DICTIONARY OF MILITARY TERMS

THIRD EDITION
Preface

English is the language most frequently used in international military and peacekeeping operations. This dictionary aims to provide a basic vocabulary of British and American terms relating to the three services, and covers subjects such as rank, organization, training, operations in the field, logistics, radio communications, and some of the more common weapons and equipment currently in use. In addition, there are selected items of general vocabulary relating to geography, terrain, weather, medical treatment and other relevant matters. New terms used by the media in reporting on recent conflicts are also included, making this an ideal reference source for anyone involved in teaching English to the military or armed police forces.

Definitions are written in simple English, making them easily accessible to anyone with a basic knowledge of the language, and phonetic symbols are used to show the correct pronunciation. Encyclopedic comments are provided where necessary and most entries include example sentences, showing how the words and expressions are used in practice.

At the back of the book is a supplement of further useful information on topics such as ranks, the phonetic alphabet, formal orders, and military grouping symbols.
**Pronunciation**

The following symbols have been used to show the pronunciation of the main words in the dictionary.

Stress is indicated by a main stress mark (' ) and a secondary stress mark (, ). Note that these are only guides, as the stress of the word changes according to its position in the sentence.

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A1 Echelon /ˈɛʃələn/ noun combat supplies
A2 Echelon /ˈɛʃələn/ noun rations, spares, clothing, etc.
A-4 /ˈɛtʃər/ noun an American-designed multirole attack aircraft, designed to operate from an aircraft carrier. Also called Skyhawk (NOTE: The plural is A-4s)
A-6 /ˈɛtʃiks/ noun an American-designed ground-attack aircraft, designed to operate from an aircraft carrier. Also called Intruder (NOTE: The plural is A-6s)
A-7 /ˈɛtʃvɛn/ noun an American-designed ground-attack aircraft. Also called Corsair (NOTE: The plural is A-7s)
A-10 /ˈɛtʃtiːn/ noun an American-designed ground-attack aircraft. Also called Thunderbolt, Warthog, Tankbuster (NOTE: The plural is A-10s)
A-40 /ˈɛtʃtiː/ noun a Soviet-designed airborne early warning and control (AEW & C) aircraft with a large disc-like antenna (radome) mounted on the fuselage (NOTE: known to NATO as Mainstay)
AA abbreviation anti-aircraft
AAA abbreviation anti-aircraft artillery
AAV /ˈɛtʃiː/ noun an American-designed amphibious infantry fighting vehicle (IFV), which is designed to disembark from a landing ship at a considerable distance from the shore and is capable of travelling on water at high speed. Full form advanced amphibious assault vehicle
AAC abbreviation Army Air Corps
AAM abbreviation air-to-air missile
AAR /ˈɛtʃiː/ noun US the debriefing held at the conclusion of an exercise, in which the participants discuss their performance with the umpires. Full form after action review
Aardvark /ˈɑːdvɑːrk/ noun an official name for the American-designed F-111 fighter bomber
AAV-7A1 /ˈɛtʃiː viːˈɛtʃvɛn ˈɛtʃiː/ noun an American-designed amphibious assault vehicle seven. Also called Landing Vehicle Tracked Personnel (LVTP)
AAW abbreviation anti-air warfare
AAWS abbreviation anti-air warfare system
AB abbreviation able rating
abandon /ˈæbændən/ verb 1. to leave a vehicle or ship (usually for reasons of safety) • The captain gave the order to abandon ship, 2. to leave behind • We had to abandon large quantities of ammunition during the retreat, 3. to terminate an enterprise before it has been completed • Poor visibility forced us to abandon the remainder of patrol, 4. abort
abandoned /ˈæbændəd/ adjective deserted • We found the enemy trenches abandoned.
abatis /ˈæbatɪs, əˈbɑːtɪs/ noun an obstacle constructed by felling trees to block a likely approach • The road was blocked by an abatis.
Abbot /ˈæbɔːt/ noun a British 105mm self-propelled howitzer (SPH)
ABCCC /ˈɛtʃiː, sɪːˈsɪː/ noun US a command team operating from a C-130 aircraft, in order to coordinate close air
aboard. Full form airborne command, control and communications aboard /əˈbɔːrd/ adverb at right angles to the length of a ship or aircraft. The torpedo missed because we weren’t properly aboard of the target.

able rating /ˈæbl/ (NOTE: The ranks of junior rating and junior rating were abolished in April 1999) 

ablutions /əˈbluːʃən/ plural a room or building containing washing facilities and toilets. The ablutions were in a filthy state.

abort /əˈbɔːrt/ verb to stop an enterprise before it has been completed. We were forced to abort the mission.

abdominal /əˈbɒdʒən/ adjective unsuccesful. The enemy launched several abortive attacks.

about /əˈbɔːt/ adverb the opposite direction to that which you are now facing. About turn! turn around and face the opposite direction (drill command)

Abrams /ˈɛbərmz/ noun an American 1980s-era main battle tank

 abreast /əˈbreəst/ adverb side by side and facing the same direction. The infantry advanced in line abreast. The tanks halted abreast of each other.

abseil /əˈbɛsəl/ verb to descend, using a rope. We had to abseil down the cliff.

absent /əˈbɛsənt/ adjective away from a military unit (usually without permission). He’s been absent for three days.

AC /ˈæsi/ abbreviation aircraftman n noun a type of blood agent. Full form hydrogen cyanide. Also called HCN A/C abbreviation aircraft

AC-130 /ˈɛt si wən ˈboʊtəl/ noun a ground-attack variant of the Hercules C-130 transport aircraft

access /ˈækses/ noun 1. a way of approaching or entering. Access to the building is at the rear. 2. an opportunity to look at or use. I need access to the company records.

accessible /əˈkæsəbl/ adjective 1. approachable. The castle is only accessible in good weather. 2. readily available. That information is not accessible at the moment.

accident /ˈæk siti/ noun 1. physical harm or damage as a result of an error in judgement, defective equipment or bad luck. There has been an accident on the grenade range. 2. an event which occurs by chance or without apparent cause.
accomplice /əˈkʌmplɪs/ noun someone who helps another person to carry out an illegal act. He was an accomplice to the accidental shooting of Sgt Jones.

accidental discharge /ˌæksɪˈdɛnt(ə)l/ noun same as negligent discharge

accidentally /ˌæksɪˈdɛnt(ə)li/ adverb by accident. He shot the woman accidentally.

acclimatization /ˌækˈlaɪmətaʃən/ noun the process of becoming acclimatized

acclimatize /ˌækˈlaɪmətaɪz, -ˌklaɪˈmətaɪz/ verb 1. to allow someone to become accustomed to new conditions (especially climate). We will need at least ten days to acclimatize the troops to the heat. 2. to become accustomed to new conditions. The men will need at least ten days to acclimatize.

accommodate /əˈkɒmədeɪt/ verb to provide shelter. We were accommodated in a factory.

accommodation /əˈkɒmədeɪʃən/ noun 1. a place to live. The officer inspected the soldiers' accommodation. 2. an act of providing shelter. You are responsible for the accommodation of refugees.

acquire /əˈkwaɪər/ verb 1. to obtain something. Where did you acquire that food? 2. to have a target in the sights of a weapon. He acquired the tank with his thermal imaging sight.

acquisition /əˈkwɪʒ(ə)n/ noun an act of acquiring. He is responsible for the acquisition of food from local sources.

acquired immunodeficiency syndrome /ˌækwaɪərd ɪˌmjuːnəˈdɛfɪʃəni ˈsɜːndrəm/ noun full form of AIDS

acclimatization /ˌækˈlaɪmətaʃən/ noun the process of becoming acclimatized

achieve /əˈtʃiːv/ verb to complete a task successfully. We have achieved our mission. To achieve a solution, you must have a target in the sights of a guided weapon, with the guidance system activated. He achieved a solution on the leading plane.

acknowledge /əkˈnɔːldʒ/ verb 1. to confirm that a piece of information has been received and understood. 2. to recognize that something is true. He acknowledged the news.

acquisition logistics /əˈkwɪʒ(ə)n ˈlɒdʒɪstɪks/ noun the logistics of providing food to the troops.
involved in acquiring supplies, buildings and other material for armed forces.

**ACR**

Abbreviation: armoured cavalry regiment

**act**

/əekt/ noun something which is done 1. *act of aggression* unprovoked attack. 2. *act in the process of doing something* We caught them in the act of planting the bomb. 3. *verb* to do something 1. We were forced to act when the man was shot. 2. to do something 2. to remain in action to stay active 3. *verb* to cause something to be done (by another person) 1. I have actioned your request for a transfer.

**acting**

/ˈæktɪŋ/ adjective doing someone else’s job on a temporary basis 1. He is the acting platoon sergeant at the moment. Compare **substantive**

**action**

/ˈækʃən/ noun 1. something which is done 1. You are responsible for your own actions. 2. *to take action* to do something 1. an engagement with the enemy 2. There were several small actions during the afternoon. 3. *to remain in action* to stay active 4. *verb* to cause something to be done (by another person) 1. I have actioned your request for a transfer.

**activate**

/ˈækтивɪt/ verb to make a device operate 1. The device is activated by pressing this button.

**active**

/ˈækтив/ adjective 1. operating 1. Enemy special forces are active in your area. 2. working or ready to work 1. The device is now active. 3. relating to night-viewing devices which require an external source of infrared (IR) light in order to operate. Compare passive form

**active list**

/ˈækтив ˈlɪst/ noun a list of officers available for active service

**active service**

/ˈækティブ ˈsɜːvɪs/ noun service in a war zone (NOTE: In the British armed forces, the term active service is only used when the nation is officially at war. For counter-insurgency and peacekeeping operations, the term operational service is used.)

**active service unit**

/ˈækティブ ˈsɜːvɪs ˈjʊnt/ noun a small group used by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) to carry out a terrorist attack. Abbreviation: ASU

**activist**

/ˈækтивɪst/ noun a person, normally holding extreme views, who believes in the use of action rather than debate in order to achieve their political aims 1. The rioting was started by left-wing activists.

**activity**

/ˈækティブɪtɪ/ noun several different actions or an action which is carried out repeatedly or over a period of time 1. There has been very little enemy activity today.

**ADC**

Abbreviation: aide-de-camp

**add**

/æd/ verb 1. To join one thing to another in order to increase the quantity 2. to correct artillery or mortar fire so that the rounds land further away from the observer 1. Add 200! add 200 metres. Compare: **drop**

**ad hoc**

/æd/ noun 1. 'hkn/ A Latin phrase meaning 'formed for a specific purpose' 2. They were organized into an ad hoc unit.

**ADJ**

Abbreviation: adjutant

**adjust**

/əˈdʒʌst/ verb 1. To change the position of something 1. He adjusted the straps on his rucksack 2. to direct artillery or mortar fire onto a target by observing the fall of shot and sending corrections back to the gun line 1. The enemy artillery is adjusting onto B Company's position 2. Adjustable wrench /ˈædʒʌstəbəl/ noun a large spanner which can be adjusted to undo various sizes of nut

**adjusting fire**

/əˈdʒʌstɪŋ ˈfaɪər/ noun the firing of a single round by one gun
or mortar so that a forward observer can observe the fall of shot

**adjustment** /ˌdʒəˈstəmənt/ noun 1. an act of changing the position of something ○ He made several minor adjustments to the weapon sight. 2. the process of adjusting artillery or mortar fire ○ We will need at least fifteen minutes for adjustment. 3. corrections calculated by a forward observer after observing the fall of shot of an artillery or mortar round ○ The guns were on target after my first adjustment.

**adjutant** /əˈdʒuːtənt/ noun a battalion officer (usually a captain) who acts as the commanding officer’s assistant and is also responsible for discipline. Abbr Adj (NOTE: In certain other armies, adjutant is synonymous with aide-de-camp (ADC).)

**Adjutant-General** /ˌædʒəˈtænt ˈdʒenəˈral/ noun a top administrative post in the army

**Adjutant General’s Corps** /ˌædʒəˈtænt ˈdʒenəˈralz ˈkɔrps/ noun a branch of the armed services which deals mainly with personnel and administration. Abbr AGC

**Adm** abbreviation admiral

**admin** /ædˈmɪn/ noun administration (informal) ○ I’ve got a lot of admin to do.

**administer** /ædˈmɪnɪstər/ verb to manage a unit or organization

**administrate** /ædˈmɪnɪstreɪt/ verb to administer on a national or regional level ○ He was sent out to administrate the region.

**administration** /ædˌmɪnɪstrəʃ(ə)n/ noun 1. the day-to-day management of a unit or organization ○ I am responsible for administration. 2. government ○ The local administration is extremely unhelpful.

**administrative** /ædˌmɪnɪstrətɪv/ adjective relating to administration

**administrative tasks** /ædˌmɪnɪstrətɪv ˈtæskz/ plural noun tasks other than actual fighting (such as the resupply of ammunition, food or fuel, personnel matters, etc.)

**admiral** /ædˈmɪrəl/ noun a senior officer in the British and US navies (usually in command of a fleet). Abbr Adm

**Admiral of the Fleet** Fleet Admiral noun the highest rank in the Navy. ○ rear-admiral, vice-admiral

**Admiralty** /ædˈmɪrəlɪti/ noun the department which administers the Royal Navy

**advance** /ədˈvɑːns/ adjective 1. early ○ We will need advance warning for any ammunition requests. 2. forward ○ Advance units of the enemy have been seen. 3. in advance ○ Ammunition bids must be submitted well in advance. ○ verb 1. to move forward ○ 2. to move towards the enemy ○ advance to contact a method of locating the enemy by advancing into his territory until contact is made, whereupon the leading units or sub-units engage the enemy, while the main force deploys to mount an attack

**advanced amphibious assault vehicle** /ədˈvɑːnsd əmˈfɪbɪəs ˈæsəlt ˈvɛhl/ noun full form of AAAV

**advanced medium-range air-to-air missile** /ədˈvɑːnsd ˈmɪdɪəm ˌɛətəˈɛər ˈmɪsəl/ noun full form of AMRAAM

**advanced short-range air-to-air missile** /ədˈvɑːnsd ˈʃɔrt ˌɛətəˈɛər ˈmɪsəl/ noun full form of ASRAAM

**advance guard** /ədˈvɑːnsd ˈɑːrdvərd/ noun a small military force which advances between the reconnaissance units and the main body of an advancing force, in order to engage the enemy and occupy his attention while the main body deploys into attack formation. Compare vanguard

**adverse** /ədˈvɜːs/ adjective causing difficulty ○ We were unable to fly because of adverse weather conditions.

**advice** /ədˈvɑːs/ noun a suggestion as to what should be done ○ He refused to take my advice.
advise /ədˈvɑːz/ verb 1. to suggest what should be done ○ He advised the colonel to stop the attack. 2. to inform someone ○ He was advised that the situation would not improve. ○ You should be advised that the bridge is not suitable for tanks.

adviser /ədˈvɑːzər/ noun a person appointed to give advice

A Echelon /ˈeɪ 电缆/ noun the logistical elements of a tactical grouping.

Aegis /ˈeɪdʒɪs/ noun an American-designed integrated naval air defense system (AAWS), consisting of computerized radar and other surveillance systems, fire control systems and surface-to-air missiles (SAM)

AEO /əiˈoʊi/ noun an officer responsible for ensuring that the aircraft of a squadron are fit to fly. Full form engineering officer

aerial /ˈɛərɪəl/ adjective relating to the air ○ a noun a metal wire, rod, mast or structure used in the receiving and transmission of radio signals ○ Enemy command tanks usually have two aerials ○ antenna

aerial bombardment /ˈɛərɪəl bɔrnˈdɔːmənt/ noun a bombing attack by aircraft

aerial photography /ˈɛərɪəl fəˈfəriə/ noun photography involving the use of aircraft

aerial reconnaissance /ˈɛərɪəl rɪˈkənəns/ noun reconnaissance using aircraft

aerial torpedo /ˈɛərɪəl tɔrˈpiːdəʊ/ noun a torpedo designed to be dropped by aircraft

aerodrome /ˌɛərəˈdrəʊm/ noun a small airbase, airfield or airport (NOTE: This term is now obsolete)

aerodynamics /ˌɛərəˈdɑːnɪkz/ noun a study of the effects caused by a solid object moving through air (NOTE: takes a singular verb)

aeroplane /ˌɛərəˈpleɪn/ noun a fixed-wing aircraft (NOTE: The American English term is airplane.)

aerosol /ˌɛərəˈsɒl/ noun tiny particles of solid or liquid matter, which are suspended in the atmosphere (e.g. mist, smoke or vapour) ○ The agent is delivered as an aerosol.

AEW & C /ˈeɪiˌwɛər ˈsiː/ noun a technology which detects enemy aircraft and missiles and then controls interception by friendly fighters. Full form airborne early warning and control. Also called Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS)

affirmative /əˈfɜːrmətɪv/ adjective true or accurate ○ That is affirmative. ○ adverb that is correct (radio terminology) ○ ‘Hallo 22, this is 2, are you in position yet, over?’ – ‘22, affirmative, over’ Compare negative ○ copy, roger ○ aft /əft/ adverb towards the rear of an aircraft or ship ○ He went aft.

after action review /ˌɑːftər ˈeɪʃən rivər/ noun a period of duty from 1200–1600hrs

AFV abbreviation armoured fighting vehicle

AFV-432, FV-432 noun a British 1960s-era armoured personnel carrier (APC) (NOTE: normally referred to simply as a 432)

AGC abbreviation Adjutant General’s Corps

agent /ˈeɪdʒənt/ noun 1. someone who poses as a civilian in order to gather information, carry out assassinations or acts of sabotage ○ We arrested two enemy agents near the missile base. ○ spy 2. a chemical used as a weapon

Agent Orange /ˈeɪdʒənt ˈɔrɪndʒ/ noun an American defoliating agent

agent provocateur /ˌeɪdʒənt prəˌvɒkəˈtɔːr/ noun French words meaning ‘agent who provokes’: a person who provokes others to start civil disorder or to commit a crime (often by taking part himself) in order to start a revolution, or to find out who is not reliable, or to encourage people to commit crimes for which they will be arrested

aggression /əˈɡresʃən/ noun hostile behaviour
aggressive /əˈɡɛrəsiv/ adjective offensive (rather than defensive) • The divisional commander has called for an increase in aggressive patrolling.

aggressive delay /əˈɡɛrəsiv dɪˈleɪ/ noun a tactic involving the aggressive use of small units to slow down an advancing enemy force so that a main line of defence can be prepared or strengthened

aggressor /əˈɡɛrəsəs/ noun a nation which attacks another nation without provocation • Ruritania is seen as the aggressor in this conflict.

aggro /ˈæɡrəʊ/ noun disorderly behaviour leading to violence (informal) • We’re expecting aggro tonight.

AGM abbreviation air-to-ground missile

agreement /əˈɡrɛmənt/ noun a contract made between the authorities of different nations, or between NATO commanders and national authorities

AH-1 /ˈeɪ ˈhɛtʃ ˈwʌn/ noun, Huey Cobra

AH-64 /ˈeɪ ˈhɛtʃ ˈɛtʃtʃi ˈfɔrntʃi/ noun, Apache

AI abbreviation airborne interception

aid /eɪd/ noun help • aid to the civil authorities military assistance in maintaining public services (such as firefighting, refuse collection, etc.) • aid to the civil powers military assistance to the police in maintaining law and order • verb to help • to aid and abet to help and encourage someone to commit a crime (legal term)

aide-de-camp /eɪd dəˈkæmp/ noun, French an officer (usually a captain) who acts as a personal assistant to a general. Abbr ADC (NOTE: The plural form is aides-de-camp)

aide-mémoire /eɪd ˌmɛmˈwa/ noun, French a book or card containing useful or specialist information in an easy-to-read format • He left his aide-mémoire in the briefing room.

AIDS /eɪdz/ noun an infection caused by the HIV virus which attacks the body’s immune system. Full form acquired immunodeficiency syndrome

aid worker /ˈeɪd ˌwɜːkər/ noun a person involved in foreign aid

AIFV /ˈeɪ ˈɪfəv/ noun an American-designed infantry fighting vehicle

aileron /eɪləˈrɔn/ noun a moving part of an aircraft wing, which is used to control lateral balance

aim /eɪm/ noun • the act of directing a weapon • His aim was unsteady. • an intention • Their aim was to disrupt our communications. • verb 1. to direct a weapon at something • He aimed at the tank. 2. to intend • We aim to capture the bridge intact.

AIM /eɪm/ noun, et at ‘em/ noun another name for an air-to-air missile (AAM). Full form air intercept missile

aiming mark /ˈeɪmɪŋ mɑrk/ noun the point at which one aims, in order to hit a target

air /eə/ adjective 1. relating to the atmosphere 2. relating to the use of aircraft • noun 1. the earth’s atmosphere • The air is contaminated with radioactive dust. 2. a place where aircraft or birds can fly • He was ordered to watch the air. • in the air flying in flight • the plane is already in the air 3. using aircraft • The battalion deployed by air. • verb • to be in the air (relating to the flank of an army or formation) exposed or unprotected • He’s right flank is in the air.

air-assault /əˈɔːr ˈɔːsəlt/ adjective US equipped with their own transport helicopters and supporting attack helicopters • This is an air-assault battalion.

air cavalry

air-assault battalion /eərˈɔːsəlt ˈbætən/ noun a US infantry battalion equipped with its own transport helicopters and supporting attack helicopters

air-assault infantry /eərˈɔːsəlt ˈɪnfrənt/ noun infantry equipped with their own transport helicopters and supporting attack helicopters

airbase /eəˈbeɪs/ noun a base for the operation of military aircraft
airborne /'ɛəbɔːrn/ adjective 1. carried by aircraft. Compare air-assault, air-portable 2. deployed by parachute a airborne troops paratroopers.

airborne command, control and communications /ˌɛəbɔːrn kəˈmɑːnd kənˈtrɔːl ən kəmˌjuːniˈteɪʃən/ noun full form of ABCCC

airborne early warning and control /ˌɛəbɔːrn ˈɛərɛli ˈwɑːrnɪŋ ənd ˈkəntɒl/ noun full form of AEW & C

airborne warning and control system /ˌɛəbɔːrn wɔːrnɪŋ ən kənˈtrɔːl ,sɪstəm/ noun electronic equipment, carried in specially designed aircraft, which detects enemy aircraft or missiles at long ranges and then coordinates their interception by friendly aircraft or missiles. Also called airborne early warning and control. Abbr AWAC

airburst /ˈɛəbrʌst/ noun an explosion of an artillery round or missile in the air (above its target)

air cavalry /ˈɛə kəˈvælri/ noun US infantry equipped with their own integral transport helicopters and attack helicopters

air chief marshal /ˈɛə tʃiˈmɑːʃl/ noun a senior officer in the air force (equivalent to a general in the army)

Air Combat Command /ˈɛə kəˈmɑːnd kəˌmɑːnd/ noun US full form of ACC

air combat manoeuvring and instrumentation /ˌɛə kəˌmɑːnt biˈmɒnəvər ənd ,ɪnstrəməntəˈteɪʃən/ noun full form of ACM

air commodore /ˈɛə kəˌmɔdər/ noun a senior officer in the air force, below an air vice marshal

air component /ˈɛə kəˌmənənt/ noun all aircraft, regardless of whether they are from the air force or navy or army

air controller /ˈɛə kənˈtrɔːlər/ noun same as air traffic controller

air-cooled /ˈɛə kəˈküld/ adjective cooled by a current of air or simply by exposure to the atmosphere ○ This machine-gun is air-cooled.

air cover /ˈɛə kɑːvər/ noun aircraft which are in the air or on call in order to provide air support if required

aircraft /ˈɛəkrɑːft/ noun a machine capable of flight

COMMENT: Aircraft are classified as fixed-wing aircraft (aircraft with wings) and rotary-wing aircraft (helicopters).

aircraft carrier /ˈɛəkrɑːft kəˈriər/ noun a large ship designed to carry aircraft and equipped with maintenance facilities and a runway for take-off and landing

aircraft control room /ˌɛəkrɑːft kontrəˈruːm/ noun full form of ACR

aircraftman /ˌɛəkrɑːftmən/ noun the lowest non-commissioned rank in the air force (equivalent to a private soldier in the army). Abbr AC

aircrew /ˌɛəkrəʊ/ noun the personnel who man an aircraft

air defence /ˈɛə dɪˈfens/ noun defence against enemy aircraft ○ The divisional artillery includes an air defence battery.

airdrop /ˈɛədrɒp/ noun the dropping of cargo or personnel from an aircraft which is flying

air engineering officer /ˈɛə ˈɛərɪnɡ ˈɒfɪsər/ noun a member of the air force who is responsible for the maintenance of aircraft

airfield /ˈɛəfɪld/ noun an area of ground (often unprepared) where aircraft can take off and land and be maintained

air force /ˈɛə fɔːs/ noun the branch of a state’s armed forces which operates in the air

air-force /ˈɛə fɔːs/ adjective relating to an air force ○ All air-force personnel on the base should report to the duty officer.

airframe /ˈɛəfrɛɪm/ noun the body of an aircraft

air intake /ˈɛə ˈɪnteɪk/ noun the part of an engine which draws air in from outside

air intercept missile /ˈɛə ˈɪntərsept ˈmɪsəl/ noun full form of AIM
Air-Land Battle /ˈeə lænd ‘beɪt(ə)l/ noun a current military doctrine in which aircraft and long-range missiles are used to attack the enemy’s reserves and logistical support, at the same time as his forward elements are being engaged by ground forces using all the principles of manoeuvre warfare

air-launched anti-radiation missile /ˈeə ləntəd ‘rɛdiətʃən mɪsɪl/ noun an air-launched anti-radiation missile, formerly known as an ALARM.

air liaison officer /ˈeə lɪ'ez(ə)n ˈɔfɪsər/ noun an air liaison officer, who is assigned to look out for enemy aircraft or equipment or supplies using aircraft.

airstrip /ˈeə strɪp/ noun an airstrip.

aerial /ˈeə rɪəl/ adjective capable of deploying to an area of operations by transport aircraft. Compare airborne, air-assault

air-mobile /ˈeə məˈbɒl/ adjective deployed to an area of operations by transport aircraft or an airmobile brigade.

air photograph /ˈeə fəˈtɒgrəf/ noun an air photograph, usually taken from an aircraft.

airport /ˈeəpɔːt/ noun a complex of runways for the take-off and landing of civil aircraft, with facilities for aircraft maintenance and the care of passengers.

air-raid /ˈeə ˈreɪd/ noun an attack by aircraft against a target on the ground (usually with bombs).

air-sea rescue /ˈeə sɪˈriːz/ noun the use of aircraft and helicopters to rescue someone from the sea.

air-space /ˈeəspeɪs/ noun an aerial territory controlled by an air force or subject to the jurisdiction of a state. In the UN, the airspace is now entering enemy airspace.

air-strike /ˈeə strɪk/ noun an attack by aircraft against a target on the ground (usually with air-to-ground missiles).

airstriker /ˈeəstrɪkər/ noun a military operation involving aircraft.

Air-Force /ˈeə fɔːs/ noun the Air Force, the branch of the armed forces concerned with the operation of aircraft.

Air-Land /ˈeə lænd/ noun a complex of runways for the take-off and landing of military aircraft.
air superiority

landing of small aircraft. The engineers prepared an airstrip close to the field hospital.

air superiority noun a situation in which you have sufficient fighter aircraft to prevent the enemy from using his air assets effectively.

air support noun 1. an attack by aircraft in support of ground troops. 2. any assistance given by aircraft to ground troops.

air tasking order noun a daily programme of all air tasks, including routes, targets, frequencies, call signs, logistical details, etc. Abbr ATO.

air task operations centre noun full form of ATOC.

airtight adjective must be stored in an airtight container.

air-to-air missile noun an anti-aircraft missile designed to be fired from an aircraft. Abbr AAM.

air-to-air refuelling noun a process by which an aircraft is refuelled in mid-air from a tanker aircraft.

air-to-ground missile noun a missile designed to be fired from an aircraft at a target on the ground. Abbr AGM.

air-to-surface missile noun a missile designed to be fired from an aircraft at a target on the ground or on the surface of the sea. Abbr ASM.

air traffic noun aircraft moving in the air. There will be an accident if air traffic is not reduced.

air traffic controller noun a civilian or military official who controls the passage of aircraft through a defined air-space.

air vice marshal noun a senior officer in the air force, below an air marshal.

air waves noun the entire range of radio frequency. The enemy will be scanning the air waves for our radio transmissions.

airwoman noun the lowest female non-commissioned rank in the air force.

airworthy adjective fit to fly. This helicopter is not airworthy.

airframe noun a Soviet-designed 7.62mm assault weapon. A Kalashnikov.

Alamo noun a medium-range air-to-air missile (AAM).

Alamo noun a Soviet-designed medium-range air-to-air missile (AAM).

alert noun 1. warning of threat or danger. We had a gas alarm last night. 2. a signal to be given when there is an alarm. The gas alarm is given by banging two mess tins together. 3. an electronic or mechanical device designed to detect a specific danger. 4. a state of fear and disorder caused by imminent danger. There is no cause for alarm. To give someone a reason to be frightened. We must not alarm the civilians.

ALARM noun a British-designed air-to-ground anti-radar missile (ARM). Full form air-launched anti-radiation missile.

alarmed adjective frightened. Do not be alarmed.

alerted adjective watchful and ready to take action. We must be alert tonight.

ALAMO a.k.a. Michael Higgins.

alias noun a false name. He uses Kurt Baumann as an alias.

Alfa noun US spelling of Alpha.

airwaves noun plural the entire range of radio frequency.

airwoman noun the lowest female non-commissioned rank in the air force.

airworthy adjective fit to fly. This helicopter is not airworthy.

AK-47 noun a Soviet-designed 7.62mm assault weapon. A Kalashnikov.

Alamo noun a medium-range air-to-air missile (AAM).

alerted adjective 1. belonging to or coming from another country. Alien ships are being impounded. 2. from another planet. He claims to have
terms

- **ally** /ˈæli/ noun a member of an alliance ○ the Allies states which form an alliance (used during the Second World War to refer to states which opposed Germany, Italy and Japan) ○ verb to make an alliance ○ Austria has allied itself to Germany.

- **ALO** /ˈɔl ə/ noun an air-force officer attached to an army headquarters to coordinate close air support (CAS). Full form air liaison officer

- **Alpha** /ˈælfə/ noun the first letter of the phonetic alphabet (Aa)

- **Alphajet** /ˈælfə dopət/ noun a French/German-designed light fighter aircraft

- **alter** /ˈɔltər/ verb to change something ○ It’s too late to alter the fireplan now.

- **alternate** /ˈɔltərənt/ adjective one after the other (often repeatedly) ○ verb to change from one thing or activity to another (often repeatedly) ○ He had to alternate between manning the gun and operating the radio.

- **alternate bounds** /ˈɔltər bɔnts/ plural noun movement in bounds, with one person or vehicle or sub-unit stationary and giving or preparing to give covering fire, while the other moves past to occupy a fire position beyond

- **alternately** /ˈɔltərəntli/ adverb one after the other (often repeatedly) ○ The guns were firing alternately.

- **alternative** /ˈɔltərəntəlv/ adjective different or additional ○ That gully would make a good alternative position for the mortars. ○ noun one of two or more possible courses of action ○ We have no alternative: we must attack now.

- **altitude** /ˈɔltəltjjuːd/ noun a vertical distance from the ground or sea level (note: Altitude is usually measured in feet.)

- **ambassador** /əˈmæsbəd/ noun a diplomat sent by a state to act as its senior representative in a foreign country

- **amber** /ˈæmbr/ adjective a colour similar to orange. ○ AWLS
amber warning light system

amendment light system

ambulance

amidships

ambush

ammunition

ammunition dump

ammunition pouch

amphibious

amphibious assault

amphibious engineers

amphibious operation

amphibious tractor

ammunition state

ammunition technician officer

American Legion

American

American Legion

American

American Legion

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American Legion

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### AMX-30
noun a 1960s-era main battle tank (MBT)

### AMX-40
noun a 1980s-era main battle tank (MBT)

### AMX-105
noun a self-propelled gun

**anchor** /ˈæŋkəl/ noun a heavy metal weight, which is lowered to the bottom of the sea in order to stop a stationary ship from drifting. **at anchor** moored with an anchor. **verb** to moor a ship with an anchor. **We anchored in the estuary.**

### ANGLICO
/ˈæŋglɪkoʊ/ noun US a small Marine Corps team, which is trained to direct close air support, naval gunfire support and artillery fire. Full form **air naval gunfire liaison company**

**annotate** /ˈænəˌteɪt/ **verb** to add explanatory notes to a document. **He annotated the fire plan.**

### Antarctic Circle
/ˈæntərktɪk/ noun the continent at the South Pole, the region south of the Antarctic Circle which is largely covered in snow and ice. Compare Arctic • adjective referring to the Antarctic

**antenna** /ˈæntənə/ noun a metal rod, mast or structure used in the transmission of radio signals. **aerial** (NOTE: The plural of antenna, in this context, is antennas, rather than antennae.)

**ante-room** /ˈæntɪˌrʊm/ noun a drawing-room in an officers’ mess. **The CO is in the ante-room.**

**anthrax** /ˈænθrækʃəs/ noun a disease of cattle and sheep which is transmissible to humans

**COMMENT:** Caused by a bacillus, Bacillus anthracis, anthrax can be transmitted by touching infected skin, meat or other parts of an animal. It causes pustules on the skin or in the lungs. Some nations are known to have developed anthrax for use as a biological weapon.

