

Center for Deployment Psychology

Common Military Acronyms and Terminology

- ADSEP – Administrative Separation
- ABU – Airman Battle Uniform
- ACU – Army Combat Uniform
- AFSC – Air Force Specialty Code
- AOR – Area of Responsibility
- APO – Army Post Office (overseas address)
- AWOL – Absent Without Leave (Army and Air Force)
- Base – Air Force or Navy Installation
- Battle Rattle – Body armor/battle gear
- BIAP – Baghdad International Airport
- Boots on the ground – Once deployed personnel touch ground in theater
- BX – Base Exchange
- Camp – Marine Corps installation
- CHU – Containerized Housing Unit
- CO – Commanding Officer
- CONUS/OCONUS – Continental United States, Outside the Continental United States
- COSC – Combat and Operational Stress Control
- COSR – Combat and Operational Stress Reactions
- DADT – “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”
- DD 214 – Certificate of release or discharge from active duty service
- DFAC – Dining facility/mess hall
- Down range – Deployed
- EOD – Explosive Ordnance Disposal
- FOB – Forward Operating Base; Forward Operations Base
- Garrison – A body of troops; the place where such troops are stationed; any military post, especially a permanent one
- GWOT – Global War on Terrorism
- HBCT – Heavy Brigade Combat Team
- HEMTT – Heavy Expanded Mobile Tactical Truck
- HMMWV – High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle (Humvee)
- IBCT – Infantry Brigade Combat Team
- IED/VBED – Improvised Explosive Device/Vehicle Borne Explosive Device
- Inside the wire – On base down range
- IRR – Individual Ready Reserve
- JAG – Judge Advocate General (military lawyers)
- Kevlar – Typically the helmet made of the material Kevlar
- Leave – Off duty (usually vacation)
- LIMDU – Limited Duty
- MEB/PEB – Medical Evaluation Board/Physical Evaluation Board
- MEDEVAC – Medical Evacuation
- MEU – Marine Expeditionary Unit
- MOB/DEMOB – Mobilization/Demobilization
- MOB – Main Operating Base; Main Operations Base
- MOPP – Mission Oriented Protective Postures
- MOS – Military Occupational Specialty (Army and Marine Corps)
- MP – Military Police (Air Force is SF – Security Forces)

- MRAP – Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles
- MRE – Meal, Ready to Eat
- NBC – Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical
- NCO – Non-Commissioned Officer
- NEC – Naval Enlisted Classification
- NJP – Non-Judicial Punishment
- OCP – Operation Enduring Freedom Camouflage Pattern (“multi-cams”)
- OCS – Officer Candidate School
- OEF – Operation Enduring Freedom
- OIF – Operation Iraqi Freedom
- OND – Operation New Dawn
- OPSEC – Operations Security
- OPTEMPO – Operating Tempo/Operations Tempo
- Outside the wire – Off base down range
- PCS – Permanent change of station (relocating)
- PDA – Post Deployment Assessment
- PDHA – Post Deployment Health Assessment
- PDHRA – Post Deployment Health Re-Assessment
- Post – Army installation
- PX – Post Exchange
- RCT – Regimental Combat Team
- Sandbox/Sandpit – Iraq
- SBCT – Stryker Brigade Combat Team
- Sick Call – Time allotted to see medical provider
- SNCO – Senior Non-Commissioned Officer; Staff Non-Commissioned Officer
- SNCOIC – Senior Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge
- TAD – Temporary Area of Duty (Navy and Marine Corps)
- TDY– Temporary Duty (Army and Air Force)
- Theater – The geographical area for which a commander of a geographic combatant command has been assigned responsibility
- UA – Unauthorized Absence (AWOL for Marine Corps and Navy)
- UCMJ – Uniformed Code of Military Justice (the foundation of military law)
- Utes – Utilities (“Boots in Utes” - the Marine Corps utility uniform without the blouse)
- UXO – Unexploded Ordinance (explosive weapons that did not explode when they were employed and still pose a risk of detonation)
- XO – Executive Officer

* Note: This is not a comprehensive list of military acronyms and terminology, but rather a small sampling that can be helpful when engaging with service members/veterans. For a more comprehensive list please refer to the Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms at: http://www.dtic.mil/doctrine/dod_dictionary/