WHAT?! Jarhead Jargon

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0–9

Marine wearing 782 gear

• 29 Stumps – Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, so named for its desolation.\[1\][2]

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

• 48, 72, & 96 – in hours, the standard holiday periods of two, three, or four days of liberty.

• 7 Day Store – Convenience store.

• 782 gear or 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.\[3\]

• 8 bells – signal for the end of a four-hour watch, so named for the increase in bell strikes by two at each hour of the watch.\[4\]

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

A

• above my/your pay grade – expression denying responsibility or authority (indicating that the issue should be brought to higher-ranking officials).\[5\]

• acquire – euphemism denoting theft, sometimes jokingly referred to as "tactical".

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**ALICE** equipment

• **AHA** – [Ammunition](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ammunition) Holding Area, where ammo is stored and issued. See also ASP.  

• **ahoy** – traditional nautical greeting, used for hailing other boats.  

• **airdale** – person who works in aviation; not to be confused with [Airedale Terrier](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Airedale_Terrier).  

• **Air Force salute** – to say, "I don't know" by a [shrug](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shrug).  

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


• **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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Service_Alpas) from the [phonetic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phonetic_alphabets) letter A.  

• **amtrac** or **amtrack**  – portmanteau for amphibious tractor; not to be confused with the railroad company Amtrak.  


• **ant farm** or **ant hill** – combat outpost with a large number of radio antennae visible.  

• **APC** – large, white tablet formerly issued for minor discomfort, that was commonly (albeit mistakenly) called an "all-purpose capsule," in reality named after its
ingredients: aspirin, phenacetin, and caffeine; replaced by 800 mg ibuprofen today; less commonly refers to an armored personnel carrier, primarily an Army term.

- **ARMY** – Aren't Ready for Marines Yet/Aren't Really Men Yet, pejorative backronym used by other branches.

- **Asiatic** – mildly deranged or eccentric as a result of too much foreign duty, or one who has missed too many boats.

- **ASP** – Ammunition Supply Point, where ammo is stored and issued. See also AHA.

- **ass pack** – small pack worn around the belt above the buttocks, similar to Fanny pack. See also butt pack.

- **as you were** – order to disregard the immediately preceding order, often in response to a call to “attention on deck” or when the orders issued were mistaken, commonly misused as "as I was" when speaking to a superior. There is no "as I was", it is always "as you were". [10][11]

- **ate up** – person unaware of what's going on; one who is always lazy, in disarray, and unsatisfactory. [12]

- **aviation units** – See also active squadrons, inactive squadrons, & aviation support units
  - HAMS – Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron, also H&MS
  - HMX – Marine Helicopter Squadron
  - HMH – Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron
  - HML – Marine Light Helicopter Squadrons
  - HMLA – Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron
  - HMLAT – Marine Light Attack Helicopter Training Squadron
  - HMM – Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron
  - HMT – Marine Heavy Helicopter Training Squadron
  - HMMT – Marine Medium Helicopter Training Squadron
  - LAAD Bn – Low-altitude Air Defense Battalion
  - MACG – Marine Air Command Group
  - MACS – Marine Air Control Squadron
  - MAMS – Marine Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
  - MASS – Marine Air Support Squadron
  - MALS – Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron
  - MATCS – Marine Air Traffic Control Squadron
  - 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
  - VMAQ – Marine Electronic Warfare Squadron
• **aye-aye** or **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', once common in the regions from which the Royal Navy drew its sailors.

**B**

![](image)

**bag nasty**, breakfast version

• **baby dick** – small **hot dog** or **sausage**.
• **baby G** – [Brigadier General](https://www.military.com/dictionary/brigadier-general.html), the lowest ranking general.

• **Back on the block** – Behaving informally, like a civilian.

• **bag nasty** – [A-ration](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A-ration) bagged meal issued to Marines (usually recruits or in the field) that usually contains: a sandwich (ham, turkey, and bologna are common), a hard boiled egg, fruit, and a small bag of potato chips; often served with a beverage such as juice or milk.[14]

• **BAH** – [Basic Allowance for Housing](https://www.military.com/dictionary/basic-allowance-for-housing.html), a pay addendum that allows a servicemember to maintain housing appropriate for his or her dependents when not living in government quarters; formerly known as Basic Allowance for Quarters (BAQ).

• **BAM** – pejorative, Broad Assed Marine, term for women Marines.

• **BAMCIS** – mnemonic for the troop leading steps, a tactical decision making process; denotes: Begin the planning, Arrange reconnaissance, Make reconnaissance, Complete the planning, Issue order, Supervise.[15]

• **barracks cover** – fabric-covered frame cap, worn green with the [service uniform](https://www.military.com/dictionary/service-uniform.html) and white with the [dress uniform](https://www.military.com/dictionary/dress-uniform.html); traditionally, officers wear this cap with the quatrefoil and gilt devices that increase with rank.

• **barracks queen** – woman (servicewoman or civilian) who has had sex with a large number of servicemen in a unit.

• **barracks rat** – servicemember who rarely voluntarily leaves his or her living quarters.[16]

• **BAS** – Battalion Aid Station, a unit’s medical post ashore for routine illnesses and injuries; also [Basic Allowance for Subsistence](https://www.military.com/dictionary/basic-allowance-for-subsistence.html), a pay addendum that allows a servicemember to feed his or her family in lieu of government dining facilities. See also [sick bay](https://www.military.com/dictionary/sick-bay.html).