**anti-** /ˈæntɪ/ **prefix** designed to counter...
anti-ship missile  14
home in on an enemy radar transmission. Abbr ARM
anti-ship missile /,ænti 'ʃipˌməsəl/ noun a missile designed to damage or destroy a ship (usually launched from an aircraft or other ship). Abbr ASM
anti-sniper /,ænti 'snæpə/ adjective intended to counter activity by snipers or to protect forces against sniper fire
anti-tank /,ænti 'tæŋk/ adjective designed to damage or destroy or obstruct an armoured vehicle. Abbr ATk
anti-tank ditch /,ænti 'tæŋk ,dɪtʃ/ noun a ditch dug as an obstacle to tanks and other armoured vehicles
anti-tank grenade launcher /,ænti tæŋk ɡrɪˈnɛrdˌlæŋˈdʒər/ noun a grenade launcher designed to damage or destroy an armoured vehicle
anti-tank mine /,ænti 'tæŋkˌmaɪn/ noun a mine designed to damage or destroy an armoured vehicle
anti-tank platoon /,ænti 'tæŋk ˈpləʊˈtʊn/ noun a specialist platoon of an infantry battalion, whose specific role is the destruction of enemy armour. LAW
AOC abbreviation air officer commanding
AOCC abbreviation air operations coordination cell
AOR abbreviation area of responsibility
AP abbreviation 1. Allied Publication 2. anti-personnel 3. armour-piercing
Apache /'æpəˌpiːtʃ/ noun an American attack helicopter
APC abbreviation armoured personnel carrier ○ I can see three APCs on the edge of the wood.
APDS abbreviation armour-piercing discarding-sabot
APFSDS abbreviation armour-piercing fin-stabilized discarding-sabot
Aphid /'efɪd/ noun a Soviet-designed short-range air-to-air missile (AAM)
appoint /'ɔːpˌpɔɪnt/ verb 1. to assign a person to a job ○ He was appointed as a platoon sergeant 2. to arrange a time and place ○ The O Group was appointed for 1600 hours.
appointment /'ɔːpˌpɔɪntmənt/ noun 1. an act of assigning a person to a job ○ He is responsible for all appointments 2. an arrangement to meet at a specific time and place ○ I have an appointment with the doctor. 3. a job ○ He is not suitable for this appointment.
appraisal /,ɑːprəˈsɔːl/ noun a systematic decision-making process involving a careful examination of all the factors involved, the identification of all the available options, and finally, the selection of the most suitable option as the basis for a plan ○ The company commander is making his appraisal at the moment.
appraise /,ɑːprəˌziː/ noun 1. an act of coming near ○ We could hear the approach of enemy tanks. 2. a route towards a specific location ○ We must cover all the likely approaches. ○ verb to come near ○ They were approaching the enemy position.
appraise /,ɑːprəˌziː/ plural noun a series of lights on the ground which show a pilot the route to an airport or landing strip
arable /əˈrerəbl/ adjective relating to the cultivation of crops
arable land /əˈrerəbl lænd/ noun farmland devoted to the cultivation of crops
arc /ɑːrk/ noun part of the circumference of a circle
comment: A defensive position is normally sited so that the arcs of each weapon or position or sub-unit overlap with those of its neighbours; these are called interlocking arcs of fire.
Archer /ˈɑːtʃər/ noun a Soviet-designed short-range air-to-air missile (AAM)
ar of fire /ɑːk əv ˈfreɪ/ noun a designated area of ground covered by an individual weapon ○ Each soldier was shown his arc of fire.
Arctic /ˈɑːktɪk/ noun an area of ice and snow around the North Pole, the region north of the Arctic Circle. Compare Antarctic a adjective 1. referring to the
Arctic 2. relating to conditions of extreme cold

Arctic Circle /a:rtɪk 'sɜz(ə)l/ noun the parallel running round the Earth at latitude 66° 33 N, to the north of which lies the Arctic region. Compare Antarctic Circle

arctic clothing /a:rtɪk 'kləʊðɪŋ/ noun clothing designed for use in extremely cold climates

arctic warfare /a:rtɪk 'wɔːrɛf/ noun military operations carried out near both Arctic and Antarctic regions

area /'ɛriə/ noun a piece of ground

area defence /'ɛriə dɪ'fens/ noun a naval anti-air warfare (AAW) term for warships’ use of their long-range surface-to-air missiles (SAM) for the mutual defence

area of influence /'ɛriə əv 'ɪnfluəns/ noun ground occupied by the enemy which will probably affect a unit’s current operations

area of interest /'ɛriə əv 'ɪntərst/ noun ground occupied by the enemy which could affect a unit’s future operations

area of separation /'ɛriə əv əˌsepə 'reʃ(ə)n/ noun same as buffer zone

area weapon /'ɛriə 'wepən/ noun a weapon which can deliver a quantity of projectiles over a wide area and thus effectively engage several targets simultaneously (e.g. machine gun, artillery, mortar, cluster bomb)

arm /ɑːm/ noun 1. a weapon ○ The right to bear arms is protected by the constitution. 2. to order arms to hold a rifle with the butt resting on the ground beside the right foot (military instructions) ○ to port arms to hold a rifle diagonally across the chest (military instructions) ○ to present arms to salute someone by holding a rifle in front of the body in a vertical position (military instructions) ○ to reverse arms to hold a rifle with the butt facing upwards and the muzzle pointing at the ground (used at funerals) ○ to shoulder arms to carry a rifle by resting it on the shoulder (military instructions) 3. under arms serving in the armed forces ○ They have an army of 100,000 permanently under arms. 4. a branch of the armed forces (e.g., armour, artillery, infantry) ○ verb 1. to equip with weapons ○ The government is starting to arm the police. 2. to prepare a shell, bomb, etc., by removing any safety mechanism ○ To arm the shell you must remove the safety pin.

ARM abbreviation anti-radar missile

Armalite /ɑːrmələt/ noun an American 5.56mm assault weapon

armament /ɑːrməmənt/ noun 1. a general term for a weapon 2. the process of equipping with weapons

armaments factory /ɑːrməmənts 'fæk(t)əri/ noun a factory making guns, tanks, etc.

armd abbreviation armoured

armed /ɑːmd/ adjective 1. equipped with a weapon ○ The man is armed and dangerous. 2. ready to fire or explode ○ The shell is armed when the safety pin is removed.

armed forces /ɑːmd 'fɔːrsiz/ plural noun a general title for all military forces (army, navy, air force, etc.)

armed insurrection /ɑːmd 'ɪnsəkʃən/ noun resistance to established authority, involving the use of weapons

armed neutrality /ɑːmd ˈnjuːtrəlɪtɪ/ noun the use of armed force by a neutral state, in order to prevent interference by the military forces of other states which are involved in a war

armistice /ɑːmistɪs/ noun an agreement by both sides to stop fighting ○ An armistice was signed to end the war. ○ ceasefire, truce

armor /'ɑrmər/ noun US spelling of arour

armored /'ɑrməd/ adjective US spelling of armoured

armorer /'ɑrmər/ noun US spelling of armourer

armor-piercing /'ɑrmər 'pɪərəs/ adjective US spelling of armour-piercing

armory /'ɑrmɔrɪ/ noun US spelling of armour

armour /'ɑmər/ noun 1. a defensive covering designed to protect a vehicle from bullets, shrapnel and other projec-
armoured

The frontal armour on this tank is 150mm thick. 2. a collective word for armoured fighting vehicles (especially tanks) 3. Enemy armour is concentrating to the south of Mistelbach.

armoured /ˈærmaʊd/ adjective 1. protected by armour 2. equipped with armoured fighting vehicles

armoured fighting vehicle /ˈærmaʊd řeɪˈfɪntɪŋ vɪərɪŋ/ noun an armoured vehicle designed for carrying out reconnaissance

armoured recovery vehicle /ˈærmaʊd riˈkəʊvəri vɪərɪŋ/ noun an armoured vehicle designed to tow a disabled or broken-down an armoured vehicle away from the battlefield. Abbr ARV

armoured vehicle /ˈærmaʊd vərɪŋ/ 1. a British armoured vehicle based on a Chieftain tank and fitted with a folding bridge. Abbr AVF

Armoured Vehicle Launched Bridge /ˈærmaʊd vɪərɪŋ lənˈbrɪdʒ/ noun a British armoured vehicle based on a Chieftain tank and fitted with a folding bridge. Abbr AVLB

Armoured Vehicle Royal Engineers /ˈærmaʊd vɪərɪŋ ˈeəriŋ ɪnˌjɜːnəri/ noun a British armoured vehicle based on the Centurion tank and fitted with one or more specialist pieces of engineer equipment (such as a demolition gun, mine plough, fascines). Abbr AVRE

armoured reconnaissance vehicle /ˈærmaʊd ˈrɪknrsəvəl/ noun an armoured vehicle designed for reconnaissance

armoured infantry battalion /ˈærmaʊd ˈɪnfrətnti bəˈteljən/ noun US a tactical organization of three combined-arms groupings, each of battalion strength, known as 'cavalry squadrons', plus one air cavalry squadron of helicopters. It is a highly mobile force specializing in the roles of reconnaissance and advance guard

Armoured Vehicle Launched Bridge /ˈærmaʊd vɪərɪŋ lənˈbrɪdʒ/ noun a British armoured vehicle based on a Chieftain tank and fitted with a folding bridge. Abbr AVLB

Armoured Vehicle Royal Engineers /ˈærmaʊd vɪərɪŋ ˈeəriŋ ɪnˌjɜːnəri/ noun a British armoured vehicle based on the Centurion tank and fitted with one or more specialist pieces of engineer equipment (such as a demolition gun, mine plough, fascines). Abbr AVRE
armourer /ˈɔːmərər/ noun a technician who services and repairs weapons

armour-piercing /ˈɑːmɔr-pɪərɪŋ/ adjective capable of penetrating armour

armour-piercing bullet /ˈɑːmɔr-pɪərɪŋ ˈbʊlt/ noun a bullet designed to penetrate armour

armour-piercing discarding-sabot /ˈɑːmɔr-pɪərɪŋ ˈdɪskərdɪŋ-ˈsæbət/ noun an anti-armour projectile consisting of a long-rod penetrator, fitted with a stabilizing metal collar (sabot) which falls away once the projectile is in flight. Abbr APDS

armour-piercing fin-stabilized discarding-sabot /ˈɑːmɔr-pɪərɪŋ ˈfɪn ˈstɪbɪlɪzasd ˈdɪskərdɪŋ-ˈsæbət/ noun an armour-piercing discarding-sabot in which the long-rod penetrator is fitted with metal fins for extra stability. Abbr APFDS. o long-rod penetrator

armoury /ˈɑːmərɪ/ noun a secure location where weapons are stored

arms /ɑːmz/ plural noun military service in general

army /ˈɑːmi/ noun 1. the branch of a state’s armed forces which operates on land (e.g. infantry, armour and artillery) o The latest Defence Review will have serious implications for the Army. 2. a tactical grouping of two or more corps o The US Third Army was commanded by General Patton.

Army Air Corps /ˈɑːmi ˈeə-roʊ kɔrs/ noun an air force (mainly helicopters) which is part of the army rather than the RAF. Abbr AAC

army group /ˈɑːmi ˈgrʊp/ noun a large formation of land forces normally comprising two or more armies or army corps under a single commander

arrangement /ˈærəndʒmənt/ noun technical arrangements

ARRC abbreviation Allied Rapid Reaction Corps

arrest /ˈɑːrɛst/ noun an act of arresting someone o A police spokesman admitted that the arrest had been a mistake.

under arrest detained in custody by the authorities o you are under arrest! o verb to seize a person and take him into custody o The patrol arrested two suspected terrorists.

arrestable /ˈɑːrɛstəb(ə)l/ adjective for which you can be arrested

arrestable offence /ˈɑːrɛstəb(ə)l ˈənʃəns/ noun an illegal act for which someone may be arrested without an arrest warrant

arrest warrant /ˈɑːrɛst ˈwɔrənt/ noun a document issued by a judge, magistrate or other official which authorizes the security forces to arrest a specified person

arrowhead /ˈæraʊˌhɛd/ noun a tactical formation of men or vehicles, in the form of an inverted letter V o The platoon moved across the open ground in arrowhead formation.

ARRV abbreviation armoured repair and recovery vehicle

arsenal /ˈɑːsən(ə)l/ noun 1. a room or building where weapons and ammunition are stored o The platoon will parade at the arsenal at 0900hrs. 2. a government establishment for the manufacture of weapons o The arsenal in Birmingham has been closed down. 3. a figurative term for the weaponry available to a government or paramilitary organization o This is the most powerful weapon in the terrorists’ arsenal.

Arsine /ˈɑːsɪn/ noun a type of blood agent. Full form arsenic trihydride

arsenol /ˈɑːsən(ə)l/ noun the criminal offence of setting fire to something o There have been several arson attacks. o He was arrested for arson.

artificer /ˈɑːrtɪfəsər/ noun a mechanic or technician

artificial /ˌɑːrtɪfəˈrəl/ adjective man-made

artillery /ˈɑːrtɪliər/ noun 1. a general title for large-calibre guns, missiles and air-defence weapons 2. a branch of the army which uses these weapons o ‘Great battles are won with artillery’ o Napoleon (an ex-gunner) o He served in the Royal Artillery.
artilleryman /a‘tɪlərɪmən/ noun a soldier serving in the artillery
artillery piece /a‘tɪləri pɪs/ noun a large calibre gun used as an indirect-fire weapon
artillery preparation /a‘tɪlərɪ ,prepəˈreɪʃən/ noun the bombardment of an objective, prior to an assault
artillery raid /a‘tɪlərɪ rɛɪd/ noun a tactic using artillery, where the guns move into enemy territory to attack a specific target and then withdraw before the enemy can retaliate
arty abbreviation artillery
ARV abbreviation armoured recovery vehicle
ASAP /əˈsæp, ət əz ə ‘pɪzl, əsəp/ et es er ‘pizl, əsəp/ abbreviation as soon as possible
ASM abbreviation anti-ship missile or air-to-surface missile
asphalt /əˈsɑlt/ noun US a road surface made of a mixture of tar and gravel (NOTE: The British English term is tarmac.)
ASRAAM /əˈzræm/ noun a British-designed radar-guided air-to-air missile (AAM). Full form advanced short-range air-to-air missile
assault /əˈsɔlt/ adjective designed for use in combat • noun a final stage of an attack onto an enemy position • The assault on the farm was a complete success. • verb to use force in order to occupy an enemy position • B Company will assault the village.
assault boat /əˈsɔlt bɔt/ noun a light, man-portable boat designed to carry a section of infantry
assault course /əˈsɔlt kɔrs/ noun a series of obstacles used by infantry training establishments to practise obstacle-crossing
assault craft /əˈsɔlt krɑft/ noun a small boat designed for amphibious operations
assault force /əˈsɔlt fɔrs/ noun a group of troops, tanks, etc. which attacks a position
assault river crossing /əˈsɔlt ,rɪvə ‘krəʊsɪŋ/ noun the act of crossing a river while in contact with the enemy
assault weapon /əˈsɔlt ,wɛpən/ noun a semi-automatic rifle, equipped with a magazine holding 20–30 rounds and fitted with a bayonet
assemble /əˈsɛmbəl/ verb 1. to come together • The battalion assembled in the gymnasium. 2. to bring together • Sgt Jones assembled the platoon in the briefing room. 3. to put together • They were killed as they were assembling the mortar.
assembly /əˈsɛmbli/ noun an act of coming together
assembly area /əˈsɛmbli ,əˈzɛriə/ noun a specified location where sub-units of a tactical grouping assemble in order to prepare themselves for the next phase of an operation
assign /əˈsain/ verb to appoint to a position or task • He was assigned to the mortar platoon.
assignment /əˈsəmənt/ noun a task or job • My first assignment was to update the brigade security orders.
assist /əˈsɪst/ verb to help
assistance /əˈsɪstəns/ noun help • We had to provide assistance to the civil authorities.
assy area abbreviation assembly area
astern /əˈstərn/ adverb to the rear of a boat or ship • He went astern.
ASU abbreviation active service unit
ASW abbreviation anti-submarine warfare
AT- prefix anti-tank
ATAF /ətəˈef/ noun a large NATO air-force grouping. Full form Allied Tactical Air Force
ATGM abbreviation anti-tank guided missile
ATGW abbreviation anti-tank guided weapon
A/Tk abbreviation anti-tank
ATO /ətəˈou/ noun an officer or non-commissioned officer (NCO) who is trained to make bombs, booby traps and
exploted munitions safe. Full form ammunition technical officer
ATO² abbreviation air tasking order
ATOC /ˈætʃəri/ noun the department of an air-force headquarters which is responsible for allocating tasks to squadrons. Full form air task operations centre
atoll /ˈætəl/ noun a ring-shaped tropical island
atom /ˈætəm/ noun the smallest unit of a chemical element, which can be used as a source of nuclear energy
atom bomb /ˈætəm bɔm/ noun same as atomic bomb
atomic /ˈætəmɪk/ adjective 1. relating to the structure of atoms 2. relating to the use of nuclear energy
atom bomb /ˈætəm bɔm/ noun a bomb with enormous destructive power generated by the release of nuclear energy
atomic energy /ˈætəmɪk ˈɛnədʒɪ/ noun nuclear energy
atomic submarine /ˈætəmɪk ˈsʌbɜːmɪn/ noun a submarine driven by nuclear power
atomic warfare /ˈætəmɪk ˈwɔːfɜːr/ noun warfare involving the use of atomic weapons
atomic weapon /ˈætəmɪk ˈweɪpən/ noun a bomb, missile or other device which utilises the release of nuclear energy
atrocity /ˈætərɑti/ noun an act considered by normal people to be extremely wicked (such as murder of civilians, rape, etc.)
atropine /ˈætrəpin/ noun a substance injected as first aid for someone who has been exposed to a nerve agent
attach /ˈætʃ/ verb 1. to fasten one object to another 2. to assign a soldier or sub-unit to another unit for a specific role or task 3. have a troop of tanks attached to us for this attack. Compare detach
attaché /ˈætʃəf/ noun a specialist member of an ambassador’s staff
attachment /ˈætʃmənt/ noun 1. something which is attached to another object for a special purpose 2. the act of sending a person or sub-unit to work with another unit for a specific task
He was sent on attachment to the navy.
attack /ˈætʃ/ adjective designed for offensive action 1. an offensive use of force in order to achieve an objective (e.g. the capture of ground) 2. The attack was a complete success.
quick attack an attack which is mounted without the opportunity to first carry out full reconnaissance, planning and preparation verb to act offensively against an enemy, a position, etc.
C Company will attack the village at first light.
attack aircraft /ˈætʃ ˌɛkərɪk/ noun an aircraft which is designed to drop bombs on or fire missiles at targets on the ground, and is also capable of defending itself against enemy fighter aircraft.
attack helicopter /ˈætʃ ˌhɛlkəpər/ noun a helicopter equipped with weapons to attack other helicopters or targets on the ground
attack in echelon /ˈætʃ in ˈɛfələn/ noun same as echelon attack
attempt /ˈætmənt/ noun 1. an act of trying (usually unsuccessful) 2. There were no more attempts to escape.
attack (usually unsuccessful) 1. The enemy made several attempts on the bridge.
verb to try
He attempted to climb the fence.
attend /ˈætənd/ verb to be present at
He attended the conference.
attention /ˈætʃən/ noun 1. the act of applying your mind to something 2. May I have your attention, please?
attention! stand to attention! (military command) 2. Parade, attention! 3. to stand at attention to change position to stand at attention
3. help or treatment give to somebody
forces already in a certain area carry out authentication.

attic /ˈætɪk/ noun a space below the roof of a house, normally used for storage. There was a sniper in the attic.

attrition /ˈætrɪʃn/ noun 1. damage caused to an object as a result of repeated contact with another object. This grease will reduce the rate of attrition. 2. the gradual destruction of an enemy force by repeated attacks or by stubborn defence.

attitudinal warfare /ˈætrɪdʒəln/ noun an outdated military doctrine which seeks to destroy an enemy’s will to fight simply through the use of attrition. Compare manoeuvre warfare.

Auftragstaktik /ˈaʊfrɑːtrɑːkˌtɪk/ German name for directive command. (Note: German nouns are always spelt with a capital letter.)

Aussie /ˈɔːzɪ/ noun an Australian soldier (informal).

authority /ˈɔːθɔrəti/ noun 1. official power to do something. I do not have the authority to make that decision. 2. an organization which exercises power over the authorities, police or other law enforcement organization.

authorize /əˈzɔːrɪs/, authorise verb to give someone official permission to do something. I am not authorized to do that.

autojet /ˈɔːtədʒɪt/ noun a syrette, fitted with a mechanism which injects the dose automatically (usually by striking it against the flesh). Each man was issued with an autojet of morphine.

automatic /ˈɔːtəˈmætɪk/ adjective capable of performing a function by itself. A firearm which will continue to reload itself and fire for as long as pressure is applied to the trigger (e.g. a machine-gun). He was armed with an automatic. There was a burst of automatic fire from the woods.

automatic fire /ˈɔːtəˈmætɪk ˈfaɪər/ noun fire from an automatic weapon.

automatic weapon /ˈɔːtəˈmætɪk ˈwɛpən/ a firearm which will continue to reload itself and fire for as long as pressure is applied to the trigger (e.g. a machine-gun).

AV-8 /ˈeɪ vtˈeɪ/ Harrier

avenue /ˈævənjuː/ noun 1. a road with a line of trees on both sides. 2. an approach route. We must cover all the likely avenues of approach.

AVGAS /ˈævɡæs/ noun aircraft fuel

aviation /ˌɛvɪˈeɪʃn/ noun the use of aircraft.

aviator /ˌɛvɪˈeɪtər/ noun a pilot or other member of an aircrew.

avionics /ˌɛvɪˈɒnɪks/ noun a general term for all electronic systems on an aircraft.

AVLB abbreviation Armoured Vehicle Launched Bridge.
AWACS /ˈeəwəks/ noun electronic equipment, carried in specially designed aircraft, which detects enemy aircraft or missiles at long ranges and then coordinates their interception by friendly aircraft or missiles. Full form airborne warning and control system.

Award /ˈɔːrdər/ noun an official recognition of an achievement (e.g. a medal, commendation) or He has been recommended for a gallantry award. verb to give a prize or punishment to someone. He was awarded a medal for bravery. He was awarded ten days’ restriction of privileges.

AWI abbreviation air warfare instructor

AWLS /ˈeə,ˌdæbr(ə)ljuː/ noun an amber coloured warning light required by law to be fitted to all armoured vehicles in Germany. Full form amber warning light system

AWO /ˈeəwəʊ/ noun an officer on a warship who coordinates the air battle. Compare PWO

AWOL /ˈeəwəʊl/ adverb away from a military unit without permission. He’s been AWOL for three days. Full form absent without leave

Axis /ˈæksɪs/ noun a real or imaginary line on the ground used to indicate the primary direction for a unit or sub-unit which is deployed in a tactical formation. Our axis is the main road.

Aye aye /ˌɛə əˈeɪ/ adverb a traditional sailors’ expression, meaning ‘Yes, I will carry out your instruction.”

Azimuth /ˈæzɪməθ/ noun US a direction in mils or degrees of an object on the ground. or bearing
BRAVO - Bb

B-1 /bi: 'wæn/ noun an American-designed long-range strategic bomber aircraft. Also called Lancer

B-2 /bi: 'tu/ noun an American-designed stealth bomber aircraft. Also called Spirit

B-52 /bi: 'fifti 'tu/ noun an American-designed bomber aircraft. Also called Backfire.

The plural form is B-52s /bi: fifiti 'tuz/."

BAA abbreviation brigade administration area

back-bearing /back 'bearɪŋ/ noun a bearing from a reference point to your own location. 

triangulate

COMMENT: A back-bearing is calculated by taking a bearing from your location to the reference point and then adding that bearing to 180 degrees or 3,200 mils if the bearing is less than that amount, or alternatively, by subtracting 180 degrees or 3,200 mils from the bearing if the bearing is greater. Once you have calculated two or more back-bearing from known or probable reference points, your exact location should be where they all intersect on the map. Remember to apply the magnetic variation.

backblast /backblæst/ noun gasses and heat released to the rear when a rocket launcher is fired (which can injure a person standing in their way)

Backfire /baɪkˈfɛər/ noun a NATO name for a strategic variant of the Soviet-designed TU-22 medium bomber aircraft (Blinder)

backup /baɪkˈæp/ noun an additional assistance or resources available in the event of difficulty or failure. B Company can provide backup if necessary.

bacteriological warfare /ˌbækˈtɪriələˌdʒɪkl/ 'wɜːfes/ noun same as biological warfare

badge /bædʒ/ noun insignia worn on a uniform or displayed on a vehicle

badge of rank /bædʒ əv 'ræŋk/ noun an insignia showing the wearer’s rank (e.g. bars, chevrons, stars, etc.)

Badger /bædɡər/ noun a NATO name for the Soviet-designed TU-16 medium bomber aircraft

bag /bæg/ noun a soft container made of paper, fabric or other material

bag charge /bæg ˈtʃɑrɪdʒ/ noun a fabric bag containing propellant for an artillery or tank round

baggage /ˈbæɡidʒ/ noun spare clothing and other personal effects packed up for transportation. Each company was allocated a lorry for baggage.

bagpipes /ˈbæɡpəps/ plural noun a musical instrument, traditionally used by Irish and Scottish regiments, and also by some Indian and Arab regiments. They are played by blowing air into a bag and then pumping it through a set of pipes.

balaclava /ˌbalaˈklavə/ Balaclava helmet /ˌbalaˌklɑvə ˈhelmit/ noun a warm woolen garment which covers the head and neck, but leaves the face or parts of the face free, and is therefore sometimes used to conceal a person’s identity. The gunman was wearing a balaclava. ski-mask

balanced task force /ˈbælənst 'tɑsk /fɔːs/ noun two tank companies and two companies of mechanized infantry

bale out /beɪl 'æut/, bail out verb 1. to escape from a damaged vehicle or
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>aircraft</td>
<td>1. The pilot baled out. 2. to clear water from a leaking boat 3. Used their helmets to bale out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ball</td>
<td>1. a spherical object (normally used in sport) 2. standard bullets for a rifle, machine-gun or pistol 3. We need five thousand rounds of 5.56mm ball. (NOTE: no plural in this meaning)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ball-bearing</td>
<td>(noun) a small solid metal ball used to reduce friction in machinery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ballistic</td>
<td>1. relating to projectiles 2. We have received the ballistic report on the shooting of Corporal Jones. 3. moving by the force of gravity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ballistic bomb</td>
<td>a bomb which is simply dropped onto a target by an aircraft. (NOTE: takes a singular verb)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ballistic missile</td>
<td>a guided missile which ends its flight in a ballistic descent. (NOTE: takes a singular verb)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ballistic report</td>
<td>on the shooting of Corporal Jones.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>balloon</td>
<td>a large bag filled with gas to make it rise in the air.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ban</td>
<td>1. a law which makes an activity or object illegal 2. We want an international ban on biological weapons. 3. to make an activity or object illegal 4. Many nations wish to ban the use of anti-personnel mines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>band</td>
<td>1. a group of musicians 2. The band of the Coldstream Guards played at the reception. 3. a group of people who have organized themselves for a specific purpose (usually criminal or paramilitary) 4. There are several bands of rebels operating in the area. 5. a strip of plastic, metal or other material put around an object to keep it together 6. He removed the bands from the packing case. 7. a range of radio frequencies 8. Which bands are you monitoring?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bandage</td>
<td>1. a strip of fabric used to bind a wound or other injury 2. The nurse put a bandage round his knee. 3. to apply a bandage 4. She bandaged the wound.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bandit</td>
<td>1. a robber (usually a member of a gang) who operates in rural areas. 2. an aircraft (air-force slang)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bandolier</td>
<td>(noun) a belt which goes over one shoulder, designed to carry ammunition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bandsman</td>
<td>1. a member of a musical band (NOTE: The plural form is bandsmen.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bang</td>
<td>noun the noise made by an explosion 2. We heard a loud bang.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangalore torpedo</td>
<td>a device for clearing wire entanglements, consisting of piping filled with explosive, which is pushed into the obstacle and then detonated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bank</td>
<td>1. an artificial mound of earth used to enclose a field 2. We took cover behind a bank. 3. the margin of a river or lake 4. The far bank of the river has been mined. 5. a place where people can deposit or store money 6. The bank has been robbed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>banner</td>
<td>1. a ceremonial flag 2. a piece of fabric attached to two poles and bearing a written message 3. The soldiers unfurled a banner showing instructions in Arabic for the crowd to disperse.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAOR</td>
<td>(abbreviation) British Army of the Rhine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>baptism of fire</td>
<td>1. a first occasion of being shot at 2. He received his baptism of fire in Vietnam.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bar</td>
<td>1. a rod of metal or wood used as an obstruction 2. The window was protected with metal bars. 3. something which is long, thin and rigid (e.g. a bar of chocolate, bar of gold) 4. a sandbank in a river or estuary 5. The landing craft had to navigate between sand bars. 6. a place where alcohol may be bought and consumed 7. a badge of rank for junior officers in the US Army</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
barbed wire

(a single bar denotes lieutenant, while a double bar denotes captain)  
verb 1. to obstruct  
The road was barred by fallen trees.  
2. to forbid an activity  
Soldiers were barred from all the pubs in the town.

barbed wire /ˈbɑːrd/ noun wire with sharp spikes attached to it, used as an obstacle

barbed-wire entanglement /ˈbɑːrdɪdʒ/ noun an obstacle to infantry made out of barbed wire

barge /ˈbɑːr/ noun a long, flat-bottomed boat used for carrying freight

bar mine /ˈbar mʌn/ noun a type of anti-tank mine

barn /bɑːn/ noun a large farm building (normally used for storage)

barrack dress /ˈbærək dres/ noun everyday uniform consisting of a sweat-er and service-dress trousers

barracks /ˈbærəks/ noun a non-oper-ational military base

barrage /ˈbærəʒ/ noun 1. a concen-trated artillery attack (usually lasting for some time)  
A barrage of mortar fire was directed at the enemy positions.  
2. a man-made barrier in a river or estuary

COMMENT: In the literal sense of the word, the purpose of an artillery barrage is to prevent, or at least hinder, the movements of the enemy, rather than to destroy his men, equipment and positions. If the latter effect is de-sired, then the word bombardment would be more appropriate instead.

barrage balloon /ˈbærəʒ boʊlən/ noun a balloon which is secured to the ground by a wire cable, and used as an obstacle to low-flying aircraft

barrel /ˈbærəl/ noun 1. the tube part of a gun, down which the bullet or shell slides when it is fired  
He spent hours cleaning the barrel of his rifle.  
2. a large cylindrical container  
The bomb was attached to a barrel of oil.

Barrett /ˈbærət/ noun an American .50 calibre sniper rifle. Also called M-82

barricade /ˈbærɪkəd/ noun an improvised obstacle or fortification  
The street was blocked by a barricade.

barrier /ˈberɪər/ noun an obstacle which prevents forward movement  
There was a barrier across the road.  
The mountains form a natural barrier between France and Spain.

barrow /ˈbərəʊ/ noun a huge man-made mound of earth, marking the site of an ancient grave

base /ˈbeɪs/ noun 1. a secure location from which military operations can be conducted  
We have several bases in that region.  
2. a part on which an object rests  
He examined the base of the container.

verb 1. to station a soldier at a base  
I was based in Germany.

2. to use as a starting point for a calculation or development process  
The plan was based on the belief that the enemy would not fight.  
This engineer vehicle is based on the Chieftain tank.

base bleed /ˈbeɪs bliːd/ noun a system which increases the range of an artillery shell by means of a small gas generator fitted to the base of the shell; the generator expels gas at low pressure to reduce drag caused by the vacuum which forms at the base of the shell while it is in flight.  
Abbr BB

baseline /ˈbeɪsliən/ noun an offensive manoeuvre carried out under fire, in which men or vehicles move forward into extended line in order to engage the enemy.  
Compare foothold line

basement /ˈbeɪsmənt/ noun the part of a building which lies below ground level

baseplate /ˈbeɪsplɛt/ noun the firing platform of a mortar

basha /ˈbɑːʃə/ noun an improvised shelter made from a poncho

basic load /ˈbeɪsIk ˈloʊd/ noun the usual amount of equipment that a soldier must carry in his or her pack, or the weight of this

basic training /ˈbeɪsɪk ˈtreɪnɪŋ/ noun a period of training for new recruits  
He has just completed his basic training.
basket /ˈbæsktər/ noun a device used in air-to-air refuelling; the basket is a receptacle fitted to the end of a fuel pipe into which an aircraft must insert its refuelling probe in order to receive fuel

batman /ˈbeɪtmən/ noun a soldier who cleans an officer's kit.

baton /ˈbeɪtɒn/ noun 1. a stick carried as a mark of rank. A painting of the Field Marshal with his marshal's baton hangs in the mess. 2. a stick made of wood or other material for use as a weapon. They carried riot shields and batons.

... every soldier carries a marshal's baton in his rucksack. [Napoleon]

baton round /ˈbeɪtən rəʊnd/ noun a large projectile made of plastic or rubber which is fired from a special gun and is designed to knock a person over but not to cause a serious injury. Also called plastic bullet, rubber bullet

battalion /ˈbeɪtələn/ noun a tactical and administrative army grouping of three or more companies or equivalent-sized groupings. Abbr Bn

COMMENT: British tank and artillery battalions are known as regiments, as are battalion-sized units of certain supporting arms (such as engineers). American armoured cavalry battalions are known as squadrons, although normal armoured units use the term battalion. In some contexts, British infantry battalions traditionally use the word regimental as an adjective relating to the battalion; e.g. Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM), regimental aid post (RAP). A British armoured brigade might consist of two armoured or mechanized infantry battalions and one armoured regiment or, alternatively, two armoured regiments and one infantry battalion, with artillery and supporting arms. On operations, these units are broken down and combined into battle groups. As an example, an armoured infantry battle group might consist of two infantry companies and one squadron of tanks, which are organized into two company and squadron groups and a squadron and company group under the command of the infantry battalion HQ. The exact composition will vary according to the tactical requirement at the time. In the US Army, a battle group is known as a task force, while company and squadron groups and squadron and company groups are known as company teams.

battalion landing team /ˈbeɪtələn ˈlændɪŋ ˈtɪm/ noun a US combined arms grouping based on a marine infantry battalion, including artillery, armoured reconnaissance, tanks and engineers. Abbr BLT

batter /ˈbeɪtər/ verb to cause damage or injury by hitting repeatedly. Our trenches were battered by the enemy artillery.

battery /ˈbeɪtəri/ noun 1. a company-sized artillery grouping with six or more guns. We have been allocated two batteries to support the attack. Abbr Bty 2. a power source for portable electrical equipment. This radio needs a new battery.

battery kapitan /ˈbeɪtəri kəˈpətən/ noun full form of BK

battle /ˈbeɪtl/ noun a prolonged engagement between large numbers of opposing troops. During the tank battle, several enemy tanks were put out of action. He served in the British Fleet at the Battle of Jutland. Engagement, firefight, skirmish.

