

MILITARY GLOSSARY

Access to Classified Information

Definition: (DOD) The ability and opportunity to obtain knowledge of classified information. Persons have access to classified information if they are permitted to gain knowledge of the information or if they are in a place where they would be expected to gain such knowledge. Persons do not have access to classified information by being in a place where classified information is kept if security measures prevent them from gaining knowledge of the information. To have access to classified information, the person must have the appropriate security clearance, and the need to know the information in order to perform their duties.

Active Duty

Definition: (DOD) 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.

Active Duty For Special Work

Definition: (DOD) A tour of active duty for reserve personnel authorized from military and reserve personnel appropriations for work on active or reserve component programs. This includes annual screening, training camp operations, training ship operations, and unit conversion to new weapon systems when such duties are essential. Active duty for special work may also be authorized to support study groups, training sites and exercises, short-term projects, and doing administrative or support functions. By policy, active duty for special work tours are normally limited to 179 days or less in one fiscal year. Tours exceeding 180 days are accountable against active duty end strength.

Active Guard And Reserve

Definition: (DOD) 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.

Active Status

Definition: (DOD) Status of all Reserves except those on an inactive status list or in the Retired Reserve. Reservists in an active status may train for points and/or pay and may be considered for promotion.

Airborne

Definition: (DOD, NATO) 1. In relation to personnel, troops especially trained to effect, following transport by air, an assault debarkation, either by parachuting or touchdown.
2. In relation to equipment, pieces of equipment that have been especially designed for use by airborne troops during or after an assault debarkation. It also designates some aeronautical equipment used to accomplish a particular mission.

3. When applied to materiel, items that form an integral part of the aircraft.
4. The state of an aircraft, from the instant it becomes entirely sustained by air until it ceases to be so sustained. A lighter-than-air aircraft is not considered to be airborne when it is attached to the ground, except that moored balloons are airborne whenever sent aloft.

Air Controller

Definition: (DOD, NATO) An individual especially trained for and assigned the duty of the control (by use of radio, radar, or other means) of such aircraft as may be allotted to him for operation within his area.

Air Defense

Definition: (DOD) All defensive measures designed to destroy attacking enemy aircraft or missiles in the Earth's envelope of atmosphere, or to nullify or reduce the effectiveness of such attack.

Different Airplanes

Individuals who have either flown, worked on as a mechanic or worked on a ground crew for the United States. These are names, acronyms and number designations for Allied forces jet fighters, including the United States, Canada and Great Britain. Individuals could be pilots, mechanics, or crew members. They could also serve on an aircraft carrier as a flight deck crew member.

- Buccaneer
- F-4 Phantom II
- SR-71 Blackbird
- A-7D Corsair II
- Hawker Harrier,
- Mirage F1,
- A-6 Intruder,
- U-2 Dragon Lady,
- J-35 Draken,
- Avro Vulcan,
- A-4 Skyhawk,
- English Electric / BAC Lightning,
- A-5 Vigilante,
- Mirage III,
- XB-70 Valkyrie,
- F-14 Tomcat,
- F-15 Eagle,
- F-5E Tiger II,
- Jaguar GR1,
- A-10 Thunderbolt,
- F-16 Falcon,

- Alpha Jet,
- Super Etandard,
- JA37 Viggen,
- F-21 Kfir,
- BAe Hawk,
- L-39 Albatros,
- EF111 Raven,
- F-18 Hornet,
- Panavia
- Tornado,
- Mirage 2000,
- Mirage 4000,
- F-117 NightHawk,
- B-1B Lancer,
- F-20 Tigershark,
- AMX, Blackjack,
- JAS-39 Gripen,
- Rafale,
- B-2 Spirit,
- YF-23,
- SU-37 Terminator,
- FA-18E Super Hornet,
- F/A-22 Raptor,
- Euro Fighter Typhoon,
- V-22 Osprey,
- F-35 Lightning II (X-35 Joint Strike Fighter)
- Aurora

The following are military cargo planes. An individual could serve on these as a pilot, a load master or crewman. They could also be a mechanic.

C-12 Huron, C-130 Hercules, C-135, C-141B Starlifter, C-17 Globemaster III, C-20, C-21A, C-22, C-23, C-26 Metroliner, C-27A Spartan, C-2A Greyhound, C-38, C-40, C-5A/B Galaxy, C-9A/C Nightingale, CT-39, UC-35A, UV-18A Twin Otter, C-12 Huron - Versatile Military Plane, C-26 Metroliner

Air Observer

Definition: (DOD, NATO) An individual whose primary mission is to observe or take photographs from an aircraft in order to adjust artillery fire or obtain military information.

Annual Training

Definition: (DOD) The minimal period of training reserve members must perform each year to satisfy the training requirements associated with their reserve component assignment.

Ballistics

Definition: (DOD, NATO) The science or art that deals with the motion, behavior, appearance, or modification of missiles or other vehicles acted upon by propellants, wind, gravity, temperature, or any other modifying substance, condition, or force.

