

## ***Military Related Definitions***

**Activation** Order to active duty (other than for training) in the Federal service. A tour of active duty that is used for training members of the Reserve Components to provide trained units and qualified persons to fill the needs of the Armed Forces in time of war or national emergency and such other times as the national security requires. The member is under orders that provide for return to non-active status when the period of active duty for training is completed. This includes annual training, special tours of active duty for training, school tours, and the initial duty for training performed by non-prior service enlistees. Also called ADT.

**Active Duty** Full-time duty in the active military service of the United States. This includes members of the Reserve Components serving on active duty or full-time training duty, but does not include full-time National Guard duty. Also called AD. See also active duty for training; inactive duty training.

**Active Guard and Reserve (AGR)** National Guard and Reserve members who are on voluntary active duty providing full-time support to National Guard, Reserve, and Active Component organizations for the purpose of organizing, administering, recruiting, instructing, or training the Reserve Components.

**Air Force, Air Force Reserve, and Air National Guard** Branch of the U.S. Armed Forces in charge of the nation's military air power and carrying out air operations. Aircraft is used for attacking enemies as well as transporting supplies and troops. Protects American citizens and territory from attacks in the air, space, and even in cyberspace, or the Internet.

**Army, Army Reserve, and Army National Guard** Branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. The permanent or regular military land force of the United States. The largest part of the U.S. military and under the authority of the Department of Defense (DoD) since 1947. If attacked, the army fights off invaders on land. In other countries, they ensure that peace is made before they leave. The army includes soldiers as well as doctors, nurses, cooks, data analyzers, etc.

**Bag Nasty** A meal of military rations or other food packed for portability.

**B.A.H.** Basic allowance for housing.

**Base** A locality from which operations are projected or supported. An area or locality containing installations that provide logistic or other support. Home airfield or home carrier.

**Basic Training** A period following a person's induction into the armed forces devoted to training in basic military comportment, duties, and combat skills.

**Battalion** A battalion, usually about 400-strong, is comprised of three rifle companies, a combat support company and a headquarters company. Battalions often blend companies with different fighting specialties to take on tasks that no existing unit is properly configured to tackle. Battalions normally fight enemy forces they can see and engage. This is defined as an area extending from less than 100 yards in forests, urban areas and other close terrain out to about two to three miles from the battalion's direct and indirect weapons-fire.

**Battle Rattle** Protective military gear worn in combat situations.

**Belly Button** A person or unit in charge of, or the source of information for, a task or operation.

**Block** Civilian life before enlisting. Example "Oh, you think you're back on the block?"

**Boots on the Ground** Personnel deployed under military command.

**Brain Bucket** A combat helmet.

**Brigade** The brigade provides mobility, counter-mobility and survivability, topographic engineering and general engineering support to the largest unit - the corps — and augments the corps' various divisions. The brigade may contain combat engineer battalions, separate engineer companies, assault float bridges, and topographic and tactical bridge companies. It contains around 2,500 people commanded by a colonel.

**Bubblehead** A submariner.

**Bunker buster** A bomb designed to destroy hardened targets deep underground. The American GBU-28 bunker buster bomb is guided by laser and can break through 100 feet of earth or 20 feet of concrete before exploding. The GBU-28 was initially developed in 1991 for penetrating hardened Iraqi command

centers.

**Cammies** Camouflage uniform.

**Chest Candy** Another term to describe ribbons or medals that are worn.

**Coast Guard, Coast Guard Reserve** Branch of the U.S. Armed Forces and one of the country's seven uniformed services. The Coast Guard is a maritime, military, multi-mission service unique among the U.S. military branches for having a maritime law enforcement mission (with jurisdiction in both domestic and international waters) and a federal regulatory agency mission as part of its mission set. It watches over the coastlines/ports but also can be called upon to perform rescues and safety missions in the water. It operates under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security during peacetime, and can be transferred to the U.S. Department of the Navy by the U.S. President at any time, or by the U.S. Congress during times of war.

**Company** Company-sized units, 130 to 150 soldiers, are normally commanded by captains. They consist of two or more platoons, usually of the same type, a headquarters unit and some logistical capabilities. Companies are the basic elements of all battalions.

**Constant Phoenix** A modified C-135B transport aircraft equipped with devices to detect radioactive "clouds" from nuclear weapons detonations. It is controlled by the Air Force Technical Applications Center (AFTAC) and operated by the 45th Reconnaissance Wing at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska. The interior seats 33 people.

**Corps** The corps is the largest tactical unit in the U.S. Army. The Corps is responsible for translating strategic objectives into tactical orders. It synchronizes tactical operations including maneuvering, the firing of organic artillery, naval firing, supporting tactical air operations, and actions of their combat support, bringing together these operations on the battlefield. Each corps will have between two and five divisions, depending on the mission.