"Next to a battle lost, the greatest misery is a battle gained." [Wellington]

battle casualty replacement /,beɪt(ə)riˈpleksmɔːnt/ noun a soldier who remains on stand-by in order to take the place of a soldier who is killed or wounded. Abbr BCR

battledress utilities /,beɪt(ə)ldəˈtɪdʒi/ plural noun US full form of BDU

battle fatigue /ˈbeɪtləfiːt/ noun mental and physical exhaustion resulting from a long period in battle. Also called shell shock, post-traumatic stress disorder

battlefield /ˈbeɪtlɪf/ noun the ground on which a battle is fought. The dead and wounded were removed from the battlefield.

battlefield interdiction /ˌbeɪtliˈfɪld ɪnəˈdɪkʃən/ noun an
battleship /ˈbeɪtʃɪp/ noun (NOTE: the US Navy equivalent is battleship)
battle honours /ˈbætl ˈhɒnərz/ plural noun (NOTE: the British English term is battle honours)
battle honour /ˈbætl ˈhɒnə/ noun official recognition of a unit’s achievements or conduct during a battle, which gives that unit the right to carry the name of the battle on its colours
battle inoculation /ˈbætl ɪnəkjuˈleɪʃn/ noun the process of preparing soldiers for battle by the use of live rounds and simulated battle effects
battle stations /ˈbætl ˈsteɪʃnz/ plural noun (NOTE: The British English term is battle stations)
beach /ˈbiːtʃ/ noun 1. a part of a coastline where the sea curves inland 2. a space set aside for a specific purpose
bay /ˈbeɪ/ noun 1. a stretch of water enclosed on three sides or more 2. a small area of land or water not joined to the land
bayonet /ˈbeɪnənt/ noun a stabbing blade attached to the muzzle of a rifle or assault weapon; to charge bayonets to level the bayonet at an enemy prior to charging at him
bayonet charge /ˈbeɪnənt ˈtʃɑrʒ/ noun a charge with the intention of using the bayonet
bayonet firing /ˈbeɪnənt fɜːrɪŋ/ verb to point a bayonet at a person or thing
bayonet point /ˈbeɪnənt ˈpɔɪnt/ noun a point, usually sharp, which is the end of a bayonet
bayonet task /ˈbeɪnənt ˈtɑːsk/ noun 1. the act of disembarking troops and vehicles onto a beach
beach-master /ˈbiːtʃ ˈmeɪstər/ noun an officer who controls the movement of troops and vehicles during a beach landing
beachhead /ˈbiːtʃ ˈheɪd/ noun the area of disembarking troops and vehicles onto a beach
beacon /ˈbiːkən/ noun 1. a bonfire or light used as a signal or warning 2. a radio transmitter which acts as a guide to shipping or aircraft 3. a hill traditionally used for beacon fires
Bear /ˈbeər/ noun a NATO name for the Soviet-designed TU-95 strategic bomber aircraft
bearing /ˈberɪŋ/ noun a direction, in miles or degrees, of a feature on the ground in relation to north
bearskin /ˈbɛəskɪn/, bearskin cap noun a tall ceremonial headdress traditionally worn by guards infantry soldiers.

COMMENT: The bearskin should never be confused with the busby, which is a similar but much shorter headdress traditionally worn by cavalry soldiers.

beat /bɪt/ verb 1. to hit something repeatedly to beat someone up to injure a person by repeated punching and kicking. o he was badly beaten up 2. to win a victory over someone else. o We’ve been beaten. (NOTE: beating – have beaten)

beaten zone /ˈbɛɪtən ˈzoʊn/ noun an area of ground which is hit by the bullets from an automatic weapon

B Echelon /ˈbiː ɛkəˌləʊn/ noun the administrative elements of a tactical grouping

beginning of morning nautical twilight /ˈbɪzn,ˈtɪmɪt/ adverb full form of BMNT

belt /bɛlt/ noun 1. a strip of leather, webbing or other material, worn around the waist and used to support a person’s trousers or to carry equipment-pouches.

Sam Browne 2. ammunition which is linked together by metal clips or fastened by loops to a strip of canvas, in order to be fired by a machine-gun

belt-fed /ˈbɛlt fɛd/ adjective designed to fire belts of ammunition

beret /ˈbɛrɛt/ noun a soft peakless hat

bergen /ˈbɜrɡən/ noun a large fabric container suspended from a metal frame, which is designed to be carried on a person’s back. o pack, rucksack

berm /ˈbɜrm/ noun an artificial bank of earth or sand used as a barrier or fortification

COMMENT: Berms were extensively used by both the Iraqis and coalition forces during the Gulf War of 1991.

besiege /ˈbɛsɪdʒ/ verb to surround an enemy town or fortress with troops in order to prevent anyone entering or leaving, with the ultimate intention of capturing the place. o invest

COMMENT: Besiege is not normally used in modern military English; it has now been largely replaced by the verb invest.

Betalight /ˈbɛtəˌlaɪt/ trademark a trademark for a tiny hand-held apparatus, containing a luminous substance which gives off a very weak light and is therefore suitable for map-reading or signalling when you are close to the enemy

betray /ˈbɛtɪəˈreɪ/ verb 1. to reveal a secret. o We were betrayed by the villagers. 2. to abuse someone’s trust. o The general betrayed his men by agreeing to surrender.

betrayal /ˈbɛtɪəˈreɪəl/ noun an act of betraying. o treachery

beyond /bɪn d/ adverb on the far side of something. o The enemy position is 100 metres beyond that line of trees.

beyond visual range /ˌbɪnd vɪziəl ˈrɛndʒ/ adjective, adverb full form of BVR

BFA abbreviation blank-firing attachment

BFV /ˌbɪf ˌvɪs/ noun an M2 Bradley infantry fighting vehicle. Full form Bradley fighting vehicle. Compare CFV

BG abbreviation battle group

BHP abbreviation battle handover point

bid /bɪd/ noun a formal request for something. o You must submit your ammunition bids at least 24 hours in advance. n verb to make a formal request for something. o I will bid for two places on the next anti-tank course. (NOTE: bidding – bid – have bid)

billet /ˈbɪlt/ noun a place (usually a civilian home) where a soldier is accommodated. o He went back to his billet. n verb to arrange accommodation for a soldier. o We were billeted on the local priest. (NOTE: billeting – billeted)

bind /bɪnd/ verb to fasten around something. o The containers were bound with metal strips. (NOTE: binding – bound)

binoculars /ˈbɪnəkələrz/ plural noun optical instrument with a lens for each eye, designed for looking at distant objects. o field-glasses, telescope
**binos** /ˈbaɪnəʊ/ plural noun binoculars ○ I lost my binos during the attack.

**biological** /ˌbaɪəˈlɒdʒɪkl/ adjective relating to biology or living organisms

**biological warfare** /ˌbaɪəˈlɒdʒɪkl ˈwɔːfər/ noun the use of disease as a weapon ○ The use of disease as a weapon is not covered by existing law. ○ Comment: Biological weapons are unstable, difficult to control once they are delivered. Furthermore, anyone contemplating the use of such weapons can expect retaliation in its severest form.

**bioterrorism** /ˌbaɪəˈtɛrərɪzm/ noun terrorist acts involving the use of biological or chemical weapons

**bioterrorist** /ˌbaɪəˈtɛrərɪst/ noun someone involved in bioterrorism

**bioweapon** /ˌbaɪəˈwiːpən/ noun a biological weapon

**bipod** /ˈbaɪpɒd/ noun a two-legged stand designed to support a weapon or other piece of equipment

**bird-strike** /ˈbɜːrd strɪk/ noun a collision between a bird and an aircraft ○ The crash was caused by bird-strike.

**Birthday Parade** /ˌbaɪθəˈdeɪ ˈpærəd/ noun a ceremonial parade held by the Household Troops in London on the official birthday of the Monarch, during which a battalion from the Brigade of Guards troops its colour ○ The ceremony is more popularly known as ‘Trooping the Colour’.

**bivouac** /ˈbaɪvʊæk/ noun 1. an improvised shelter 2. a campsite of improvised shelters ○ They bivouacked in the corner of a field. (Note: bivouacking – bivouacked)

**bivvy** /ˈbɪvɪ/ noun a bivouac (informal)

**bivvy bag** /ˈbɪvɪ bæɡ/ noun a waterproof sleeping-bag cover ○ kitbag, sleeping-bag

**BK** /biːk/ noun a second in command of a battery ○ The BK has been killed. Full form **battery kapitan**

**BL-755** /biː ˈɛlvər/ noun a British-designed cluster bomb

**black** /blɑːk/ adjective ○ go black ○ US to exhaust your ammunition ○ our recon platoon has gone black

**Blackbird** /ˈblækbɜːd/ noun SR-71

**Blackhawk** /ˈblækhaʊk/ noun an American-designed UH-60 utility/transport helicopter

**Blackjack** /ˌblæklədʒk/ noun a NATO name for the Soviet-designed TU-160 strategic bomber aircraft

**black market** /ˌblækmɑːrkt/ noun an illicit trade in articles which are illegal, rationed or difficult to obtain, usually at a considerable profit ○ Respirators and NBC suits are fetching very high prices on the black market.

**blackout** /ˈblækaut/ noun measures designed to ensure that no lights are showing after dark ○ All units must observe the blackout.

**bladder** /ˈblædər/ noun a huge inflatable rubber container, which is used to store fuel or water at a POL or water point

**blank** /ˈblæŋk/ noun 1. training ammunition, which is used to simulate the firing of a weapon ○ We will need 5000 rounds of 7.62nm blank. ○ They were firing blanks. Compare live, live round

**blank-firing attachment** /ˈblæŋk ˈfaɪərɪŋ əˌtɛktʃərn/ noun a device fitted to an automatic or semi-automatic weapon to enable it to operate with blank rounds. Abbr BFA

**blast** /ˈblæst/ noun 1. a wave of heat and gasses released by an explosion, and the debris carried by it ○ The blast broke all the windows in the vicinity. 2. an explosion ○ Several people were killed in the blast. ○ verb to use explosives ○ We will have to blast a way through.
29

bloodless coup

blivet /ˈblɪvɪt/ noun an inflatable rubber container, which is used to store fuel
blizzard /ˈblɪzdə/ noun a combination of heavy snow and strong wind
blob /ˈblɒb/ noun a tactical infantry formation, in the form of a rough circle
blockade /ˈblkəd/ noun an obstruction of another country’s coastline or borders in order to prevent the movement of goods and supplies
blockhouse /ˈblkɔʊs/ noun a fortification structure
blood /ˈblʌd/ noun the red liquid in the body
blood agent /ˈblʌd ædʒənt/ noun a chemical designed to deprive the body of oxygen
blood bank /ˈblʌdkæŋk/ noun a building or vehicle where blood for transfusions is stored
bloodbath /ˈblʌdbæθ/ noun a massacre, the killing of large numbers of people
blood donor /ˈblʌd ˈdɔːnər/ noun someone who gives blood for blood transfusions
blood group /ˈblʌd ɡruːp/ noun a type of blood (e.g. A, B, O, AB)
bloodless coup /ˈblʌdləs ˈkuː/ noun a seizure of power achieved without bloodshed

blast mine /ˈblæst mɪn/ noun a type of landmine, which is detonated when it is stepped on
blastwall /ˈblæstwɔl/ noun a wall which is designed to withstand the force of a bomb blast
bleed /ˈblɪd/ verb to lose blood
blind /ˈblɪnd/ noun 1. US a camouflage screen designed to conceal a soldier or piece of equipment 2. a missile, shell or other projectile which has been fired but has failed to explode
block /ˈblɒk/ noun 1. an obstruction 2. a solid piece of hard material
blockade runner /ˈblɒk ˈrʌnər/ noun a ship, vehicle or person who tries to enter or exit a blockaded country
blend /ˈblɛnd/ verb to mix together
blockade /ˈblaʊk dɛd/ noun a tactical infantry formation
blockhouse /ˈbloʊkhəʊs/ noun a fortification structure
bloodbath /ˈblʌdbæθ/ noun a massacre, the killing of large numbers of people
blood donor /ˈblʌd ˈdɔːnər/ noun someone who gives blood for blood transfusions
blood group /ˈblʌd ɡruːp/ noun a type of blood (e.g. A, B, O, AB)

blisters /ˈblɪstəz/ plural noun blisters

blister agent /ˈblɪstər ˈeɪdʒənt/ noun a chemical designed to cause severe blisters
blitzkrieg /ˈblɪtskriːɡ/ noun an offensive operation making maximum use of firepower, manoeuvre warfare and all-arms cooperation

The enemy favour blitzkrieg tactics.
bloodshed /'blʌdʃed/ noun an action which results in physical injury or death ° The mission was achieved without bloodshed.

bloodthirsty /'blʌdθɜːsti/ adjective eager to kill ° The Gurkhas have the reputation of being bloodthirsty fearless soldiers.

blood transfusion /'blʌd trænsfən/ noun an injection of blood, taken from a blood donor and put into the vein of another person

blood vessel /'blʌdvɛsl/ noun a vein, artery or capillary carrying blood around the body

blow /blov/ verb to destroy with explosives ° The bridge has been blown. (Note: blowing – blew – have blown)

Blowpipe /'bləupʌpi/ noun a British-designed hand-held optically tracked surface-to-air missile (SAM)

blow up /blovʌp/ verb 1. to destroy something with explosives ° They blew up the fuel dump. ° The railway track has been blown up in several places. 2. to explode ° The tank blew up.

BLT /bi: ˈbiːti:/ noun US a combined arms grouping based on a marine infantry battalion, including artillery, armoured reconnaissance, tanks and engineers. Full form battalion landing team (note: The US Army equivalent is task force (TF)).

BLU-82 /bi: ˈbljuː tʃi:/ noun a bomb which explodes just above ground level and is mainly designed to clear trees and vegetation for a helicopter landing zone. Also called daisy-cutter

blue /blu:/ noun 1. blue forces friendly forces ° COMMENT: The positions of friendly forces are usually marked on a map in blue, while those of the enemy are marked in red.

Blue Berets /bluː 'berəts/ plural noun soldiers of a United Nations force. Compare Green Berets, red berets

blue on blue /bluː on 'bluː/ noun same as friendly fire

bluey /'bluːi/ noun an air-mail letter ° He was writing a bluey.

bluff /blʌf/ noun 1. US a steep, almost vertical slope (usually above a stream or river) ° The enemy is dug in on the bluffs above the town. 2. an attempt to deceive ° The enemy withdrawal is just a bluff. 1. verb to attempt to deceive ° The enemy is trying to bluff us into thinking that he is going to withdraw.

BMD /bi: ˈbiːdi:/ noun a Soviet air-portable infantry fighting vehicle (IFV)

BMNT /bi: em 'biːti:/ noun US first light. Full form beginning of morning nautical twilight

BMP /bi: em 'piː/ noun a Soviet series of infantry fighting vehicles (IFVs)

BMP-1 /bi: em piː 'wɜːn/ noun a 1960s-era IFV

BMP-2 /bi: em piː 'tʃiː/ noun a 1980s-era IFV

BMP-3 /bi: em piː ˈbrɪs/ noun a 1990s-era IFV

Bn abbreviation battalion

board /bɔːd/ verb to attack and climb onto a ship ° The enemy boarded our ship during cover of darkness. ° The Admirals are spending the night on board HMS Ardent. ° aboard

boarding party /'bɔːdɪŋ, pərti/ noun a group of marines, sailors, etc., who attack and board a ship

boat people /bɔt ˌpiːpəl/ plural noun political refugees who try to escape from an oppressive regime by sea

boatswain /ˈbɔːtsən, ˈbouzən/ noun an officer or petty officer in charge of equipment and the crew

boatswain’s chair /ˈbouzənz tʃeə/ noun a seat suspended by ropes for work on the side of a ship

boatswain’s pipe /ˈbouzənz pʌp/ noun a metal whistle traditionally used by the boatswain for signalling and salutes

body armour /ˈbɒdɪ ˌəmaɪə/ noun a vest fitted with panels of synthetic material (e.g., Kevlar) designed to protect a soldier from shrapnel and low-velocity bullets. ° bulletproof vest, flak jacket
body bag  
/bɔdi,bæg/ noun a strong waterproof bag designed for transporting a dead body

body count  
/bɔdi,kaunt/ noun 1. a check to ensure that all the members of a sub-unit are present ○ He took a quick body-count before moving on. 2. US the number of enemy killed ○ This company has the highest body count in the battalion.

bodyguard  
/bɔdɪgɑrd/ noun a person or group assigned to guard a dignitary or other important person ○ The general's bodyguard was killed in the attack.

body temperature  
/bɔdi,ˈtemprətʃər/ noun the temperature inside the body, which is used as an indicator of someone's state of health. The normal body temperature or a healthy human being is 37°C or 98.6°F.

Bofors  
/ˈbɔʊfɔːrztʃɛr/ noun a Swedish-designed light anti-aircraft gun

bolt-action rifle  
/bɔlt,ˈæksʃənˈraɪf(ə)l/ noun a rifle where the bolt must be operated by hand for each round (as opposed to a semi-automatic rifle) ○ Most of the rebels are armed with bolt-action rifles.

bomb  
/bɔm/ noun an explosive device used as a weapon, consisting of a strong metal container containing explosive material together with a priming device ○ They dropped two tons of bombs on the castle. ○ Terrorists placed bombs in the city centre. ■ verb to attack with bombs ○ The base has been bombed twice in the past two days. ○ Enemy aircraft bombed our positions. ● to bomb up to resupply a fighting vehicle or aircraft with ammunition

bomb-aimer  
/bɔm,ˈɛmər/ noun a member of an aircrew responsible for the aiming and release of bombs

bombard  
/bɔmˈbɑrd/ verb to attack with artillery ○ The enemy started to bombard our positions. ○ shell

bombardier  
/bɔmˈbɑrdər/ noun 1. a corporal in the artillery 2. US the bomb-aimer in an aircraft ○ abbr Bdr

bombardment  
/bɔmˈbɑrdmənt/ noun artillery attack (usually lasting some time) ○ adjective US referring to bomber aircraft ○ 34th Bombardment Squadron

bomb bay  
/bɔm ˈbeɪ/ noun a compartment in an aircraft used to hold bombs

bomb disposal  
/bɔm dɪˈspəʊz(ə)/ noun the disarming and safe destruction of unexploded bombs

bomb-disposal unit  
/bɔm dɪsˈpəʊzəl ˈjuːnit/ noun a small group of soldiers trained to make unexploded bombs safe

bomber  
/bɔmər/ noun 1. a large aircraft designed to drop bombs 2. a person who takes part in a bomb attack ○ Two of the bombers have been arrested.

bombing  
/bɔmɪŋ/ noun an action of dropping bombs on a target ○ The bomber squadron undertook several bombing raids on enemy positions. ○ toss-bombing an attack where bombs are released as the aircraft is making a shallow climb at high speed; the bombs’ trajectories then carry them forward a considerable distance before they hit the ground, making it unnecessary for the aircraft to pass directly over its target

bomblet  
/bɔmˈlɛt/ noun a small bomb released in mid-air by a cluster bomb or missile

bomb sight  
/bɔm ˈsət/ noun an optical instrument in an aircraft for the aiming of bombs

bomb site  
/bɔm ˈsət/ noun an area where buildings have been destroyed by bombs
bomb squad /bɒm skwɒd/ noun a bomb-disposal unit
bonnet /ˈbɒnɪt/ noun 1. a Scottish military head-dress ○ Some Scottish regiments wear tartan flashes on their bonnets. 2. a hinged cover for the engine compartment of a car or lorry
booby trap /ˈbʌbɪ, trip/ noun a hidden or harmless-looking device (often explosive) designed to kill or injure anyone who touches it
booby-trap /ˈbʌbɪ, trip/ verb to set a booby trap (in a house, under a car, etc.) ○ Most of the houses had been booby-trapped.
boom /bəʊm/ noun 1. a floating barrier ○ There was a boom across the entrance to the harbour. 2. a refuelling-probe on an aircraft
boot /bʊt/ noun 1. a strong item of footwear reaching above the ankle 2. a special compartment, usually at the back of a car or similar vehicle, for carrying luggage and tools
boot camp /bʊt kæmp/ noun US an army training establishment for new recruits (usually with a particularly harsh regime) (informal) Bora /bɔːrə/ noun a strong cold wind which blows in the Balkans
border /ˈbɔːrdər/ noun a frontier between two countries ○ Two tank divisions crossed the border.
border patrol /ˈbɔːrdər pɔːtrol/ noun a patrol sent out to prevent or provide warning of border incursions
bore /bɔːr/ noun a measurement across the inside of a tube, such as the barrel of a gun. ○ smallbore
boresight /ˈbɔːsət/ noun a device which is inserted into the barrel of a weapon and then aligned on an aiming mark, so that the weapon’s sighting systems can also be aligned on the same mark. ○ verb to adjust the sights of a weapon using a boresight. COMMENT: Boresighting is only a very rudimentary method of aligning the sights of a weapon. To ensure accuracy, you need to zero the weapon.
bosun /ˈbɒs(ə)n/ ○ boatswain
botulism /ˈbɒtlɪz(ə)m/ noun a fatal disease, which is normally associated with food poisoning ○ COMMENT: Caused by a bacillus, Clostridium botulinum, symptoms include paralysis of the muscles, vomiting, hallucinations and death. Some nations are known to have developed botulism as a biological weapon.
boundary /ˈbɔːndri/ noun a real or imaginary line which marks the limits of a grouping’s area of responsibility ○ That road is the brigade boundary. ○ Our mission is to destroy the enemy within boundaries.
bow /bɔʊ, bɔːs/ noun the front end of a ship ○ a shot across the bows a shot fired in front of a ship as a warning. Compare stern
bowser /ˈbɔʊsər/ noun a cylindrical container mounted on a trailer, designed to carry fuel or water
box /bɒks/ noun 1. a square or rectangular container ○ They used ammunition boxes to strengthen the position. 2. a tactical vehicle formation, in the form of a square or rectangle ○ We usually assault in box formation.
BQMS abbreviation battery quartermaster sergeant
brace /breɪs/ verb to prepare yourself for a crash or shock (usually by holding tightly onto something) ○ Brace! Brace! ○ Brace! Brace! A verbal warning given when an aircraft is about to crash or when a ship is about to be hit by a missile or torpedo
bracken /ˈbreɪken/ noun a plant with feather-like leaves, which grows extensively in woodland and heathland
bracket /ˈbreɪkɪt/ verb to correct artillery or mortar fire so that each adjusting
breakthrough

round lands on the opposite side of the
target to the last round, until the target is
hit ○ He realized that his position was
being bracketed.

brackish /ˈbrækʃə/ adjective (of water) unsuitable for drinking due to a
high mineral content

Bradley /ˈbreɪdi/ noun an American-
designed 1980s-era infantry fighting
vehicle (M2 or M3)
COMMENT: The M2 is designed to car-
ry a squad of infantry, while the M3 is
an armoured cavalry fighting vehicle
carrying additional armament and
equipment instead.

bramble /ˈbræmbəl/ noun a common
name for the plant of the wild blackber-
ry, which grows as a thick thorny bush ○
It was impossible to get through the
brambles.

branch insignia /ˈbrendʒiən siɡˈnɪʃə/ noun US insignia which show which
branch of service a soldier
serves in

branch of service /ˈbrendʒ əv ˈsɜːvɪs/ noun US the section of the
armed forces, e.g. the army, navy, air
force or marines, in which a person
serves

brave /ˈbreɪv/ adjective full of courage, able to control fear ○ It was brave of him
to try to cross the street in front of the
enemy positions. ○ courageous

bravery /ˈbreɪvəri/ noun the ability to
control fear. ○ courage

Bravo /ˈbraʊvə/ noun the second let-
er of the phonetic alphabet (Bb)

BRDM /ˈbrɪdʒm/ noun a Soviet
series of wheeled reconnaissance vehi-
cles

BRDM-2 /ˈbrɪdʒm-2/ noun a
late 1960s-era recce vehicle

BRDM-3 /ˈbrɪdʒm-3/ noun a
late 1970s-era recce vehicle armed with
ATGM

breach /ˈbreɪʃ/ noun a point at which
the enemy’s line of defence is penetra-
ced ○ The infantry poured through the
breach in the enemy’s defences. ○ verb
to break through an enemy’s line of
defence ○ After a heavy bombardment,
they were still not able to breach the en-
emy’s defences.

break /breɪk/ noun 1. a place where
something is broken ○ His leg had a
clean break just above the ankle. 2. a
period of rest taken during an activity ○
After two hours, we had a short break.
verb 1. to cause damage to something ○
He broke the window. ○ He broke his
leg. 2. to stop being in a close group ○
The enemy has broken. 3. to stop an ac-
tivity (usually for a short period) ○ They
broke for lunch. 4. ○ to break contact
to stop fighting with the enemy and
withdraw. ○ disengage ○ to break cov-
er to come out into the open

breakage /ˈbreɪkˌidʒ/ noun a dam-
aged object ○ Soldiers have to pay for
their breakages.

break down /breɪk ˈdaʊn/ verb 1. to
suffer from a physical and mental col-
lapse as a result of stress (used of peo-
ple) ○ He has broken down completely.
2. to stop working because of a mal-
function (used of machinery) ○ Three of
our tanks have broken down. 3. to di-
vide into separate components ○ A pla-
toon can be broken down into sections.

breakdown /breɪkˈdaʊn/ noun 1. a
mechanical failure ○ a breakdown in
communications with headquarters 2.
physical and mental collapse ○ After
three months on the front line he suf-
fered a breakdown. 3. an analysis of an
organization ○ I want a complete break-
down of the enemy force.

break in /breɪk ˈɪn/ verb to use force
to enter a building or vehicle

break out /breɪk ˈaʊt/ verb 1. to hap-
pen ○ Fighting broke out along the front
line. 2. to fight your way out of an encir-
clement ○ They were encircled but man-
aged to break out without much loss of
life.

break through /breɪk ˈθruː/ verb to
fight your way through a main line of
defence ○ The enemy have made
a breakthrough near Minden.

breakthrough /breɪkˈθruː/ noun an
act of fighting your way through a main
line of defence ○ The enemy have made
a breakthrough near Minden.
break up 34

**break up** /breIk/ verb 1. to come apart, to fall to pieces • The aircraft broke up in mid-air. 2. to disperse • The demonstration broke up when baton rounds were fired. • Troops were sent in to break up the demonstration.

**breastwork** /brestwOrk/ noun a low field fortification constructed from earth, rocks, timber, etc.

**breech** /bri:tʃ/ noun the rear part of a gun’s barrel, into which a round is placed in order to be fired

**Bren gun** /brEn/ noun a type of light machine-gun

**brevet** /brevEt/ noun a commission which entitles an officer to take a higher rank without the appropriate pay • He was a brevet lieutenant-colonel. ■ verb to confer a brevet rank on someone • He was breveted as a major. (NOTE: brevet- ing – breveted)

**brew** /bru:/ noun a cup of tea or coffee • They stopped for a brew. ■ verb 1. to make a hot drink 2. to catch fire (used of vehicles)

**brick** /brIk/ noun a team of four men, forming part of a multiple • Cpl Smith’s brick captured the gunner. ■ multiple

**bridge** /brIdz/ noun 1. a structure built to carry a road or railway over a river, road or railway 2. the control centre of a ship ■ verb to make a bridge over something • The enemy have bridged the river.

**bridgehead** /brIdZHed/ noun a defensive position established on the enemy side of a river or other obstacle, which is used as a secure base for subsequent operations

**bridgelayer** /brIdZIəz/ noun a vehicle which carries and lays a portable bridge

**brief** /bri:ʃ/ noun 1. orders or instructions • That is not part of our brief. 2. a detailed summary or explanation • We received a brief on the enemy’s organization. ■ verb 1. to give orders or instructions • He briefed his platoon for the attack. 2. to explain a situation in detail • He briefed the brigadier on the tactical situation. Compare **debrief**

**briefing** /briːʃɪŋ/ noun 1. orders or instructions • We all assembled for the daily briefing. 2. a detailed explanation or summary • The press officer gave a briefing on the current situation to reporters. 3. a meeting where a briefing is given. Compare **debriefing**

**briefing room** /briːʃɪŋ ruːm/ noun a room where briefing and debriefing take place

**brig** /brɪɡ/ noun US a military prison (especially on a warship) 

**Brig** abbreviation brigadier

**brigade** /briɡd/ noun a tactical army grouping of two or more battalions or regiments. Abbr **Bde**

**brigade administration area** /briɡeɪd əd,ˌenəmɪˈstrɛʃən əˈreɪ/ noun an operational location for the logistical elements of a brigade. Abbr **BAA**
brigade commander /briːɡiːd kəmˈɑːndər/  noun an officer who is in command of a brigade
brigade major /briːɡiːd ˈmeɪdʒər/  noun the chief of staff of a brigade
Brigade of Guards /briːɡiːd əv ˈɡɑːdz/  noun the five guards infantry regiments of the British Army (Grenadier Guards, Coldstream Guards, Scots Guards, Irish Guards and Welsh Guards)
brigadier /briɡiˈdɛər/  noun a senior officer in the army or marines (usually in command of a brigade). Abbr Brigbrigadier general /briɡiˈdɛər ˈdʒenərəl/  noun US a senior officer in the army, marines or air force (junior to a major general and senior to a colonel, usually in command of a brigade)

BRITFOR abbreviation British Force
British /briːtʃ/  adjective relating to Great Britain (GB) (NOTE: Great Britain is formed of England, Scotland and Wales, and with Northern Ireland forms the United Kingdom (UK)) Abbr BRITFOR

British Army of the Rhine /ˈbriːtʃ ərˈmaɪ n dʒiːzər/  noun an obsolete title for British ground forces stationed in Germany

British Army of the Rhine /ˈbriːtʃ ərˈmaɪ n dʒiːzər/  noun an obsolete title for British ground forces stationed in Germany. Abbr BAOR
brook /brʊk/  noun a small stream
BSM abbreviation battery sergeant major
BTR /biː ˈtɜː/  noun a Soviet series of wheeled armoured personnel carriers (APCs)
BTR-60  noun a 1960s-era APC
BTR-80  noun a 1980s-era APC
BTR-90  noun a 1990s-era APC

Bty abbreviation battery
bubonic plague /ˈbjuːnək pliːəŋ/  noun same as plague
buckshee /ˈbʌksɪ/  adjective spare (and usually acquired unofficially or illegally) (slang) Abbr buckshee
buddy /ˈbʌdi/  noun US a comrade (informal)
buddy-buddy system /ˈbʌdi ˈbʌdi '/ˈstɪstəm/  noun a philosophy where comrades look after each other’s welfare and protect each other in battle

buffer zone /ˈbʌfər ˈzuːn/  noun a designated area between two groupings, which neither grouping can enter but in which enemy can be engaged by either grouping (designed to avoid fratricide between the two groupings)

bugle /ˈbʌɡl/  noun a musical instrument, similar to a trumpet, traditionally used to send signals or instructions in the form of music

bugler /ˈbʌɡlər/  noun a person who plays the bugle

bug out /ˈbʌɡ aʊt/  verb to abandon a position or location in a hurry (informal)
built-up /ˈbɪlt ˈʌp/  adjective covered by buildings (i.e. cities, towns and other urban areas) Abbr built-up

bull /bʊl/  noun the cleaning and polishing of kit Abbr bull

bug out /ˈbʌg aʊt/  verb to abandon a position or location in a hurry (informal)
built-up /ˈbɪlt ˈʌp/  adjective covered by buildings (i.e. cities, towns and other urban areas) Abbr built-up
bull /bʊl/  noun the cleaning and polishing of kit Abbr bull

bulldozer /ˈbʊldəʊzər/  noun a tracked vehicle designed to push obstructions out of the way
bullet /ˈbʌltl/  noun a projectile fired by a pistol, rifle or machine-gun
bulleted blank /ˈbʌlttɪd ˈblæŋk/  noun a blank round designed for use with some automatic or semi-automatic weapons, containing a projectile which disintegrates upon leaving the muzzle of the weapon

bulletproof /ˈbʌltlprəuf/  adjective designed to prevent penetration by bullets

bulletproof vest /ˈbʌltlprəuf ˈvest/  noun a vest fitted with panels of synthetic material (e.g. Kevlar) designed to protect a soldier from shrapnel and low-velocity bullets. Abbr bulletproof vest

bumf /ˈbʌmf/  noun written instructions, briefings, reports, etc. (slang) Abbr bumphaven't had time to read all the bumph yet.
bunch /bʌntʃ/ verb to stand or move in close proximity to each other, thus presenting a good target for machine-guns and artillery (used of a group of soldiers or vehicles) ○ Don’t bunch! Keep spread out!