Base

Definition: (DOD, NATO) **1.** A locality from which operations are projected or supported.
2. An area or locality containing installations which provide logistic or other support. See also emergency fleet operating base; establishment. (DOD)
3. Home airfield or home carrier.

Base of operations

Definition: (DOD) An area or facility from which a military force begins its offensive operations, to which it falls back in case of reverse, and in which supply facilities are organized.

battery

Definition: (DOD, NATO) **1.** Tactical and administrative artillery unit or subunit corresponding to a company or similar unit in other branches of the Army.
2. All guns, torpedo tubes, searchlights, or missile launchers of the same size or caliber or used for the same purpose, either installed in one ship or otherwise operating as an entity.

campaign

Definition: (DOD) A series of related military operations aimed at accomplishing a strategic or operational objective within a given time and space.

casualty

Definition: (DOD) Any person who is lost to the organization by having been declared dead, duty status - whereabouts unknown, missing, ill, or injured. See also casualty category; casualty status; casualty type; duty status - whereabouts unknown; hostile casualty; non hostile casualty.

chain of command

Definition: (DOD, NATO) The succession of commanding officers from a superior to a subordinate through which command is exercised.

chemical agent

Definition: (DOD, NATO) A chemical substance which is intended for use in military operations to kill, seriously injure, or incapacitate personnel through its physiological effects. The term excludes riot control agents, herbicides, smoke, and flame.

cluster

Definition: (DOD, NATO) **1.** Fireworks signal in which a group of stars burns at the same time.
2. Group of bombs released together. A cluster usually consists of fragmentation or incendiary bombs.

3. Two or more parachutes for dropping light or heavy loads.
4. In land mine warfare, a component of a pattern-laid minefield. It may be antitank, antipersonnel or mixed. It consists of one to five mines and no more than one antitank mine.
5. Two or more engines coupled together so as to function as one power unit.
6. In naval mine warfare, a number of mines laid in close proximity to each other as a pattern or coherent unit. They may be of mixed types.
7. In minehunting, designates a group of mine-like contacts.

Coalition Definition: (DOD) An ad hoc arrangement between two or more nations for common action.

COM Definition: See collection operations management, could also be commander or command.

combat forces Definition: (DOD) Those forces whose primary missions are to participate in combat.

Combat support Definition: Fire support and operational assistance provided to combat elements.

combat troops Definition: (DOD): Those units or organizations whose primary mission is destruction of enemy forces and/or installations.

Command Definition: (DOD) 1. The authority that a commander in the Armed Forces lawfully exercises over subordinates by virtue of rank or assignment. Command includes the authority and responsibility for effectively using available resources and for planning the employment of, organizing, directing, coordinating, and controlling military forces for the accomplishment of assigned missions. It also includes responsibility for health, welfare, morale, and discipline of assigned personnel. 2. An order given by a commander; that is, the will of the commander expressed for the purpose of bringing about a particular action. 3. A unit or units, an organization, or an area under the command of one individual.

Conflict Definition: (DOD) An armed struggle or clash between organized groups within a nation or between nations in order to achieve limited political or military objectives. Although regular forces are often involved, irregular forces frequently predominate. Conflict often is protracted, confined to a restricted geographic area, and constrained in weaponry and level of violence. Within this state, military power in response to threats may be exercised in an indirect manner while supportive of other instruments of national power. Limited objectives may be achieved by the short, focused, and direct application of force. (JP 3-0)

Cover Definition: (DOD, NATO) 1. The action by land, air, or sea forces to protect by offense, defense, or threat of either or both. 2. Those measures necessary to give protection to a person, plan, operation, formation, or installation from the enemy intelligence effort and leakage of information. 3. The act of maintaining a continuous receiver watch with transmitter calibrated and available, but not necessarily available for immediate use. 4. Shelter or protection, either natural or artificial. (DOD) 5. Photographs or other recorded images which show a particular area of ground. 6. A code meaning, "Keep fighters between force/base and contact designated at distance stated from force/base" (e.g., "cover bogey twenty-seven to thirty miles").

damage control Definition: (DOD, NATO) In naval usage, measures necessary aboard ship to preserve and reestablish watertight integrity, stability, maneuverability, and offensive power; to control list and trim; to effect rapid repairs of materiel; to limit the spread of, and provide adequate protection from, fire; to limit the spread of, remove the contamination by, and provide adequate protection from, toxic agents; and to provide for care of wounded personnel.

DD214 Definition: The capstone military document of a member's service. Is the complete, verified record of a member's time in the military, awards, medals, and other pertinent information, including time overseas, combat service, military occupations specialty, etc.

demilitarized zone

Definition: (DOD, NATO) A defined area in which the stationing, or concentrating of military forces, or the retention or establishment of military installations of any description, is prohibited.

demobilization

Definition: (DOD) The process of transitioning a conflict or wartime military establishment and defense-based civilian economy to a peacetime configuration while maintaining national security and economic vitality.

deployment

Definition: (DOD) any day on which, pursuant to orders, the member is performing service in a training exercise or operation at a location or under circumstances that make it impossible or infeasible for the member to spend off-duty time in the housing in which the member resides when on garrison duty at the member's permanent duty station." A member is not "deployed" if the member is performing service as a student or trainee at a school, TDY for conferences, exhibits, or meetings (at any location), or performing administrative, shift work, guard or detail duties in garrison at the member's permanent duty station.