**DD214** Document used to record military service (from start to finish) of the individual. Determines the soldier's benefits.

**Dead-check** To verify or ensure that a wounded enemy combatant is dead.

**Deployment** Any current or past event or activity that relates to duty in the armed forces that involves an operation, location, command, or duty that is different from the military member's normal duty assignment). Military members meet deployment criteria anytime they leave the physical locale of the parent command and enter an environment for operational deployment or are stationed in a hostile territory.

**Deployment Orders** A planning directive from the Secretary of Defense, issued by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff that authorizes and directs the transfer of forces between combatant commands by reassignment or attachment. A deployment order normally specifies the authority that the gaining combatant commander will exercise over the transferred forces.

**Division** Divisions perform major tactical operations for the corps and can conduct sustained battles and engagements. One division is made up of at least three brigades with between 10,000 and 20,000 soldiers. Divisions are normally commanded by major generals. Types of divisions include light infantry, armored and mechanized infantry, airborne and air assault.

**Global War on Terrorism** A term that has been applied to an international military campaign that started after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States. This resulted in an international military campaign to eliminate al-Qaeda and other militant organizations. The United States and many other NATO and non-NATO nations such as Pakistan participated in the conflict.

**Gone Elvis** Missing in action.

**Haji** An Iraqi; any Muslim, Arab, or native of the Middle East.

**Improvised Explosive Device I.E.D.** A "homemade" device that is designed to cause death or injury by using explosives alone or in combination with toxic chemicals, biological agents, or radiological material. IEDs may be detonated by a suicide bomber or remotely detonated. They may utilize commercial or military explosives, homemade explosives, or military ordnance and ordnance components.

**Libo** Liberty, time away from work (after hours, on a weekend, during a port-call, etc.) not charged against leave.

**Lily Pad** An outpost, advance camp, foreign base, or staging area; one in a series of stops.

**Marine Corps, Marine Corps Reserve** Branch of the U.S. Armed Forces trained for land, sea, and air combat, typically for land combat in conjunction with an amphibious or airborne landing, and whose commandant is responsible to the Secretary of the Navy. Marines are usually in charge of missions that are top secret or very difficult.

**Meat Tag** Identifying information such as name, Social Security number, religion, blood type, etc., tattooed on a soldier's body.

**Military Deployment Statute 6-61-112** A student who ceases attendance at a state-supported post-secondary educational institution without completing and receiving a grade in one (1) or more courses shall receive compensation for the resulting monetary loss as provided under this statute if the student ceases attendance because the student is activated or deployed by the military; or the student's spouse is activated or deployed by the military and the student or the student's spouse has dependent children residing in the household.

**Military Entrance Processing Station** A Department of Defense joint-service organization staffed with military civilians. Their job is to determine an applicant's physical qualifications, aptitude and moral standards as set by each branch of military service, the Department of Defense, and federal law.

**Military Reserve Force** A military organization composed of citizens of a country who combine a military role or career with a civilian career. They are not normally kept under arms and their main role is to be available to fight when a nation mobilizes for total war or to defend against invasion. Reserve forces are generally not considered part of a permanent standing body of armed forces. The existence of reserve forces allows a nation to reduce its peacetime military expenditures while maintaining a force prepared for war.

**Montgomery G.I. Bill (G.I. Bill)** The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 known informally as the G.I. Bill, was a law that provided a range of benefits for returning World War II veterans (commonly referred to as G.I.s). Benefits included low-cost mortgages, low-interest loans to start a business, cash payments of tuition and living expenses to attend university, high school or vocational education, as well as one year of unemployment compensation. It was available to every veteran who had been on active duty during the war years for at least 90 days and had not been dishonorably discharged; combat was not required. This bill made college more accessible for over 2 million veterans in the 10 years following the end of World War II. In 1985, a bill sponsored by Congressman "Sonny" Gillespie Montgomery expanded the G.I. Bill. The MGIB impacted those who served after July 1, 1985. This was an entirely voluntary program in which participants could choose to forfeit \$100 per month from their first year of pay. In return, eligible veterans received a tuition allowance and a monthly stipend for up to 36 months of eligible training or education.

**Mortarville** A military base subject to regular attack.

**Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts** A program that provides up to \$6,000 for military spouses who are pursuing degree programs, licenses or credentials leading to employment.

**National Guard** United States military reserves recruited by the states and equipped by the federal government; subject to call by either (basically the reserves, but broken up into each state).