Bundeswehr /ˈbʊndəswɛːɐ/ noun the German armed forces ○ The crossings are being held by units of the Bundeswehr.

bungee /ˈbʌŋdʒi/ noun an elasticated cord used as a fastening

bunker /ˈbʌŋkər/ noun 1. a shelter with reinforced sides and a roof, designed to withstand artillery and small-arms fire 2. a reinforced underground shelter used for storage (especially of ammunition)

bunker buster /ˈbʌŋkərˈbʌstə/ noun a powerful bomb which is designed to penetrate a reinforced target and explode

burial detail /ˈbɜːrɪəl ˈdeɪtʃəl/ noun a detachment of soldiers assigned to bury the dead

burlap /ˈbɜːlæp/ noun US a coarse fabric used as camouflage or to make sandbags (NOTE: The British English term is hessian.)

burn /bɜːrn/ noun an injury caused by fire, heat, radiation, chemical action, electricity, or friction, resulting in redness and blistering of the skin and often causing damage to underlying tissues □ verb 1. to damage or destroy something by fire ○ The village had been burnt to the ground. (NOTE: burning – burnt or burned) 2. to cause burns to someone or to part of his or her body

burst /bɜːrst/ noun 1. the firing of a series of bullets rapidly ○ There was a burst of machine-gun fire behind the wall. 2. an explosion ○ The burst of the shell deafened him. □ verb to explode ○ The shell burst next to the command post.

bury /ˈbɜːri/ verb to place an object in a hole in the ground and then cover it with soil ○ There wasn’t time to bury the dead. ○ The guerrillas buried their weapons in the forest. (NOTE: burying – buried – have buried)

busby /ˈbʌsbɪ/ noun a ceremonial fur headdress traditionally worn by cavalry soldiers

burial detail /ˈbɜːrɪəl ˈdeɪtʃəl/ noun a detachment of soldiers assigned to bury the dead

burn /bɜːrn/ noun 1. a plant resembling a small tree 2. ○ the Bush in Australia and South Africa, wild uncultivated terrain

burst /bɜːrst/ (slang) adjective damaged or broken ○ The radio is bust. □ verb 1. to damage or break ○ I’ve bust my binoculars. 2. to demote ○ Cpl Hobbs has been busted.

bush /bʌʃ/ noun 1. part of the rifle which a person places against his shoulder during firing ○ He killed the man with his rifle butt. 2. ○ the butts the target end of a shooting range ○ He’s in the butts.

bunt /bʌnt/ verb to place an object in a hole in the ground and then cover it with soil ○ There wasn’t time to bury the dead. ○ The guerrillas buried their weapons in the forest. (NOTE: burying – buried – have buried)

butts /bʌts/ plural noun US a way of addressing or speaking to someone ○ Private Jones, don’t you forget your butts.

bush /bʌʃ/ noun 1. a small tree 2. ○ the Bush in Australia and South Africa, wild uncultivated terrain

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CHARLIE - Cc

C3 abbreviation command, control and communications

C-17 /ˈsiːˌvɛn ˈtɛm/ noun an American-designed heavy-lift transport aircraft, which is capable of landing on short runways. Also called Globemaster

C-130 /ˈsiːˌwɛn ˈbɛstər/ noun an American-designed transport aircraft. Also called Hercules

C-141 /ˈsiːˌwɛn fɛːr/ noun an American-designed transport aircraft. Also called Starlifter

C-601 /ˈsiːˌwɛn fɪt/ noun a Chinese-designed anti-ship missile

C-801 /ˈsiːˌwɛn eɪt/ noun a Chinese-designed anti-ship missile

CA abbreviation cruiser (with guns)

cab /ˈkeɪb/ noun the driver’s compartment of a lorry or truck

CAB /ˈkeɪb/ abbreviation US combat aviation brigade

cabin /ˈkeɪbɪn/ noun 1. a room on an aircraft or ship (normandy used as living quarters). 2. The captain called a meeting in his cabin. 3. US a hut or simple shelter. 4. They spent the night in a cabin in the mountains.

cable /ˈkeɪbl/ noun 1. a thick metal wire which is used to convey electricity from one place to another. 2. A thick metal wire which is used to moor a ship, or to tow a ship or vehicle. Also called hawser

cache /ˈkeʃ/ noun a hidden store of ammunition, equipment or food. 1. We found a cache of ammunition in a hollow tree. 2. verb to put something in a cache. 3. We cached our spare rations close to the track.

cadence /ˈkɛdəns/ noun 1. a standard time and pace for marching in step. 2. They use a cadence of 95 paces to the minute. 3. A drum-beat or song designed to help maintain the cadence. 4. I heard the squad chanting their cadence.

cadet /ˈkeɪdət/ noun a schoolboy or girl who is a member of an official organization, which is designed to give young people a taste of life in the armed forces. 1. A party of cadets will be visiting the barracks tomorrow.

cadre /ˈkædr/ noun a small unit of trained or experienced personnel, which can be used to form the basis for a much larger unit consisting mainly of untrained or less experienced personnel (e.g. recruits, reservists, territorials, etc)

cairn /ˈkeɪn/ noun a pile of stones or rocks, often built as a marker or monument. 1. There’s a cairn on the summit.

caisson /ˈkeɪzn/ noun a trailer designed to carry ammunition

calculations in time and space /ˌkælˈkjuːleɪʃ(ə)n/ noun a time-based calculation to determine how long it will take to get from one location to another

caliber /ˈkeɪlbər/ noun US spelling of calibre

calibre /ˈkeɪlbər/ noun 1. the internal diameter of a gun barrel. 2. the external diameter of a projectile

call /kɔl/ noun 1. a shout or cry. 2. a radio message. 3. verb to make a request. 4. to summon. 5. He called a man over. 6. to request or order. 7. He called for drink. 8. to wake someone up. 9. Call me at 0600.
call out

speak to someone on a radio or telephone. He called the duty officer to inform him of the incident.

call out /ˈkɔːl əut/ verb to deploy a force in response to an incident or threat. The battalion has been called out. Call out the QRF!

call-out /ˈkɔːl əut/ noun an act of deploying a force in response to an incident or threat. The GOC was very unimpressed with our performance during the last call-out.

call sign /ˈkɔːl əzn/ noun a name, letters or numbers used to identify a person or sub-unit on the radio. Abbr C/S alternate call sign a second or emergency call sign.

call up /ˈkɔːl əp/ verb to summon for military service. All the young men have been called up. He was called up in 1944 and immediately sent to the front.

call-up /ˈkɔːl əp/ noun an action of calling someone to join the armed forces. His call-up was deferred because he was still at university.

caltrops /ˈkæltrops/ plural noun a set of metal spikes designed to damage vehicle tyres.

calvary /ˈkælvəri/ noun a small roadside religious monument, in the form of Jesus on the cross (common in Roman Catholic regions). There’s a calvary 100 metres before the junction.

cam /kæm/ (informal) noun camouflage. Put plenty of cam on this tank. to cam up to apply camouflage. They cammed up.

cam-cream /ˈkæm kriːm/ noun same as camouflage cream.

cam-net /ˈkæm nɛt/ noun a camouflage net.

camouflage /ˈkæməflæʒ/ noun 1. the use of natural and man-made materials to make something blend in with the surrounding area. Camouflage is an essential military skill. 2. materials used for camouflage (natural vegetation, camouflage net, fabric, paint) to conceal something by making it blend in with its surroundings. They were camouflaging their vehicles.

camouflage cream /ˈkæməfləz ˈkriːm/ noun cosmetic face-paint for camouflage. Also called cam-cream.

camouflage net /ˈkæməfləz ˈnet/ noun a covering of knotted cord and pieces of fabric, used to conceal a vehicle, piece of equipment or structure.

camp /kæmp/ noun 1. a place where people are accommodated in temporary shelter (such as tents). The refugees are being housed in camps. 2. a place where troops are accommodated and trained. The recruits returned to camp. verb to live outdoors in temporary shelter. We camped by the river.

campaign /ˈkæmən/ noun a prolonged period of military activity in a specific area or region. We are planning an autumn campaign at the end of the rainy season. the North Africa Campaign a long period of warfare in North Africa. verb to conduct or take part in a campaign. The army spent two years campaigning in North Africa.

campaign medal /ˈkæmˌpɛnˈmɛdəl/ noun a medal awarded for service during a certain campaign.

camp-bed /ˈkæmpˌbed/ noun a lightweight folding or collapsible bed used for camping. (Note: in American English term is cot.)

camp-follower /ˈkæmp ˌfɔːlwə/ noun a civilian who attaches himself or herself to an army during a campaign.

camp site /ˈkæmpˌsæt/ noun a place used for setting up a camp.

camstick /ˈkæmtɪsk/ noun a solid stick of face paint.

can /kæn/ noun 1. a metal container for liquid (such as a petrol can). 2. US a metal container in which food or drink is hermetically sealed for storage over long periods. (Note: in British English, tin is more usual.)

canal /ˈkænəl/ noun an artificial waterway used for navigation or irrigation.

Candid /ˈkændɪd/ noun a NATO name for Soviet-designed IL-76 transport aircraft.
canister /ˈkænɪstər/ noun 1. a metal container for gas or aerosol ○ You should wear protective clothing when handling gas canisters. 2. a direct-fire anti-personnel round for a tank gun or artillery piece, consisting of a fragile container filled with small projectiles; the container disintegrates as it leaves the muzzle of the gun and the projectiles spread out like shot from an enormous gunshot. 3. a disposable air filter for a respirator ○ Soldiers are trained how to change their canisters in NBC conditions.
cannibalize /ˌkænɪˈbəlaɪz/; cannibalise verb to use damaged or defective equipment as a source of spare parts
cannon /ˈkænən/ noun 1. a large-calibre heavy machine-gun 2. a large wheeled gun, often capable of firing explosive projectiles 3. an outdated muzzle-loading artillery piece (historical)
cannonball /ˈkænənˈbɔːl/ noun a large round stone or metal ball, fired from old cannons
cannon fodder /ˈkænən ˈfɒdə/ noun soldiers who are seen merely as material to be used during a war
canoe /ˈkænəʊ/ noun a small hand-powered narrow boat with pointed ends
canopy /ˈkænəpi/ noun 1. a covering suspended over an object ○ We erected a canopy to protect the wounded from the sun. 2. the fabric part of a parachute ○ His canopy failed to open properly. 3. a cover provided by the leaves and branches of trees in a wood, forest, jungle, etc. ○ The jungle’s canopy concealed the enemy’s movements. 4. the transparent cover of an aircraft’s cockpit ○ The aircraft needed a new canopy.
canteen /ˈkæntiːn/ noun 1. a place where food and drink is sold 2. a water bottle 3. a set of eating utensils
canvas /ˈkænvæs/ noun a very strong water-resistant fabric used to make tents, tarps, etc. ○ under canvas accommodated in tents or in the field ○ we’ve spent the last six months under canvas
CAOC abbreviation combined air operations centre

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captain
noun 1. a senior officer in the navy (above a commander, and usually in command of a warship) 2. an officer in the army or marines above the rank of lieutenant and below a major 3. US an officer in the navy (usually in command of a warship) 4. US an officer in the army, marines or air force (usually in command of a company or equivalent-sized grouping).

group captain abbr Capt

COMMENT: British Army captains have enough experience to make them eligible for a variety of different roles. Within a unit, they might act as second-in-command of a company or equivalent-sized grouping or have a specialist role in the unit’s headquarters (as for example adjutant, intelligence officer, operations officer, etc.). Outside the unit, they might be employed as an aide-de-camp (ADC), or as a junior staff officer in a brigade or divisional headquarters. In the British armed forces, a captain in the marines is considered to be the equivalent of a major in the army. The rank of captain in the US Army requires more experience and higher qualifications than its equivalent in the British Army, and is therefore considered to have greater seniority. Captains in the US Army are eligible to command companies or equivalent-sized groupings.

captive
noun 1. someone who has been captured
in captivity

comment

capitvity
noun a state of being a captive

captor
noun someone who captures another person or holds them as a prisoner or hostage None of our captors spoke English.

capture
verb 1. to take someone prisoner
verb 2. to take possession of something by force
noun 1. an act of taking someone prisoner
noun 2. an act of taking possession of something by force The capture of the town was a disaster.
noun 3. to take someone prisoner
noun 4. We captured two generals.

car
noun a small motorized passenger vehicle

carabinier
noun (historical) 1. an elite light infantryman 2. an elite heavy cavalryman

car bomb
noun a terrorist bomb concealed in a vehicle

card
noun a small piece of stiff paper or plastic

cargo
noun goods or supplies carried by an aircraft or ship

Corrected to:...
carrier wave /ˈkærɪə wɛrv/ noun an electromagnetic wave used to carry a radio signal

carry /ˈkærɪ/ verb 1. to hold ○ He was carrying a gun. 2. to contain and transport goods ○ The trucks were carrying ammunition. 3. to have in your possession ○ He was carrying drugs. 4. to be infected with but not necessarily affected by a transmissible disease ○ He was carrying hepatitis B. 5. to reach (used of weapons, radio signals, etc.) ○ This gun can carry up to five kilometres. 6. to approach ○ They carried the enemy position.
carry on /ˈkærɪ ˌɒn/ verb to continue doing something ○ He told the men to carry on with their tasks. ○ Permission to carry on, Sir?
carry out /ˈkærɪ ˌaut/ 1. to do something ○ He was carrying out a routine check. 2. to complete an activity ○ We couldn’t carry out our mission.
cart /kɑːt/ noun a wheeled vehicle pulled by a horse or other animal
carton /ˈkɑːt(ɔ)n/ noun a container made of cardboard or paper

cartridge /ˈkɑːtrɪdʒ/ noun a metal or plastic case containing the propellant for a projectile (and usually the projectile as well)
cartridge-belt /ˈkɑːtrɪdʒ ˌbelt/ noun a belt fitted with loops or pouches to hold cartridges (NOTE: A cartridge together with its projectile are usually known as a round.)
cas abbreviation casualty
CAS abbreviation close air support
case /keɪs/ noun 1. a container 2. a situation ○ In this case, we should not attack. 3. a matter under investigation or study ○ He is dealing with several cases. 4. a type of writing
caseless ammunition /ˈkeɪsləs əmˈnʃən/ noun the latest development in small-arms ammunition, where the propellant is produced as a solid block which is formed around the projectile, thus removing the need for a metal cartridge case

COMMENT: Caseless rounds are lighter in weight and cheaper to produce than normal rounds and less likely to cause a stoppage, because there is no empty case to be ejected. They would normally be issued ready-packed in a disposable magazine.

CASEVAC /ˈkeɪzvɛk/, casevac noun the movement of an injured person to a place where he/she can receive medical treatment ○ We must arrange a casevac. Full form casualty evacuation ■ verb to move an injured person to a place where he/she can receive medical treatment (informal) ○ He has been casevaced. (NOTE: CASEVACING – CASEVACed)
casket /ˈkeɪsket/ noun US a box in which a dead body is buried or cremated (NOTE: The British English term is coffin.)
castle /ˈkɑːs(ə)l/ noun a large fortified building or complex
casualty /ˈkæsjuəltri/ noun someone who is killed or injured ○ The enemy suffered heavy casualties. ○ Newspapers carried reports of civilian casualties.
casualty evacuation /ˈkæsjuəlˈti eˈvækjʊəltri/ noun a place where casualties are assessed and given emergency medical treatment, before being evacuated to a place where they can receive proper medical treatment
catering /ˈkætərɪŋ/ noun the work of buying food and drink and cooking meals for people

Catholic /ˈkeɪθlɪk/ noun 1. Roman Catholic Church ■ adjective of the Roman Catholic Church
cattle /ˈkæt(ə)/ plural noun the collective word for bulls and cows

cattle grid /ˈkæt(ə)l ˈgreid/ noun an obstacle in road, consisting of a shallow pit covered with a metal grid, which allows vehicles to pass freely but not cattle or other livestock

causeway /ˈkɔzweɪ/ noun a raised road or path across water or wet ground

cave /kveɪ/ noun a natural chamber in the side of a hill. The deserters hid in a cave. verb to cave in to collapse. The trench has caved in. As we advanced the opposition caved in.

CC /ˈsɪst/ abbreviation cubic centimetres. This vehicle has an 1800cc engine.

CCTV /ˈsɪstɪtɪ/ˈviz/ noun a surveillance system, consisting of cameras connected by cable to television receivers. Full form closed-circuit television

Cdo abbreviation commando

cease /ˈsɪs/ verb to stop. to cease fire to stop shooting

ceasefire /ˈsɪsfər/ noun an agreement to stop fighting. The enemy have agreed to a ceasefire. armistice, truce

cell /sel/ noun 1. a small room used to hold a prisoner. He was found dead in his cell. 2. a small group which forms part of a larger organization. There are several terrorist cells operating in this area. 3. the department of a headquarters in the field. The G3 cell is the NBC cell.

cellar /ˈsɛlər/ plural noun the part of a building below ground level (normally used for storage). basement

cemetery /ˈsɛmətri/ plural noun an area of ground used for the burial of the dead. churchyard, graveyard

censor /ˈsɛnsər/ noun a person or organization authorized to examine letters, newspapers, books, radio or television broadcasts, etc., and to suppress any material which is judged to be subversive, obscene, a breach of security, or otherwise unsuitable for release to the general public. The censor had deleted most of the letter. verb to act as a censor. All reports from the battlefield have been heavily censored.

CENTCOM /ˈsentkləm/ noun US the department of US forces responsible for defending American national interests in the Middle East (excluding Israel, Syria and Lebanon which are covered by EUCOM), parts of East Africa and south-west Asia. Full form central command

central command /ˈsɛntəl kənˈmuːnd/ noun US full form of CENTCOM

Central Intelligence Agency /ˈsentəl ɪnˈtelɪdʒənsi ˈɛdʒɪˌniːs/ noun full form of CIA

centre of gravity /ˈsentər əv ˈgreɪvtri/ noun the main source of an
enemy's power and strength. The enemy's centre of gravity is formed by his elite armoured divisions.

**Centurion** /ˈsɛntʃərɪən/ noun a British-designed late 1940s-era main battle tank (MBT).

**CEP** /siːˈɛp/ noun an area surrounding an intended target within which a ballistic missile or stick of bombs might land. This missile has a CEP of around 3000 metres. Full form **circular error probable**

**ceramic** /səˈrɛmɪk/ adjective made of clay which has been hardened by heat. Compound armour consists of steel and ceramic layers.

**ceramic armour** /ˈsɛrmərɪk/ noun a combination armour which includes ceramic materials in its composition.

**ceremonial** /ˈsɛrəmənіəl/ adjective relating to formal military occasions (such as a parade) n noun a procedure carried out during formal military occasions; He is responsible for all the ceremonial.

**ceremonials** /ˈsɛrəməniəlz/ plural noun ceremonial uniform ○ The battalion was in full ceremonials.

**ceremonial uniform** /ˈsɛrəməniəl/ noun dress worn for special occasions, such as parades, which is more colourful than the normal khaki uniform; The guards were in their full ceremonial uniforms.

**cessation** /ˈsɛʃəʃən/ noun the stopping of an activity or state of affairs; The UN has demanded a cessation of hostilities.

**CET** abbreviation combat engineer tractor

**Cfn** abbreviation craftsman

**CFV** /ˈsiːɛf/ noun an M3 variant of the Bradley infantry fighting vehicle. Full form **cavalry fighting vehicle**. Compare BFV

**CG** /ˈsiːdʒi/ abbreviation cruiser (with guided missiles) n noun 1. US a commanding general 2. a type of chok ing agent. Full form **carbonyl chloride**. Also called **phosgene**

**challenge** /ˈtʃæləndʒ/ noun 1. a call to identify oneself; He didn't hear the sentry's challenge.

**CGN** abbreviation cruiser (nuclear-powered, with guided missiles)

**CH-47** /ˈsiː ətʃ fiː ˈsɛtʃiˈsɛvən/ noun ○ Chinook

**CH-53** /ˈsiː ətʃ fiˈfɪtiˈθɪriː/ noun an American-designed heavy transport helicopter. Also called **Sea Stallion, Super Stallion, Jolly Green Giant**

**chaff** /ʃɑːf/ noun strips of metal foil dropped by aircraft in order to confuse enemy radar or decoy radar-guided missiles

**chagul** /tʃaˈɡʊl/ noun in Arabic, a water container made of coarse fabric, which is designed to keep water cool by the process of evaporation

**chain-gun** /tʃeɪnˈɡʌn/ noun a machine-gun, where the firing-mechanism is powered by a motor in order to produce a high rate of fire

**chain of command** /tʃeɪn əv kəˈmænd/ noun a command structure within a grouping ○ Demoralization is evident throughout the chain of command.

**chalk** /ʃɔːk/ noun 1. a soft white limestone rock, often found under a shallow covering of soil and grass; It's very hard work digging into chalk. 2. a writing instrument produced from chalk ○ The sign was written in chalk.

**challenge for us all.**

**challenge** /ˈtʃæləndʒ/ noun 1. a call to identify oneself ○ He didn't hear the sentry's challenge. 2. an invitation to take part in a contest or combat ○ We have received a challenge to a football match from B Company. 3. a difficult or demanding task ○ This mission will be a challenge for us all. 4. opposition ○ Your remarks were a challenge to my authority. ○ verb 1. to call upon someone to identify himself ○ We crept up to the gate and were immediately challenged by a sentry. 2. to invite someone to take part in a contest or combat ○ B Company have challenged us to a football match. 3. to contradict or object to
Challenger 44

something ○ He challenged his platoon commander’s report.

**Challenger** /tʃɛlndʒər/ noun a British-designed 1980s-era main battle tank (MBT)

**challenging** /tʃɛlndʒɪŋ/ adjective difficult or demanding ○ The marines faced the challenging task of climbing up a 30m vertical cliff.

**chamber** /ˈtʃæmbr/ noun
1. the part of a gun in which a round is placed for firing
2. a stretch of deep water through an area of shallow water ○ There are several navigable channels in the estuary.
3. a natural or man-made ditch or watercourse
4. a band of radio frequencies ○ You are on the wrong channel.
5. the way in which information is passed from one place to another ○ verb to make something move in a specific direction ○ The minefields will channel the enemy into our killing-zone.

_Note:_ channeling — channelled; US channelled — channeled

**Channel** /tʃæn(ə)l/ noun
1. channels of communication
2. English Channel
3. channels in the estuary.
5. Channel 4.

**check** /tʃek/ noun an examination to establish the accuracy, amount, condition or identity of something ○ He ordered a check of all the buildings.

verb 1. to examine something in order to establish its condition ○ Check your weapons.
2. He went round to check the sentries.
3. to count ○ He checked his platoon.
4. to look for ○ He checked the room for booby-traps.
5. to stop doing something ○ to check firing to stop firing ○ adverb ○ check! OK!, all right! (informal)

**checklist** /tʃeklɪst/ noun
1. a list of things to be checked.
2. a list of tasks to be completed

**checkpoint** /tʃɛkpoint/ noun
1. a place (usually on a road) where people or vehicles are stopped and inspected or searched
2. a place or feature on the ground which is used as a navigational reference point ○ Our next checkpoint is the track junction at grid 339648.

**chemical** /ˈkɛmɪk(ə)l/ adjective referring to chemistry ○ noun 1. a substance formed by reactions between elements, obtained by or used in chemical processes ○ These are some of the most dan-
chemical agent /ˌkemɪkl/ noun a type of chemical weapon
chemical and biological warfare /ˌkemɪkl/ noun warfare using both chemical and biological weapons. Abbr CBW
chemical attack /ˌkemɪkl/ noun an attack using chemical weapons
chemical sentry /ˌkemɪkl/ noun a soldier assigned to watch for signs of a chemical attack
chemical shell /ˌkemɪkl/ noun an artillery round used as a means of delivering a chemical agent
chemical warfare /ˌkemɪkl/ noun warfare involving the use of chemical weapons
chemical-warfare unit /ˌkemɪkl/ noun a specialist unit trained to detect the presence of chemical weapons and to decontaminate persons, equipment and vehicles which have been affected
chemical warhead /ˌkemɪkl/ noun the explosive part of a missile used as a means of delivering a chemical agent
chemical weapon /ˌkemɪkl/ noun a chemical substance used as a weapon (such as poisonous gas)
chevron /ˈʃɪvən/ noun a V-shaped stripe worn on the sleeve and used to denote non-commissioned officer rank. Also called stripes
COMMENT: In the British Army, as a general rule, a single chevron denotes a lance corporal, two chevrons a corporal, three chevrons a sergeant, and three chevrons surmounted by a crown a colour sergeant or staff sergeant.
chief /ʃiːf/ adjective the most senior or important: He is the chief adviser. ■ noun 1. a ruler of a tribal group or clan 2. the head of a department

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choke

choke

choke

choke

chief master sergeant /ˈʃiːf mɑːstərn/ noun US a senior non-commissioned officer (SNCO) in the air force
chief of staff /ˈʃiːf əv ˈstɑːf/ noun the most senior staff officer in a headquarters. Abbr COS
chief petty officer /ˈʃiːf ˈpɛti ˈɒfər/ noun a senior non-commissioned officer (SNCO) in the navy. Abbr CPO
Chieflain /ˈʃiːflən/ noun a British-designed 1960s-era main battle tank (MBT)
COMMENT: In a headquarters, the chief of staff (COS) coordinates operational matters, while the deputy chief of staff (DCOS) is responsible for logistics.
chief warrant officer /ˈʃiːf ˈwɜːntən/ noun a senior warrant officer in the US armed forces ranking above a warrant officer and below a second lieutenant or ensign
chigger /ˈʃɪɡər/ noun a tiny tropical insect, which burrows into an animal’s skin (especially on the feet) in order to lay its eggs. Also called jigger
Chinagraph /ˌʃɪnəɡrɑːf/ noun a wax pencil designed for writing on plastic (such as a map-case, overlay, tale, etc.)
Chinook /ˈʃɪnək/ noun an American twin-rotor CH-47 transport helicopter
chock /ʃɔk/ noun a metal or wooden block designed to stop a wheel moving
Choghi /ˈʃoɡi, ˈʃoɡi/ noun a person of Asian origin, who runs a canteen or other shop on a British operational base or warship
COMMENT: The word Choghi is a legacy from the British Army in India, and is not supposed to be a derogatory term.
choke /ʃəuk/ verb 1. to obstruct a person’s airway so that he cannot breathe: I choked him with my belt. 2. to be unable to breathe because of an obstruction to the airway: He is choking. 3. to block a passage: The road was choked by refugees.
choke-point 46

choke-point /ˈtʃəʊkˈpɔnt/ noun a natural or man-made feature which restricts the movement of large numbers of people or vehicles. The valley is a potential choke-point for enemy armour.

choking agent /ˈtʃəʊkɪŋ ˈeərdʒənt/ noun a chemical weapon designed to attack the lungs.

cholera /kˈnɛrə/ noun a highly infectious disease of the intestine which causes vomiting and diarrhoea and is often fatal; it is caused by food and water infected by Vibrio cholerae.

chronometer /ˈkrɔˈnɒmətər/ noun an instrument used for measuring time.

chow /ˈtʃɔʊ/ noun US food (slang).

chopper /ˈtʃɒpə/ noun a helicopter (informal).

choppy /ˈtʃɒpi/ adjective (of water) rough.

choppy /ˈtʃɒpi/ noun US food (slang).

citadel /ˈsɪtədəl/ noun a fort guarding a town.

civil /ˈsɪv(ə)l/ adjective 1. relating to the ordinary citizens of a country. The civil population the ordinary citizens of a country. 2. non-military.

civil defence /ˈsɪv(ə)l dɪˈfɛns/ noun the organization and training of non-military personnel for the protection of life and property during wartime.

civil emergency planning /ˈsɪv(ə)l ɪˈmɜrʒənsi ˈplənɪŋ/ noun defense planning by a government, not involving the Ministry of Defence (i.e. the fire service, police force, health services, civil defense, etc.).

civilian /ˈsɪvɪliən/ adjective non-military. The enemy aimed at civilian targets. Newspapers reported many civilian casualties. Someone who is not a member of the armed forces. Hundreds of civilians were killed in the air raid.

civvy /ˈsɪvɪ/ plural noun civilian clothing. He was in civvies.

civvy street /ˈsɪvɪ strɪt/ noun civilian life. What did you do on Civvy Street?

CIVS /ˈsɪvɪs/ noun a radar-controlled naval anti-aircraft cannon, which automatically detects, tracks and engages targets (e.g. Goal-
climbed the enemy position. 3. to unload a weapon. They cleared their rifles. 4. to approve or authorize (where security is involved). He has not been cleared to read this document.

**clearance** /ˈklɪərəns/ noun 1. an act of clearing something. B Company is on route clearance. 2. security approval. You do not have clearance to enter. 3. authorization or permission. Range Control has given us clearance to start firing.

**clearheaded** /ˈklɪərˈhɛd/ adjective describes an aircraft which has permission to drop a bomb on a practice range. Foxhound 22, this is Range Control, you're cleared hot, over.

**clearing** /ˈklɪərɪŋ/ noun 1. a small area of ground in woodland where the trees have been removed. We came to a clearing. 2. an action of removing something. The clearing of the village took several hours.

**clearing patrol** /ˈklɪərɪŋ ˈpɔtɔl/ noun a patrol sent out from a patrol base or defensive position in order to check the surrounding area for enemy

**clerk** /ˈklɛrk/ noun a serviceman who carries out secretarial duties in a headquarters

**climate** /ˈklæmət/ noun the prevailing weather conditions of a region

**climb** /klaɪm/ noun an upward movement. verb 1. to move upwards (especially using the hands and feet). The commandos had to climb a 50ft cliff. 2. to move upwards. The planes climbed to 30,000ft.
clink /klɪŋk/ noun the noise made by something hitting metal ○ The sentry heard a clink.

close air support /kləʊs ˈeə səp/ noun an attack by aircraft on a target which is close to friendly ground forces. Abbr CAS

COMMENT: During the UN peacekeeping operation in Bosnia (1992–95), close air support meant limited attacks on individual positions or vehicles, which were actually firing at UN peacekeepers, while air strikes meant retaliatory attacks on multiple targets within a specified area. The difference between these two definitions was crucial during negotiations between the UN and the warring factions throughout this conflict.

close arrest /kləʊs ˈærɛst/ noun a state in which a person is detained in a secure location (such as a prison, police station or guardroom)

closed-circuit television /kləʊzd ˈsɜːktɪv ˈtɛlɪvɪʒən/ noun full form of CCTV

close-in weapons system /kləʊs ɪn ˈwɛpənz ˈsɪstəm/ noun full form of CIWS

close quarter battle /kləʊz ˈkwɔːtər ˈbæt(ə)l/ noun combat in which soldiers are close enough to the enemy to use bayonets and similar weapons. Abbr CQB

closing down /ˈkləʊzɪŋ ˈdɔːn/ noun the ending of a radio transmission

cloud /klɔʊd/ noun a visible mass of water, ice, gas, dust or other particles in the sky

cloud cover /ˈklɔʊd ˈkeɪvər/ noun an area of sky covered by cloud

cluster bomb /ˈklʊstər ˈbɔrn/ noun an aircraft-dropped device containing a quantity of small bombs or bomblets which are released in mid-air over a target area

CMA /ˈkeɪmeɪə/ Abbreviation convoy marshalling area

Cmd /sɪˈkeɪmeɪə/ Abbreviation command

Cmdr /sɪˈkeɪmeɪər/ Abbreviation commander (navy)

Cmdre /sɪˈkeɪmeɪər/ Abbreviation commodore

CN /ˈsiːn/ Abbreviation a type of tear agent. Full form chloracetonaphone

CO /ˈsiːoʊ/ Abbreviation an officer commanding a battalion or equivalent-sized grouping ○ He was taken before the CO on a charge of being absent without leave. Full form commanding officer

goal /ˈkeɪəl/ and /ˈkeɪəl/ goal noun a temporary alliance formed as a result of an agreement rather than a formal treaty

cost /ˈkɒst/ noun an area of land where it meets the sea ○ The squadron sailed along the coast. ○ They planned a landing on the Normandy coast.

coastal /ˈkoʊstəl/ adjective relating to the coast ○ Their coastal defences proved to be inadequate.

coastguard /ˈkoʊstɡɑːrd/ noun 1. a government organization responsible for the safety of shipping in coastal waters and the prevention of smuggling ○ The US Coastguard is on the lookout for drug smugglers. 2. a member of the coastguard ○ Three coastguards boarded the ship.

coax /ˈkɔʊks/ noun same as coaxial machine-gun

clip /klɪp/ noun 1. a spring-fitted device used to attach one object to another, or to hold objects together ○ The vice used to attach one object to another ○ I saw something moving in that clump on the left.

2. object, or to hold objects together ○ He clipped on a clump of refugees.

clump /klɑmp/ noun a small group of trees or bushes ○ I saw something moving in that clump on the left.

clink /klɪŋk/ verb 1. to obstruct a mechanism or pipe with something ○ The fuel pipe was clogged with dirt. ○ To obstruct a route ○ The road was clogged with refugees. (NOTE: clogging – clipped)

clock code /ˈklɒk ˈkəʊd/ noun a system used to indicate other aircraft in relation to your own aircraft; 6 o'clock is straight ahead; 12 o'clock is directly behind you; 3 o'clock is to your right; 9 o'clock is to your left ○ Enemy fighters at 3 o'clock!

clock code /ˈklaʊk ˈkɔd/ noun a type of tear agent. Full form chloracetonaphone

clock code /ˈklaʊk ˈkəʊd/ abbreviation

close in a visible mass of water, ice, gas, dust or other particles in the sky
coaxial /kəʊˈækʃjəl/ adjective having the same axis
coaxial machine-gun /kəʊˈækʃjəl ˈmæʃiˈɡun/ noun a machine-gun which shares the same sighting systems as the main gun of an armoured fighting vehicle (AFV). ABBR COAX

cobbled /ˈkɒbld/ adjective paved with an uneven surface of rounded stones
cobbler /ˈkɒblər/ noun a person who repairs boots and shoes
cobbles /ˈkɒbliz/, cobblestones plural noun rounded stones used to pave roads
Cobra /ˈkɔbəra/ noun same as Huey Cobra
cock /kɔk/ verb to pull back the firing mechanism of a firearm so that it is ready to fire. • lock and load
cocked /kɔkt/ adjective with the firing mechanism pulled back and ready to fire
cockpit /ˈkɒkpɪt/ noun the pilot’s compartment in an aircraft. • The aircraft crashed because the cockpit canopy had iced up.
cock-up /ˈkɒk ʌp/ noun a situation where everything is going wrong (slang) • This is turning into a right cock-up!

code /kɔd/ noun a system of words, letters, numbers or other symbols, which is used to write secret messages
coded /kɔdId/ adjective written in code • He received a coded message.
codename /ˈkɔdɪnəm/ noun a name which, for security purposes, is used instead of a real name • Your codename will be Foxhound.
code of conduct /ˌkəʊd əvˈkɒndəkt/ noun, code of honour /ˈkəʊd əvˈhənər/ the correct way to behave (honourably)
codeword /ˈkəʊdɔrˌwɜːd/ noun a word or set of words which are used to convey a meaning, such as arrival at a destination, capture of an objective, order to withdraw, etc. • cipher
coerce /kəʊˈsɛr/ verb to persuade an unwilling person to do something by using force or threats • He was coerced into helping the soldiers.

49 collapsible

coercion /kəʊˈsɛʃən/ noun the use of force or threats to persuade an unwilling person to do something
coffin /ˈkɒfɪn/ noun a box in which a dead body is buried or cremated (NOTE: The American English term is casket.)
CoH abbreviation corporal of horse
cohesion /kəʊˈhiʒən/ noun a state of being organized and working together • The enemy’s cohesion is starting to collapse.
COIN /ˈkoʊn/ abbreviation counterinsurgency
col /kəl/ noun a high mountain pass
Col abbreviation colonel
cold steel /ˌkəʊld ˈstɛl/ noun the use of the bayonet
Cold War /ˈkəuld wɔr/ noun the period between 1945 and 1989, when a state of near-hostility existed between the USA and its Western European allies (later NATO) on one side and the USSR and its Eastern European allies (later the Warsaw Pact) on the other
collaborate /ˌkələˈbreɪt/ verb to assist the enemy
collaborator /ˌkələˈbreɪtər/ noun someone who provides assistance to the enemy
collapse /kəˈlæps/ noun 1. falling down • The explosion caused the collapse of the building. 2. loss of cohesion • The collapse of the enemy was due to a failure in logistics. 3. a failure • We were forced to watch the collapse of the whole plan. 4. a mental or physical breakdown • He suffered a collapse. • verb 1. to fall down • The explosion caused the building to collapse. 2. to lose cohesion • Enemy resistance collapsed as soon as the allies entered the town. 3. to fail • The plan collapsed as a result of poor planning. 4. to suffer a mental or physical breakdown • He collapsed from exhaustion.
collapsible /ˌkələˈlæpsəb(ə)l/ adjective designed to fold up or be taken to pieces and then reassembled • We used a collapsible boat.
collate /kəˈlɛkt/ verb to gather and analyse information

collateral damage /ˈkɔləræt(ə)l/ noun the unintentional killing of civilians or destruction of civilian property as a result of military action. The Pentagon admitted that the bombing raids had caused some collateral damage.

collect /kəˈlekt/ verb to fetch or pick up something

collection /kəˈleksʃən/ noun an act of fetching or picking something up

collection point /kəˈleksʃən pɔɪnt/ noun a place where personnel, equipment or supplies can be delivered and picked up

collide /kəˈlaɪd/ verb to hit another object while moving. The helicopters collided in mid-air.

collision /kəˈlɪʒ(ə)n/ noun an act of colliding or a mid-air collision

collocate /kəˈləkət/ verb to put in the same place. B Company was collocated with Battalion HQ.

colonel /ˈkɑlən(ə)l/ noun 1. an officer in the army or marines (ranking above a lieutenant-colonel and below a brigadier, usually employed as a senior staff officer). 2. lieutenant-colonel 2. US an officer in the army, marines or air force (usually in command of a regiment or equivalent-sized grouping or employed as a senior staff officer). Abbr Col

COMMENT: In some regiments of the British Army, the lieutenant-colonel commanding a battalion or its equivalent is addressed as ‘Colonel’ and referred to as the colonel.