detachment

Definition: (DOD, NATO) **1.** A part of a unit separated from its main organization for duty elsewhere. **2.** A temporary military or naval unit formed from other units or parts of units.

direct fire

Definition: (DOD) Gunfire delivered on a target, using the target itself as a point of aim for either the gun or the director.

drone

Definition: (DOD) A land, sea, or air vehicle that is remotely or automatically controlled.

drop master

Definition: (DOD) 1. An individual qualified to prepare, perform acceptance inspection, load, lash, and eject material for airdrop. 2. An aircrew member who, during parachute operations, will relay any required information between pilot and jumpmaster.

embarkation

Definition: (DOD, NATO) The process of putting personnel and/or vehicles and their associated stores and equipment into ships and/or aircraft.

emergency essential employee

Definition: (DOD) A Department of Defense civilian employee whose assigned duties and responsibilities must be accomplished following the evacuation of non-essential personnel (including dependents) during a declared emergency or out break of war. The position occupied cannot be converted to a military billet because it requires uninterrupted performance so as to provide immediate and continuing support for combat operations and/or combat systems support functions.

employment

Definition: (DOD) The strategic, operational, or tactical use of forces.

employment planning

Definition: (DOD) Planning that prescribes how to apply force/forces to attain specified military objectives. Employment planning concepts are developed by combatant commanders through their component commanders.

escort

Definition: (DOD, NATO) 1. A combatant unit(s) assigned to accompany and protect another force or convoy. 2. Aircraft assigned to protect other aircraft during a mission. 3. An armed guard that accompanies a convoy, a train, prisoners, etc. 4. An armed guard accompanying persons as a mark of honor. (DOD) 5. To convoy. 6. A member of the Armed Forces assigned to accompany, assist, or guide an individual or group, e.g., an escort officer.

field exercise

Definition: (DOD, NATO) An exercise conducted in the field under simulated war conditions in which troops and armament of one side are actually present, while those of the other side may be imaginary or in outline.

fire

Definition: (DOD, NATO) 1. The command given to discharge a weapon(s). 2. To detonate the main explosive charge by means of a firing system.

It could also be used in the following way: barrage fire; call fire; close supporting fire; concentrated fire; counter fire; counter-preparation fire; covering fire; deep supporting fire; destruction fire; direct fire; direct supporting fire; distributed fire; grazing fire; harassing fire; indirect fire; interdiction fire; neutralization fire; observed fire; preparation fire; radar fire; registration fire; scheduled fire; searching fire; supporting fire; suppressive fire; unobserved fire; zone fire.

fires

Definition: (DOD) The effects of lethal or nonlethal weapons.

fire support

Definition: (DOD) Fires that directly support land, maritime, amphibious, and special operation forces to engage enemy forces, combat formations, and facilities in pursuit of tactical and operational objectives.

flight

Definition: (DOD) 1. In Navy and Marine Corps usage, a specified group of aircraft usually engaged in a common mission. 2. The basic tactical unit in the Air Force, consisting of four or more aircraft in two or more elements. 3. A single aircraft airborne on a non operational mission.

FOB

Definition: See forward operating base; forward operations base.

force

Definition: (DOD) 1. An aggregation of military personnel, weapon systems, vehicles and necessary support, or combination thereof. 2. A major subdivision of a fleet.

force multiplier

Definition: (DOD) A capability that, when added to and employed by a combat force, significantly increases the combat potential of that force and thus enhances the probability of successful mission accomplishment.

forward area

Definition: (DOD) An area in proximity to combat.

forward observer

Definition: (DOD) An observer operating with front line troops and trained to adjust ground or naval gunfire and pass back battlefield information. In the absence of a forward air controller, the observer may control close air support strikes.

freak

Definition: (DOD) In air intercept usage, a word meaning frequency in megacycles.

friendly fire

Definition: (DOD) In casualty reporting, a casualty circumstance applicable to persons killed in action or wounded in action mistakenly or accidentally by friendly forces actively engaged with the enemy, who are directing fire at a hostile force or what is thought to be a hostile force.

fusion

Definition: (DOD) 1. The process whereby the nuclei of light elements combine to form the nucleus of a heavier element, with the release of tremendous amounts of energy. 2. In intelligence usage, the process of examining all sources of intelligence and information to derive a complete assessment of activity.

Galaxy

Definition: (DOD) A large cargo transport aircraft powered by four turbofan engines, capable of carrying a very large payload (including outsize cargo and personnel) into forward area air fields. It further is capable of refueling in flight. Designated as C-5.

general orders

Definition: (DOD) 1. Permanent instructions, issued in order form, that apply to all members of a command, as compared with special orders, which affect only individuals or small groups. General orders are usually concerned with matters of policy or administration. 2. A series of permanent guard orders that govern the duties of a sentry on post.

general quarters

Definition: (DOD) A condition of readiness when naval action is imminent. All battle stations are fully manned and alert; ammunition is ready for instant loading; guns and guided missile launchers may be loaded.

general war

Definition: (DOD) Armed conflict between major powers in which the total resources of the belligerents are employed, and the national survival of a major belligerent is in jeopardy.