**Navy, Navy Reserve** Branch of the U.S. Armed Forces responsible for making sure the waters surrounding the U.S. are safe and secure. When not at war, the Navy's ships patrol to make sure everything is safe. At war, they find and attack enemy ships. They also are used to help with emergencies at sea or to transport large amounts of supplies to U.S. troops in other countries.

**O Early Hundred, O Dark O'clock, O Dark 30 Hours, O Dark Early, O Dark Stupid** Very early morning or any time before sunrise. Also O Late Hundred, etc. for night. Often, these terms overlap - 0200 is both too early and too late.

**Operation Enduring Freedom** The official name used by the U.S. government for the War in

Afghanistan, together with a number of smaller military actions, under the umbrella of the Global "War on Terror."

**Operation Iraqi Freedom** The U.S.-led coalition military operation in Iraq, was launched on March 20, 2003, with the immediate stated goal of removing Saddam Hussein's regime and destroying its ability to use weapons of mass destruction or to make them available to terrorists.

**Patrol** A detachment of ground, sea, or air forces sent out for the purpose of gathering information or carrying out a destructive, harassing, mopping-up, or security mission.

**Platoon** A platoon is four squads - generally three rifle squads and one weapons squad, normally armed with machine guns and anti-tank weapons. Lieutenants lead most platoons, and the second-in-command is generally a sergeant first class.

**Post 9/11 G.I. Bill** In July of 2008 the Post-9/11 GI Bill was signed into law, creating a new robust education benefits program rivaling the WWII Era GI Bill of Rights. The new Post 9/11 GI Bill provides education benefits for service members who have served on active duty for 90 or more days since Sept. 10, 2001.

**Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)** Develops after a terrifying ordeal that involved physical harm or the threat of physical harm. The person who develops PTSD may have been the one who was harmed, the harm may have happened to a loved one, or the person may have witnessed a harmful event that happened to loved ones or strangers. PTSD was first brought to public attention in relation to war veterans, but it can result from a variety of traumatic incidents, such as mugging, rape, torture, being kidnapped or held captive, child abuse, car accidents, train wrecks, plane crashes, bombings, or natural disasters such as floods or earthquakes.

**PowerPoint Commandon** A briefer notorious for producing overly complex briefs in PowerPoint that are too long and use too many effects, such as animations and sounds.

**Rice Bowl** In the military, a jealously protected program, project, department, or budget; a fiefdom.

**Sandbox** The Middle East; a country in that region.

**S.C.O.** School Certifying Official.

**Shack** A direct hit on a target by a bomb or missile.

**Shut up and Color** Mind one's own business, keep one's head down, and do as one is told.

**Standing Operating Procedure (S.O.P.)** A set of instructions covering those features of operations which lend themselves to a definite or standardized procedure without loss of effectiveness.

**Squad** A small military unit consisting of 10 to 11 soldiers.

**Squadron** An organization consisting of two or more divisions of ships, or two or more divisions (Navy) or flights of aircraft. It is normally but not necessarily composed of ships or aircraft of the same type. The basic administrative aviation unit of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force. Battalion-sized ground or aviation units in US Army cavalry regiments.

**T.A.P. – Transition Assistance Program** Established to meet the needs of separating service members during their period of transition into civilian life by offering job-search assistance and related services.

**T.B.I. – Traumatic Brain Injury** A non-degenerative, non-congenital insult to the brain from an external mechanical force, possibly leading to permanent or temporary impairment of cognitive, physical, and psychosocial functions, with an associated diminished or altered state of consciousness.

**The Wizard** A psychological therapist who helps post traumatic or stressed military patients overcome psychological difficulties.

**Thunder Run** A high-speed military convoy using offensive tactics and heavy weaponry to reach a destination; generally, a route or trip involving extreme effort or danger.

**Torch Party** A military team sent ahead of a larger advance party.

**Turkey Peek** A glance around or over an object or surface, such as a corner or wall. Also as verb.

**V.H.I.C.** Veteran Health Identification Card provided to veterans enrolled in the Veteran Affairs (VA) health care system.

**Vocational Rehabilitation Employment** VocRehab provides a wide range of educational and vocational counseling to Veterans, Service members, and eligible family members who are entitled to or participating in a VA education benefit program. These services help the individual identify a career goal and choose an educational program to reach that goal. Counseling may also be provided to assist the student in overcoming barriers to academic success.

**Yellow Ribbon Program** The Yellow Ribbon Program is available for Institutions of Higher Learning (degree granting institutions) in the U.S. or at a branch of such institution located outside the U.S. The program allows approved institutions of higher learning to choose how much they will contribute toward eligible Post 9/11 G.I. Bill recipients' costs over and above the statutory in-state tuition and fee costs paid by the V.A.