Colonel of the Regiment /ˈkɑlən(ə)l əv ðə ˈrɛdʒɪmənt/ noun an honorary position (usually held by a member of the Royal Family, a field marshal or general)

colonial /ˈkələnɪəl/ adjective relating to colonies

colonist /ˈkələnɪst/ noun a settler in a colony

colony /ˈkələnі/ noun a territory which is governed and exploited by a foreign power

color /ˈkɑlər/ noun US US spelling of colour

colour /ˈkələr/ noun a ceremonial flag of a unit or sub-unit

COMMENT: If you are watching a ceremonial parade in uniform, you should salute when the colours march past in front of you. If you are not in uniform, you should stand to attention, removing your hat if you are a man. If the parade includes guns from the artillery, you should salute the guns as they go past, since the guns are also the colours of the artillery.

colour sergeant /ˈkɑlər ˈsәrdʒənt/ noun a senior non-commissioned officer (SNCO) in the infantry, usually employed as a company quartermaster sergeant (CQMS). Abbr C/Sgt (NOTE: The equivalent of colour sergeant in most other branches of the British Army is staff sergeant (S/Sgt).)

column /ˈkəlmən/ noun 1. a tactical formation consisting of several files of soldiers moving forward together one behind the other. 2. columns of infantry advanced across the desert.

Comanche /kəˈmɑntʃ/ noun an American AH-66 light attack/reconnaissance helicopter

combat /ˈkɑmbət/ noun fighting with the enemy. He has no experience of combat. The unit was in combat three times.

unarmed combat a verb to take effective action against something. This oil will combat rust and corrosion.

combat air patrol /ˈkɑmbət eəˈpɔl ,træpəl/ noun a patrol by fighter aircraft over a designated area. Abbr CAP

combatant /ˈkɑmbətænt/ noun a person who is involved in fighting. Combatants on both sides were affected by the chemical attack. Compare non-combatant

combat-effective /ˈkɑmbət ˈɛktərv/ adjective capable of fighting. Only three of our tanks are still combat-effective.
combat engineer tractor /ˈkɒmbət ˈɛŋɪnɪər ˈtræktər/ noun a British-designed armoured buldozer. Abbr CET

combat fatigue /ˈkɒmbət ˈfætɪj/ noun mental and physical stress resulting from a long period in combat

combat information centre /ˈkɒmbət ˈɪnfərəmʃən ˈsentər/ noun full form of CIC

combat-loading /ˈkɒmbət ˈləʊdɪŋ/ noun the process of loading ships with men and equipment in such a way that they are literally ready to fight the moment they disembark

combat readiness /ˈkɒmbət ˈrɛdɪnɪs/ noun the degree to which a unit or sub-unit is considered capable of fighting effectively. The brigade is now at an advanced state of combat readiness.

combat search and rescue /ˈkɒmbət ˈsɜːrɛtʃ ənd ˈrɪskuːz/ noun full form of CSAR

combat service support /ˈkɒmbət ˈsɜːrvɪs ˈsəːpɔːst/ noun full form of CSS

combat supplies /ˈkɒmbət ˈspʌləz/ plural noun ammunition, fuel and water

combat support /ˈkɒmbət ˈsəpɔːst/ noun the work of providing supplies to soldiers who are engaged in combat

combat vehicle reconnaissance /ˈkɒmbət ˈvɪzɪk(ə)l ə ˈkɒmənt vəˈrɪkəns/ noun a light, fast-moving armoured vehicle designed for reconnaissance. Abbr CVR

combined arms /ˈkɒmbət ˈærns/ plural noun two or more arms working together. This will be a combined arms operation.

combined joint task force /ˈkɒmbət ˈdʒɔɪnt ˈtɑːsk ˈfɔːrs/ noun a multinational task force which can be used rapidly as a peacekeeping force. Abbr CJTF

combined logistic support /ˈkɒmbət ˈlɔstɪk ˈsəpɔːst/ noun support from various countries which is available for use by NATO

combined operations /ˈkɒmbət ˈɒpərəʃənz/ plural noun 1. operations involving more than one arm (e.g. aircraft, artillery, infantry, naval gunfire support, etc.) 2. US operations carried out in conjunction with the armed forces of other states (NOTE: The Americans refer to combined arms operations as joint operations.) also called combined ops

combined pursuit /ˈkɒmbət ˈpərtʃər/ noun pursuit of a retreating enemy by more than one part of a force, e.g. by armoured vehicles and infantry

Combo pen /ˈkɒmbəʊ ˈpen/ noun an automatic syrette of atropine

COMCEN /ˈkɒmənsən/ abbreviation communication centre

Commd abbreviation commander

come-on /ˈkɒmən/ noun 1. an action designed to lure someone into an ambush or trap. The burning car was a come-on for a large bomb. 2. the management and direction of troops, vehicles or equipment. He has taken command of B Company.

command /ˈkɒmənd/ noun 1. an official instruction to do something. He gave the command to open fire. 2. the management and direction of troops, vehicles or equipment. He has taken command of B Company.
commandant  /ˈkɒməndənt/ noun 1. an officer commanding a military establishment (such as a prison camp, training depot, etc.) 2. an officer in the Irish army above the rank of captain and below a lieutenant-colonel (equivalent of a major in the British or US army) commandeer  /ˈkɒməndɪər/ verb to take possession of something in order to use it for a military purpose  

commander  /ˈkəʊməndər/ noun 1. someone who commands. Abbr Cdr 2. a rank of an officer in the British or US Navy (sometimes in command of a small warship). Abbr Cmdr

COMMENT: Under unified command, the service commander is responsible for the day-to-day management of the forces under his command, while the component commander decides how such forces will be used in a combined arms operation. Inevitably, differences of opinion will arise, in which case, it is the job of the commander in chief to mediate or make the final decision.

Commander in Chief  /ˈkəʊˌməndər ɪn ˈtʃɛf/ noun the most senior commander. Abbr C-in-C

commander royal artillery  /ˈkəʊˌməndər ˈrɔlətɪəl/ noun full form of GRA

commanding  /ˈkəʊˌməndɪŋ/ adjective 1. holding a command 2. looking down on something  

commanding general  /ˈkəʊˌməndɪŋ ˈdʒen(ə)rəl/ noun US the commander of a large tactical grouping (e.g. division, corps, army). Abbr CG

commanding officer  /ˈkəʊˌməndɪŋ ˈɒfəsəl/ noun an officer commanding a battalion or equivalent-sized grouping  

He was taken before the commanding officer on a charge of being absent without leave. Abbr CO

COMMENT: In the British Army, the title commanding officer (CO) is only applied to an officer who commands a battalion or equivalent-sized grouping. Likewise, the title officer commanding (OC) is only applied to an officer who commands a company or equivalent-sized grouping.

commando  /ˈkəʊˌməndəʊ/ noun 1. a battalion-sized grouping of the Royal Marines (such as 40 Commando, 45 Commando) 2. 40 Commando will lead the assault. Abbr Cdo 3. a special forces unit or a unit of irregular troops 4. An enemy commando is operating in the area. 5. a member of a special forces unit or a unit of irregular troops  

The base was attacked by commandos.

command post  /ˈkəʊˌmənd paʊst/ noun the place from which a unit or sub-unit is commanded. Abbr CP

command post exercise  /ˈkəʊˌmənd paʊst ˈɛksəsaɪz/ an exercise designed to train commanders and staff in the control of operations and the use of communications within and between headquarters, in which all forces are simulated. Abbr CPX

command sergeant major  /ˈkəʊˌmənd ˈsɜːrdʒənt ˈmeɪor/ noun US the most senior non-commissioned officer in an army unit. Abbr CSM

command vehicle  /ˈkəʊˌmənd ˈvɜːtrɪk/ noun a vehicle used as a command post

commend  /ˈkəʊˌmənd/ verb to praise an achievement (usually officially)  

He was commended for his bravery.

commendation  /ˌkəmənˈdeʃən/ noun an official recognition for an
achievement ○ He received a commendation for leading the counter-attack.

Commie /ˈkɒmɪ/ noun a communist (informal)

commissar /ˈkɒmɪsər/ noun a communist official responsible for political education and organisation

commissariat /ˈkɒmɪsəriət/ noun an official department responsible for the supply of food, clothing, etc.

commissary /ˈkɒmɪsəri/ noun an officer responsible for supply of food, clothing, etc.

commission /ˈkəmɪʃ(ə)n/ noun an authority by which an officer holds his rank in the armed forces ○ He resigned his commission. ○ Queen’s Commission, King’s Commission a commission held by an officer who has undergone normal officer selection and training ■ verb 1. to appoint someone as an officer ○ He was commissioned in 1980. 2. to prepare a ship for operational duty ○ The ship was in action only two weeks after she was commissioned. Compare decommission

commissioned officer /ˈkəmɪʃ(ə)n(ə)d/ noun a commissioned officer in the British or US Navy (usually in command of a naval squadron). Abbr Cmdre

commissioning /ˈkəmɪʃ(ə)ning/ noun taking a ship into operational service in the navy ○ The ship was in action only two weeks after commissioning. Compare decommissioning

commodore /ˈkɒmədɔr/ noun a senior officer in the British or US Navy (usually in command of a naval squadron). Abbr Cmdre

commonalty /ˈkɒmənlətɪ/ noun a state where various groups use common resources or have common aims

Commonwealth /ˈkɒmənwelθ/ noun an association consisting of Great Britain and independent sovereign states which were once formerly ruled by Britain as colonies (such as Australia, Canada, New Zealand) (NOTE: The full title is the British Commonwealth of Nations).

COMMENT: The armed forces of many Commonwealth members are still modelled on those of Great Britain and have retained many of their traditions and customs.

comms /kɒms/ abbreviation communications

communal /ˈkʌmnjʊl(ə)l/ kaˈmju nləl/ adjective for use by everyone ○ We have communal showers in this camp. (NOTE: Communal might refer to facilities that can be used by all ranks, or alternatively by both sexes.)

communicate /ˈkəmjuːnɪkeɪt/ verb to pass information to another person

communication /ˈkəmjuːneɪʃ(ə)n/ noun 1. the act of passing information to another person 2. the ability to communicate ○ We have lost communication with B Company. 3. a message ○ Did you receive my communication? 4. to establish communications to carry out a radio check in order to ensure that all call-signs on the net are in radio contact

communication centre /ˈkəmjuːneɪʃ(ə)n ˈsentə/ noun a place which relays and monitors communications. Abbr COMCEN

communications /ˈkəmjuːneɪʃ(ə)nz/ plural noun the means of passing information ○ Our communications have broken down.

communications equipment /kəˈmjuːnɪkeɪʃ(ə)n ɪˈkwɪpmənt/ noun equipment for sending, receiving or monitoring communications

communications officer /kəˈmjuːnɪkeɪʃ(ə)n ˈɒfɪsər/ noun an officer in charge of communications

communication trench /ˈkəmjuːneɪʃ(ə)n,ˈtʃɛntʃ/ noun a trench used for movement from one fire trench to another
communism /kəmˈjʊnnɪzəm/ noun
1. a political theory developed by Karl Marx, which promotes the idea that all people should be considered equal and that all property should be owned by the state 2. a political system based on the ideas of Karl Marx and others 3. any movement which favours communism. Compare capitalism

communist /kəmˈjʊnɪst/ adjective 1. relating to communism 2. favouring communism 3. relating to a country with a communist government • noun 1. a person who favours communism 2. a Communist a member of the Communist Party

Communist Party /kəmˈjʊnɪst pərti/ noun an international organization (with official status in some countries) which promotes communism

company /ˈkʌmpəni/ noun a tactical and administrative army grouping of three or more Platoons. Abbr Coy

COMMENT: In the British army, company-sized groupings of tanks and certain supporting arms (for example engineers) are known as squadrons, while artillery companies in many armies, including Great Britain and the USA, are known as batteries. American armoured cavalry companies are known as troops, although normal armoured units use the term company. Companies or equivalent-sized groupings are usually commanded by majors (although companies in the Royal Marines are commanded by captains). In the US Army, companies or equivalent-sized groupings are usually commanded by captains. A British armoured brigade might consist of two armoured or mechanized infantry battalions and one armoured regiment or, alternatively, two armoured regiments and one infantry battalion, plus artillery and supporting arms. On operations, these units are broken down and combined into battle groups. As an example, an armoured infantry battle group might consist of two infantry companies and one squadron of tanks, which are organized into two company and squadron groups and a squadron and company group under the command of the infantry battalion HQ. The exact composition will vary according to the tactical requirement at the time. In the US Army, a battle group is known as a task force, while company and squadron groups and squadron and company groups are known as company teams.

company and squadron group /,kʌmpəni ənˈskwɒdrən ˈgruːp/ noun a combined arms grouping, based on an infantry company (equivalent to a company team in the US Army)

company quartermaster sergeant /ˈkʌmpəni ˈkwɔːrtəmɑːstər ˈsɜːrdʒənt/ noun a senior non-commissioned officer (SNCO), usually holding the rank of colour sergeant (C/Sgt) or staff sergeant (S/Sgt), responsible for the logistic support of a company. Abbr CQMS

Company Sergeant Major /ˌkʌmpəni ˈsɜːtʃəmɑːjər/ noun a US combined arms grouping based on a tank or mechanized infantry company (equivalent to a company and squadron group or a squadron and company group in the British Army)

compass /ˈkɑmpəs/ noun an instrument designed to calculate direction by indicating magnetic north

compass bearing /ˌkɑmpəs ˈberɪŋ/ noun a magnetic bearing obtained by using a compass

Compass Call /ˌkɑmpəs kɔːl/ noun US an air-force role, involving the use of EW aircraft to jam enemy communications

compassionate leave /ˈkɒmpəsəʃənət ˈliːv/ noun leave granted when a serviceman has problems at home (such as the death of a relative)

compatibility /ˌkɒmətɪˈbɪləti/ noun being able to fit in or work with other types of equipment

compatible /ˌkɒmətɪˈbɪliə/ adjective able to fit in or work with other types of equipment
will have to compromise on this issue.

The troops refused to comply with the order to withdraw.

We need to conceal our intentions, location or secrets to become known (usually unintentionally) or The ambush has been compromised. Our security codes have been compromised.

computer virus /'kɒmpjətər vɜrəs/ noun a secret code which is fed into an existing programme, in order to sabotage a computer system by destroying or disrupting data stored on it

convey /'kənvi/ verb 1. to reveal or to allow your intentions, resources on something
2. to bring together

concentration camp /'kənseptʃən kæmp/ noun a camp where people are interned in harsh conditions
concentration of firepower

for political reasons or because they belong to a certain ethnic or religious group

concentration of firepower /kənˈsentrət(ə)n/ av 'farapsəul/ noun the utilization of all weapons available aimed at the same target

concept of operations /kənˈsept aʊnˈpɑːtʃ(ə)n/ noun a general outline of how an operation is intended to proceed

concertina wire /kənˈsɛtərənə/ tiˈnərə 'waɪə/ noun barbed wire rolled into a series of loops, which can be compressed for storage and transportation, but easily extended for use as an obstacle

conch/ˈkɒnf/ noun a conscientious objector (slang)

concrete /ˈkɒnkrɪt/ noun a building material composed of cement, gravel, sand and water ○ Concrete blockhouses were built along the frontier.

concurrent /kənˈkærənt/ noun happening at the same time as something else

concussed /kənˈkɒst/ adjective suffering from concussion

conclusion /kənˈkluːʃ(ə)n/ noun 1. a temporary incapacity caused by a blow to the head ○ He is suffering from concussion. 2. shock ○ He was killed by the concussion from an exploding shell.

condensation trail /kənˈdɛnstoʊʃən ˈtreɪl/ noun full form of contrail

condition /kənˈdɪʃ(ə)n/ noun the state of something such as a piece of equipment, especially whether it is clean and working properly

conduct /kənˈdʌkt/ verb 1. to lead or guide somebody 2. to carry out e.g. military operations or an investigation ○ noun the way in which somebody behaves ○ The Geneva Convention governs the conduct of military personnel in wartime.

cone /kən/ noun a shape which is round at the base, tapering to a point

cone of fire /kən av 'færəl/ noun a shape like a triangle made when guns in two positions fire at the same target

confidential /kənˈfɪdəntʃ(ə)l/ adjective secret

COMMENT: The security classification of information varies according to its importance e.g.: restricted, confidential, secret, top secret, etc.

confine /kənˈfeɪn/ verb 1. to keep within specific limits 2. to imprison ○ They were confined in a barn.

concluded to barracks /kən′fɜːnd təˈbærəks/ noun a punishment by which a soldier is not allowed to leave the barracks ○ He was awarded 10 days CB. Abbr CB

confirm /kənˈfɜːm/ verb to say that something is true or correct ○ Aerial photographs confirmed the enemy’s movements.

confirmation /kənˈfɜːrmeɪʃ(ə)n/ noun a statement that something is true or correct ○ We need confirmation of the chemical attack.

confiscate /kənˈfɪskeɪt/ verb to take something away from someone, with authority ○ All privately owned radios were confiscated.

conflict /ˈkɒnfɪkt/ noun a state of hostility or war ○ The whole region is in a state of conflict. ○ We are trying to settle the conflict by diplomatic means.

confluence /ˈkɒnfljuəns/ noun a place where two rivers join ○ Koblenz lies at the confluence of the Rhine and the Mosel.

confront /kənˈfrɒnt/ verb 1. to take a hostile attitude towards someone or something ○ We were confronted by the 7th Infantry Regiment. 2. to deal with a problem or difficulty ○ We need to confront the lack of discipline in this battalion.

confrontation /kənˈfrɒntəʃ(ə)n/ noun aggressive or hostile behaviour ○ This confrontation could lead to war.

confusion /kənˈfjuːz(ə)n/ noun 1. a situation where no one knows what is happening ○ The whole headquarters is in a state of confusion. 2. loss of order and cohesion ○ The enemy retreated in confusion.

conifer /kənˈfaɪər/ noun a tree which does not lose its leaves in winter (such
strengthen or make more secure

conquer /'konkər/ verb to gain control over an enemy’s territory by defeating his armed forces • ‘I came, I saw; I conquered’ [Caesar] • The victorious army conquered one state after another.

conqueror /'konkərər/ noun someone who conquers • Julius Caesar was the conqueror of Gaul.

conscript /'kɒnskrɪpt/ noun a person who joins the armed forces because he wants to. Compare volunteer • ‘Hello 2, this is 22, contact, wait’ • D Company have just had a contact.

contact /'kɒntækt/ 1. the ability to communicate with another person or grouping 2. a first sighting of the enemy (usually resulting in an exchange of fire) • ‘Hello 2, this is 22, contact, wait out!’ • D Company have just had a contact. • in contact state in which you and the enemy are within effective range of each others’ weapons (and usually, shooting at each other) • B Company are in contact with the enemy. • to make contact to see the enemy

conserve /'kɒnsɜ:v/ verb to avoid unnecessary waste • Conserving your ammunition!

constraint /'kɒnstrənt/ noun something which restricts someone’s actions • NATO forces in the area are operating under a number of constraints.

construction troops /'kɒnstrækʃən trops/ plural noun troops who are trained and equipped to build large installations, e.g. roads, railways or bridges.

consumer logistics, operational logistics noun logistics concerned with the receiving and storing of supplies.

contact report /'kɒntækt rɪ,poʊt/ noun information relating to a sighting of the enemy.

contain /'kɒntɛrn/ verb 1. to hold • This box contains live ammunition. 2. to prevent or restrict the movement of a group of people or vehicles • We have managed to contain the enemy in the western end of the town.

container /'kɒntɛnər/ noun 1. anything which is used to contain something • The room was full of ammunition containers. 2. a very large metal case of a standard size for loading and

as a fir, pine, spruce, etc.). 

coniferous /'kɒnɪfərəs/ adjective relating to trees which do not lose their leaves in winter (such as firs, pines, spruce, etc.). Compare deciduous

connoisseur /'kɒnəsər/ noun someone with a refined taste or interest in music, art, etc.

CONPLAN /'kɒnplæn/ abbreviation US contingency plan

constable /'kɒnstəbl/ noun an official appointed to live in a foreign city in order to protect the interests of his own countrymen

consul /'kɒnsəl/ noun an official appointed to live in a foreign city in order to protect the interests of his own countrymen

consular /'kɒnsjʊlər/ adjective having to do with a consul and his staff

consulate /'kɒnsjʊl/ noun a building used by a consul and his staff

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conscript /'kɒnskrɪpt/ noun a person who joins the armed forces because he is forced to do so by law, rather than because he wants to. Compare volunteer • volunteer /'vɔləntɪər/ 1. to select someone for compulsory military service • All men over the age of 18 were conscripted. 2. draft

conscription /'kɒnskrɪpʃən/ noun compulsory enlistment for military service. • draft

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contaminate /kanˈtemɪnət/ verb to infect or pollute (e.g. through the use of biological or chemical weapons) o The whole area has been contaminated with anthrax. Compare decontaminate
contaminated /kanˈtemɪnətɪd/ adjective infected or polluted o The contaminated clothing was burnt.
contamination /kanˌtæmɪˈneɪʃən/ noun 1. an act of contaminating something o The enemy was not responsible for the contamination of the water supply. 2. something which contaminates (such as a biological weapon, chemical agent, radioactive fallout, etc.) o There are still traces of contamination.
continent /ˈkɒntənɪnt/ noun 1. one of the major land areas in the world (Africa, North America, South America, Asia, Australia, Antarctica, Europe) 2. o the Continent (in Britain) the rest of Europe, as opposed to Britain itself which is an island o on the Continent in Europe o to the Continent to Europe o when you drive on the Continent remember to drive on the right
contingency /ˈkɒntɪnənsi/ noun an action or situation which is considered possible or likely and which could affect another action or situation (NOTE: The plural form is contingencies.)
contingency planning /ˈkɒntɪnənsiˈplænɪŋ/ noun planning for a possible future operation
contingent /ˈkɒntɪnənt/ noun a small military force which forms part of a larger grouping o The British contingent is made up of marines and reconnaissance units.
contour /ˈkɒntʊər/ noun a line on a map connecting points of equal altitude
contract soldier /ˈkɒŋtræktˈkɔnsɜːdəl/ noun an ex-serviceman serving in the armed forces of a foreign state
contrail /ˈkɒntræɪl/ noun a white trail of vapour given off by an aircraft in flight (normally at high altitudes) o Hel-lo 2, this is 22, contrails heading south-west, over. Full form condensation trail
contravene /ˌkɒntrəˈviːn/ verb to act contrary to a law or code of conduct o Your actions contravene the Geneva Convention.
contravention /ˌkɒntrəˈvenʃən/ noun an act of contravening a law or code of conduct
control /ˈkɒntrəl/ noun 1. the power to direct the actions of people or things o You must keep your men under strict control o the men are out of control. o He lost control of his vehicle. 2. o in control of having power over something o the rebels are in control of the southern part of the country 2. o the controls the instruments by which a machine or device is operated o I wasn’t familiar with the controls of the aircraft 3. verb to direct the actions of people or things o He was unable to control his platoon.
controller /ˈkɒntrələr/ noun someone who controls
control station /ˈkɒntrəlˌstenʃən/ noun the station which is responsible for the orderly operation of a communications network
control tower /ˈkɒntrəlˌtɔːr/ noun an observation tower on an airfield or airport used to direct the landing and take-off of aircraft
convalesce /ˌkɒnvəˈleɪs/ verb to recover your health after illness or injury
convention /ˌkɒnˈvɛnʃən/ noun a formal agreement
conventional /ˌkɒnˈvɛnʃən(ə)l/ adjective non-nuclear o We will be defeated if we have to rely on purely conventional weapons.
convoy /ˈkɒnvɔɪ/ noun a group of ships or vehicles travelling together
cookhouse /ˈkʊkhaʊs/ noun a place where food is cooked
cook off /ˈkʊk ˈɒf/ verb (of ammunition) to explode prematurely in the
breach of the weapon because it is too hot.

**coolant** /ˈkjuːlənt/ noun a fluid designed to stop an engine from overheating.

**cooperative logistics** /ˌkəʊəˈprəʊətɪv lɔˈdʒɪstɪks/ noun logistics involved in the manufacture, procurement, and storage of supplies.

**coordinate** /kəʊˈɔːrdɪnət/ noun 1. one of a series of two-digit numbers shown on a map grid in order to produce grid references. 2. a grid reference.  
**corporal** /ˈkɔrprəl/ noun 1. a junior non-commissioned officer (NCO) in the army, marines or air force. 2. US a junior non-commissioned officer (NCO) in the army or marines.  
**cordon** /ˈkɔrdən/ noun a line of men or series of outposts designed to control, monitor or prevent movement into or out of an area.  
**cordite** /ˈkɔrdɪt/ noun smokeless explosive used as propellant for bullets and other projectiles.

The village was cordoned off.

**corpsman** /ˈkɔrpzmən/ noun a specialist soldier trained to give first aid on the battlefield.

**corpsman** /ˈkɔrpzmən/ noun US a specialist soldier trained to give first aid on the battlefield.

**corpses** /ˈkɔrpz/ noun a dead body.

**corpses** /ˈkɔrpz/ noun a line of men.

59 Corps of Drums

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**cornet** /ˈkɔrnət/ noun a small woodwind musical instrument. "A Junior Non-commissioned Officer (NCO) in the army, marines or air force."

**cop** /kɒp/ noun a policeman or policewoman (informal).

**cop** /kɒp/ noun a copy of the AK-47 assault weapon.

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**corpse** /ˈkɔrpz/ noun a dead body.

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**cord** /ˈkɔrd/ noun a thick rope of twisted fibres, normally used for tying things together.  
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**cord** /ˈkɔrd/ noun a thick rope of twisted fibres, normally used for tying things together.
corps support command /'kɔːs səpɔːr t kɔːmənd/ noun US full form of COSCOM

correct /'kɔːkt/ adjective 1. true or accurate 2. (of artillery or mortar fire) on target  
verb 1. to amend or put right  o He corrected the timetable. 2. to make calculations and issue instructions in order to bring artillery or mortar fire onto a target  o He corrected onto the second enemy position.

correction /'kɔːtʃən/ noun 1. an act of correcting something 2. a calculation made by a forward observer and sent to an artillery or mortar unit in order to bring fire onto a target 3. the process of directing artillery or mortar fire onto a target

COMMENT: A competent FOO or MFO should be able to hit the target with his third correction.

correspondent /'kɔːrəspondənt/ noun 1. war correspondent

corridor /'kɔːridər/ noun 1. a passage between rooms  o He is waiting in the corridor. 2. a strip of territory or airspace along which one can move  o Our mission is to clear a corridor through the enemy’s forward defences.

corrie /'kɔːri/ noun in Scotland, a natural depression on the side of a mountain  o cirque

corrugated iron /'kɔːrəgestɪt/ noun wrapped metal sheets used in the construction of field fortifications and shelters

Corsair /'kɔːsəsər/ noun same as A-7

corvette /'kɔːvət/ noun a small ocean-going warship

COS abbreviation chief of staff

COSCOM /'kɔskeɪm/ noun US an organization responsible for the resupply of a corps. Full form corps support command

cot /kɔt/ noun US a camp-bed

cottage /'kɔtɪdʒ/ noun a small rural house

counter /'kɔuntə/ adjective contrary to  o Your attack was counter to my orders  
verb to take action in order to prevent or impede another action taking place  o We countered the tank threat by mining all the likely approaches.

counter-air /'kɔuntə 'eər/ adjective relating to operations directed against the enemy air force

counterattack /'kɔuntə tæk/ noun a retaliatory attack on an enemy force which is in the process of attacking or has just completed an attack  o The enemy counterattack was successfully beaten off.  
verb to mount a counterattack  o B Company counterattacked while the enemy were reorganizing.

counter-battery fire /'kɔuntə 'bætəri fiər/ noun an artillery attack on an enemy artillery fire-position  o We lost three guns through counter-battery fire.

counter-concentrate /'kɔuntə kənsəntreɪt/ verb to bring forces together to repel an enemy attack

counterespionage /'kɔuntə ɪspənɪˈdʒiːən/ noun action taken to impede the activities of enemy spies

counterfire /'kɔuntə fər/ noun an attack on the enemy’s artillery assets

counterinsurgency /'kɔuntə 'ɪnsərʤənsi/ noun action taken to destroy an insurgency. Abbr COIN.  
insurrection, rebellion, revolt, revolution

counterinsurgency operation /'kɔuntə 'ɪnsərʤənsi əˈpeərətʃən/ noun a military operation mounted to destroy armed resistance to the established government or foreign domination

counterintelligence /'kɔuntə 'ɪntəlɪdʒənsi/ noun methods used by governments or armies to stop enemy agents gaining information about their plans and activities

countermand /'kɔuntə mænt/ verb to cancel an order or instruction (usually made by someone else)  o The general countermanded the brigade commander’s order to withdraw.

countermeasure /'kɔuntə meʒər/ noun an action or procedure designed to neutralize a danger or threat
countersign  /ˈkaʊntəsən/ noun words, letters or numbers used as a verbal recognition signal, usually in the form of a challenge and a reply. A sentry should use the countersign when he does not recognize a person.  

country  /ˈkʌntri/ noun 1. land forming the territory of a nation or state. 2. the country rural district or region (consisting of agricultural land, villages and small towns as opposed to large towns and cities). 3. terrain: We will have to cross some difficult country. 4. countryside /ˈkʌntrɪsɛd/ noun 1. a rural district or region. 2. terrain consisting of agricultural land, woodland and villages.

county  /ˈkʌntɪ/ noun a rural region or district with its own local administration.

coupe /ˈkou/ noun a significant (and usually successful) action.

coup de grâce /ˈkʊ də ˈɡrɑː/ noun the act of killing a wounded person or animal in order to prevent further suffering.

coup de main /ˈkʊ də ˈmɛn/ noun a surprise attack.

coup d'état /ˈkʊ dərˈtɛː/ noun a sudden seizure of power by use of force. The army has staged a coup d'état.

coup d'œil /ˈkʊ dəˈdɛl/ noun the assessment of terrain or a situation simply through observation.

courage /ˈkærɪdʒ/ noun the ability to control fear (also known as physical courage).

courageous /ˈkærədʒəs/ adjective able to control your fear.  

courier /ˈkʊəriə/ noun a person who takes something (e.g. a message, weapon, etc.) from one place to another. The gunman escaped, but we captured the courier and the weapon.

course /kɔːs/ noun 1. a series of lessons, lectures and practical exercises in a specific subject. 2. I am going on a survival course. 3. a series of obstacles or practical tasks forming part of a test or competition.

cover /ˈkʌvər/ noun 1. something that conceals or protects another object. 2. cover from fire anything which provides protection from bullets, shrapnel or other projectiles. 3. cover from fire hiding or to seek protection from enemy fire. 4. cover for someone to carry out the duties of another person. 5. cover for someone to cover me while I move forward. 6. cover from fire hiding or to seek protection from enemy fire. 7. covering fire a false identity or explanation. His business trip was just a cover for meeting the rebel leaders. 8. covering fire a false identity or explanation. His business trip was just a cover for meeting the rebel leaders.

cover for someone to carry out the duties of another person.

covering fire /ˈkʌvərɪŋ ˈfeɪər/ noun fire designed to neutralize the enemy so
that another person or unit can move. My platoon provided covering fire while the rest of the company withdrew. Prepare to give covering fire.

cover /kəʊvə/ noun an attempt to conceal true facts by lying or concealing information. The media are saying that there has been a cover-up.

cowardly /ˈkɔːrdəli/ adjective 1. (of a person) unable to control fear. Compare bravery.

coaxswain /ˈkoʊksweɪn, ˈkoʊks(ə)n/ noun a person who steers a boat or ship. A senior petty officer on a small ship.

Coy abbreviation company

CP abbreviation command post

Cpl abbreviation corporal

CPO abbreviation chief petty officer

CPX /ˈstɪptiːˈɛks/ noun a radio exercise involving only the command elements of a grouping. Full form command post exercise.

CQB /ˈsɪkjuːtɪˈbiːz/ noun the skill of fighting at very close range (e.g., FIBUA, jungle fighting, etc.). We’ve set up a CQB range in the wood. Full form close quarter battle.

CQMS abbreviation company quartermaster sergeant

CRA /ˈsɪərə ˈreɪtʃ/ noun a brigadier in command of a division’s artillery assets. Full form commander royal artillery.