Golden Crescent

Definition: (DOD) The heroin-producing countries of Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan.

grand slam

Definition: (DOD) All enemy aircraft originally sighted are shot down.

grid

Definition: (DOD) 1. Two sets of parallel lines intersecting at right angles and forming squares; the grid is superimposed on maps, charts, and other similar representations of the Earth's surface in an accurate and consistent manner to permit identification of ground locations with respect to other locations and the computation of direction and distance to other points. 2. A term used in giving the location of a geographic point by grid coordinates.

ground control

Definition: (DOD, NATO) A system of accurate measurements used to determine the distances and directions or differences in elevation between points on the Earth.

ground fire

Definition: (DOD) Small arms ground-to-air fire directed against aircraft.

gun

Definition: (DOD) 1. A cannon with relatively long barrel, operating with relatively low angle of fire, and having a high muzzle velocity. 2. A cannon with tube length 30 calibers or more.

Hercules

Definition: (DOD) A medium range troop and cargo transport designed for air-drop or airland delivery into a combat zone as well as conventional airlift. This aircraft is equipped with four turboprop engines, and integral ramp and cargo door. The D model is ski equipped. The E model has additional fuel capacity for extended range. Designated as C130. The inflight tanker configurations are designated as KC-130 and HC-130, which is also used for the aerial rescue mission. The gunship version is designated as AC-130.

Hornet

Definition: (DOD) A twin-engine supersonic, fighter/attack aircraft. The C (single-seat) and D (dual-seat) models have an all-weather intercept, identify and destroy capability. The Hornet is equipped with an electronic self-protection jammer, and is both air-to-air and air-to-ground capable. It is designed to operate from both land bases and aircraft carriers. Designated as F/A-18.

Hound Dog

Definition: (DOD) A turbojet-propelled, air-to-surface missile designed to be carried externally on the B-52. It is equipped with a nuclear warhead and can be launched for either high or low altitude attacks against enemy targets, supplementing the internally carried firepower of the B-52. Designated as AGM-28B.

IED

Definition: Improvised explosive device. A device placed or fabricated in an improvised manner incorporating destructive, lethal, noxious, pyrotechnic, or incendiary chemicals and designed to destroy, incapacitate, harass, or distract. It may incorporate military stores, but is normally devised from nonmilitary components.

Iroquois

Definition: (DOD) A light single-rotor helicopter used for cargo/personnel transport and attack helicopter support. Some versions are armed with machine guns and light air-to-ground rockets. Designated as UH-1. **Also Known As:** Huey

jumpmaster

Definition: (DOD) The assigned airborne-qualified individual who controls parachutists from the time they enter the aircraft until they exit.

loadmaster

Definition: (DOD) An Air Force technician qualified to plan loads, to operate auxiliary materials handling equipment, and to supervise loading and unloading of aircraft.

make safe

Definition: (DOD) One or more actions necessary to prevent or interrupt complete function of the system (traditionally synonymous with "dread," "disarm," and "disable"). Among the necessary actions are: (1) install (safety devices such as pins or locks); (2) disconnect (hoses, linkages, batteries); (3) bleed (accumulators, reservoirs); (4) remove (explosive devices such as initiators, fuzes, detonators); (5) intervene (as in welding, lock wiring).

Marine base

Definition: (DOD) A base for support of Marine ground forces, consisting of activities or facilities for which the Marine Corps has operating responsibilities, together with interior lines of communications and the minimum surrounding area necessary for local security. (Normally, not greater than an area of 20 square miles.)

See also base complex.

Marine expeditionary force

Definition: (DOD) The Marine expeditionary force, the largest of the Marine air-ground task forces, is normally built around a division/wing team, but can include several divisions and aircraft wings, together with an appropriate combat service support organization. The Marine expeditionary force is capable of conducting a wide range of amphibious assault operations and sustained operations ashore. It can be tailored for a wide variety of combat missions in any geographic environment.

See also Marine air-ground task force.

Also Known As: MEF

master

Definition: (DOD) The commanding officer of a United States Naval Ship, a commercial ship, or a government-owned general agency agreement ship operated for the Military Sealift Command by a civilian company to transport DOD cargo.

Maverick

Definition: (DOD) An air-to-surface missile with launch and leave capability. It is designed for use against stationary or moving small, hard targets such as tanks, armored vehicles, and field fortifications. Designated as AGM-65.

Military Service

Definition: (DOD) A branch of the Armed Forces of the United States, established by act of Congress, in which persons are appointed, enlisted, or inducted for military service, and which operates and is administered within a military or executive department. The Military Services are: the United States Army, the United States Navy, the United States Air Force, the United States Marine Corps, and the United States Coast Guard.

military traffic

Definition: (DOD) Department of Defense personnel, mail, and cargo to be, or being, transported.

