is used. T or ZOF

RELAY THROUGH Relay your message through call sign........ ZOK

ROGER This is a method of receipt. I have received your last transmission satisfactorily. R

ROUTINE Precedence ROUTINE. R

SAY AGAIN Repeat all of your last transmission. Followed by identification data means “Repeat......... (portion indicated).” IMI

SEND YOUR I am ready to receive your message, report, etc. K

(Used only in reply to the offer of a message, etc., on tactical or reporting nets.)

SERVICE The message that follows is a SERVICE message SVC

SIGNALS The groups which follow are taken from a signal book. (This proword is not used on nets primarily employed for conveying signals. It is intended for use when tactical signals are passed on non-tactical nets.)

SILENCE (Repeated three or more times) Cease transmissions on this net immediately. Silence will be maintained until lifted. (Transmissions must be authenticated by use of a self authenticated system, codeword, etc.) HM HM HM

SILENCE LIFTED Silence is lifted. (Transmissions must be authenticated by means of self authentication system, codeword, etc.) ZUG HM HM HM

SPEAK SLOWER Your transmission is too fast. Reduce speed of transmission. QRS

STOP REBROADCASTING Cut the automatic link between the two nets that are being rebroadcast and revert to normal working.

THIS IS This transmission is from the station whose designator immediately follows. DE

THIS IS A DIRECTED NET From now until further notice this net is directed. ZKB
THIS IS A FREE NET From now until further notice this net is free. ZUG ZKB

THROUGH ME Relay your message through me ZOE

TIME That which immediately follows is the time or datetime group of the message. QTR

TO The addressees immediately following are addressed for action TO

--TO-- The portion of the message to which I have reference is all that which appears between the groups........and........

UNKNOWN STATION The identity of the station with whom I am attempting to establish communication is unknown. AA

USE ABBREVIATED CALL SIGNS Call signs are to be abbreviated until further notice.

USE ABBREVIATED PROCEDURE As conditions are normal, all stations are to use abbreviated procedure until further notice.

USE FULL CALL SIGNS Call signs are to be sent in full until further notice

USE FULL PROCEDURE As conditions are not normal, all stations are to use full procedure until further notice.

VERIFY Verify entire message (or portion indicated) with the originator and send correct version. (To be used only at the discretion of, or by, the addressee to which the questioned message was directed.) J

WAIT I must pause for a few seconds AS

WAIT – OUT I must pause for longer than a few seconds. AS AR

WILCO I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR SIGNAL, UNDERSTAND IT, AND WILL COMPLY. To be used only by the addressee. Since the meaning of ROGER is included in that of WILCO, the two prowords are never used together.

WORD AFTER The word of the message to which I have reference is that which follows.............. WA

WORD BEFORE The word of the message to which I have reference is that which precedes.............. WB
WORDS TWICE Communication is difficult. Transmit each phrase (or each code group) twice.
(This proword may be used as an order, request, or as information.) QSZ

WRONG Your last transmission was incorrect. The correct version is.......