• **Battalion Lance Corporal** – most senior non-[NCO](https://www.military.com/dictionary/non-commissioned-officer.html) in the unit; the Lance Corporal who, while having a lot of time in grade, is the least likely to be promoted to the rank of [Corporal](https://www.military.com/dictionary/corporal.html). See also [terminal lance](https://www.military.com/dictionary/terminal-lance.html).

• **battle blaze** – original name for the [1st & 2nd Marine Division](https://www.military.com/dictionary/1st-marine-division.html) shoulder sleeve insignias designed after the units’ service in the [Battle of Guadalcanal](https://www.military.com/dictionary/battle-of-guadalcanal.html).

• **battle buddy** – sarcastic euphemism deriving from orders for Marines to not go on liberty alone when stationed overseas.[17]

• **battle pin** – [tie clasp](https://www.military.com/dictionary/tie-clasp.html) or tie tack, originally a metal collar bar worn on the shirt collar until the beginning of [World War II](https://www.military.com/dictionary/world-war-ii.html).
- **battle zero** or **battle sight zero** or **BZO** – calibrated settings on the sights of a weapon that allow the shooter to overcome various factors and hit accurately at a given range, used as a default before adjusting windage or elevation; also used as a verb when firing to triangulate a BZO by trial and error.

![BCGs](image)

- **BCGs** or **BCs** – Birth Control Glasses or Boot Camp Glasses, unattractive military issue glasses worn at recruit training; so named that the wearer could not influence the opposite sex into sexual relations.\[20\] See also portholes & RPGs.

- **beans, bullets and bandages** – expression used to refer to those things a logistician must provide his or her unit: rations, ammunition, and medical care.

- **beer garden** – area set aside for the social consumption of alcohol and smoking of tobacco; may contain barbecue or picnic facilities.

- **beer-thirty** – time of dismissal from the day's duties (and thus allowed to drink alcohol). See also COB.

- **belay** – to cancel an order; to stop; to firmly secure a line.

- **below** – down the ladder well; below decks.

- **BEQ** – Bachelor Enlisted Quarters, living spaces for single enlisted Marine, usually a barracks.\[21\]

- **BCD** – Bad Conduct Discharge, also nicknamed Big Chicken Dinner.

- **big green weenie** – an expression denoting that a Marine has been "fucked over" or cheated by the Marine Corps, usually in relation to an inconvenience or unfair treatment.\[22\]

- **billet** – specific role or job within the unit (for example, the billet of Company First Sergeant is held by the senior enlisted advisor, usually a First Sergeant, but could be a Master Sergeant or Gunnery Sergeant); not to be confused with rank, though some billets have a traditionally-held rank associated.

- **BB counter** or **BB stacker** – servicemember whose duties relate to the storage, issue, or handling of ordnance.\[18\][19]

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• **binnacle list** – sick list, a list of men excused from duty; traditionally, it was posted on or near the *binnacle*.

• **bird, ball, and hook** – pejorative for *Eagle, Globe, and Anchor*.

• **bird farm** – pejorative for *aircraft carrier*.

• **blanket party** – group assault on a service member, repeatedly striking him or her, preceded by covering the victim's head by a blanket so he or she cannot identify the perpetrators.

• **blood stripe** – scarlet trouser stripe worn on the *blue dress trousers*, awarded to Marine officers and *NCOs* due, according to legend,\(^\text{[23]}\) to their high fatality rates in the *Battle of Chapultepec*. Also a form of hazing where fellow NCO's inflict damage to the outer thighs of a newly promoted Corporal.

• **blooper** – *grenade launcher*, from the distinctive noise made when firing. See also *thump gun*.

• **blouse** – military dress coat or jacket; or as a verb to tuck one's trousers into boots or otherwise secure excess pants legging.

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

• **blues** – *Blue Dress uniform*.

• **Bn** – abbreviation for *battalion*.

• **boat** – *naval vessel*, considered a pejorative because all *commissioned vessels* other than submarines are known as "*ships*".

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

• **boot** – recruit, or derisive term for a Marine just out of training.
The first thing a recruit sees at boot camp

- **boots and utes** or **boots'n'utes** – boots and utility uniform, minus the blouse; sometimes used for physical training or working in hot environments.

- **boot bands** or **blousing bands** – elastic straps or coiled springs used to roll trouser legging under at the boot and simulate tucking into the boot itself; used in blousing boots.

- **boot camp** – recruit training for enlisted Marines at Parris Island, SC and San Diego, CA; while there are several explanations for it being so named, many refer to the fact that recruits wear boots nearly every day of their training.

- **BOQ** – Bachelor Officer Quarters, housing for single Marine officers. [24][25]

- **box-kicker** – pejorative for servicemember who works in supply, specifically, a warehouse clerk. [26]

- **boxsee** – hospital corpsman, from the Vietnamese word "Bac Si" meaning "doctor". See also doc.

- **brain bucket** – helmet. [27]

- **brain-housing group** – thought processing, used as a parallel to a rifle's trigger housing group. [28]

- **brain strap** elastic strap used for securing eyeglasses during rigorous activities, usually found on BCG's

- **brass** – brass uniform items; expended casings from weapons; term for senior officers from the metal of their rank insignia.

