



Glossary of Military Terms

Active Duty: Continuous duty on a daily basis. Civilian term full time employment

BAH: Basic Allowance for Housing

Battalion: a unit of 300-1,000 soldiers

Brigade: a unit of 3,000-5,000 soldiers

Care Package: a package sent from homes containing food and or personal items

Chain of Command: the succession of commanding officers from a superior to a subordinate through commands are executed

CO: Commanding Officer

Company: a unit of 62-190 soldiers led by a captain

Corps: the Marine Corps also a unit of 20,000-40,000 soldiers

DoDDS- Department Defense Dependent Schools

Dependent: a family member from who service member is legally and financially responsible

Deploy: to systematically station military persons or forces over an area. The service member is temporarily assigned away from their home base.

Division: a unit of 10,000- 15,000 soldiers

Inactive Reserve Duty: affiliation with the military in a non-training, non-paying status after completing the minimum obligation of active duty

IED: Improvised Explosive Devise

Lifer- career military personnel

MEPS: Military Entrance Processing Station. Military bases throughout the US.

MIA: Missing In Action

MOS: Military Occupational Specialty

NCO: Non-Commissioned Officer; an enlisted person

Obligation: the period of time an individual agrees to serve active duty, Reserves or a combination of both

OCS: Officer Candidate School. A program for college graduates with no prior military training that wishes to become an officer

Quarters: Living accommodations or housing

Rank: Grade or official standing of commissioned and warrant officers

Reserves: the military forces comprised of individuals who are full time duty, but may not be active duty

R&R: Rest and Relaxation

Sea Duty: an assignment to any ship

Service or Services: A branch or multiple branches of the United States Armed Forces. There are five in all: the Army, the Air Force, the Coast Guard, the Marine Corps (or Marines) and the Navy.

Stand Down: a 3 day rest period for units coming out of the field

Station: A place of assigned duty

Tour of Duty: a specified period of service obligation

VA: Veterans Administration

Warrant Officer: A member of the Army, Navy, or Marines who is a technical specialist or pilot. These members are generally appointed from the enlisted, non-commissioned officer ranks