NBC defense

Definition: (DOD) Nuclear defense, biological defense, and chemical defense, collectively. The term may not be used in the context of US offensive operations.

order

Definition: (DOD, NATO) A communication, written, oral, or by signal, which conveys instructions from a superior to a subordinate. (DOD) In a broad sense, the terms "order" and "command" are synonymous. However, an order implies discretion as to the details of execution whereas a command does not.

ordnance

Definition: (DOD) Explosives, chemicals, pyrotechnics, and similar stores, e.g., bombs, guns and ammunition, flares, smoke, napalm

peacekeeping

Definition: (DOD) Military operations undertaken with the consent of all major parties to a dispute, designed to monitor and facilitate implementation of an agreement (cease fire, truce, or other such agreement) and support diplomatic efforts to reach a long-term political settlement.

Presidential Call up

Definition: (DOD) Procedures by which the President brings all or part of the Army National Guard or Air National Guard to active Federal service under section 12406 and Chapter 15 of title 10 (DOD), US Code.

rear echelon

Definition: (DOD, NATO) Elements of a force which are not required in the objective area. Support troops.

recovery

Definition: (DOD, NATO) 1. In air operations, that phase of a mission which involves the return of an aircraft to a base. 2. In naval mine warfare, salvage of a mine as nearly intact as possible to permit further investigation for intelligence and/or evaluation purposes. See also salvage procedure. 3. (DOD) In amphibious reconnaissance, the physical extraction of landed forces or their link-up with friendly forces. 4. (DOD) In evasion and recovery operations, the return of evaders to friendly control, either with or without assistance, as the result of planning, operations, and individual actions on the part of recovery planners, conventional/unconventional recovery forces, and/or the evaders themselves.

reefer

Definition: (DOD) 1. A refrigerator. 2. A motor vehicle, railroad freight car, ship, aircraft, or other conveyance, so constructed and insulated as to protect commodities from either heat or cold.

repatriation

Definition: (DOD) Procedure where American citizens and their families (evacuees) are officially processed back into the United States subsequent to an evacuation. Evacuees are also provided various services to ensure their well-being and onward movement to their final destination.

reserve

Definition: (DOD) 1. Portion of a body of troops which is kept to the rear, or withheld from action at the beginning of an engagement, available for a decisive movement. 2. Members of the Military Services who are not in active service but who are subject to call to active duty. 3. Portion of an appropriation or contract authorization held or set aside for future operations or contingencies and in respect to which administrative authorization to incur commitments or obligations has been withheld.

reserve component category

Definition: (DOD) The category that identifies an individual's status in a reserve component. The three reserve component categories are Ready Reserve, Standby Reserve, and Retired Reserve. Each reservist is identified by a specific reserve component category designation.

Reserve Components

Definition: (DOD) Reserve Components of the Armed Forces of the United States are: a. the Army National Guard of the United States; b. the Army Reserve; c. the Naval Reserve; d. the Marine Corps Reserve; e. the Air National Guard of the United States; f. the Air Force Reserve; and g. the Coast Guard Reserve.

rules of engagement

Definition: (DOD) Directives issued by competent military authority which delineate the circumstances and limitations under which United States forces will initiate and/or continue combat engagement with other forces encountered.

redeployment

Definition: (DOD) The transfer of forces and materiel to support another joint force commander's operational requirements, or to return personnel, equipment, and materiel to the home and/or demobilization stations for reintegration and/or out-processing.

repatriation

Definition: (DOD) Procedure where American citizens and their families (evacuees) are officially processed back into the United States subsequent to an evacuation. Evacuees are also provided various services to ensure their well-being and onward movement to their final destination.

sea-air-land team

Definition: (DOD) A naval force specially organized, trained, and equipped to conduct special operations in maritime, littoral, and riverine environments.

Also Known As: SEAL team

search and rescue

Definition: (DOD, NATO) The use of aircraft, surface craft, submarines, specialized rescue teams, and equipment to search for and rescue personnel in distress on land or at sea. (DOD)

security classification

Definition: (DOD) A category to which national security information and material is assigned to denote the degree of damage that unauthorized disclosure would cause to national defense or foreign relations of the United States and to denote the degree of protection required. There are three such categories: a. top secret--National security information or material which requires the highest degree of protection and the unauthorized disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to cause exceptionally grave damage to the national security. b. secret--National security information or material which requires a substantial degree of protection and the unauthorized disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to cause serious damage to the national security. c. confidential--National security information or material which requires protection and the unauthorized disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the national security.

security clearance

Definition: (DOD, NATO) An administrative determination by competent national authority that an individual is eligible, from a security stand-point, for access to classified information. (Note: The DOD definition does not use the word "national.")

sedition

Definition: (DOD) Willfully advocating or teaching the duty or necessity of overthrowing the US government or any political subdivision by force or violence.

seizures

Definition: (DOD) In counterdrug operations, includes drugs and conveyances seized by law enforcement authorities and drug-related assets (monetary instruments, etc.) confiscated based on evidence that they have been derived from or used in illegal narcotics activities.