- **brat** – longtime dependent children.
• **the bricks** – barracks.

• **brig** – prison or place of confinement aboard ship or ashore at a Marine Corps or naval station.

• **brig rat** – person who has served much brig time, a habitual offender.\(^{[29]}\)

• **brightwork** – brass or shiny metal, which Marines must polish.\(^{[30]}\)

• **broke-dick** – servicemember on light, limited, or no duty status for medical reasons;\(^{[31]}\) also malfunctioning or unserviceable equipment.

• **brown-bagger** – a servicemember (usually married) who lives off base with his family, termed because he or she does not eat at the mess hall and must bring his/her meals with him.\(^{[32]}\)

• **buddy-fucker** or **blue falcon** – negligent or malicious disregard for another servicemember's career, comfort, or time, often for personal gain.\(^{[33]}\)

• **bug juice** – insect repellent; also flavored juice made from a powder (such as Kool-Aid).\(^{[34]}\)

• **bulkhead** – wall.\(^{[35]}\)

• **bum scoop** – bad information.\(^{[36]}\)

• **bus driver** – Air Force pilot, so termed for the appearance of early USAF uniforms and the function they serve.

• **busted** or **busted down** – reduced in rank, from the term meaning "caught in the act".

• **butt pack** – small waist pack worn around the belt above the buttocks, similar to Fanny pack.\(^{[37]}\) See also ass pack.

• **butts** – pit(s) on a shooting range where targets are located. See also pits and pull butts / pits.

• **butter bar** – Second Lieutenant, so named for the single gold bar rank insignia.\(^{[38]}\)

• **by the numbers** or **Barney-style** – to perform an action in sequence and strictly according to regulations, idiot proof, oversimplified for the benefit of lower-intelligence people.\(^{[39]}\)

• "**by your leave, sir/ma'am.**" – expression used to render respect when overtaking a senior proceeding in the same direction, in conjunction with a salute; traditionally, the senior must offer permission before the junior passes him or her.\(^{[40]}\)
CAC

- **C & S** – "Clean & Sober" notation formerly entered on the liberty list beside the names of Marines returning from liberty in that condition.

- **C2** – Command and control.

- **CAC** – Common Access Card, an electronic identification method used to allow a person access to the Navy/Marine Corps Intranet. [41]

- **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. [42][43]

- **call out** – to challenge, often by announcing incriminating information about a person.[44] See also drop a dime.

- **cammies** – camouflage utility uniform. [45]

- **campaign cover** – official term for the brown campaign hat worn by drill instructors. See also field hat, hat, & smokey bear/brown.

- **cannon cocker** – artilleryman. [46][47] See also gun bunny and red leg.

- **Canoe U.** – nickname for United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland. [48] See also South Maryland Small Boat & Barge Institute.

- **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. [49]

- **carry on** – order to continue after being interrupted.
**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 of transport available, as opposed to a **MEDEVAC** carried out by ambulance equipment designed solely for the purpose. See also **MEDEVAC**.

**Casual Company** or **CasCo** – 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.

**CAX** – **Combined Arms eXercise**.

**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**.

**Chair Force** – derogatory term for the **US Air Force**.

**chairborne** or **chairborne ranger** – someone who works in an office environment, a play on **airborne**.

**chalk** – squad of servicemembers in an aircraft that will or have been deployed to the ground (rappelling or parachuting).

A single **chevron**

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

**chaser** – shortened form of prisoner-chaser or brig chaser, an escort for a prisoner or detail of prisoners.

**check fire** – order to stop firing due to a safety condition, possible error or mistarget.
• **Chesty Puller** – used in reference to Marines that have been awarded many ribbons and medals.

• **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. [59]

• **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". [60]

• **CIF** – Consolidated Issue Facility, a place on a station where all personal equipment is stored and issued, often contracted to civilians. [61]

• **Cinderella liberty** – liberty expiring at midnight.

• **civ div** – civilian life after leaving service. [62]

• **civvies** – civilian clothing or mufti. [63][64][65]

• **CLP** – Cleaner, Lubricant, Preservative, teflon-based cleaning and lubricating fluid used for maintaining small arms.

• **clusterfuck** – chaotic and messy situation; multiple mistakes or problems happening in rapid succession. See also goat rope / goat rodeo / goat screw.

• **CMC** – acronym for Commandant of the Marine Corps. [66]

• **CNN effect** – fascination or disruption created by extensive, live television presence in a combat zone. [67]

• **COB** – Close Of Business, the end of working hours; or Close Order Battle, a synonym for CQB. See also beer-thirty.

• **Colonel** – proper means of addressing lieutenant colonels and colonels.

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

• **corfams or corframs** – 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".[68] See also boxsee.

- **cover** – headgear; 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.[69]

- **covered and uncovered** – when wearing and not wearing headgear, respectively.

- **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** – tear gas or 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".[70]

**D**

- **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.

- **dai jobu** – Japanese for OK.

- **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.

- **deck** – floor or surface of the earth; to punch or knock down with one blow.[35]
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.

- **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[^71] though the correct grammatical form would be "Teufelshunde"[^72][^73].