COMMENT: Although regiments and batteries are nominally allocated in support of specific brigades and battle groups respectively, artillery is considered to be a divisional asset and batteries may be tasked to support other groupings as the tactical situation dictates.

crab /kræb/ noun a member of the Royal Air Force (army slang)

crack /kræk/ adjective elite, of very high quality. He served in a crack cavalry regiment.

craft /kraft/ noun a boat or ship

craftsman /ˈkraɪftsmən/ noun a private in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME). Abbr Cn

crag /kræg/ noun a rocky summit of a hill. We lost a lot of men taking that crag.

cramp /k्रɛmpzɔn/ plural noun a set of spikes which are fitted to the sole of a boot for climbing on snow or ice. We’ll need crampons for this operation.

crane /k्रɛn/ noun a tall machine with a long arm, designed for lifting heavy objects

crash-hat /ˈkræʃhæt/ noun a derogatory term used by members of the Parachute Regiment to describe any soldier who is not a trained paratrooper.

crash /kræʃ/ noun a violent collision. He was killed in a car crash. Verb to collide violently with something else. The truck crashed into a tank.

crash landing /ˈkræʃ ˈlændɪŋ/ noun a landing made by an aircraft in an emergency, without using its wheels.

crash out /ˈkræʃ ˈaut/ verb (informal) 1. to deploy at short notice from a base or position in response to an incident or threat. We’ve crash landed a CQB range in the wood. Full form close quarter battle.

crash out here.

crate /ˈkreɪt/ noun a large container made of wood or metal

crater /ˈkrɛrət/ noun a hole in the ground made by an explosion. Verb to make craters (as an obstacle). The engineers cratered the road.

crawl /kraʊl/ verb to move on your hands and knees. He crawled up to the bunker.

creek /krɪk/ noun 1. a small stream. 2. a narrow inlet
creep /kriːp/ verb to move slowly and cautiously. He crept up to the bunker. (NOTE: creeping – crept)
creeping barrage /ˈkriːpiŋ ˈbærəʒ/ noun artillery bombardment which is constantly adjusted, so that the shells continue to land in front of friendly troops as they advance. We will advance behind a creeping barrage.
creeping bombardment /ˈkriːpiŋ bɔrnˈbɔrdmənt/ noun same as creeping barrage
crest /krest/ noun the top of a hill or ridge
crevase /ˈkrɛvəs/ noun a large crack in the surface of a glacier or mass of snow. He fell down a crevasse.
crew /kruː/ noun 1. a team of people who man a ship, aircraft or vehicle. The crew of the helicopter which was brought down have all been rescued. 2. a team of people who operate a weapon or equipment
crewman /ˈkruːmæn/, crewmember noun a member of a crew
crime /ˈkrɪm/ noun 1. an illegal act which is punishable by law. 2. illegal activity in general
criminal /ˈkrɪmənl/ adjective relating to crime. a noun someone who commits a crime
crippled /ˈkrɪpld/ adjective 1. (of people) physically disabled. 2. (of vehicles) badly damaged and unable to function properly

crisis /ˈkraɪəsɪs/ noun a very difficult or dangerous situation

crisis management /ˈkraɪəsɪsmænɪdʒmənt/ noun the act of taking rapid decisions to deal with a crisis. (NOTE: The plural form is crises /ˈkraɪəsɪz/) critical point /ˈkrɪtɪk(əl) ˈpɔɪnt/ noun 1. a location or position which could influence the outcome of an operation. 2. the point midway between two airbases from which a plane will take the same time to reach either base. Also called waypoint
cross /kruːs/ verb to move from one side of a feature to the other. The enemy are crossing the river.
cross-attachment /ˈkruːsəˈtʃɛrkən/ noun an attachment to a different arm or service (e.g. a platoon of armoured infantry attached to a tank squadron)
crossfire /ˈkruːsfər/ noun fire directed at a target from two or more different locations. We were caught in a crossfire.
cross-grain /ˈkruːs greɪn/ adverb across the grain of the country. We will have to move cross-grain.
crossing /ˈkruːsɪŋ/ noun 1. a place where two or more roads cross over each other. 2. a place where a railway line, river, road or other feature can be crossed. 3. an act of crossing a feature or obstacle. The enemy is preparing a river crossing.
crossing point /ˈkruːsɪŋ pɔɪnt/ noun a place where e.g. a river can be crossed
crossroads /ˈkruːsrəʊdz/ noun a place where two or more roads cross.
cross-servicing /ˈkruːs sɜːvɪsɪŋ/ noun work done by one service for another

crosswind /ˈkruːswɪnd/ noun a wind which blows across your direction of travel
Crotale /ˈkroʊtəl/ noun a French-designed short-range surface-to-air missile (SAM)
crowd /kraud/ noun a large group of people
crown /ˈkraʊn/ noun 1. a ceremonial head-dress worn by a king or queen. 2. an insignia used in some badges of rank of the British Army. (e.g. a single crown denotes major, while a crown and a star denotes lieutenant-colonel)
cruise /kruːz/ verb to make a long journey by sea
cruise missile /ˈkruːzmɪsəl/ noun an American-designed low-flying missile which is capable of navigating itself to a target. Tomahawk
cruiser /'kru:zər/ noun a large ocean-going warship, armed with missiles or guns, which is capable of spending long periods at sea without support

CS /sɪ: st/ 'es/ noun a type of tear agent. Full form orthochlorobenzylidene malononitrile. Also called CS gas

C/S abbreviation call sign

CSAR /ˌsɪsɪˌsɛsˈɑː/ noun an operation mounted to locate and rescue aircrew who have been shot down over enemy territory. Full form combat search and rescue

CS gas /ˌsɪs ˈgeɪs/, tear gas /ˈtɪər ˈgeɪs/ noun a type of gas which irritates the eyes and causes choking

COMMENT: CS gas is normally used by riot police for crowd control.

C/Sgt abbreviation colour sergeant

CSM abbreviation 1. Company Sergeant Major 2. US command sergeant major

CSS /sɪsˈes/ noun a resupply of ammunition, food, fuel and other necessities on the battlefield

COMMENT: We need to practise CSS on the move.

C/Sgt color Sergeant

cul-de-sac /ˈkʌl də ˈsæk/ noun a street or road which suddenly ends, so that the only way out is to go back the way you came. Also called dead end

culminating point / ˈkʌlmɪntɪŋ ˈpɔɪnt/ noun a point at which an attack force is unable to continue its attack or even defend itself (because of casualties, shortages of fuel, ammunition, and rations, and sheer physical exhaustion)

COMMENT: The enemy attack had reached its culminating point.

culvert /ˈkʌl vɜːt/ noun a small tunnel used to carry drainage water under a road

The bomb was placed in a culvert.

cupola /ˈkjuːpələ/ noun a revolving turret housing a gun or machine-guns, which is fitted to a warship, aircraft or fighting vehicle

curfew /ˈkɜːfjuː/ noun a regulation requiring people to be off the streets during a specified period, usually at night

The military commander ordered a dusk-to-dawn curfew: o Soldiers patrolled the streets during the curfew.

custody /ˈkʌstədi/ noun imprisonment or being held under close arrest

He was taken into custody.

cutlass /ˈkʌtləs/ noun a short sword with a curved blade, formerly used in the navy and now only used on ceremonial occasions

cut off /ˈkʌt ˈɑːf/ verb 1. to prevent someone from retreating or from rejoining his comrades

2. to surround a unit so that it can neither retreat, nor be reinforced or supported

The platoon was cut off when the rest of the company withdrew.

3. to stop the supply of food, power, water, etc.

The electricity has been cut off.

4. to prevent movement to or from a location

The village has been cut off by snow.

5. isolate

cut-off group /ˈkʌt ˈɑːf ˈgrʊp/ noun a small group of soldiers positioned on the likely approaches to or exits from the killing area of an ambush, in order to prevent any of the survivors from escaping

cutter /ˈkʌtə/ noun 1. a tool used for cutting

2. a small armed naval boat

cutting /ˈkʌtɪŋ/ noun a man-made channel allowing a road or railway to pass through an area of high ground.

Comparative embankment

CV abbreviation carrier vessel (NOTE: CV is often used as an abbreviation for aircraft carrier)

CVBG abbreviation carrier battle group

CVN abbreviation aircraft carrier (nuclear powered)

CVR /ˈsɪr ˈvɜː/ noun a light, fast-moving armoured vehicle designed for reconnaissance. Full form combat vehicle reconnaissance

CVR (T) /ˈsɪt ˈvɜː/ noun an armoured reconnaissance vehicle fitted with tracks (especially the British-designed Scimitar and Scorpion light tanks). Full form combat vehicle reconnaissance tracked
CVR (W) /ˈdʒæboljuː/ noun an armoured reconnaissance vehicle fitted with wheels (as opposed to tracks). Full form combat vehicle reconnaissance wheeled

CVW abbreviation carrier air wing

CX /ˈɛks/ noun a type of blister agent. Full form dichloroformixime. Also called phosgene oxime
DELTA - Dd

D-30 /ˈdɛsti/ noun a Soviet-designed 121.92mm light artillery piece
DA /ˈdeɪə/ noun a type of vomiting agent. Full form diphenylchloroarsine

gagger /ˈdægər/ noun a long knife with a thin blade, designed for stabbing
daisycutter /ˈdeɪziˌkaʊtə/ noun • BLU-82
dam /ˈdæm/ noun a barrier designed to restrict the flow of water, in order to
make a reservoir or to prevent flooding o The valley was flooded when the dam
was destroyed.
• verb to construct a dam o The river has been dammed.
(OFF: damming – dammed)
damage /ˈdæmɪdʒ/ noun harm done to something o The bomb caused extensive
damage to civilian property.
• verb to cause harm to something o The rebel radio station has been damaged.
danger /ˈdændʒər/ noun 1. a situation where people may be killed or injured o
danger close US deliberately calling friendly artillery fire down on top of
your own positions o The platoon commander brought the rounds in danger
close. 2. something which may cause harm or injury o Landmines are a constant
danger in this area. 3. the possibility of failure or unfortunate consequences o There is a danger that the enemy
will outflank us.

danger area /ˈdændʒər ˌeəriə/ noun an area within which casualties may occur o The danger area of this grenade is
90 metres. o There is a danger area behind the shooting range.
dangerous /ˈdændʒərəs/ adjective 1. likely to cause harm or injury o This vehicle is in a dangerous condition. 2. likely to have unfortunate consequences
○ The international situation is now extremely dangerous.
dannart wire /ˈdeɪnərt ˈwɔːr/ noun barbed wire
dare /deɑr/ verb to do something in the knowledge that it is dangerous or risky o The sergeant dared his men to follow
him up the hill. (OFF: Dare is followed by the infinitive, and can be used with or
without to.) o 'Who dares wins' (motto of the Special Air Service)
daring /ˈdeərɪŋ/ adjective involving risks o It was a daring plan.
○ They carried out a daring escape from the POW camp.
dash /dæʃ/ noun 1. movement at high speed o The enemy made a dash for the coast. 2. a longer signal in Morse code
(the shorter signal is the dot) • verb to move at high speed o He dashed to the
latrine.
dashboard /ˈdæʃbɔrd/ noun an instrument panel of a vehicle or aircraft
data /ˈdeɪtə/ noun information
database /ˈdeɪtəˌbæs/ noun information stored on a computer o Hackers tried to get into the Pentagon database.
date /ˈdeɪt/ noun the number of a particular day, month and year
date of birth /ˈdeɪt əv ˈbɜːθ/ noun the number of the day, month and year when a person was born. Abbr DOB
date-time group /ˈdeɪt ˌteɪmˌgruːp/ noun timing, consisting of day of the month, time, time zone and, if necessary,
month and even year (e.g. 1645hrs (GMT) on 23 September 2001), Abbr DTG
 ○ COMMENT: If the month and year are not included, then you can assume
that the date-time group applies to the current month and year.
davit /ˈdævɪt/ noun a small crane on a ship for suspending and lowering a lifeboat
dawn /dɔ:n/ noun the time of day when it is starting to get light. • daybreak, first light. Compare dusk
daybreak /ˈdeɪbrɛk/ noun the time of day when it is starting to get light. • dawn, first light
daysack /ˈdeɪsæk/ noun a small rucksack for carrying supplies or clothing during an operation
DC /ˈdeɪsi/ noun a type of vomiting agent. Full form diphenylcycloarsine
DCOS /ˈdiːkɒs/ abbreviation deputy chief of staff
DD abbreviation destroyer (with guns)
D-Day /ˈdiːdi/ noun the day on which an operation starts • D-minus: two days before D-Day • D-plus: three days after D-Day
COMMENT: Other letters are also used to mark the start of an operation. In the Gulf War of 1991, the start of the ground operation was designated as G-day.
DDG abbreviation destroyer (with guided missiles)
dead /dɛd/ adjective 1. no longer alive • After the attack, 50% of the battalion were left dead or wounded. 2. (of radios, etc.) not working • plural noun • the dead people who have died or have been killed • After the battle, troops were sent to collect and bury the dead.
dead end /ˈdɛd end/ noun a street or road which suddenly ends, so that the only way out is to go back the way you came
deadfall /ˈdɛdfɔl/ noun a dead branch which falls away from a tree as a result of wind or simply because of its own weight
COMMENT: Deadfall is a serious and constant hazard in jungle regions.
dead ground /ˈdɛd ɡraʊnd/ noun an area of ground which provides cover from view (e.g. the reverse slope of a hill) • The company formed up in dead ground to the enemy position.

dead letter-box /ˈded ˈletəˌboks/ noun a secret location used to deposit and collect messages, equipment, etc.
deadly force /ˈdedli fɔrs/ noun an action such as the firing of a weapon at someone, which can cause death or serious physical harm
dead on arrival /ˈded on ˈə İstanbul/ noun • adjective found to be already dead on reaching a hospital or casualty clearing station. Abbr DOA
dead reckoning /ˈded ˈrekinəŋ/ noun a method of calculating your position entirely from the compass bearing on which you have been travelling and the distance which you have covered
COMMENT: Dead reckoning is used at sea or in terrain where there are no obvious features (e.g. desert or jungle). However, as a result of satellite navigation and other modern technology, it is rapidly becoming a forgotten skill.
death /deθ/ noun an act of dying or being killed
death’s head /ˈdeθz ʰed/ noun a traditional insignia consisting of a human skull over two crossed bones
death squad /ˈdeθ skwɔd/ noun a group who assassinate or execute people
debacle /ˈdɛbək(ə)/, débâcle noun a complete failure (e.g. a decisive defeat)
debark /ˈdebræk/ verb to land from a ship. Also called disembark. Compare embark
debarkation /ˌdɪbɑrˈkeɪʃ(ə)n/ noun an act of landing from a ship. Also called disembarkation. Compare embarkation
debouch /ˈdebətʃ/ verb to come out of a re-entrant, valley or wood • We engaged the enemy as they were debouching from the valley.
debrief /ˈdɛbriːf/ verb to question people who have taken part in a mission or operation. Compare brief
debriefing /ˈdɛbriːfɪŋ/ noun 1. an act of debriefing someone • 2. a meeting where debriefing is carried out. Compare briefing
debris /dɪˈbreɪs/ noun pieces of something which has been destroyed or badly damaged. 
We found debris from the crashed plane.
debris /dɪˈbɛs/ verb to get out of a bus or other vehicle. 
The platoon debussed on the objective.
decamp /dɪˈkæmp/ verb to leave suddenly. 
The enemy had already decamped.
decay /dɪˈsɛi/ noun an activity intended to give the enemy a false idea of your location or intentions.
decisive /dɪˈsɛsɪv/ adjective 1. (of an event) settling an issue (such as a campaign or war) 
It was a decisive victory.
2. (of a person) capable of making a decision quickly. 
He’s not very decisive.
decisively /dɪˈsɛsɪvlɪ/ adverb in a decisive way. 
We need to act decisively before the enemy recovers.
decode /dɪˈkɑːd/ verb to convert from code into normal language. Compare encode. 
decipher, decrypt
decommission /dɪˈkɒmənʃ(ə)n/ noun a ship out of operational service with the navy. Compare commission.
decommissioning /dɪˈkɒmənʃ(ə)nɪŋ/ verb to take a ship out of operational service with the navy. Compare commissioning.
decorticate /dɪˈkɔrkteɪt/ verb to remove or neutralize contamination (such as a chemical agent, radioactive fallout, etc.) 
We had to decontaminate our vehicles. Compare contaminate.
decoration /dɪˈkɔraʃ(ə)n/ noun a medal (usually for bravery or outstanding achievement) 
a much-decorated pilot.
decoy /dɪˈkɔʊ/ noun 1. something which is used to draw the enemy into an ambush or to make him reveal his location. 
2. /dɪˈkɑʊ/ something which draws a guided missile away from its intended target (e.g. chauff or flares). 
verb 1. to present the enemy with a target in order to draw him into an ambush or to make him reveal his location. 
A small patrol was used to decoy the enemy into the ambush. 
2. to draw a guided missile away from its intended target. 
The aircraft dropped chauff to decoy surface-to-air missiles.
decrypt /dɪˈkrɛpt/ verb to convert from code into normal language. Compare encrypt. 
decipher, decrypt
deep interdiction /dɪp ˌɪntədɪˈkʃ(ə)n/ an interdiction against targets in the enemy’s rear areas or home territory.
deer /dɪr/ noun a large brown four-legged wild animal (often with horns on its head) 
Several deer came running out of the wood. (Note: The plural form is also deer.)

*NOTE: The plural form is also deer.*)
defaulter /dɪˈfɔːltər/ noun someone who has been accused or found guilty of a military offence ○ Defaults will parade at 0745hrs.
defeat /dɪˈfɛst/ noun the act of losing a battle, campaign or war ○ The enemy will not recover from this defeat. ○ Messengers brought back news of the naval defeat. ○ verb to destroy or drive off an enemy force ○ We won a great victory and defeated the enemy. ○ Napoleon’s army was defeated by the Russian winter.
defeatist /dɪˈfɛtɪst/ adjective believing that defeat or failure is inevitable ○ That is a very defeatist attitude. ○ noun someone who believes that defeat or failure is inevitable ○ The last president was a defeatist.
defect /dɪˈfekt/ verb to abandon your country in favour of an enemy power ○ He has defected to the Russians. ○ noun a fault or imperfection ○ This equipment has several defects.
defective /dɪˈfektɪv/ adjective not working properly ○ This equipment is defective.
defector /dɪˈfɛktər/ noun someone who abandons his own country in favour of an enemy power
defence /dɪˈfɛns/ noun 1. an act of resisting an attack ○ The enemy put up a stubborn defence. 2. a military power ○ The government has cut its spending on defence.
defences /dɪˈfɛnsɪz/ plural noun fortifications built to protect a place ○ The enemy easily breached our defences.
defence stores /dɪˈfɛns stɔːz/ plural noun the material used in the construction of field fortifications (e.g. barbed wire, corrugated iron, sandbags)
defend /dɪˈfend/ verb 1. to resist an attack ○ The town was defended by a small group of soldiers. 2. to represent an accused person in a court of law or court-martial (legal) ○ He was defended by a major. 3. to justify an action or opinion ○ He found it difficult to defend the CO’s decision.
defended locality /dɪ,ˈfendd lɔʊˈkɛlətɪ/ noun an area containing several defensive positions, which are able to provide each other with mutual support
defense /dɪˈfɛns/ noun US spelling of defence
defensive /dɪˈfɛnsɪv/ adjective relating to defence
defensive belt /dɪˈfɛnsɪv bɛlt/ noun an area prepared for defence, surrounding something which must be protected ○ The minefields were part of a defensive belt surrounding the enemy communications centre.
defensive counter-air operations /dɪ,ˈfɛnsɪv kəʊntərˈæər əʊˈpərəʃənz/ noun the use of fighter aircraft and air defence weapons to protect one’s own territory and forces
defensive fire task /dɪ,ˈfɛnsɪv ˈfɑːts/ noun a pre-determined artillery target, which has been registered and given a target number. Abbr DF
defensive position /dɪ,ˈfɛnsɪv pəˈzɪʃən/ noun an area prepared for defence. Compare offensive
defensive systems officer /dɪˈfɛnsɪv ˈsɪstəmz ˌɒffɪsər/ noun full form of DSO
defensive tactics /dɪˈfɛnsɪv ˈtæktɪks/ plural noun tactics intended to resist attack
deficiency /dɪˈfɪʃənsi/ noun an item of equipment which is reported lost or mislaid ○ Platoon commanders are to report all deficiencies ASAP.
deficient /dɪˈfɪʃənt/ adjective lost or mislaid (used of equipment issued to a serviceman) ○ He is deficient in his helmet. ○ to go deficient to report the loss of an item of equipment ○ You’ll have to go deficient on your helmet.
defilade /dɪˈfɪld/ adjective sheltered from observation and direct fire by a natural or man-made obstacle ○ The anti-tank missiles were sited in defilade positions. ○ noun a defilade position ○ Find yourself a defilade on the right and prepare to give us covering fire.
defile /dɪˈfaɪl/ verb to move in file formation ○ noun a pass or valley which forces an advancing body of soldiers or
defoliant /dɛˈfəliənt/ noun something which kills vegetation by removing leaves

defoliate /dɛˈfəliət/ verb to remove the leaves from, and usually kill, vegetation

defoliating agent /dɛˈfəliətiŋ ,ɛrdʒənt/ noun a chemical designed to kill vegetation (such as Agent Orange)
defuse /dɛˈfjuːz/ verb 1. to remove the fuse from an explosive device 2. to reduce tension between people o The troop withdrawal has defused the situation.
defrage /dɛˈgrɛdʒ/ verb 1. to make something smaller or weaker 2. to destroy military assets belonging to another state, in order to reduce that state’s ability to mount offensive operations o The object of the air strikes was to degrade the country’s offensive capability.
degress /dɛˈɡris/ noun 1. a unit of measurement for angles or bearings 2. a unit of measurement for temperature (NOTE: There are 360 degrees in a circle. 360 degrees is the equivalent of 6,400 mils. The symbol for degrees is ° (214°).)

COMMENT: Many armies use mils instead of degrees in order to measure bearings, because they offer greater precision.
delay /dɛˈleɪ/ noun 1. an act of arranging or causing an action to take place later than originally planned o He was not responsible for the delay in implementing the air strikes. 2. an act of making someone late or slowing someone down 3. a period of time lost as a result of a delay o There will be a delay for forty minutes. 1 verb 1. to arrange or cause an action to take place later than originally planned o The attack has been delayed. 2. to make someone late or to slow someone down o We were delayed by the weather.
delaying force /dɛˈleɪŋ fɔrs/ noun a small force used to slow down an enemy advance while the main force prepares or strengthens a line of defence
deliberate attack /dɪˈlɪbərət əˈtæk/ noun an attack which is mounted once full reconnaissance, planning and preparation have been carried out
delta /dɛlˈtə/ noun a triangular area of land or marsh at the mouth of a river o the Danube Delta

Delta /dɛlˈtə/ noun the fourth letter of the phonetic alphabet (Dd)
delta wing /dɛlˈtə wɪŋ/ noun a triangular aircraft wing
demilitarized zone /dɪˌmɪlɪtərəˈzɔn/ noun an area or region in which the presence of military forces is forbidden under the terms of a treaty or other international agreement. Abbr DMZ
demining /dɛˈmɪnɪŋ/ noun the act of removing mines from an area
demo /dɛˈmoʊ/ noun a demonstration (informal)
demob /dɪˈmɑb/ verb to demobilize (informal)
demolize /dɪˈmaʊlɪzaɪz/, demolise verb to return conscripted servicemen to civilian life
demolish /dɪˈməlnɪʃ/ verb to destroy a structure (such as a bridge or building)
demolition /dɛˈmolɪʃ(ə)n/ noun an act of demolishing something
demolition gun /dɛˈməlɪʃ(ə)n ˈɡʌn/ noun a large-calibre gun, which is fitted to an armoured engineer vehicle for the purpose of demolishing buildings or destroying obstructions
demolitions expert /dɛˈməlɪʃ(ə)n ɛksˈpɜrnt/ noun a person who specializes in carrying out demolition
demonstrate /dəˈmænstrət/ verb 1. to show someone how something is done o He demonstrated the use of the respirator. 2. to take part in a public assembly or procession in order to express an opinion or grievance o They were demonstrating against the invasion of their country.
demonstration /dəˈmænstrəʃ(ə)n/ noun 1. an act of showing someone how something is done o We were given a demonstration of how to load the mortar. 2. a public assembly or procession in order to express an opinion or griev-
The demonstration was organized to protest against the invasion of their country. 2. a show of military force intended to intimidate the enemy or to divert the enemy’s attention. 3. Our battalion made a demonstration to the enemy’s front while the rest of the brigade moved round to attack the flank.

demonstrator /ˈdɪmənstrətər/ noun 1. someone who demonstrates something 2. someone who takes part in a demonstration to protest against something.

demoralization /ˌdɪməˈrələˌzɪʃən/ noun 1. loss of morale usually as a result of defeat or high casualties. 2. Denial is evident throughout the entire chain of command.

deprive /dʒeɪpər/ verb to destroy someone’s morale

demote /dʒiˈmoʊt/ verb to reduce to a lower rank (usually as a punishment). He was demoted for being drunk on duty. Compare promote, bust.

denial /dʒiˈnɔl/ noun an act of denying something

dense /dʒens/ adjective thick or crowded. 1.8m is a dense crowd

deny /dʒiˈnet/ verb 1. to say that something is untrue. He denied the accusation. 2. to prevent someone from using or having access to something. We must deny the river crossings to the enemy.

depart /dʒeɪpərt/ verb to leave a location

department /dʒeɪpərtmənt/ noun 1. part of an organization. Which department do you work in? 2. A major section of the British government headed by a Secretary of State. 3. A major section of the US government headed by a Secretary of a spokesman for the US Department of Defense.

Department of Defense, Defense Department noun the US government department in charge of the armed forces. Also called The Pentagon. Abbr DOD

departure /dʒeɪˈpərtʃər/ noun an act of leaving a location

deplane /dʒiˈpleɪn/ verb to get off an aeroplane. The force will begin to deplane at 0600hrs.

deploy /dʒiˈplɔɪ/ verb 1. to move to a war zone or area of operations. (strategic) 2. Armoured Brigade deployed to the Gulf in October. 2. to adopt a battle formation (tactical). The platoon deployed into extended line.

deployed in depth /dʒiˈplɔɪd ɪn ˈdeplɔ/ adjective deployed with units or sub-units behind the forward units or sub-units, in order to provide support and to deal with any enemy breakthroughs.

deployment /dʒiˈpləʊmənt/ noun the movement of troops to a war zone or area of operations. The deployment to Germany was completed in 72 hours.

depot /dʒeɪˈpɔt/ noun 1. a location where equipment and supplies are stored. 2. The bomb hit an oil storage depot. 2. a military training establishment. Recruits were ordered to report to the Guards’ Depot.

depression /dʒiˈpreʃən/ noun an area which is lower than the ground surrounding it

depth /dʒeɪpth/ noun 1. a vertical distance in water. The depth is ten metres. 2. the extent of a force’s position from front to rear.

depth charge /dʒeɪpth fətʃər/ noun an anti-submarine bomb which can be set to explode at a specified depth.

deputize /dʒeɪˈpiːtɪzaɪz/, deputise verb to do someone else’s job (on a temporary basis).

depot /dʒeɪˈpɔt/ noun a person authorized to act in support of or instead of another official.

depot /dʒeɪˈpɔt/ noun the second most senior
staff officer in a headquarters. Abbr DCOs (NOTE: In the British Army, the chief of staff of a brigade is referred to as the Brigade Major.)

derail /ˈdrɛrəl/ verb to make a train come off the rails

derelict /ˈdɛrɪlikt/ adjective 1. (of buildings and ships) abandoned and no longer maintained 2. US negligent o He was derelict in his duty. o noun an abandoned building or ship which is no longer maintained

dereliction of duty /ˈdɛrɪliʃən əv ˈdjuətɪ/ noun a failure to carry out your duty

descend /ˈdesɛnd/ verb to go down
descent /ˈdesɛnt/ noun an act of going down

desert /ˈdezərt/ noun a region where there is very little water and therefore hardly any life or vegetation o verb to leave a military unit without permission o He was accused of deserting his post.
deserted /ˈdezərtid/ adjective with no people present o The village was deserted.
deserter /ˈdezətər/ noun a serviceman who leaves his unit without permission

desertion /ˈdezərʃən/ noun a military offence of leaving a unit without permission o The punishment for desertion was execution by firing squad.

COMMENT: Desertion implies an intention to absent oneself permanently, while temporary absence is usually classified as absent without leave (AWOL).

Desert Storm /ˈdezərt ˈstɔrm/ noun an operation mounted by an international coalition to recapture Kuwait in 1991, following its invasion by Iraq. o the Gulf

designator /ˈdesɪgnətər/ noun a laser target designator

destination /ˌdestɪˈneɪʃən/ noun a location to which a person or thing is going o Our destination is Hamburg.
destroy /ˈdestər/ verb to damage something completely o The factory has been destroyed.
destroyer /ˈdestərər/ noun a medium-sized high-speed warship used to support amphibious or strike forces

COMMENT: In the British Navy, the destroyer’s primary role is air defence (AD).
destruction /ˈdestərʃən/ noun an act of destroying something o He was responsible for the destruction of the village.
detach /ˈdetəʃ/ verb to remove a soldier or sub-unit from their parent unit, in order to assign them to a separate mission or task o 6 Platoon has been detached to guard the hospital. Compare attach
detachment /ˈdetəʃmen/ noun 1. an act of detaching a soldier or sub-unit o He is on detachment to the air force. 2. a small administrative or tactical grouping (normally attached to or supporting another unit) o Two detachments of sappers arrived on the scene.
detachment commander /ˈdetəʃmen kəˈmɑːndər/ noun an officer who is in command of a detachment
detail /ˈdiːteɪl/ noun 1. one of several items of information which relate to the same subject o He gave me some details on the tactical situation. o to go into detail to give all the information available o in detail item by item 2. part of a diagram, photograph or picture which is magnified for closer examination o We studied a detail showing the bridge. 3. a small detachment of soldiers assigned to carry out a specific task o A detail of Marines was sent to clear the mines. 4. a written order or instruction o Have you read the company detail today? o verb 1. to give a piece of information item by item o He detailed the duties for the day. o detailed support arrangements, technical arrangements 2. to assign a soldier or unit to a specific task o He was detailed to guard the prisoners.
detain /ˈdɛtən/ verb to confine someone or restrict his movements
det-cord /ˈdɛt kɔrd/ noun an explosive substance contained in a thin length of plastic tube, which is used as an ex-
plosive or to detonate a larger explosive charge. Full form detonating cord
detect /dəˈtɛkt/ verb to indicate the presence of an object or substance
detector /dɪˈtɛktər noun a device designed to indicate the presence of something
detector paper /dɪˈtɛktəpər noun a type of specially treated paper, which is designed to detect the presence of chemical agents
detention /dɪˈtɛnʃən/ noun the confinement of a serviceman who has been found guilty of a military offence
COMMENT: Detention normally refers to a period of confinement at a person's unit location, whereas imprisonment usually refers to confinement in a military prison.
deter /dɪˈtɛr/ verb to discourage someone from doing something through fear of unpleasant consequences
deterrent /dɪˈterənt/ noun something which deters
detonate /dəˌtɛnerət/ verb to make an explosive charge explode
detonating cord /dəˌtɛnətɪŋ kɔrd/ noun full form of detonating cord
detonation /dəˌtɛnəteɪʃən/ noun 1. an act of detonating an explosive charge 2. an explosion
detonator /dəˌtɛnətor noun a small explosive device used to detonate an explosive charge
detour /dəˈtʊər/ noun an alteration to a planned route. We had to make a detour to avoid the minefield.
detrain /dɪˈtreɪn/ verb to get out of a train
de-turf /dɪˈtɜrf/ verb to carefully remove the turf from the ground, so that it can be replaced and will continue growing. We came under fire before we had even finished de-turfing the trenches.
devastate /dɪˈvæstət/ verb to cause great destruction
devastation /dɪˈvæstəteɪʃən/ noun 1. an act of devastating an area 2. widespread destruction
device /dɪˈvɑs/ noun an instrument or machine which performs a function

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DF /dɪˈʃɪf/ noun a pre-determined artillery target, which has been registered and given a target number. Full form defensive fire task
dhobi /dəˈhoʊbi/ noun a place where clothes are washed or dirty clothes that need to be washed. My kit is still at the dhobi. He's doing his dhobi.
dhow /dəˈhau/ noun a traditional Arab sailing ship
diamond /dəˈzəmænd/ noun 1. (of vehicles or dismounted infantry) a tactical formation in the form of a square, with one corner pointing in the direction of advance. 2. (of groupings) a tactical formation, with one sub-unit leading as point, followed by two sub-units abreast of each other, followed by one sub-unit centre rear
DIBUA /dɪˈbʊə/ abbreviation defence in built-up areas
die /dəˈi/ verb to stop living. Thousands of soldiers died in the trenches during the First World War.
diesel /dɪˈzɛl/ noun a liquid fuel, made from petroleum, used in certain motor vehicles, especially buses, vans, trucks, etc.
diffy /dɪˈfi/ noun deficient or a deficiency (slang) He's diffy his helmet.
dig /dɪɡ/ verb to make a hole in the ground to dig in to dig trenches or prepare other field fortifications the enemy is digging in.
digging tool /dɪɡɪŋ /ˈtʊl/ noun a light-weight tool (such as a pickaxe or shovel) carried by infantrymen in order to dig trenches
dike /dɪk/ noun another spelling of dyke
Diphosgene /dɪfəˈzɔdʒiːn/ noun DP

direct /dəˈrɛkt/ verb 1. to control or guide the actions of subordinates or supporting arms. A troop commander directs the fire of all the tanks in his troop. 2. to tell someone the way to a destination. A military policeman directed us to the Brigade RV. adjective without deviation or by the shortest way. He was ordered to find the most direct
direct fire /ˈdɪrekt ˈfaɪə/ noun fire from weapons which are pointed directly at their targets (e.g. rifle, anti-tank gun, guided missile)
directing staff /ˈdɪrektɪŋ stɑːf/ noun officers and non-commissioned officers (NCOs) who act as instructors on a course. Abbr DS
direction /ˈdɪrəkʃən/ noun 1. a line or course along which anything moves or looks, or along which anything lies. The enemy tanks were moving in a south-easterly direction. 2. a bearing (usually a grid reference) to an artillery or mortar target. 3. control or guidance. He was expected to work without direction from his superiors. 4. instructions on how to go to a destination. The sergeant gave us directions to the fuel dump.
direction-finding /ˈdɪrəkʃən ˈfaɪndɪŋ/ adjective relating to equipment which is designed to locate radio sets or radar by intercepting their emissions. The enemy has good direction-finding equipment.
directive /ˈdɪrektɪv/ noun an order or instruction which indicates an intended result but does not specify how that result should be achieved.
directive command /ˈdɪrektɪv kəˈmənd/ noun a doctrine of command and control where commanders at all levels are informed of the intended result of an operation, but are then free to exercise their own initiative in order to achieve that result, with minimum interference from higher command. Compare restrictive control
directly /ˈdɪrektli/ adverb 1. immediately, without any delay. Move to the bridge directly. 2. in a straight line, without deviation. Move directly to the bridge.
direct mean point of impact /ˈdɪrəkt miːn ˈpɔɪnt əv ɪmˈpækt/ noun full form of DMPI
direct support /ˈdɪrəkt spoʊst/ noun assistance from another unit or arm in which the unit being assisted has control over how the assistance is used. The battalion had a battery of guns in direct support for the entire attack.
direct weapon /ˈdɪrəkt ˈwɛpən/ noun a weapon which is pointed directly at its target (e.g. a rifle, anti-tank gun, guided missile)
dirt road /dɜːt roʊd, dɜːt træk/ noun US an unmetalled road or track
dirty bomb /ˈdɜːti ˈbɒm/ noun a bomb containing radioactive nuclear waste, which is dispersed by means of conventional explosives
disable /dɪsˈɛrb(ə)l verb 1. to injure a person so that he is deprived of the use of one or more of his faculties (such as movement, sight, etc.) He was disabled by a sniper’s bullet. 2. to do something to a machine so that it does not work properly. The mine disabled the tank’s steering system.
disabled /dɪsˈɛrb(ə)d/ adjective 1. of people) deprived of the use of one or more of your faculties (such as movement, sight, etc.) 2. (of machines) unable to work properly. They towed the disabled tanker into the harbour.
disarm /dɪsˈɑːrm/ verb 1. to take a person’s weapon away from him. We disarmed the enemy forces as they surrendered. 2. to do something to a weapon so that it cannot be fired. The gun was disarmed by removing the firing mechanism. 3. to do something to a bomb or other explosive device so that it cannot explode. They managed to disarm the bomb before it exploded.
disarmament /dɪsˈɑːrmaniənt/ noun a reduction of a state’s military resources
disaster /dɪzˈɑːstər/ noun a situation where a lot of people are killed or injured, or where a lot of damage is caused
disband /dɪsˈbænd/ verb to break up a group or organization. The regiment has been disbanded.
disc /dɪsk/ noun 1. ID disc
discharge noun /'dɪstrɪdʒ/ 1. the release of a person from duty 2. an act of carrying out a duty. ○ He was accused of obstructing the sergeant in the discharge of his duty. 3. an act of firing a weapon. ■ verb /dɪs'tʃɑːdʒ/ 1. to release a person from duty. ○ He was discharged from the army. 2. to carry out a duty. ○ He has discharged his duties satisfactorily. 3. to fire a weapon. ○ He discharged his weapon into the crowd.

discharge on request /dɪs'tʃɑːdʒ ɒn rɪ'kwɛst/ noun US full form of DOR

discharge papers /dɪs'tʃɑːdʒ ˈpeɪpəz/ plural noun a document proving that a person has been discharged from the armed forces. ○ dishonorable discharge

discharger /dɪs'tʃɑːdʒər/ noun 1. a device which fires or releases a projectile or other object. 2. a device which releases the electrical charge from a battery

disciplinary /dɪs'plɪnərɪ/ adjective designed to enforce discipline

disciplinary offence /dɪs'plɪnərɪ ə ˈfens/ noun an offence which is punishable under military law

discipline /dɪs'plɪn/ noun 1. control which an army has over its soldiers’ actions and behaviour. ○ The British Army is famous for its discipline. 2. rules and regulations which maintain control. ○ Your actions were contrary to good order and military discipline. 3. self-control. ■ verb to punish. ○ He was disciplined under Section 69 of the Army Act 1955.