Sidewinder

Definition: (DOD) A solid-propellant, air-to-air missile with nonnuclear warhead and infrared, heat-seeking homer. Designated as AIM-9. The ground-to-air version is designated as Chaparral (MIM-72).

signal

Definition: (DOD, NATO) 1. As applied to electronics, any transmitted electrical impulse. 2. Operationally, a type of message, the text of which consists of one or more letters, words, characters, signal flags, visual displays, or special sounds with prearranged meaning, and which is conveyed or transmitted by visual, acoustical, or electrical means.

Silver Triangle

Definition: (DOD) The South American region consisting of Peru, Bolivia, and Colombia that is historically known to be a major illegal drug production area.

small arms

Definition: (DOD) Man portable, individual, and crew-served weapon systems used mainly against personnel and lightly armored or unarmored equipment.

sortie

Definition: (DOD, NATO) In air operations, an operational flight by one aircraft.

special forces

Definition: (DOD) US Army forces organized, trained, and equipped specifically to conduct special operations. Special forces have five primary missions: unconventional warfare, foreign internal defense, direct action, special reconnaissance, and counter terrorism. Counter terrorism is a special mission for specially organized, trained, and equipped special forces units designated in theater contingency plans.

Also Known As: SF

special forces group

Definition: (DOD) A combat arms organization capable of planning, conducting, and supporting special operations activities in all operational environments in peace, conflict, and war. It consists of a group headquarters and headquarters company, a support company, and special forces battalions. The group can operate as a single unit, but normally the battalions plan and conduct operations from widely separated locations. The group provides general operational direction and synchronizes the activities of subordinate battalions. Although principally structured for unconventional warfare, special forces group units are capable of task-organizing to meet specific requirements. **Also Known As:** SFG

special operations forces

Definition: (DOD) Those active and reserve component forces of the military Services designated by the Secretary of Defense and specifically organized, trained, and equipped to conduct and support special operations.

See also Air Force special operations forces; Army special operations forces; naval special warfare forces. **Also Known As:** SOF

spotter

Definition: (DOD) An observer stationed for the purpose of observing and reporting results of naval gunfire to the firing agency and who also may be employed in designating targets.

Could also be: field artillery observer; naval gunfire spotting team.

staging

Definition: (DOD) Assembling, holding, and organizing arriving personnel, equipment, and sustaining materiel in preparation for onward movement. The organizing and preparation for movement of personnel, equipment, and materiel at designated areas to incrementally build forces capable of meeting the operational commander's requirements.

stand fast

Definition: (DOD, NATO) An order at which all action ceases immediately.

static line (air transport)

Definition: (DOD) A line attached to a parachute pack and to a strop or anchor cable in an aircraft so that when the load is dropped the parachute is deployed automatically.

station

Definition: (DOD) 1. A general term meaning any military or naval activity at a fixed land location. 2. A particular kind of activity to which other activities or individuals may come for a specific service, often of a technical nature, e.g., aid station. 3. An assigned or prescribed position in a naval formation or cruising disposition; or an assigned area in an approach, contact, or battle disposition. 4. Any place of duty or post or position in the field to which an individual, or group of individuals, or a unit may be assigned. 5. One or more transmitters or receivers or a combination of transmitters and receivers, including the accessory equipment necessary at one location, for carrying on radio communication service. Each station will be classified by the service in which it operates permanently or temporarily.

sterilize

Definition: (DOD, NATO) 1. In naval mine warfare, to permanently render a mine incapable of firing by means of a device (e.g., sterilizer) within the mine. (DOD) 2. To remove from material to be used in covert and clandestine operations, marks or devices which can identify it as emanating from the sponsoring nation or organization.

stimulants

Definition: (DOD) Controlled drugs which make the user feel stronger, more decisive, and self-possessed; includes cocaine and amphetamines.

Stinger

Definition: (DOD) A lightweight, man-portable, shoulder-fired, air defense artillery missile weapon for low altitude air defense of forward area combat troops. Designated as FIM-92A.

stop-loss

Definition: (DOD) Presidential authority under Title 10 USC 12305 to suspend laws relating to promotion, retirement, or separation of any member of the Armed Forces determined essential to the national security of the United States ("laws relating to promotion" broadly includes, among others, grade tables, current general or flag officer authorizations, and E8/9 limits). This authority may be exercised by the President only if Reservists are serving on active duty under Title 10 authorities for Presidential Selected Reserve Callup, partial mobilization, or full mobilization.

strategy

Definition: (DOD) The art and science of developing and using political, economic, psychological, and military forces as necessary during peace and war, to afford the maximum support to policies, in order to increase the probabilities and favorable consequences of victory and to lessen the chances of defeat.

Stratofortress

Definition: (DOD) An all-weather, intercontinental, strategic heavy bomber powered by eight turbojet engines. It is capable of delivering nuclear and nonnuclear bombs, air-to-surface missiles, and decoys. Its range is extended by in-flight refueling. Designated as B-52.