- **devil dogging** – correcting another Marine's minor deficiency, often in public with implied humiliation.[^74]

- **devil pup** – nickname for a Marine's child(ren); a member of the Young Marines; a patronizing nickname for a junior Marine.

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

- **DI hut** or **duty 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.
- **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** – Deep Infiltration and Extraction Team, to "leap frog" across great distances by utilizing helicopters as ground refueling points to perform special missions; later known as FARP.

- **digis or diggis** – digital camouflage such as MARPAT; also refers to the digital-patterned MCCUU.

- **Disneyland East** – Headquarters Marine Corps at Arlington, Virginia.

- **Doc or Devil Doc** – Navy hospital corpsman attached to the Marines. See also boxsee.

- **dog** – small metal fitting used to secure watertight doors, hatches, covers, scuttles, etc.; also, to close/secure such door/hatch; also, slang for Marine, from the term Devil Dog.

- **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 which has a generally cylindrical or phallic shape with unknown, or obscure official name.

- **dope** – information, or sight settings and/or wind corrections for a rifle under given conditions, possibly from aircraft dope.
• **downrange** or **down-range** – dangerous area, from the portion of a **shooting range** that receives impacts; also the execution of a plan.

• **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.[75][76]

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

• **drop a dime** – to reveal incriminating information about a person. See also **call out**.

• **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**.[77]

• **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** – **Eagle, Globe, and Anchor**, the emblem of the Marine Corps.
• eight ball – a Marine who lacks an aggressive spirit.[28]

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

• 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 – embedded journalist assigned a slot within a combat unit.

• Ensign – colors, national flag; also the most junior commissioned officer rank in the US Navy.

• 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

• 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 of his or her normal chain of command.

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 – sleeping bag; linen a mattress is inserted into.
- **fast-mover** – fast-moving *fixed-wing aircraft*; term popular during the *Vietnam War* but fallen into disuse as *jets* replaced *propeller* as the dominant aircraft.

- **fat-body** – overweight recruit or servicemember.

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

- **Fiddler's Green** – imaginary afterlife; paradise.

- **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 expediency** – *improvisation*, to make do with what's available.

- **field hat** – *campaign cover*, a broad-brimmed felt hat, originally with one straight crease down the middle, then with a Montana peak, worn on expeditionary missions from 1912 to 1942, and then again authorized in 1961 for wear at recruit depots by drill instructors and rifle ranges by marksmanship instructors. See also *campaign cover*, *hat*, & *smokey bear/brown*.

- **field meet** – organized sporting competition, often involving athletics and/or soldierly skills.

- **field music** – drummer, trumpeter, bugler, fifer; mostly an antiquated term.

- **field scarf** – khaki uniform *necktie*.

- **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.

- **fifty-cal or fitty-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".

- **final protective line** – the perimeter at which the enemy has begun to overrun friendly troops, signals the commencement of final protective fire in desperate self-defense.

- **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 shirt** – company or battery First Sergeant.

- **fitness report** or **fitrep** – 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. [35][79]

- **flak jacket** – antiquated term for *ballistic vest* or body armor.

- **float** – deployment aboard ship.

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

- **FNG** – Fucking New Guy, derogatory term for a Marine recently graduated recruit training and new to a unit.

- **Fbbie** or **Fobbit** – A marine who rarely sees combat; pejorative term for marines stuck inside a forward operating base.
• **fore-and-aft cap** – soft green *garrison cap* worn with the *service uniform*. See also *piss cover/cutter*.

• **form ID-10T** or **ID-ten-tango** – prank *fool's errand* where an unsuspecting Marine is asked to find the fake item, not knowing it is an *orthograph* for "idiot".

• **Fortitudine** – former motto of the 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.

• **foxhole** – fighting hole as termed by the Army and Marines of the past, no longer appropriate for Marine use.

• **FRAGO** – FRAGmentary Order, an addendum to published operational orders.

• **frock** – to be authorized to wear the next higher grade before promotion, confers authority but not pay grade.

• **FUBAR** – Fucked/Fouled Up Beyond All Recognition/Repair. See also *SNAFU*.

• **FUBIJAR** – Fuck yoU Buddy, I'm Just A Reservist.[80][81]

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

G

• **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.[85][83][84]

• **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 cap** or **garrison cover** – soft green folded cap worn with the *service uniform*. See also *fore-and-aft cap* and *piss cover/cutter*. 
• **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.\[85\] See also pogy bait.

• **General** – method of addressing a Brigadier General, Major General, Lieutenant General, or General.

• **general orders** – list of 11 General Orders for Sentries detailing rules for guard or sentry duty.

• **gerbil launcher** – M203 grenade launcher.

• **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.\[86\]

• **Gitmo** – U.S. Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

• **go-fasters** – running shoes or sneakers, named so because they help a person run faster than boots.\[87\]

• **goat rope** or **goat rodeo** or **goat screw** – chaotic and messy situation.\[88\][89\] See also cluster fuck.

• **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 malingers 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.\[90\][91\]

• **Gook** – anything foreign or strange.\[92\]

• **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.\[93\]
• **gouge** – information or news. See also **word**.

• **grab-ass** – horseplay, loafing, lounging.\(^{[94]}\)

• **greens** – **service uniforms** in reference to their color.

