



## USAGE OF ENGLISH MILITARY TERMINOLOGIES AS A NEUTRAL AND COLLOQUIAL VOCABULARY

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### ABSTRACT

In this article military expressions in English language and their usage in ordinary people's speech is explained. If you've been in the armed services, know an enlisted soldier, or watched movies about the military, you know that military slang is practically a second language. Military slang helps soldiers convey a lot of information very quickly and allow troops to bond in life-threatening situations. Learn more with a list of these sayings and what they mean in the context of the military. The armed services have long been a hotbed of extremely creative (and sometimes rather vulgar) language coining, all of which translates into military slang sayings that definitely stick in the mind. There are tons of military euphemisms that are so original that they've gained usage in the civilian world. Because many of these sayings contain profanity, they have been censored when necessary.

**KEYWORDS:** - Military expressions, military slang, vulgar, common lingo, communication, abbreviations.

### INTRODUCTION

Military terminological set is used as a military slang by a group of military workers. We need to know them owing to following purposes:

1. Understand them in movies or novels- in movies which is based on wars military workers understand each other by codes or just a single words. Military slangs is useful for them to create harmless atmosphere in the surrounding of strange audience. They have very special information which

can bring a lot of devastating conditions to the country if they reveal. So encoding and decoding is very essential in that sphere.

2. For Adventure. People are very curious about the way others act or talk. Troops vocabulary is like a secret and opening it gives a sense of pleasure and simultaneously enhance vocabulary base of that person.

3. To use in speech. Over time that slangs or terminologies can be used in neutral language as a daily speech or within a certain group it can be used as a jargon.



Materials and Methods: For better or worse, the language of the military and of warfare in particular has greatly impacted the English language. In recent years, numerous dictionaries have been compiled in the attempt to ascertain and record the often ephemeral vocabulary associated with specific wars—not only weapons terminology and technical jargon, but also the colorful slang that inevitably characterizes every war. As Thomas E. Murray remarks in his discussion of naval fighter pilot terminology, “The study of English in [the twentieth] century has shown that members of the armed services...are especially prone to linguistic creativity,” whether soldiers, sailors, or flyers [1]. Wayne Silkett adds that “few specialized vocabularies have been as similarly borrowed, copied, and altered as has the military vocabulary” [2]. That military language is exceptionally productive is not, perhaps, surprising; it makes sense that “each crisis creates its own vocabulary” [1]. Moreover, since the armed forces and its component units constitute definitive “subcultures or social groups” that “daily share a common set of experiences and, perhaps, even a world view,” they “can be expected to share a common lingo” [1].

Results: Before discussing war terminology specifically, it is helpful to touch on a few general trends in English word formation. Linguist John Algeo, who has been co-editor of a regular collection of neologisms in the journal *American Speech* for over a decade, clarifies that “word change is very rapid, compared with grammar....Words come into being, change their uses, and pass out of existence far more readily than either sounds or grammatical constructions” (Algeo) [3].\* In “Where Do All the New Words Come From?” [3], Algeo devised a method to ascertain the sources for new words from 1963 to 1973 and found that in this decade-long period, 63.9 percent of new words were composites—in other words,

“compounds or forms derived by affixation” (notably this is also the chief source of new words as far back as the Old English period). Second to composites, Algeo found that 14.2 percent of the neologisms of the sample decade were shifted forms: “words...used in a new meaning and sometimes as a new part of speech, usually without any change of form.” Only 9.7 percent of new words were shortenings; 6.0 percent were borrowings; and finally, 4.8 percent were blendings. Additionally, of all the new words sampled in Algeo’s study, 76.7 percent turned out to be nouns, 15.2 percent were adjectives, 7.8 percent were verbs, and 0.3 percent were other parts of speech. [3]

#### Discussion: Military Slang for People

Even without considering a service member’s rank, there are many terms that describe people who have different duties. These terms can range from teasing nicknames for new recruits or members of another of the armed forces. Military slang for people can include:



Bolo – Someone who can't pass marksmanship training	Jeep – Soldier just out of basic training
Boot – Recruit still in boot camp	Joe – Soldier (from G.I. Joe)
Devil dog – Term for a member of the U.S. Marine Corps	Latrine queen – Soldier in charge of cleaning the bathrooms
Dittybopper – A signals intelligence radio operator who uses Morse code	Leatherneck – Term for a U.S. Marine
Expectant – A soldier who is expected to die from their injuries	Oxygen thief – Recruit who talks too much
FNG – F'ing New Guy	Pogue – Soldier who does not serve on the front lines
FOBbit – A soldier who stays in the forward operating base and hasn't seen military action yet	POG – Person other than grunt (or person on ground)
Grape – A term with different meanings in each branch of the military:	Polliwog – U.S. Navy sailor who has not crossed the equator yet

### Military Slang for Gear and Supplies

New service members have a lot to learn after they finish bootcamp. Learning slang for gear, supplies, and parts of a uniform can be very helpful. Here are some examples of military slang that describes what soldiers carry and wear:

Bang-bang – A military-issued rifle or pistol	Leather personnel carriers – Boots
Black (on supplies) – Certain supplies have run out	Mae West – U.S. Navy life jacket (or a term for a twisted life jacket)
C rats – Combat rations	Meat wagon – Ambulance
Cammies – Camouflage uniform	Mid rats – Midnight rations for members of the watch crew
Chest candy – Decorations or awards on an officer's dress uniform	Moonbeam – Flashlight
Firewatch ribbon – National Defense Service Medal, an award given to all service members during bootcamp	People tank – Submarine (U.S. Navy)
Fruit salad (or salad bar) – A colorful assortment of military ribbons and medals on an officer's dress uniform	Rack – Bed or sleep
Good cookie – Good Conduct Medal (given every three years without a disciplinary offense)	Rain locker – Shower



Jammin' Jenny – M16 rifle	Scrambled eggs – Gold decorations across the bill of a U.S. Navy officer's hat
John Wayne – Can opener issued with rations	Leather personnel carriers – Boots

### Military Slang From the NATO Alphabet

Branches of the military use the NATO phonetic alphabet to communicate in coded or high-stakes situations. Many slang sayings have come from these codes and are colorfully used by service members in different situations. Some examples of slang from the NATO alphabet include:

Alpha Charlie – A vulgar term for being verbally reprimanded (ass chewing)	Mike – A minute
Blue Falcon – Someone who betrays you (buddy f'er)	NEGAT Bravo Zulu – Not well done
Bravo Zulu – A compliment meaning “well done”	Oscar Mike – On the move
Charlie Foxtrot – A vulgar term for a messed up situation (a “clusterf--”)	Tango Mike – Thanks much
Charlie Mike – Continue mission	Tango Uniform – A failed operation (one that went “t--s Up)

### Military Slang for Orders and Operations

Understanding your commanding officer's orders can be a matter of life and death. That's why many terms regarding orders and operations are in shorthand and have become slang among service members. Some of this slang includes:

Bag your bandit – Shoot an enemy down	Hangfire – Wait for orders
Barney style – A method of explaining an order in very simplistic terms	Hit the silk – Parachuting from an aircraft
Dustoff – Medical rescue via helicopter	Kinetic – Violent
Field op – Field operation (training exercise)	Klick (or click) – Kilometer

### Military Slang for Everyday Life

Military slang is like a second language for soldiers. Slang can cover everyday actions, places, and experiences. Some examples of military slang for everyday life include:



Big voice – Voice over a loudspeaker	Gone Elvis – Missing in action (MIA)
Crumb catcher – Someone’s mouth	Hawk – Cold weather
Dear John letter – Communication from a soldier’s significant other who wants to end the relationship during enlistment	High and tight – Term that refers to the U.S. Marine buzz haircut
Errr – Greeting in the U.S. Marines (short for “Oorah”)	Hit the head – Go to the bathroom
Fang – To rebuke or disparage a fellow soldier	Hooah – Affirmative and/or enthusiastic response in the U.S. Army
Five-sided puzzle palace – The Pentagon	Ink stick – Pen (in the U.S. Marine Corps)
FOB – Forward operating base	Mess hall – Hall where service members eat their meals
Football bat – Criticism of an order or action that doesn’t seem to make sense	Oorah – Affirmative and/or enthusiastic response in the U.S. Marines
Fugazi – Messed-up situation	Poguey bait (or poggi bait) – Snacks used to bribe “pogues” to participate in missions
Gaggle march (pronounced “harch”) – Marching out of step with your fellow soldiers	Gone Elvis – Missing in action (MIA)
Gedunk – Junk food from a vending machine or convenience store (also a term for a new recruit)	Hawk – Cold weather
GI party – Cleaning barracks before inspection	High and tight – Term that refers to the U.S. Marine buzz haircut

### Military Slang Acronyms

Much of military slang is found in acronyms. You’ll also find the majority of profane slang here, as it’s much easier to hide these words in an acronym! Check out these examples of military slang acronyms:

ASAP – Immediately (as soon as possible in non-military contexts)	FUBAR – F’ed up beyond all repair (or recognition)
BOHICA – Bend over, here it comes again	GI – Government issue, a term for soldiers who feel interchangeable
DEROS – Date estimated return overseas	ROAD Warrior – Retired on active duty
FIGMO – Finally, I got my orders (or F* it, got my orders)	SNAFU – Situation normal: all f’ed up
FTA – Failure to adapt (or F* the Army)	SUSFU – Situation unchanged: still f’ed up



## CONCLUSIONS

Serving in the military requires discipline, bravery, and the utmost communication. That's why military slang, expressions, and abbreviations are especially important to understand. An article that lists military acronyms can help you sort through some of the commonly confused abbreviations in the armed services. Clearly, the major challenge for addressing the impact of warfare and military terminology on the English language is one of scope. Military terminology is incredibly flexible. Not only are different military groups and, indeed, different wars characterized by particular vocabularies, military terminology also infiltrates the language of civilians and, conversely, is impacted by a number of specialized civilian vocabularies. Although this article makes no attempt to cover all of the loci of linguistic creativity marked by military terminology and the language of warfare, it offers a snapshot of the ubiquity of military discourse and its clear impact on the development of English vocabulary.

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