Stratotanker

Definition: (DOD) A multipurpose aerial tanker-transport powered by four turbojet engines. It is equipped for high-speed, high-altitude refueling of bombers and fighters. Designated as KC-135.

strike

Definition: (DOD, NATO) An attack which is intended to inflict damage on, seize, or destroy an objective.

submarine

Definition: (DOD) A warship designed for under-the-surface operations with primary mission of locating and destroying ships, including other submarines. It is capable of various other naval missions. SSNs are nuclear powered. Designated as SS and SSN.

supply

Definition: (DOD) The procurement, distribution, maintenance while in storage, and salvage of supplies, including the determination of kind and quantity of supplies. a. producer phase--That phase of military supply which extends from determination of procurement schedules to

acceptance of finished supplies by the military Services. b. consumer phase--That phase of military supply which extends from receipt of finished supplies by the Military Services through issue for use or consumption.

support

Definition: (DOD) 1. The action of a force which aids, protects, complements, or sustains another force in accordance with a directive requiring such action. 2. A unit which helps another unit in battle. Aviation, artillery, or naval gunfire may be used as a support for infantry. 3. A part of any unit held back at the beginning of an attack as a reserve. 4. An element of a command which assists, protects, or supplies other forces in combat.

Could also be used as: close support; direct support; general support; interdepartmental/agency support; international logistic support; inter-Service support; mutual support.

suppression

Definition: (DOD) Temporary or transient degradation by an opposing force of the performance of a weapons system below the level needed to fulfill its mission objectives.

surface combatant

Definition: (DOD) A ship constructed and armed for combat use with the capability to conduct operations in multiple maritime roles against air, surface and subsurface threats, and land targets.

surplus property

Definition: (DOD) Any excess property not required for the needs and for the discharge of the responsibilities of all federal agencies, including the Department of Defense, as determined by the General Services Administration.

sweep

Definition: (DOD) To employ technical means to uncover planted microphones or other surveillance devices.

tactical air operation

Definition: (DOD) An air operation involving the employment of air power in coordination with ground or naval forces to: **a.** gain and maintain air superiority; **b.** prevent movement of enemy forces into and within the objective area and to seek out and destroy these forces and their supporting installations; **c.** join with ground or naval forces in operations within the objective area, in order to assist directly in attainment of their immediate objective.

tactical combat force

Definition: (DOD) A combat unit, with appropriate combat support and combat service support assets, that is assigned the mission of defeating Level III threats.

tank, main battle

Definition: (DOD) A tracked vehicle providing mobile firepower and crew protection for offensive combat.

target

Definition: (DOD) 1. A geographical area, complex, or installation planned for capture or destruction by military forces. 2. In intelligence usage, a country, area, installation, agency, or person against which intelligence operations are directed. 3. An area designated and numbered for future firing. 4. In gunfire support usage, an impact burst which hits the target.

See also objective area.

telecommunication

Definition: (DOD, NATO) Any transmission, emission, or reception of signs, signals, writings, images, sounds, or information of any nature by wire, radio, visual, or other electromagnetic systems.

terrestrial environment

Definition: (DOD) The Earth's land area, including its manmade and natural surface and sub-surface features, and its interfaces and interactions with the atmosphere and the oceans.

theater

Definition: (DOD) The geographical area outside the continental United States for which a commander of a combatant command has been assigned responsibility.

theater of operations

Definition: (DOD) A subarea within a theater of war defined by the geographic combatant commander required to conduct or support specific combat operations. Different theaters of operations within the same theater of war will normally be geographically separate and focused on different enemy forces. Theaters of operations are usually of significant size, allowing for operations over extended periods of time.

threat analysis

Definition: (DOD) In antiterrorism, threat analysis is a continual process of compiling and examining all available information concerning potential terrorist activities by terrorist groups which could target a facility. A threat analysis will review the factors of a terrorist group's existence, capability, intentions, history, and targeting, as well as the security environment within which friendly forces operate. Threat analysis is an essential step in identifying probability of terrorist attack and results in a threat assessment.

times

Definition: (DOD) (C-, D-, M-days end at 2400 hours Universal Time (zulu time) and are assumed to be 24 hours long for planning.) The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff normally coordinates the proposed date with the commanders of the appropriate unified and specified commands, as well as any recommended changes to C-day. L-hour will be established per plan, crisis, or theater of operations and will apply to both air and surface movements. Normally, L-hour will be established to allow C-day to be a 24-hour day. a. C-day b. D-day. c. F-hour d. H-hour e. L-hour f. M-day g. N-day h. R-day i. S-day j. T-day k. W-day

TNT equivalent

Definition: (DOD, NATO) A measure of the energy released from the detonation of a nuclear weapon, or from the explosion of a given quantity of fissionable material, in terms of the amount of TNT (Trinitrotoluene) which could release the same amount of energy when exploded.

Tomahawk

Definition: (DOD) An air-, land-, ship-, or submarine-launched cruise missile with three variants: land attack with conventional or nuclear capability, and tactical anti-ship with conventional warhead.

Tomcat

Definition: (DOD) A twin turbofan, dual-crew, supersonic, all-weather, long-range interceptor designed to operate from aircraft carriers. It carries a wide assortment of air-to-air and air-to-ground missiles and conventional ordnance. Primary mission is long-range fleet air defense with secondary close air support capability. Designated as F-14.