• **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.\(^{[95]}\)

• **ground guide** – person who walks in front of a vehicle in order to detect and avoid obstacles and guide the driver to the proper spot.\(^{[96]}\)

• **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.\(^{[97]}\)

• **guide** – unit **guidon**-bearer; in **recruit training**, also the senior recruit and responsible for the actions of all recruits in a platoon.\(^{[98]}\)

• **gun bunny** – **artilleryman**, so named for the hearing loss associated with working around cannons.\(^{[99]}\) See also **cannon cocker** and **red leg**.

• **Gung ho** – Chinese phrase meaning to "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 the Officer In Charge if he or she is of warrant officer rank.

• **Gunny** – nickname for Gunnery Sergeant, improper to call a Master Gunnery Sergeant this.[100][101]

• **Gunny rolls** – poorly-rolled sleeves on the MCCUU, so named from the tendency for some older Marines to take a sloppier approach to uniforms.[102]

• **gyrene** – Vietnam War-era nickname for Marine, often thought an insult; combination of the words "GI" and "Marine".[103][104]

**H**

• **half-mast**

• **H&S or Hide & Slide or Hate & Skate or HotDog & Soda Co.** – Headquarters & Service/Supply Company, much like a Headquarters Battalion.

• **hack** – arrest.

• **hajji** – Arab or Middle Eastern person or object, from the Arabic term for one who has completed a pilgrimage to Mecca, or "haji".

• **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" amongst non-naval forces.
• **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.

• **hat** – drill instructor, so named for the distinctive campaign hat they wear; usually reserved for other or former drill instructor use. See also campaign cover, field hat, & smokey bear/brown.

• **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.

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** – junior drill instructor who performs more discipline and punishment tasks than his peers.

• **hell hole** – hatch mounted in the deck of many helicopters (such as the CH-53E Super Stallion) for rappeling and cargo lifting.

• **helo** – Helicopter. "Chopper" is an Army term.

• **HEDP** – High-Explosive Dual Purpose, type of armor piercing ammunition.
• **high and 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.

• **high and tight** – nickname for a common variant of the buzz cut, where the hair is clipped very close.

• **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.

• **HMMWV** or **humvee** – High-Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle, common utility truck.

• **Hollywood Marine** – Marine graduated from Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, stemming from rivalry between the two recruit depots.

• **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", "hancho"; also a nickname for Okinawan taxi drivers.

• **hooch** or **hootch** – tent, hut, or otherwise temporary or ramshackle dwelling.

• **Hot-Shit** – sarcastic reference to an overly arrogant person.

• **horse-cock sandwich** – any sandwich or meal created using an unknown or mystery 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.

• **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".

I

• **I & I** – Inspector-Instructor, an active duty Marine assigned to supervise the training of a reserve unit.

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

• **IED** – *Improvised Explosive Device*, bomb constructed, set, and detonated in unconventional warfare; the acronym can be modified to denote a specific type of IED (such as VBIED, a Vehicle Borne IED).

• **IG** – *Inspector General*.

• **IG Inspection** – official inspection of a command or unit by the IG or his representatives.

• **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.[105][106][107] See also *pitting* & *quarterdecking*.

• **inkstick** – *pen*[^35]
- **Irish pennant** or **IP** – 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**

- **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. See also **shower shoes**.

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

• **joe** – *coffee*, so named because the United States Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels eliminated *beer* and *wine* from naval ships, declaring nothing stronger than coffee would be allowed.

• **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.

• **JTF** – *Joint Task Force*, a provisional unit or formation from more than one branch of service.

• **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

![](image)

**KA-BAR**

• **K** or **klicks** – kilometer.

• **KA-BAR** – fighting/utility knife first issued during *World War II*.

• **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.

• **Kuni** – [Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni](http://example.com).

**L**

• **ladder well** – [stairway](http://example.com) or [ladder](http://example.com) 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 Coolie, Lance Criminal, or Lance Coconut** – derogatory terms for [Lance Corporal](http://example.com).

• **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](http://example.com) that a more experienced Marine would immediately recognize as false.[108][109]

• **landing gear** – crossed rifles exposed on the rank insignia of [Lance Corporals](http://example.com), [Corporals](http://example.com), and [Sergeants](http://example.com).

• **Land of the big BX** – used in reference to [CONUS](http://example.com) by Marines deployed overseas. A borrowed term from the Army, "...of the big PX."

• **lawn dart** – pejorative for various aircraft, possibly from the [lawn dart effect](http://example.com).[110]

• **LBV** – Load Bearing [Vest](http://example.com), personal equipment used to keep the most commonly used items within easy reach utilizing the [PALS](http://example.com), usually a component of [MOLLE](http://example.com) or [ILBE](http://example.com).

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

• **leadstick** – [pencil](http://example.com).

• **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](http://example.com) still bears a high stock collar today. Also, [Leatherneck Magazine](http://example.com).

• **leg** – servicemember who does not rate to wear the [Parachutist Insignia](http://example.com), borrowed from the Army [Airborne](http://example.com).

• **leggings** – leg coverings made of canvas with eyelets and laces or buckles to secure the trouser legs over [boots](http://example.com).[111]
• **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.

• **lifertool** – multi-tool, so named because a lifer would inevitably need a tool of such utility.

• **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.[112]

• **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.
• **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

• **M** – a prefix to the model number of a specific nomenclature of equipment, generally considered to denote "model" or "mark".