DISCOM /ˈdɪskəʊm/ noun US an organization responsible for the resupply of a division. Full form divisional support command

disembark /dɪs'mɜːbɑːk/ verb to land from a ship. Also called debark.

disembarkation /dɪs'mɜːbɑːkeɪʃən/ noun an act of landing from a ship. Also called debarkation

disengage /dɪs'ɛn'gɛdʒ/ verb to stop fighting with the enemy and withdraw. Compare engage. ○ to break contact

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disengagement /ˌdɪsɪgˈɛnmənt/ noun an act of stopping fighting with the enemy. Compare engagement

disguise /dɪsˈɡaɪz/ noun anything which alters the appearance of something in order to conceal its true identity. ○ He was wearing a disguise. ■ verb to alter the appearance of something in order to conceal its true identity. ○ The chemical weapons factory was disguised as a hospital.

dishonor /dɪs'ɒnər/ noun, verb US spelling of dishonour

dishonorable /dɪs'nərəb(ə)l/ adjective US spelling of dishonourable

dishonour /dɪs'ɒnər/ noun a state of disgrace resulting from an action or failure. ○ Your actions have brought dishonour to the regiment. ■ verb to do something which causes dishonour

dishonourable /dɪs'nərəb(ə)l/ adjective causing dishonour

dishonourable discharge /dɪs'nərəb(ə)l ˈdɪs'tʃɑːdʒ/ noun the dismissal of a person from the armed forces after being found guilty of a civil or military offence

disintegrate /dɪsˈɪntəɡrət/ verb to come apart. ○ The plane started to disintegrate in mid-air.

disk /dɪsk/ noun US ID disc

dislodge /dɪs'lɒdʒ/ verb to remove from a firm or secure position. ○ The gun became dislodged from its mounting. ○ We were unable to dislodge the enemy from the village.

dismiss /dɪsˈmɪs/ verb 1. to send someone away. ○ He dismissed the clerk. 2. to remove someone from their job. ○ The brigade commander has been dismissed. 3. to release servicemen at the end of a parade. ○ Company, dismiss!

dismissal /dɪsˈmɪs(ə)l/ noun an act of dismissing someone

dismount /dɪsˈmaʊnt/ verb to get out of a vehicle. ○ The infantry dismounted 100 metres from the objective. ○ debus

dismounted /dɪsˈmaʊntɪd/ adjective (of armoured or mechanized infantry) on foot. ○ This will be a dismounted attack.
disobedience /ˌdɪsəˈbaɪdɪəns/ noun a failure or refusal to carry out an order or command.

disobey /ˌdɪsəˈbeɪ/ verb to fail or refuse to carry out an order or command.

disorder /ˈdɪsərdoʊ/ noun 1. a lack of order or cohesion. ○ The enemy retreated in disorder. 2. a breakdown of law and order. ○ The police are unable to deal with the disorder in the capital.

disorient /ˈdɪsərɪənt/ verb US to destroy a person’s awareness of his exact location. (Note: disorient – disoriented – disorientation. British English is disorientate – disorientated.)

disorientate /ˌdɪsəˈrɪənteɪt/ verb to destroy a person’s awareness of his exact location. (Note: disorientate – disorientated. The US spelling is disoriented – disorientated.)

disoriented /ˌdɪsərɪəntɪd/ adjective unsure of your exact location. ○ The squad became disoriented and headed towards the minefield.

disoriented /ˌdɪsəˈrɪəntɪd,ˌdɪsəˈrɪəntɪd/ adjective US unsure of your exact location. ○ When we debussed, we were completely disoriented. (Note: The British English term is usually disorientated.)

dispatch /ˈdɪspætʃ/ noun 1. a written message. 2. an official military report. ○ Messengers were dispatched to HQ.

dispatch rider /ˈdɪspætʃˌrʌɪdər/ noun an army motorcyclist used for delivering messages.

dispersal /ˌdɪspərsəl/ noun an act of dispersing.

dispersal point /ˌdɪspərsəl ˈpɔɪnt/ noun the location where the sub-units of a grouping divide and go off in different directions.

disperse /ˈdɪspɜrs/ verb 1. (of a crowd or group) to split up and go off in different directions. ○ The crowd dispersed when baton rounds were fired. 2. to make something split up and go in different directions. ○ The soldiers fired into the air to disperse the crowd. 3. to send information or instructions to several different locations. ○ Orders were dispersed to the units. 4. (of a chemical agent) to become weaker and eventually disappear. ○ This gas takes about five minutes to disperse.

displaced person /ˌdɪspleɪst/ person a person who is forced to leave his or her home as a result of war or some other disaster. ○ refugee

displacement /ˌdɪspləˈmənt/ noun the amount of water moved when a solid object is placed in it. ○ This ship has a displacement of 17,000 tons.

disposal /ˌdɪspəˈzəl/ noun an act of getting rid of something.

dispose of /ˌdɪspəˈzuːv/ verb 1. to get rid of. ○ I disposed of the contaminated clothing. 2. to kill. ○ He used a knife to dispose of the sentry. 3. to destroy. ○ We used a missile to dispose of the tank.

disposition /ˌdɪspəˈzɪʃən/ noun the positioning of troops on the ground.

dispositions /ˌdɪspəˈzɪʃənz/ plural noun orders for the positioning of troops.

disregard /ˌdɪsrəˈɡɑrd/ verb to ignore. ○ Disregard my last order.

disrupt /ˈdɪsrʌpt/ verb to cause disorder, to interrupt an activity in progress. ○ Our mission is to disrupt the enemy’s lines of communication.

disruption /ˌdɪsrʌˈpʃən/ noun an act of disrupting something.

disruptive pattern /ˌdɪsrʌˈpɪtv/ noun a camouflage pattern, which is designed to break up the outline of an object.

disruptive pattern material /ˌdɪsrʌˈpɪtv ˈmætrɪəl/ noun full form of DPM.

dissemination /ˌdɪsəˈmɪnəʃən/ noun an act of sending information or instructions throughout a grouping or other organization. ○ The dissemination of the orders took longer than expected.

dissident /ˈdɪsdɪdənt/ noun 1. a person who opposes the established government of his own country (where such opposition is illegal) or who opposes the system of government itself (especially totalitarian forms of government such as communism or fascism). ○ The
police have been arresting known dissidents. 2. a person who actively opposes the leadership of his own political party or group. Dissidents are trying to subvert the peace talks.  

**dissident** adjective being a dissident  

The bombing was the work of dissident nationalists.

distance /ˈdɪstəns/ noun 1. the space between two locations  
2. a distance the area at the limit of a person’s vision  
3. the middle distance the area half way between an observer’s location and the horizon
distant /ˈdɪstənt/ adjective far away  
We are aiming at a distant target.

**Distilled Mustard** /ˈdɪstɪld ˈmʌstərd/ noun HD

distress /ˈdɪstres/ noun 1. great unhappiness or fear  
2. danger in distress in danger; (of ship) likely to sink
distress signal /ˈdɪstrɛs ˈsɪgn/ noun a signal signifying that a person, ship or aircraft is in danger
district /ˈdɪstrɪkt/ noun an area (normally defined for administrative purposes)
ditch /dɪtʃ/ noun a man-made channel used for drainage  
verb (of aircraft) to make an emergency landing in the sea  
We were forced to ditch in the sea.

**Div** abbreviation division
dive /daɪv/ noun the act of diving  
verb 1. to throw oneself headfirst into water 2. to operate underwater (usually with breathing apparatus) 3. to submerge 4. (of aircraft) to make a steep descent
dive-bomb /ˈdɑvˌbɒm/ verb to make a steep descent in order to drop a bomb  
They tried to dive-bomb the cruiser.
dive-bomber /ˈdɑvˌbɒmər/ noun an aircraft which makes a steep descent in order to drop a bomb
dive-bombing /ˈdɑvˌbɒmɪŋ/ noun an attack where the aircraft makes a steep descent to drop a bomb directly onto a target
dockyard /ˈdɒkjɑːrd/ noun a place where ships are built and repaired
document /ˈdɒkjʊmənt/ noun 1. any piece of written material (but not a book, pamphlet or newspaper, etc), which provides information, identification, evidence or instructions ○ We found a lot of documents in the enemy command post. 2. a serviceman’s personal records ○ His documents haven’t arrived from the depot yet.
DOD abbreviation US Department of Defense
dog /dɒg/ noun an intelligent meat-eating animal with four legs which can be trained to work with man
dogfight /ˈdɒgfɪt/ noun a battle between aircraft
dog-handler /ˈdɒgˌhændlər/ noun a person trained to work with dogs
dogleg /ˈdɒglɛg/ noun a movement to the side at an angle to the normal direction of advance ○ We made a dogleg to avoid the village.
dogtag /ˈdɒgtæɡ/ noun a metal or plastic disc or lozenge, bearing a soldier’s personal details, which is worn round the neck (informal) ○ ID disc
dogwatch /ˈdɒgwɒtʃ/ noun one of two short periods of duty which alternate each day, in order to change a person’s daily routine (naval terminology)
dominate /ˈdɒmɪneɪt/ verb 1. to have control over someone or something 2. (of ground) to look down on ○ This hill dominates the entire valley.
donga /ˈdɒŋɡə/ noun in South Africa, a dry riverbed
doolally /ˈduːləli/ adjective insane (slang) ○ He’s gone completely doolally.
DOP abbreviation drop-off point
DOR /ˈdɑːr/ ‘dɔːr/ verb US to remove someone from a training course at his or her request ○ He was DOR’d from the SEAL programme. Full form discharge on request
dose /ˈdɒs/ noun 1. an amount of medicine given to a person 2. an amount of radiation received by a person 3. an infection with a venereal disease (informal)
dosimeter /ˈdɒzɪmətər/ noun an instrument which measures radiation
dossier /ˈdiːsɪər/ noun a set of documents containing information about someone or something
dot /dot/ noun a shorter signal in Morse code (the longer signal is the dash)
double file /ˈdʊbl fɪl/ noun two parallel lines of men or vehicles moving one behind the other
downdraught /ˈdaʊndrɔːft/ noun a strong downward current of air given off by a helicopter’s rotors
downstream /ˌdaʊnˈstrɪm/ adverb in the direction in which a river or stream is flowing ○ We moved downstream. ○ The enemy are crossing downstream of the town. Compare upstream
downwind /ˌdaʊnˈwɪnd/ adverb in a position where the wind is blowing from another location towards your own location ○ Big Company was downwind of the nuclear explosion. Compare upwind
DP /dɪp/ ‘dɪp/ noun a type of choking agent. Full form trichloromethyl chloroformate. Also called Diphosgene
DPICM /ˈdɪpiːsɪm/ ‘dɪpəsiːm/ noun US one of several small bomblets, which are released by airburst from an artillery shell. Full form dual-purpose improved conventional munition
DPM /ˈdɪpem/ ‘dɪpəm/ noun a camouflage combat uniform ○ He was wearing DPMs. Full form disruptive pattern material (NOTE: The American English term is BDU)
draft /draft/ noun 1. especially US a method of selecting men for compulsory military service ○ He went to Canada to avoid the draft. ○ conscription 2. a group of newly conscripted recruits 3. a group of reinforcements ○ verb to select men for compulsory military service ○ All men over 18 were drafted into the armed forces ○ conscript
draft-dodger /draft ,dɒdʒə/ noun someone who tries to avoid doing compulsory military service
drag /dræg/ noun a natural force which slows down a flying object • verb to pull along the ground • The guns were dragged into position.

Dragon /ˈdrəɡən/ noun an American hand-held anti-tank guided missile (ATGM)
dragon’s teeth /ˈdrəɡənz ,tıθ/ plural noun concrete pillars used as an obstacle for tanks
dragoon /ˈdrəguːn/ noun a heavy cavalryman who could also fight as an infantryman (historical)

COMMENT: Some modern armoured regiments retain their historical title as Dragoons.

Dragunov /drəˈgʊnvə/ noun a Soviet-designed 7.62mm sniper rifle
drainage channel /ˈdriːnɪdʒ ˌtʃɛn(ə)l/ noun a ditch designed to remove surplus water

Draken /ˈdɾækən/ noun • Saab-35
draw /draʊ/ verb to collect or be issued with something • You will draw rations at 1500 hours. (NOTE: drawing — drew — have drawn)
dress /dres/ noun clothing • verb 1. to put on clothing • For operations in winter, the troops are dressed in white uniforms. 2. to apply a dressing to a wound • He went to the RAP to have his wound dressed. 3. to correct the alignment of soldiers on parade • right dress! form a straight line, aligned on the soldier at the right end of the line (used as a command)
dressing /ˈdresɪŋ/ noun 1. an absorbent pad and bandage used to cover a wound 2. an alignment of soldiers on parade • The dressing is terrible.
dressing station /ˈdresɪŋ ,stɛʃ(ə)n/ noun a place where battle casualties receive emergency medical treatment before being moved back to a field hospital
dress rehearsal /dress ˈrɛhərəls/ noun a final rehearsal just before the operation starts
drift /drɪft/ noun 1. the effects of a current or wind on the course of a ship or aircraft • The convoy was slowed down by the strong drift. 2. a bank of snow formed by the wind • The mountain road was blocked by snow drifts. 3. in South Africa, a ford • We can cross the river at Rorke’s Drift. • verb to be moved by a current or wind • The ship’s steering broke and she drifted into a minefield.
drill /driːl/ noun 1. a routine procedure • The unloading drill is designed to prevent accidents. 2. the practising of ceremonial movements • There was one hour of drill every morning. • verb 1. to teach a routine procedure through repeated practice • The sergeant drilled his recruits in the use of the mortar. 2. to teach ceremonial movements through repeated practice • We spent two hours drilling on the parade ground.

drill round /ˈdriːl rəʊnd/ noun a round which is not live, used to practise weapon-handling drills
drink /drɪŋk/ verb 1. to swallow liquid • The men are drinking up their water too quickly. 2. to drink alcohol • He was charged with drinking on duty.
drinking water /ˈd्रɪŋkɪŋ wərət/ noun water which is safe to drink
drip /drip/ noun an apparatus, consisting of a bottle or other container and a tube, which is designed to introduce liquid gradually into a person’s body, either through a needle inserted into a vein or through an orifice (e.g. mouth, nose, rectum) • Every man was taught how to insert a drip.
drive /drɪv/ noun 1. energy and motivation • He has plenty of drive. 2. a move forwards • The enemy’s drive towards the coast was halted. • verb 1. to operate and steer a vehicle • He drives a tank. 2. to travel by vehicle • She drove to the hospital. 3. to make someone do something • He drove his men on to take the position. 4. to push in a certain direction • They drove on to take the rebel stronghold. • to drive back, drive off to force an enemy to retreat • We drove back repeated enemy attacks.
**drive-by** /drəv bə/ noun a terrorist assassination method, where the gunman drives up to the victim in a vehicle, shoots him and then drives away.**There’s been a drive-by in the town square.**

**driver** /ˈdraːvə/ noun a person who operates and steers a vehicle

**drone** /ˈdraʊn/ noun a small unmanned radio-controlled aircraft designed to carry surveillance equipment. A remotely piloted vehicle. Also called unmanned aerial vehicle

**drop** /drɒp/ noun 1. an act of going down. a drop in temperature. 2. a vertical distance downwards. There is a sheer drop of 90m into the sea. 3. a deployment by parachute. He broke his leg in the last drop. 4. an act of leaving something where it can be collected by someone else. We are making a drop of ammunition tonight. 5. a small portion of liquid (such as blood, rain, etc.) There were drops of blood on the floor. 6. a well defined area patterned by the observer for an operation. Platoon dropped when the enemy fired a flare. 7. a primary weapon used by a private soldier in the Drums. 8. burns or rashes on the skin. We dropped 20! (ie. 20 metres)

**drop tank** /ˈdrɒptæŋk/ noun an additional fuel tank for an aircraft, which can be jettisoned when empty

**drop zone** /ˈdrɒp ˈzon/ noun an area of ground selected for the landing of troops by parachute. Abbr DZ (NOTE: The American army uses the phrase landing zone (LZ))

**drum** /ˈdrʌm/ noun 1. a musical instrument consisting of a cylinder, closed at each end with skin or plastic, which the player beats with a stick. 2. a cylindrical magazine for certain types of machine-gun. This weapon can use belts or drums. verb to beat a drum or to drum someone out of the forces to dismiss a person from the armed forces (informal)

**drumhead court martial** /ˈdrʌmhed kɔrt ˈmɑ:tʃəl/ noun a court martial held in the field

**drumhead service** /ˈdrʌmhed ˈsɜːvəns/ noun a religious service held in the field or on the parade ground

**drum major** /ˈdrʌm ˈmeɪdʒəl/ noun a senior non-commissioned officer (NCO) in charge of the Drums

**drummer** /ˈdrʌmə/ noun 1. a musician who plays the drums. 2. a rank held by a private soldier in the Drums. verb to drum out to drum someone out of the forces (informal)

**droplet** /ˈdrɔːplət/ noun a tiny particle of liquid (such as a chemical agent)

**drop-off point** /ˈdrɔp ˈɔf ˈpɔɪnt/ noun 1. a place where soldiers leave their vehicles to continue an operation on foot. 2. a pre-selected location where men or supplies can be offloaded from vehicles, in order to be collected by another unit. Abbr DOP

**dry season** /ˈdraɪ siˈʒən/ noun a dry period when the rains have stopped. Compare monsoon, rainy season

**DS** abbreviation directing staff
DSO /dɪˈsɔʊr/ noun US an aircrew member on a bomber, who detects and locates threats to the aircraft (e.g. enemy aircraft, radar, missiles, etc.). Full form defensive systems officer. Compare OSO.

DU abbreviation date-time group

dual-purpose improved conventional munition /ˌdjuːpɜːpəs ɪmpроме́nt/ a bomb without a guidance system which is simply dropped by an aircraft onto its target (informal). Compare smart bomb.

dum-dum bullet /dʌmˈdʌm ˈbəlɪt/ noun a bullet modified to expand when it hits a person or animal, thereby causing a terrible wound.

dummy /ˈdʌmi/ adjective imitation (for the purposes of deception). The engineers have been constructing dummy positions on the ridge.

dummy run /ˈdʌmi ˈrʌn/ noun an act of practising an operation before doing it for real.

dump /dʌmp/ noun a temporary store in the field. The bomb scored a direct hit on an ammunition dump. The ammunition has been dumped at grid 341632. 2. to abandon a vehicle. The truck was dumped at the side of the road.

dune /djuːn/ noun a bank or small hill of loose sand formed by the wind.

duplicate /djuːˈplɪkət/ a second copy of a document. In duplicate /djuːˈplɪktʃər/ in two copies. 1. to do something twice 2. to produce two copies of a document.

duration /djuːˈreɪʃən/ noun the length of time that an activity continues. For the duration until an activity finishes. For the duration of the war.

dusk /dʌsk/ noun the period between sunset and when it is fully dark. Compare dawn.

dust /dʌst/ noun fine particles of sand, soil or any other material.

dust-off /dʌst əf/ noun US the evacuation of casualties by helicopter (radio terminology). We require dust-off at grid 342659.

dust storm /dʌst ˈstɔːrm/ noun a strong wind producing dense clouds of dust.

duty /ˈdjuːtɪ/ noun 1. a moral or legal obligation. It is your duty to obey orders. 2. specified tasks which a person is required to do as part of his job. That is not one of my duties. On duty not at work. On duty at work. England expects every man to do his duty – Nelson.

duty officer /ˈdjuːtɪ ˈɔfɪsər, ˈɒfɪsər/ of the day, orderly officer /ˈɔːdərli ˈɔfɪsər/ noun an officer assigned by his unit to deal with incidents and carry out various routine tasks during a specified period.

dwelling /ˈdweɪln/ noun a building used as a home.

dyke /dʌk/ noun 1. an embankment built to prevent flooding. 2. a drainage ditch. Also called dike.

dynamite /ˌdæməˈmaɪt/ noun an explosive material made from nitroglycerine.

dysentery /ˈdɪz(ə)ntərɪ/ noun a disease which inflames the intestines, causing severe diarrhoea.

DZ abbreviation drop zone.
**ECHO - Ee**

**E-2 /ˈtiː/ noun** an American-designed airborne early warning aircraft, with a large disc-like antenna (radome) mounted on the fuselage, which is capable of being used from an aircraft carrier. Also called Hawkeye

**E-3 /ˈɛriː/ noun** an American-designed airborne warning and control system (AWACS) aircraft, which is based on a passenger airliner, and has a large disc-like antenna (radome) mounted on the fuselage. Also called Sentry

**EA abbreviation** engagement area

**EA-6 /ˈiːəks/ noun** an American-designed electronic warfare aircraft, based on the A-6 Intruder. Also called Prowler

**Eagle /ˈiːgəl/ noun** F-15

**ear-defenders /ˈɪərdɛfəndəz/ plural noun** a device which is placed in or over the ears, in order to protect them from noise. Ear-defenders must be worn on the range.

**earphone /ˈɪərfəun/ noun** part of the headset for a radio or other audio equipment, which is put on the ear to listen to a transmission or signal

**earpiece /ˈɪərpɪs/ noun** part of a radio or telephone handset, which is put in the ear to listen to a transmission

**earthmover /ˈɜːrθmʌvr/ armoured combat earthmover
earthwork /ˈɜːrθwɜːk/ noun** made

**ease /ɪz/ verb** to move something gently and carefully to **to ease springs** to perform the final action of the unloading drill for an automatic or semi-automatic weapon; after checking that the breech is clear of ammunition, let the working parts go forward and pull the trigger

**east /ˈɛst/ noun** 1. one of the four main points of the compass, corresponding to a bearing of 90 degrees or 1600 mils 2. an area to the east of your location 3. the East the part of the world to the east of Europe 4. the Far East the region consisting of China, Japan and neighbouring countries 5. the Middle East the region consisting of Arab countries (such as Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates) and Israel 6. the Near East the region consisting of countries of the eastern Mediterranean (such as Cyprus, Lebanon, Turkey) 7. the eastern part of a country 8. adjective relating to east 9. The East Gate a wind blowing from the east 10. adverb towards the east 11. The enemy is moving east

**eastbound /ˈɛstbaʊnd/ adjective** moving or leading towards the east 12. an eastbound convoy

**easternly /ˈɛstrəlnli/ adjective** 1. towards the east 2. to move in an easterly direction 3. an eastward direction

**eastern /ˈɛstərn/ adjective** relating to the east 1. The eastern part of the country

**Eastern Bloc /ˈɛstərn bɔlk/ noun** a term sometimes given to the Warsaw Pact

**Eastern Europe /ˈɛstərn əˈjʊərəp/ noun** a region consisting of countries which were allied to the USSR during the Cold War (such as Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Serbia and Montenegro)
eastward /ˈɪstwəd/ adjective towards the east or a eastward direction adverb US towards the east They are moving eastward.

eastwards /ˈɪstwədz/ adverb towards the east They are moving eastwards.

eavesdrop /ˈɪvzdrəp/ verb to listen secretly to a conversation between other people

ebb tide /ˈeb ˈtaid/ noun a tide which is moving out to sea

Ebola /ɪbəˈlaʊə/ noun the virus which causes Ebola haemorrhagic fever (Ebola HF), a severe and often fatal disease affecting man and monkeys

COMMENT: The Ebola virus is believed to have originated in Africa. It is extremely rare and as yet, no one knows how it is initially transmitted to humans. However, once people are affected, the disease can then be transmitted through contact with blood or body fluids from an infected person. Its symptoms are fever, headaches, vomiting, diarrhoea, massive internal bleeding and in most cases death. There is no known cure at present, although some people seem to have a natural immunity to the disease and do recover. Research has shown that the virus could also be spread through airborne particles (aerosols) and there is a strong possibility that it might be developed for use as a biological weapon.

e-bomb /ˈɪːbɒm/ noun a bomb which sends out electromagnetic impulses which can disrupt weapons and computer systems. Full form electromagnetic bomb

ECM abbreviation electronic counter-counter measures

echelon /ˈɛɪʃlən/ noun 1. a vertical line of a map grid, one of the coordinates running from left to right across a map. Compare nothing.
echelon attack /ˈɛɪʃlən ə tæk/ noun an attack made by several units deployed side by side, where one unit sets off first, followed after an interval by the second, followed after another interval by the third, and so on. Also called attack in echelon.
echo /ˈɛkəʊ/ noun a sound which is reflected by an object back towards the listener

Echo /ˈɛkəʊ/ noun the fifth letter of the phonetic alphabet (Ee)
echo location /ˈɛkəʊ ləʊ,ˌkɛf(ə)ləʊ/ noun a method of finding objects under water by sending sound signals down and listening for the echo

ECM abbreviation electronic counter-measures

ECMM abbreviation European Community Monitoring Mission

ECOMOG abbreviation Economic Community of West African States cease-fire monitoring group

Economy of force /ɪˈkɒnmɪ əvˈfɔʊs/ noun a situation in which you do not waste your military assets and, if practicable, use fewer forces than normal on your initial tasks, so that you will have the maximum forces available for your main effort

ECP abbreviation equipment collection point

ED /iː ˈdiː/ noun a type of blister and vomiting agent. Full form ethyldichlo-roarsine

EF-111A /eɪ ˈfɛn ɪˈlɛvən ˈɛs/ noun an American-designed electronic warfare (EW) aircraft. Also called Raven

Effective enemy fire /ɪˈfektɪv ˈɛnəmi ˈfɛəri/ noun a situation where the enemy’s fire starts to cause casualties amongst your own troops

Effects-based /ɪˈfɛktɪs ˌbeɪsd/ adjective warfare or operations which are designed to stop the activities of the enemy without destroying them completely

EFP abbreviation explosively formed projectile
eject /ɪˈdɛkt/ verb 1. to throw or drive someone or something out ○ The enemy have been ejected from the village. ○ My rifle is not ejecting the empty cases properly. 2. to use an ejector seat ○ The pilot ejected over the sea.
ejection /ɪˈdɛkʃn/ noun an escape from an aircraft using an ejector seat

ejector /ɪˈdɛktər/ noun something which ejects (such as the part of a firearm which ejects the empty cases)
ejector seat /ɪˈdɛktər sæt/ noun a seat designed to eject a pilot or crew member from a damaged aircraft

element /ˈeləmənt/ noun part of a grouping ○ Elements of the enemy advance guard have been sighted.
elevator /ˈelɪvətər/ verb 1. to put something in a higher position 2. to raise the barrel of an artillery piece or mortar

Elevate /ˈelɪvət/ verb 1. to put something in a higher position 2. to raise the barrel of an artillery piece or mortar
electrical equipment (such as radios, vehicle batteries, etc.) to stop working.

electromagnetic bomb /ɪˌlekˈtrəmɡətɪkˈbɔm/ noun full form of e-bomb
electromagnetic pulse /ɪˌlekˈtrəmɡətɪkˈpʌls/ noun a surge of electromagnetic radiation given off by a nuclear explosion, which causes electrical equipment (such as radios, vehicle batteries, etc.) to stop working. Abbr EMP
electronic /ˌɪlekˈtrɪnɪk/ adjective relating to the use of electricity
electronic target range /ˌɪlekˈtrɪnɪk ˈtɑːrət, rɛnʤ/ noun full form of ETR
electronic warfare /ˌɪlekˈtrɪnɪk ˈwɔːrfɛr/ noun the location and suppression of an enemy’s electronic equipment. Abbr ELW, EW

electronic warfare officer /ˌɪlekˈtrɪnɪk ˈwɔːrfɛr ˈɒfɪsər/ noun a crewman of an EW aircraft who navigates the aircraft and operates its electronic warfare equipment. Abbr EWO

elam /ɪləm/ noun great enthusiasm and drive

ELINT /ˈelɪnt/ noun information on the enemy, which is obtained through the monitoring of his electronic transmissions, usually by specially equipped aircraft. Full form electronic intelligence
elite /e'lit/ adjective of very high quality ○ He commands an elite regiment of Presidential Guards.

ELW abbreviation electronic warfare

embarkment /em'barkmant/ noun a man-made bank of soil or stone used as a barrier, or to carry a railway or road. Compare cutting

embark /em'ba:k/ verb to go on board an aircraft or ship (in order to travel somewhere). Compare debarkation

embarkation /em'ba:kæʃən/ noun an act of going on board an aircraft or ship. Compare embarkation

embassy /em'ba:si/ noun a building used by an ambassador and his or her staff

embed /em'bed/ noun a journalist who travels with a military unit involved in a war and reports on their activities ■ verb to send a journalist to accompany a military unit during fighting and to report on it, especially a unit which is operating in a combat zone ○ The TV reporter was embedded with an armoured cavalry unit in the Iraqi desert en route to Baghdad.

embrasure /em'bræsə/ noun an opening in a wall or parapet, through which a weapon can be fired. Compare firing port

embus /em'bas/ verb to get into a bus, in order to travel somewhere. Compare debus

EMCON /'emkɑn/ noun measures to reduce emissions which can be detected by the enemy ○ We have a strict EMCON policy. Full form emission control

emergency /i'mizdʒənəsi/ noun a situation where immediate action is required in order to prevent injury or damage or some other serious misfortune

emergency rations /i'mizdʒənəsi ˈræʃənəl/ plural noun small amounts of food and other supplies carried for use in an emergency

emergency rendezvous /i'mizdʒənəsi rendəvəs/ noun the location where people assemble in the event of an emergency. Abbr ERV

emission /i'mizʃən/ verb 1. an act of emitting something ○ This engine has been designed to produce a lower emission of heat. 2. something emitted ○ We must reduce our emissions.

emission control /i'mizʃən kən trol/ noun full form of EMCON

emit /i'mıt/ verb to give off something (eg. heat, radiation, radar, noise, etc.)

EMP abbreviation electromagnetic pulse

emplacement /em'pleisment/ noun a prepared firing position for an artillery piece or other large weapons system ○ The camp is surrounded with gun emplacements.

emplane /em'plein/ verb to go on board an aircraft (in order to travel somewhere) ○ We emplane at 0600hrs.

empty case /'empti 'kerə/ noun a cartridge which has been fired

encamp /i'nkæmpl/ verb to set up a camp ○ They were encamped by the river.

encampment /i'nkæmpmənt/ noun a place where troops are camped

encipher /i'n'sarfə/ verb to convert from normal language into code. Compare decipher, encrypt

enclave /en'kleiv/ noun a piece of territory, belonging to one state or occupied by one ethnic group, which is surrounded by territory belonging to another state or occupied by a different ethnic group ○ a Muslim enclave, surrounded by Orthodox territory

encode /i'n'kənd/ verb to convert from normal language into code. Compare decode ○ encipher, encrypt

encounter /i'n'kɔntər/ noun 1. a meeting which happens by chance ○ He did not report the encounter. 2. a military engagement which happens by chance ○ Three of our men were killed in the encounter. ■ verb to meet or make contact by chance ○ We didn’t encounter any enemy.

decrypt /i'n'krɛpt/ verb to convert from normal language into code. Compare encrypt ○ encipher, encode
endemic /enˈdɛmɪk/ adjective (of disease) regularly affecting a large proportion of the population of an area or region. Malaria is virtually endemic amongst the local population.

endemic 86

**endemic** /enˈdɛmɪk/ adjective referring to a state which is at war with your own country. 1. Enemy snipers attacked the convoy. 2. She listened to enemy propaganda on the radio. Compare friendly. 

**enemy** /ˈɛnmi/ adjective referring to a state which is at war with your own country. 1. We consider the French as allies, not enemies. 2. a state which is at war with your own country. 3. the enemy. 4. the enemy forces. 5. the enemy is withdrawing. 

**enemy lines** /ˈɛnmi lənz/ plural noun the forward positions of the enemy. 6. We were operating behind enemy lines.

**enfilade** /ˌɛnfɪˈleɪd/ adjective capable of engaging the entire frontage or length of a formation or position. 1. Our advance was halted by heavy enfilade fire. 2. verb to engage the entire frontage or length of a formation or position. The enemy managed to enfilade our forward trenches.

**enforce** /ɪnˈfɔrs/ verb to use force or the law in order to make someone do something.

**enforcement** /ɪnˈfɔrsment/ noun an act of enforcing something.

**engage** /ɪnˈgɛndʒ/ verb to start to fight or shoot at someone. 1. You engage, and then you see what happens! (Napoleon) 2. We started to engage the enemy infantry at around 600 metres. Compare disengage.