TOW (missile)

Definition: (DOD) A component of a tube-launched, optically tracked, wire-command link guided missile weapon system which is crew-portable.

toxic chemical, biological, or radiological attack

Definition: (DOD) An attack directed at personnel, animals, or crops, using injurious agents of radiological, biological, or chemical origin.

tracking

Definition: (DOD, NATO) 1. Precise and continuous position-finding of targets by radar, optical, or other means. (DOD) 2. In air intercept, a code meaning, "By my evaluation, target is steering true course indicated."

train

Definition: (DOD) 1. A service force or group of service elements which provides logistic support, e.g., an organization of naval auxiliary ships or merchant ships or merchant ships attached to a fleet for this purpose; similarly, the vehicles and operating personnel which furnish supply, evacuation, and maintenance services to a land unit. 2. Bombs dropped in short intervals or sequence.

training period

Definition: (DOD) An authorized and scheduled regular inactive duty training period. A training period must be at least two hours for retirement point credit and four hours for pay. Previously used interchangeably with other common terms such as drills, drill period, assemblies, periods of instruction, etc.

transient

Definition: (DOD) 1. Personnel, ships, or craft stopping temporarily at a post, station or port to which they are not assigned or attached, and having destination elsewhere. 2. An independent merchant ship calling at a port and sailing within 12 hours, and for which routing instructions to a further port have been promulgated. (*) 3. An individual awaiting orders, transport, etc., at a post or station to which he is not attached or assigned.

transport aircraft

Definition: (DOD, NATO) Aircraft designed primarily for the carriage of personnel and/or cargo. Transport aircraft may be classed according to range, as follows: a. Short-range--Not to exceed 1200 nautical miles at normal cruising conditions (2222 Km). b. Medium-range--Between 1200 and 3500 nautical miles at normal cruising conditions (2222 and 6482 Km). c. Long-range--Exceeds 3500 nautical miles at normal cruising conditions (6482 Km).

treason

Definition: (DOD) Violation of the allegiance owed to one's sovereign or state; betrayal of one's country.

triage

Definition: (DOD, NATO) The evaluation and classification of casualties for purposes of treatment and evacuation. It consists of the immediate sorting of patients according to type and seriousness of injury, and likelihood of survival, and the establishment of priority for treatment and evacuation to assure medical care of the greatest benefit to the largest number.

troops

Definition: (DOD) A collective term for uniformed military personnel (usually not applicable to naval personnel afloat). See also airborne troops; combat service support elements; combat support troops; combat troops; service troops; tactical troops.

uniformed services

Definition: (DOD) The Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Service.

unit

Definition: (DOD, NATO) 1. Any military element whose structure is prescribed by competent authority, such as a table of organization and equipment; specifically, part of an organization. 2. An organization title of a subdivision of a group in a task force. 3. A standard or basic quantity into which an item of supply is divided, issued, or used. In this meaning, also called unit of issue. 4. With regard to reserve components of the Armed Forces, denotes a Selected Reserve unit organized, equipped and trained for mobilization to serve on active duty as a unit or to augment or be augmented by another unit. Headquarters and support functions without wartime missions are not considered units.

unit training assembly

Definition: (DOD) An authorized and scheduled period of unit inactive duty training of a prescribed length of time.

Vulcan

Definition: (DOD) An Army air defense artillery gun which provides low-altitude air defense and has a direct fire capability against surface targets. The gun is a 6-barreled, air-cooled, 20-mm rotary-fired weapon.

walking patient

Definition: (DOD, NATO) A patient not requiring a litter while in transit.

war game

Definition: (DOD, NATO) A simulation, by whatever means, of a military operation involving two or more opposing forces, using rules, data, and procedures designed to depict an actual or assumed real life situation.

warp

Definition: (DOD) To haul a ship ahead by line or anchor.

watercraft

Definition: (DOD) Any vessel or craft designed specifically and only for movement on the surface of the water.

weaponneering

Definition: (DOD) The process of determining the quantity of a specific type of lethal or nonlethal weapons required to achieve a specific level of damage to a given target, considering target vulnerability, weapon effect, munitions delivery accuracy, damage criteria, probability of kill, and weapon reliability.

weapons of mass destruction

Definition: (DOD) In arms control usage, weapons that are capable of a high order of destruction and/or of being used in such a manner as to destroy large numbers of people. Can be nuclear, chemical, biological, and radiological weapons, but excludes the means of transporting or propelling the weapon where such means is a separable and divisible part of the weapon. **Also Known As:** WMD

24weapon(s) system

Definition: (DOD, NATO) A combination of one or more weapons with all related equipment, materials, services, personnel and means of delivery and deployment (if applicable) required for self-sufficiency.

wild weasel

Definition: (DOD, NATO) An aircraft specially modified to identify, locate, and physically suppress or destroy ground based enemy air defense systems that employ sensors radiating electromagnetic energy.

Special Thanks to:

Michael Howard

Massachusetts State Police

Michael.Howard@massmail.state.ma.us

Footnote: last revised 3/5/2013 by MDG