• **ma'am** – proper method of addressing female officers in particular and all women in general.

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

• **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*.

![Master Guns](image)

• **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 suffix "*san*".
• **MARINE** – Muscles Are Required, Intelligence Non-Essential or My Ass Rides In 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 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.

• **Marine Mattress** – a woman who is thought to be sexually promiscuous with other Marines. [citation needed]

• **MBT** – Main Battle Tank, currently the M1 Abrams.

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

• **MCMAP** – Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.

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

• **MCX** – Marine Corps eXchange, a military department store, less formally known as the PX.

• **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**.

• **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.
• **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.[115]

• **mike** – **minute**.

• **mike-mike** – millimeter.

• **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 early female Marines, especially a statue of **Opha Mae Johnson**.

• **monkey suit** – military uniforms in general; originally, the fur suit used by aviators at high altitudes.

• **moonbeam** – **flashlight**.

• **MOPP** – **Mission Oriented Protective Posture**, 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 use to describe a person, object, or event that would motivate an individual Marine.
• **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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_Operation_in_Urban_Terrain). See also CQB/CQC.

• **MOS** – Military Occupational Specialty, a job classification.

• **MP** – [Military Police](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modular_Tactical_Vest), the newest type of ballistic vest for Marines.

• **MTVR** – [Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medium_Tactical_Vehicle_Replacement) See also 7-ton.

• **MWD** – [Military Working Dog](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_Working_Dog), a trained government canine for law enforcement, detection of explosives and/or drugs, sentry, or other military use(s).

N

NK

• **NAVY** – Never Again Volunteer Yourself, pejorative backronym used by sailors who regret volunteering.

• **NBC** – [Nuclear, Biological, Chemical](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear,_Biological,_Chemical). See also CBRN.
• **NCIS** – Naval Criminal Investigative Service, the primary law enforcement agency of the DoN, also a television show of the same name.

• **NCO** – NonCommissioned 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 award 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".\[114][115]

• **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.

• **No Such Agency** – backronym for the National Security Agency, so called because of its secretive nature and as a play on words.

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

• **nut(s) to butt(s)** – standing in line extremely close to the person in front, often required in recruit training.
**OCS logo**

- **OCONUS** – Outside of **CONtinenal 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**. 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' club** or **officers' mess** or **O-Club** – recreation facility for officers that often includes a bar, restaurant, game room, and objects of unit significance, such as a mascot or **war trophy**; similar to a **gentlemen's club**.

- **officers' country** – living spaces for officers aboard ship, or portion of post or station allocated for the exclusive use of officers.

- **OFP** – Own Fucking Program, not complying perfectly or **synchronized** with orders assigned to a group.

- **OIC** – Officer In Charge, a commissioned officer responsible for a group of Marines, but without the authority of a **commanding officer**. See also **SNCOIC** & **NCOIC**.

- **OJT** – On-the-Job Training, without a formal school or period of instruction.

- **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** or **ooh rah** or **Urah** – 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**.

• **operational tempo** or **optempo** – the pace or speed of operations for a unit or individual.

• **OPSEC** – **Operation(s/al) Security**, counterintelligence efforts to keep generally unclassified but sensitive information (such as troop movements and deployments) from enemies.

• **OPTEMPO** – OPerational **TEMPO**, or the pace of operations and activities for a given unit.

• **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 to the desert.

P

• **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 ground/field/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.

• **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.

- **piss and punk/puke** – **solitary confinement** on bread and water, which is only authorized aboard ship.

- **piss cover** or **piss cutter** – nickname for soft green **garrison cap** worn with the **service uniform**.[116] See also **fore-and-aft cap**.

- **pit** – depressed area on a **shooting range** where the targets are located, shooters staff it by marking, raising, and lowering targets from behind a **berm**.[117] 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.[118] See also **quarterdecking**.

- **pizza box** – 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](https://www.mil-ep.com/honors/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.

• **PMCS** – [Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services](https://www.mil-ep.com/maintenance/preventive-maintenance-checks-and-services), regularly performed maintenance on equipment, as opposed to corrective maintenance.


• **POC** – Point Of Contact, the person to liaison with on a given matter.

• **pogue or POG** – Marine not of the combat arms ([infantry](https://www.mil-ep.com/units/infantry), [armor](https://www.mil-ep.com/units/armor), and [artillery](https://www.mil-ep.com/units/artillery)), etymology is disputed: possibly "pogue" derived from the [Tagalog](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tagalog) word meaning "prostitute" or the [Erse Gaelic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erse) word meaning "to kiss [my ass]", while "POG" could be from the acronym Persons Other than [Grunt](https://www.mil-ep.com/units/infantry), but could be a [backronym](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Backronym).

• **poguey or pogey bait** – Candy or sweets. See also [geedunk](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geedunk).

• **poguey or pogey rope** – The French [Fourragère](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fourrag%C3%A8re) authorized for wear by members of the [5th](https://www.mil-ep.com/units/infantry) and [6th Marine Regiments](https://www.mil-ep.com/units/infantry).

• **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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smoke_bomb) [grenade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smoke_grenade) to mark a [landing zone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Landing_zone) or conceal a [retreat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Retreat_(military)).

• **port** – naval term for "left"; opposite of [starboard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Starboard).

• **portholes** – [military issue eyeglasses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_issued_eyewear), or the wearer of glasses. See also [BCGs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BCG_%28beach%29) & [RPGs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RPG_%28rocket-propelled_grenade%29).

• **pot shack** – place where cooking utensils are washed.

• **prick** – slang for any equipment bearing the "PRC" [JETDS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joint_Electronic_Tactical_Data_System) designator, usually man-portable radios.

• **property shed** – place where organizational property is stored, often a [warehouse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Storage_facility).
• **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 / pits** – to mark and score targets on a **shooting range** from behind a **berm**. See also butts & pits.

• **PX** – Post eXchange, a term borrowed from the Army; more properly the Marine Corps Exchange.

**Q**

• **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**

• **R&R** – Rest and Relaxation, authorized absence from a combat area to reduce the effects of **combat stress reaction**.

• **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.

• **raider cap** – cover worn with the M1941 HBT utilities

• **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 "Private", a Gunnery Sergeant as "Gunny", a Master Sergeant or First Sergeant as "top", a Master Gunnery Sergeant as "Master Gunny", 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.

• **real world** – civilian life after discharge. See also outside.

• **REMF** – Rear Echelon Mother Fucker, a derision for someone who serves in a non-combatant role.

• **red death** – poorly prepared corned beef with cabbage.

• **red lead** – ketchup/catsup.

• **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.

• **regulation** – to be in accordance with regulations or adopted specifications or issued from government sources.

• **Remington raider** – a typist or clerk in an administration billet.

• **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, volunteering for an additional period of service.
• **RHIP** – Rank Hath Its Privileges, used as a justification for a personal indulgence.

• **rock happy** – eccentric or mildly deranged as a result of long overseas duty at a remote station (traditionally an island).

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

  ![RPG](image)

  **RPG**

• **rotate** – return home at the end of a deployment.

• **RPG** – **Rocket-Propelled Grenade**, a common explosive weapon used by many militaries and insurgent groups; the most common of which is the **RPG-7**.

• **RPGs** or **RPs** – **Rape Prevention Glasses**, unattractive military issue glasses worn at **recruit training**; so named that the wearer would be so unattractive that even a **rapist** would avoid her. See also **BCGs** & **portholes**.[119]

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

• **running lights** – navigational night lights on a ship; Marine's eyes.

[edit] S
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. [120]

- **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.

- **salad, tossed salad** or **fruit salad** – ribbons and medals worn on a uniform, from the colorful appearance of wearing many awards.

- **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.

- **SALUTE** – mnemonic device for a situation report, denotes: Size, Activity, Location, Unit, Time, and Equipment.

- **sandbox** – Iraq or other desert area.

- **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 an officer’s barracks cap visor 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" (make a hole in a ship’s side, causing it to sink), 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. [121][122]

• **seabags**

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

• **seabag** or **sea bag** – duffel bag used to carry one's personal belongings.

• **seabag drag** – manually carrying personal items (often within seabags) to new or temporary living quarters.

• **sea lawyer** – person who dispenses legal advice without any sort of formal training or schooling, inappropriately called a "barracks lawyer".

• **sea story** – story, tale, or yarn calculated to impress others, often contains exaggeration or even outright lies.

• **second hat** – second-most senior drill instructor in a platoon.

• **secret squirrel** – intelligence personnel or activities.

• **secure** – stop, cease; or put away and lock.

• **Semper Fi** – shortened version of "Semper Fidelis", the motto of the Corps, Latin for "always faithful".

• **Semper fu** - nickname for Marine Corps Martial Arts

• **Semper I** – colloquialism denoting selfish or self-centered behavior.

• **semper pie** – condition where the mess hall serves similar items repetitively.
- **shit bag** or **shit bird** – habitually unkempt or undisciplined Marine.

- **shit-brick** – useless or ignorant person.

- **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 colonel** or **short-bird** – **Lieutenant Colonel**, as opposed to **Colonel**. See also **light-colonel** & **half-bird**.

- **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**.

- **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 ranger/commando** – person who constantly finds medical reasons to avoid work, may suffer from a **factitious disorder** such as **hypochondriasis**, **Munchausen syndrome**, or **malingering**.

- **side arms** – weapon (usually a **pistol**) carried by a sentry under arms; also, cream and sugar in coffee.

- **side straddle hop** – **Jumping Jack**.

- **sight in** – aim a weapon at a target using the sights, considered an intention to shoot the target.
- **silver bullet** – [rectal thermometer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rектальный_термометр) used to check the core temperature of a person suffering from heat-related injuries, such as [hyperthermia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hyperthermia); often referred to as an incentive to avoid [dehydration](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dибюрация).

- **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.


- **recruits wearing skivvies**

- **skipper** – nickname for captain (whether [Marine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marine_Corps) or [Navy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Navy) rank), derived from the [Scandinavian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scandinavian_languages) word for ship, "schiffe", and the Dutch word for captain, "schipper". Inappropriate to refer to a commanding officer that is not your own or without permission.

- **skivvies** – underwear: skivvie shirt (T-shirt) and skivvie drawers (underwear).

- **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.


- **slop chute** – impolite term for restaurant within the PX or [beer garden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beer_garden).


- **Smokey Bear or Smokey Brown** – brown campaign cover worn by [drill instructors](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drill_instructor), so named because of their similarity to the hat worn by Smokey Bear. See also campaign cover, [field hat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Field_cap), & [hat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hat).
- **smokin' and jokin'** – when a mass of Marines is acting unproductive.

- **SNAFU** – Situation Normal, All Fouled/Fucked Up.[123][124] See also **FUBAR**.

- **SNCOIC** – Staff NonCommissioned Officer In Charge, a SNCO 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 **NCOIC** & **OIC**.

- **snap in** – conduct sighting in or aiming exercises with an unloaded weapon.

- **snot locker** – nose.

- **snow job** – misleading or grossly exaggerated report; sales talk.

- **snuffie** or **snuffy** – junior Marine, **Lance Corporal** and below.

- **SOP** – **Standard Operating Procedure**, the routine manner of handling a set situation, can be a standing order.

- **SOS** – international distress signal; or Shit On a Shingle, creamed beef on toast.

- **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 of 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*); a person's *throat*.

• **staff NCO or SNCO** – *Staff NonCommissioned Officer*, Marines in the rank of E-6 or above: *Staff Sergeant*, *Gunnery Sergeant*, *Master Sergeant*, *First Sergeant*, *Master Gunnery Sergeant* and *Sergeant Major*.

• **stand by** – wait, stop and wait.

• **starboard** – naval term for "right", opposite of *port*.

• **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.[35]

• **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.

• **Susie Rottencrotch** – wife, girlfriend, or other generic woman.

• **swab** – *mop*; also pejorative for *sailor*, so named because sailors of wooden ships had to swab the decks to keep them from warping.

• **swagger stick** – antiquated symbol of authority long out of style.

• **swamp-ass** – unpleasant collection of sweat soaking undergarments.
• **swinging dick** – vulgarity for male Marine, used 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

![Thousand-yard stare](image)

• **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. See also **battalion lance corporal**. 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**.

• **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**.

• **toilet bowl** – Marksman **Weapons Qualification Badge**, so named for the concentric rings in the design which resemble water swirling down a **toilet** bowl, and in allusion to its being the lowest level of weapons qualification.

• **top** – informal nickname for a **Master Sergeant**, inappropriate to use without permission.

• **topside** – ship's upper deck.

• **tore up** – broken, messy, unserviceable.

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

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

• **trooper** – soldier, considered an insult to refer to a Marine unless plural.

• **troops** – generic group of servicemembers.

• **trousers** – pants.

• **trunk monkey** – a passenger in the back of an **armored vehicle**, not part of the crew.

• **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.

• **two digit midget**— an enlisted Marine with 99 or fewer days remaining on his or her enlistment.

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**U**

• **UA** – **Unauthorized Absence**, the naval version of the term **AWOL**.

• **UAV** – **Unmanned Aerial Vehicle**.
• **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.

• **un-ass** or **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.

• **under way** – to depart or to start a process for an objective.

• **unq** – *unqualified*, usually in reference to training events.

• **unsat** – abbreviation of unsatisfactory.

• **USMC** – Acronym for *United States Marine Corps*. Also used as a pejorative backronym: Uncle Sam's Misguided Children, U Signed the Motherfucking Contract, U Suckers Missed Christmas, Unlimited Shit and Mass Confusion, University of Science, Music and Culture, Uncomplicated Shit Made Complicated, Under Seabee Management Constantly.

• **USO** – *United Service Organizations* Inc., private, nonprofit organization that provides morale and recreational services to members of the U.S. military worldwide.

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

• **VERTREP** – *vertical replenishment*, the use of **helicopters** for cargo transfer to ships or distant outposts.
• **VTOL** – *Vertical TakeOff/Landing*, takeoff and landing technique that does not need a runway to become airborne. See also *STOL, STOVL*, & V/STOL.

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

**W**

• **WAG** – Wild-Ass Guess, sometimes qualified with the sarcastic prefix "Scientific". [127]

• **walking john** – nickname for a Marine marching in *dress blues uniform* that appeared on World War I-era *recruiting posters*. [128][129]

• **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 buffalo** or **water bull** – 400-gallon *potable water* tank, trailer-mounted, towed behind a truck.

• **weekend warrior** – reservist.

• **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. [130]

• **whiskey locker** — supply locker/closet.

• **whites** – Marine Corps or Navy *white dress uniforms*.

• **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 peter bag** – waterproof bag.

• **wing wiper** – aviation person, usually a maintenance person and not a pilot.

• **winger** – aviation Marine.
• WIR – DRMO; 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.

• wooly pully or itchy bitchy – 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 – Walking Mattress/Woman Marine, usually considered an offensive term.

• 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

• XO – Executive Officer, the second in command of a unit, known as a Chief of Staff for a general.[131]

Y

• YATYAS or YAT YAS – You Ain't Tracks/Trackin, You Ain't Shit, an amtrac slogan.[132][133][134]

• yellow leg – Marine, nickname given by North Korean Army in reference to Korean War-era discolored, yellow-looking leggings.[111][135][136]

• yut or yut yut – exclamation of enthusiasm or approval, similar to oorah.[137]

Z

• zoomie – pilot, usually an Air Force pilot.[138][139]

• Zoomie U – United States Air Force Academy