**engagement** /ɪnˈgɛndʒmənt/ noun an exchange of fire between opposing forces. 1. The engagement lasted just over an hour. Compare disengagement. 2. battle, firefight, skirmish.

**engineer** /ˈɛnʒər/ noun 1. a specialist soldier trained in the construction and demolition of bridges, field fortifications, obstacles, roads, etc. 2. a mechanic on a ship.

**engineering** /ˌɛnˈdʒɪnrɪŋ/ noun 1. the construction and use of engines and other mechanical devices. 2. the construction or demolition of buildings, installations, roads, etc.

**engineer officer** /ˌɛnˈdʒɪnr ˈɒfɪʃər/ noun an officer in the navy who specializes in ship’s engines.

**engine temperature indicator** /ˌɛnˈdʒɪn ˈtɛmpərətʃər ɪndɪkətor/ noun an instrument on a dashboard or in a cockpit which shows the temperature of the engine.

**English Channel** /ˈɛŋɡlɪʃ ˈtʃɛln/ the Channel noun a stretch of water between England and France.

**enlist** /ɪnˈlɪst/ verb to join the armed forces as a career. He enlisted at the age of 18.

**enlisted man** /ɪnˈlɪstd mən/ noun US any serviceman who is not an officer (NOTE: The British English term is other rank (OR)).

**enlistment** /ɪnˈlɪstmənt/ noun the act of joining the armed forces.

**enquiry** /ɪnˈkwərɪ/ noun an official investigation into the cause of an incident.

**ensign** /ˈɛnsaɪn/ noun 1. a flag. 2. an officer who carries a flag on parade. 3. a flagman in the Brigade of Guards. 4. the ensign of a ship. 5. a lightweight tool carried by infantrymen in order to dig trenches. 6. digging tool.
envelop /ɪnˈvələp/ verb to manoeuvre against the flanks or rear of an enemy force in order to surround them

envelopment /ɪnˈvələpmənt/ noun an attack made on one or both of the enemy’s flanks or rear, and usually accompanied by a frontal attack. A double envelopment an envelopment attacking both of the enemy’s flanks. A single envelopment an envelopment attacking one of the enemy’s flanks only.

environ /ɪnˈvɛərən/ plural noun the surrounding area. They concentrated the bombing on the environs of the city.

EOD /ɪd/ noun ‘diz/ noun the disarming and safe destruction of explosive ordnance (such as booby-traps, misfires, captured ammunition). Full form explosive ordnance disposal. Bomb disposal.

epaulet /ˈepələt/ noun US spelling of epaulette

epaulette /ˈepələt/ noun 1. a shoulder decoration on a uniform jacket. 2. a semi-detachable flap on the shoulders of a uniform jacket, designed to carry badges of rank or unit insignia.

epidemic /ˌepɪˈdemɪk/ noun a rapid spreading of an infectious disease through a community. We’ve got an epidemic of typhus in the town.

EPW abbreviation enemy prisoner of war.

Equator /ˈɛkwətər/ noun an imaginary line running around the earth, exactly halfway between the North and South Poles. the Line.

equary /ˈɛkwərɪ/ noun an officer who acts as personal assistant to a member of the British Royal Family. He has been appointed an equary to the Prince of Wales.

equip /ɪˈkwərp/ verb to provide someone with equipment. We equipped the platoon with shovels. (Note: equipped—equipped.)

equipment /ɪˈkwəpment/ noun any article which a person needs in order to carry out a task (e.g. clothing, radios, tools, weapons, vehicles, etc.)

era /ˈɛrə/ noun a distinct period of time. The M-60 is an American 1960s-era main battle tank.

ERA abbreviation explosive reactive armour.

ERFB /ˈɛrɪf bɪt/ noun an advanced aerodynamic design for artillery shells, which increases their range. Full form extended range full bore.

ERV abbreviation extended range full bore base bleed.

escalate /ɪˈskəleɪt/ verb to increase in seriousness or intensity. Fighting in the area has escalated in recent months.

escalation /ˌɪskəˈleɪʃən/ noun an increase in the intensity or seriousness of something. an escalation in troop movements.

escape /ɪˈskɛp/ noun an act of escaping. His daring escape from the POW camp. A verb. 1. to get away from captivity. Three prisoners escaped during the night. 2. to escape capture. to avoid being captured. 3. to survive a potentially lethal situation. The pilot of the crashed helicopter escaped with minor injuries. 4. (of a chemical agent, gas, liquid, etc.) to leak. Gas escaped into the cabin.

escape capsule /ɪˈskɛp kæpsjul/ noun an enclosed box with seats and survival equipment, in which crew members can escape from an aircraft.

escarpment /ˈɛskərmpment/ noun a steep slope along the edge of a plateau. We saw a column of vehicles moving along the base of the escarpment.

escort /ˈɛskɔrnt/ noun a person, vehicle or aircraft or ship which accompanies an individual or group in order to protect them. A verb. to escort. The convoy was escorted by two destroyers.

ESDI abbreviation European Security and Defence Identity.

espionage /ˌɛspəˈnæʒ/ noun the use of spies, surveillance equipment, etc., in
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>esprit de corps</td>
<td>a French phrase meaning a feeling of devotion to and pride in your unit or group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>establishment /ɪˈstæblʃmənt/ noun 1</td>
<td>an act of establishing something 2. the number of men, vehicles and equipment which should be held by a grouping at full strength o This platoon has an establishment of 28 men.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>estimate /ˈestɪmɪt/ noun 1</td>
<td>an approximate idea of distance, size, time, etc., obtained by judgment rather than by accurate measurement o We think there are 3,000 enemy troops in the camp, but that is only an estimate. 2. verb /ˈestɪmɪt/ to judge distance, size, time, etc., instead of counting or making accurate measurements o He estimated the distance at 1,500m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>estimated time of arrival /ˈestɪmɪtɪd ˈtɪm əv ˈsɜːrveɪ/ noun</td>
<td>the time when a vehicle, group of soldiers, etc., is expected to arrive. Abbr ETA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETA /ˈeɪteɪə/ noun</td>
<td>estimated time of arrival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ethnic /ˈɛθnɪk/ adjective</td>
<td>relating to race or cultural background</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ethnic cleansing /ˈɛθnɪk ˈklɛnzɪŋ/ noun</td>
<td>a systematic attempt by the main population to drive members of an ethnic minority away from their homes by the use of force (including intimidation, destruction of property, physical violence and even murder)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ethnic minority /ˈɛθnɪk mərˈnɜrɪ/ noun</td>
<td>a smaller group of people who have a different racial or cultural background to the main population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETR /ˈɛtər/ noun</td>
<td>a shooting range where the targets are raised and lowered by electricity. Full form electronic target range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUCOM /ˈjuːkəm/ noun</td>
<td>US the department of US forces responsible for defending American national interests in Europe and also Israel, Syria and Lebanon. Full form European Command</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eurofighter /ˈjʊəroʊˈfɪtər/ noun</td>
<td>a European multirole fighter aircraft, produced by a consortium of companies from the UK, Germany, Italy and Spain. Also called Typhoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Security and Defence Identity /ˈjʊəroʊˌspɪriːən ˈsɪˌdʒɒptəri ən ˈdaɪd/ noun</td>
<td>a unifying agreement on common aims and responsibilities between members of NATO in North America and Europe. Abbr ESDI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>evacuate /ɪˈvækjʊət/ verb 1</td>
<td>to remove people from their homes because of danger and make them stay elsewhere until that danger is over o The civilian population was evacuated across the river. 2. to leave a place of danger o The platoon evacuated the position when it became too dangerous.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>evacuation procedure /ɪˈvækjʊə ˈproʊsɪdər/ noun</td>
<td>a procedure for getting people out of a place in an organized way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>evacuee /ɪˈvækjuə/ noun</td>
<td>a person who has been evacuated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>evade /ɪˈvɛd/ verb</td>
<td>to take avoiding action o We managed to evade the enemy patrols.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>evasion /ɪˈvɛʒən/ noun</td>
<td>the skill of avoiding enemy forces (usually after escape from capture or encirclement)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>evasive /ɪˈvɛsɪv/ adjective</td>
<td>intended to evade a danger or threat o We were forced to take evasive action.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>evergreen /ˈɛvəɡriːn/ noun</td>
<td>a tree which does not lose its leaves in winter (such as a fir, pine, spruce, etc.). Compare deciduous.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EW /ɛkwər/ noun</td>
<td>electronic warfare</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**EWO** /ˈɪswɒʊ/ **abbreviation** electronic warfare officer

**exclude** /ɪkˈskluːd/ **verb** 1. to keep someone or something out ○ The aim is to exclude enemy ships from our territorial waters. 2. to not include ○ The plane was carrying 215 men, excluding the crew.

**exclusion zone** /ɪkˈskluːʒn/ **noun** an area or region, defined by a state or by international agreement, which the armed forces or shipping of another state are not allowed to enter ○ In 1982, the British Government declared a 400-mile exclusion zone around the Falkland Islands.

**exclusive** /ɪkˈskluːsɪv/ **adjective** not including ○ Our sector is exclusive of the main road. Compare **inclusive**

**execute** /ɪkˈskjʊɪt/ **verb** 1. to kill a person who has been found guilty of an offence for which the punishment is death ○ He was executed for cowardice. 2. to carry out a planned task ○ We were unable to execute our mission.

**execution** /ɪkˈskjʊɪʃn/ **noun** 1. an act of killing a person who has been found guilty of an offence for which the punishment is death 2. a method by which a planned task is carried out ○ to put a plan into execution ○ to carry out a plan ○ ‘The art of war is a simple art and all in the execution. There is nothing vague about it, it is all common sense’. [Napoleon]

**executive officer** /ɪkˈzɛkjuːtɪv/ **noun** US an officer responsible for coordinating staff functions within a headquarters. Abbr XO

**COMMENT:** In many groupings, the XO is also the second in command (2IC).

**exercise** /ɪkˈsɜːz/ **noun** 1. an act of practising the skills that a unit or subunit will be required to carry out on operational service 2. a physical activity designed to improve or maintain fitness ○ You should take more exercise. ○ These exercises are designed to improve your arm muscles.

**exercises** /ɪkˈsɜːzɪz/ **plural noun** a military training plan ○ The fleet is taking part in NATO exercises in the Mediterranean. ○ Joint Anglo-Spanish exercises will be held next week. ○ manoeuvres, war games

**exfiltrate** /ɪkˈsfɪlət/ **verb** to break down a grouping into smaller groups which can withdraw by different routes through territory controlled by the enemy. Compare **infiltrate**

**exfiltration** /ɪkˈsfɪləʃn/ **noun** an act of exfiltrating. Compare **infiltration**

**exhaust** /ɪkˈzɔːst/ **noun** smoke and waste gases expelled from a running engine or motor ○ A verb to use up a resource completely ○ We have exhausted our fuel supply.

**exhausted** /ɪkˈzɔːstɪd/ **adjective** 1. (of resources) completely used up ○ Our ammunition is exhausted. 2. (of people) very tired and weak, as a result of hard physical activity ○ After two weeks in the jungle, the commandos returned to base completely exhausted.

**exhaustion** /ɪkˈzɔːʃn/ **noun** a total loss of strength (as a result of strenuous physical activity) ○ The three escaped prisoners were picked up by one of our patrols in a state of complete exhaustion.

**exhaust pipe** /ɪkˈzɔːst pɛp/ **noun** a pipe through which the exhaust is expelled from an engine or motor

**Exocet** /eksˈoʊsɛt/ **noun** a French-designed short-range radar-guided anti-ship missile, usually launched from a ship or aircraft

**expedite** /ɪkˈspɛdɪt/ **verb** to carry out an action or task

**expedient force** /eksˈpɛtɪnt/ **noun** US a military grouping sent on a special mission overseas ○ The expeditionary force landed under cover of darkness.

**explode** /ɪkˈsplɔːd/ **verb** to burst outwards due to a release of internal energy ○ The bomb exploded at five o’clock.

**exploit** /ɪkˈsplɔɪt/ **verb** to take advantage of something ○ The general failed to exploit the breakthrough.

**exploitation** /ɪkˈsplɔɪtʃn/ **noun** a continuation of a successful attack af-
After the objective has been taken, in order to destroy the enemy’s ability to conduct an orderly withdrawal or organize a defence or counter-attack.

**explosion** /ɪkˈsplaʊʒ(ə)n/ noun an act of exploding. The bombing raid set off a series of explosions at the munitions factory.

**explosive** /ɪkˈsplaʊsɪv/ adjective 1. designed or liable to explode. Nitrogen-based fertilizers can be used to make an explosive substance. 2. liable to cause an outburst of violent behaviour. The Chief of Police described the situation as ‘explosive’.

**explosively formed projectile** /ɪkˈsplaʊzɪv lɜːmd prəˈdʒektɪl/ noun an anti-tank warhead where high explosive is packed around a shallow hemispherical metal plate (on impact, the plate forms itself into a solid metal projectile, which is capable of penetrating armour). Abbr EFP

**explosive ordnance** /ɪkˈsplaʊsɪv ˈɔrdnəns/ noun a general term for any projectile or device which contains an explosive substance or which uses an explosive substance as its propellant.

**explosive ordnance disposal** /ɪkˈsplaʊsɪv ɔrdnəns ˈdɪspəl/ noun the disarming and safe destruction of explosive ordnance (such as booby-traps, misfires, captured ammunition). Abbr EOD

**explosive reactive armour** /ɪkˈsplaʊsɪv riˈækтив ˈæmər/ noun secondary armour, containing a thin layer of explosive, fitted to the outside of an armoured vehicle. It is designed to counter the effect of an anti-tank projectile by exploding outwards when hit. Abbr ERA

**ex-serviceman** /ɛks ˈsɛrviːsmən/ noun a man who formerly served in the armed forces. The parade was attended by ex-servicemen. (NOTE: The American English term is veteran.)

**extended range full bore** /ɛksˈtɛnd ˈreɪndʒ ˈfʊl ˈbɔːr/ noun full form of ERFB

**extract** /ɪkˈstrækt/ verb 1. to remove one object from another. He extracted the empty case from the gun. 2. to move out of an area of operations. We will extract by helicopter. 3. to move someone out of an area of operations. The patrol was extracted by helicopter. Compare insert

**extraction** /ɪkˈstrækʃən/ noun an act of extracting. Compare insertion
FOXTROT - Ff

F-4 /ɛf ˈfʊt/ noun an American-designed multirole fighter aircraft, suitable for use from aircraft carriers. Also called Phantom (NOTE: The plural is F-4s /ɛf ˈfʊts/.)

F-14 /ɛf ˈfaɪtni/noun an American-designed multirole fighter, designed to operate from an aircraft carrier. Also called Tomcat (NOTE: The plural is F-14s /ɛf ˈfɔtniz/.)

F-15 /ɛf ˈfaɪtni/noun an American-designed fighter aircraft with a secondary attack role. Also called Eagle (NOTE: The plural is F-15s /ɛf ˈfɔtniz/.)

F-16 /ɛf ˈskiːtni/noun an American-designed multirole fighter aircraft, with advanced fighter-ground-attack (FGA) capability. Also called Fighting Falcon (NOTE: The plural is F-16s /ɛf ˈskiːtniz/.)

F-22 /ɛf ˈtwenti ˈtjuː/noun an American-designed stealth fighter aircraft. Also called Raptor

F-111 /ɛf ˈweɪn ˈlɛvənəu/noun an American-designed attack aircraft. Also called Aardvark (NOTE: The plural is F-111s /ɛf ˈweɪnlɛvəniz/.)

F-117A /ɛf ˈweɪn ˈvɛntən ˈeɪu/noun an American-designed stealth attack aircraft. Also called Nighthawk (NOTE: The plural is F-117As /ɛf ˈweɪnˈvɛntən ˈeɪuz/.)

FA-18 /ɛf ət ɛtˈtɪzn/noun an American-designed lightweight multirole fighter aircraft. Also called Hornet (NOTE: The plural is FA-18s /ɛfətiˈtɪzn/.)

FAA abbreviation Fleet Air Arm

FAARP /ˈfeɪrp/ noun US a place where forward units can replenish ammunition and fuel during an advance. Full form forward arming and refueling point

Fablon /ˈfeɪblɒn/ trademark a trade-mark for a clear adhesive plastic sheet, which is used to make maps waterproof and allow them to be marked with Chinagraph or Lumocolor

Fabrique Nationale /ˈfæbrɪk ˌneɪʃənl/ noun full form of FN

FAC abbreviation forward air controller

face /fets/ verb 1. to look towards a particular direction ○ They occupied positions near the top of the hill, facing north. 2. to be likely to have to undergo something ○ He faced a court-martial after his ship rammed the harbour wall.

face-veil /ˈfets ˈvɛl/ noun a garment made of net-like fabric, which is usually worn round the neck as a scarf but can also be used as a small camouflage net ○ We used a couple of face-veils to break up the outline of the machine-gun.

facilitate /fəˈsɪltɪt/ verb to make something easier (i.e. to assist) ○ Our mission is to facilitate the extraction of the patrol.

faction /ˈfækʃən/ noun a small group which disagrees with the main body of an organization or population and makes trouble ○ The conflict between the different factions may lead to civil war.

factory /ˈfɑktəri/ noun a large building or complex where things are manufactured

FAE abbreviation fuel-air explosive

fag /fæg/ noun a cigarette (slang) ○ Put that bloody fag out!
fa·ll/ noun 1. a descent to the ground (usually out of control) ○ He broke his leg in the fall. 2. (of places) capture ○ The fall of Singapore.  

fa·ll/ verb 1. to descend to the ground (usually out of control) ○ He fell out of the vehicle. 2. to be killed in action ○ His grandfather fell at the Battle of the Somme. 3. (of places) to be captured ○ The town finally fell to the rebels. (NOTE: falling = fell – have fallen)  

fa·ll back/ verb to withdraw (usually under strong pressure from the enemy or as a result of a strong enemy threat) ○ 3 Brigade has fallen back towards Soltau.  ○ pull back  

fa·ll in/ verb to take your place on a formal parade ○ The squad fell in in front of the sergeants’ mess.  

fa·ll of shot/ noun the place where a projectile strikes  

fa·ll out/ verb to leave a formal parade  

fa·ll out/ noun the radioactive dust produced by a nuclear explosion  

fa·ll upon/ verb to attack ○ Government soldiers fell upon the refugee column.  

FA MAS/ noun a French-designed 5.56mm assault weapon  

Fa·ntan/ noun a NATO name for the Chinese-designed Q-5 fighter aircraft  

far·m/ noun 1. an area of land used for the cultivation of crops or rearing and fattening of livestock 2. a complex of buildings, including the farmhouse, which form part of a farm  

far·mer/ noun a person who owns and manages a farm  

far·m·house/ noun the home of a farmer  

far·ri·er/ noun a person who fits horseshoes onto horses  

fa·sin·ce/ noun a bundle of logs or plastic pipes or other material used to fill a ditch so that vehicles can cross it  

fast attack vehicle/ noun full form of FAV  

fat·igue/ noun 1. a non-military task or duty (such as cleaning toilets, clearing up rubbish, peeling potatoes, etc.) 2. being tired ○ They are all suffering from fatigue.  

fat·i·gu·es/ plural noun cloth worn for carrying out a fatigue  

FAV/ noun an American-designed light all-terrain vehicle fitted with medium machine-guns, ATGM or other weapons systems. Full form fast attack vehicle  

FC/ abbreviation force commander  

FD/ abbreviation fire direction centre  

FEBA/ an abbreviation forward edge of the battle area  

F Echelon/ noun the fighting elements of a tactical grouping  

fe·der·al riot gun/ noun a gun designed to fire baton rounds. Abbr FRG  

fe·int/ noun an attack which is not followed through, but is intended merely to test the enemy’s defences or to give him a false idea of your own intentions ○ The attack was just a feint.  ○ diversion  

fe·n·ce/ noun a barrier made of vegetation, wire or wood, which encloses an area of ground and is designed to control or prevent access  

fe·n·ce out/ verb to prepare a jet fighter for action (i.e. by switching on your weapons systems, RWR, HUD, etc.)  

Fe·n·cer/ noun a NATO name for the Soviet-designed SU-24 fighter-bomber
Ferret /ˈfɛrɪt/ noun a small British-designed armoured car

ferry /ˈfɛrɪ/ noun a boat used to transport people or vehicles across a river or lake or narrow stretch of sea, as part of a regular service. The brigade will cross the Channel by ferry.

fertilizer /ˈfəraɪlaɪzər/ noun a chemical substance used by farmers to stimulate the growth of crops.

fever /ˈfɛvər/ noun sickness, where a person’s body temperature is higher than normal. He has a slight fever.

FF abbreviation frigate (with guns)

FFG abbreviation frigate (with guided missiles)

FGA abbreviation fighter ground-attack

fiasco /ˈfɪskəʊ/ noun a complete failure, resulting in chaos. The beach landing was a fiasco.

FIBUA /ˈfɪbɪjoʊə/ abbreviation fighting in built-up areas. I am going on a FIBUA course.

field /fild/ noun 1. a well-defined piece of agricultural land (usually enclosed by a fence). They bivouacked in a corner of a field. 2. the field area where a battle or other military operation takes place. He performs far better in the field than in barracks. battle

field ambulance /ˈfɪld əmbjuləns/ noun a battalion-sized medical unit (usually attached to a brigade)

fieldcraft /ˈfɪldkrɑːft/ noun basic infantry skills of camouflage and concealment and tactical use of ground

field dressing /ˈfɪld dresɪŋ/ noun a camouflage dressing designed to treat serious wounds

field engineering /ˈfɪld əndʒɪnəriŋ/ noun tasks carried out by engineers in support of ground forces (such as the construction, repair and demolition of bridges, construction of field fortifications, construction and removal of obstacles, etc.)

field firing range /ˈfɪld ˈfɜːrɪŋ ˈrɛndoʊnz/ noun an area of open ground, where soldiers can practice shooting in battle conditions.

field fortification /ˈfɪld ˈfɔːtɪfɪkeɪʃən/ noun an improvised fortification prepared on the battlefield (e.g. anti-tank ditch, bunker, trench, etc.)

field-glasses /ˈfɪld ɡləsɪz plural noun an optical instrument with a lens for each eye, designed for looking at distant objects. binoculars, telescope

field gun /ˈfɪld ɡən/ noun an artillery piece designed to be moved easily over all types of ground

field hospital /ˈfɪld ˈhɒspɪtl/ noun a mobile hospital set up on or near to the battlefield, which is capable of providing surgery

field kitchen /ˈfɪld ˈkɪtʃɪn/ noun a mobile kitchen set up on or near a battlefield

field marshal /ˈfɪld ˈmærʃəl/ noun the most senior officer rank in the army. Abbr FM

field officer /ˈfɪld ˈɑːfɪsər/ noun an army officer of any rank above captain and below general

field of fire /ˈfɪld əv ˈfɜːr/ noun an area of ground in which there is sufficient visibility to shoot at targets. This position has excellent fields of fire.

field pack /ˈfɪld ˈpæk/ noun a large pack designed to carry the equipment a soldier will need while on the battlefield

field rank /ˈfɪld ˈræŋk/ noun any army rank above captain and below general

field training exercise /ˈfɪld ˈtreɪniŋ ˈɛksəsaɪz/ noun a training exercise in which military skills are practised in field conditions. Abbr FTX

fife /ˈfaɪf/ noun a musical instrument, like a little metal pipe

Fifes and Drums /ˈfaɪfs ən ˈdrʌms plural noun a band of drummers and
fifth-columnist /fifth-ˈkʌmrənɪst/ noun an agent or saboteur operating secretly within the territory of an enemy state

fighter /ˈfɪtʃər/ noun
1. a light fast-moving aircraft designed to attack other aircraft.
2. a fighting soldier
3. a man or vehicle which presents a tactical formation (such as a pine, spruce, etc.)

fighter controller /ˈfɪtʃər kanˈtroʊlər/ noun an air traffic controller who works in permanent partnership with the pilot of a fighter aircraft, following his progress on radar and directing him to intercept enemy aircraft

fighter ground-attack /ˈfɪtʃər,ɡraʊnd ˈɑːtɛk/ noun an attack by fighter aircraft on a target on the ground.

fighting /ˈfɪtʃɪŋ/ noun an action of warfare

Fighting Falcon /ˈfɪtʃɪŋ ˈfɔlək/ noun F-16

firing in built-up areas /ˈfɪtʃɪŋ ɪn ˈbɪlt ˈæpəˌɛriəz/ noun special skills relating to combat in towns and villages.

fighting order /ˈfɪtʃɪŋ ˈɔrdər/ adjective equipped with webbing only

fighting patrol /ˈfɪtʃɪŋ ˈpæ,ˌtræʊl/ noun a large well-armed patrol sent out on an offensive operation (e.g. snatching a prisoner for interrogation)

fighting strength /ˈfɪtʃɪŋ ˈstrent/ noun the number of men or vehicles available to a unit for the purposes of fighting

figure US /ˈfɪgər/ noun a number

six-figure grid reference /ˈfɪzɪˈfɪgər/ plural noun

minutes (radio terminology) /ˈfɪnɪtɪz/ plural noun

I will be with you in figures ten.

The men filed along the jungle path.

fin /ˈfɪn/ noun a thin, flat projection on an aircraft, missile or other projectile, which provides extra stability during flight

final protective fire /ˈfɪnəl ˈprəʊtəktɪv ˈfɜr/ noun, tecɪv /ˈfɜrə/ pre-determined artillery target, registered on or just in front of your own position, as a defensive measure in the event of being overrun by the enemy

The company commander called for his FPF. Abbr FPF

fir /fɜr/ noun a tree which does not lose its leaves in winter (such as a pine, spruce, etc.)

The enemy position is behind that line of fir.

conifer, evergreen

fire /ˈfɜr/ noun 1. flames and heat from a substance which is burning, or a small heap of burning material, which is being used to provide heat
2. We saw a fire in the distance.

to catch fire to start burning

on fire in the act of burning

The tank was on fire and burning fiercely.

The platoon came under heavy fire from the farm.

under fire situation of being
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shot at  ◆  'Hello 2, this is 22, we are under fire from the village, wait out' ◆  verb to discharge a gun or missile or to detonate an explosive device ◆  He fired at the leading tank. ◆  The Claymore failed to fire. ◆  to fire for effect (of artillery or mortars) to fire rounds as quickly as possible ◆  Ten rounds, fire for effect! ◆  fire, open fire! start shooting ◆  cease fire! stop shooting ◆  hold your fire! don’t shoot ◆  to open fire to start firing at someone or something

fire-and-forget weapon /ˈfɛərˌænd fərˈɡɛt,ˌwɛpən/ noun a missile equipped with a guidance system which requires no further action from its operator, once it is locked onto its target

fire and manoeuvre /ˈfɛər ənd məˈnuːvə/ noun a tactic of moving in bounds, where one soldier or vehicle or sub-unit moves, while another soldier or vehicle or sub-unit gives covering fire ◆  The platoon made good use of fire and manoeuvre in the assault.

firearm /ˈfɛərərm/ noun a hand-held gun (such as a pistol, rifle or assault weapon)

firebase /ˈfɛərbɛs/ noun 1. US a fortified base location containing heavy weapons which can provide fire support to troops operating in the surrounding area ◆  B Company is at Firebase Alfa. 2. troops giving fire support during an attack ◆  The firebase was ordered to move forward.

fire-bomb /ˈfɛərbəm/ noun a bomb designed to set buildings alight ◆  incendiary bomb ◆  verb to drop fire-bombs on ◆  The centre of the town was fire-bombed.

fire break /ˈfɛərbriːk/ noun an open space between two areas of woodland, which is designed to prevent the spread of fire, but can also often be used by vehicles

fire brigade /ˈfɛər brɪdʒ/ noun an officially organized body of men trained to fight fires

fire control /ˈfɛərkənˈtroʊl/ noun the direction of a unit or sub-unit’s weapons in battle

fire direction centre /ˌfɛərd ˌdɪskrɪplən/ noun full form of FDC

fire discipline /ˌfɛərd ˌdaɪsəplɪn/ noun personal judgement preventing unnecessary wastage of ammunition

firefight /ˌfɛərˈfɪt/ noun an exchange of fire between opposing forces ◆  A fierce firefight developed on the edge of the village.

fire support coordination line /ˈfɛər səˈpɔrstən/ noun 1. a real or imaginary line behind the forward line of enemy troops (FLET),
fireteam

beyond which friendly aircraft can attack targets without requiring the directions or permission from friendly forward air controllers (FAC). Abbr FSCL

fireteam /ˈfaɪətɛm/ noun 1. an infantry grouping of 4 men (half of a section) 2. US an infantry grouping of 4 men (one third of a squad)

fire trench /ˈfaɪə tʃɛnʃ/ noun a hole in the ground used by infantrymen as a fire position and as shelter from enemy fire (NOTE: The American English term is foxhole.)

firing /ˈfaɪərɪŋ/ adjective relating to the firing of weapons or the detonation of explosives • noun an act of firing weapons • We heard firing away to the right.

firing party /ˈfaɪərɪŋ ˈpɑrti/ noun a detachment of riflemen delegated to fire a salute over a soldier’s grave

firing pin /ˈfaɪərɪŋ ˈpɪn/ noun a little metal pin which hits the end of a round in the breech of a rifle to detonate it

firing point /ˈfaɪərɪŋ ˈpɔɪnt/ noun the location from which an engineer detonates an explosive device (as in bridge demolition)

firing port /ˈfaɪərɪŋ ˈpɔrt/ noun an aperture in the side of a vehicle through which a soldier can fire his personal weapon

firing position /ˈfaɪərɪŋ ˈpoʊzɪʃ(ə)n/ noun a position in which a soldier or a gun is ready to fire

firing post /ˈfaɪərɪŋ ˈpɔʊst/ noun a missile launcher • The anti-tank platoon had three firing posts on the forward edge of the village.

firing range /ˈfaɪərɪŋ ˈrɛndʒ/ noun same as range 3

firing squad /ˈfaɪərɪŋ skwɔd/ noun a detachment of soldiers delegated to execute a condemned prisoner

first aid /ˈfɜːrst ˈeɪd/ noun basic emergency treatment given to a casualty before proper medical treatment is available

first aid kit /ˈfɜːrst ˈeɪd kɪt/ noun a box or pack containing bandages and dressings for use if someone is hurt or wounded

first dogwatch /ˈfɜːrst ˈdɔŋwɔtʃ/ noun the period of duty from 1600–1800hrs

first lieutenant /ˈfɜːrst ləˈtenənt; US/ˈfɜːst ˈluːˈtenənt/ noun US a junior officer in the army, marines or air force (equivalent of a lieutenant in the British Army)

first light /ˈfɜːrst ˈlaɪt/ noun the time of day when daylight first appears • Be ready to move at first light. • dawn, daybreak

first-line /ˈfɜːrst ˈlaɪn/ adjective relating to resources (e.g. ammunition, fuel, rations) actually carried by the fighting troops, as opposed to those carried by the echelons or stored in dumps or depots • All companies have drawn their first-line ammunition.

First Parade /ˈfɜːrst ˈpɑːrəd/ noun the first daily task for any unit or sub-unit equipped with vehicles, where routine maintenance and daily checks are carried out on each vehicle • He was late for First Parade.

first-parade /ˈfɜːrst ˈpɑːrəd/ verb to carry out the routine tasks of First Parade • Your platoon has not been first-parading its vehicles properly.

first sergeant /ˈfɜːrst ˈsɜːrdʒənt/ noun US a senior non-commissioned officer (SNCO) in the army or marines (normally responsible for administration and discipline within a sub-unit)

first watch /ˈfɜːrst ˈwɔntʃ/ noun the period of duty from 2000–2359hrs

Fishbed /ˈfɪʃbɛd/ noun a NATO name for the Soviet-designed MiG-21 fighter aircraft

fit /fɪt/ adjective physically strong and healthy, especially as a result of taking regular exercise

fitness /ˈfɪtnəs/ noun a person’s physical state

fitter /ˈfɪtər/ noun a vehicle mechanic

fix /fɪks/ verb 1. to mend • He’s trying to fix the radio. 2. to engage or threaten an enemy force (usually from the front) in order to divert his attention, and hold
they should stop shooting messenger indicating to the enemy that by soldiers wishing to surrender, or by a
flag /flæɡ/ noun a square or rectangular piece of fabric attached to a pole, displaying colours or insignia. 1. flag of truce, white flag a white flag displayed by soldiers wishing to surrender, or by a messenger indicating to the enemy that they should stop shooting
flag-captain /flæɡ ,keptn/ noun a captain of a flagship
flag-lieutenant /flæɡ lef'tenənt/ noun the aide-de-camp (ADC) to an admiral
flag-officer /flæɡ ,fɪsə/ noun a naval rank of admiral, vice admiral or rear admiral
flagship /flæɡʃɪp/ noun a warship used as a command vessel by the commander of a fleet or flotilla
flail /flæl/ noun a set of revolving chains attached to the front of a tank or armoured engineer vehicle, designed to clear a way through a minefield by detonating the mines in its path
flak /flæk/ noun anti-aircraft fire
flak jacket /flæk ,dʒeɪkɪt/ noun a vest fitted with panels of synthetic material (e.g. Kevlar) designed to protect a soldier from shrapnel and low-velocity bullets. 1. body armour, bulletproof vest
flame /flæm/ noun burning gas which forms the yellow part of a fire. 2. in flames in the act of burning
flamethrower /flæmθrəʊər/ noun a weapon which squirts a jet of burning liquid at a target
flammable /flæməb(ə)l/ adjective easy to set on fire. Same as inflammable
flank /flæŋk/ noun the left-hand or right-hand side of a military force which is deployed in a defensive position or tactical formation. 1. The army's right flank was exposed.

The enemy tried to flank us on the right. 2. to be positioned next to. 6. Brigade is flanking us on the left. 8. The president stood at the saluting base, flanked by several officers.
flanker /flæŋkər/ noun a soldier, vehicle or sub-unit assigned to guard a formation's flank on the move. 8. B Squadron will provide flankers for the advance.
flanker /flæŋkər/ noun the NATO name for the Soviet-designed SU-27 fighter aircraft
flanking /flæŋkɪŋ/ adjective relating to movement on the enemy's flank
flanking attack /flæŋkɪŋ ə,tæk/ noun an attack on the enemy's flank
flanking movement /flæŋkɪŋ ,mjuv'mənt/ noun a manoeuvre around the enemy's flank
flannelette /flænə'let/ noun a strip of fabric used to clean the barrel of a weapon
flare /flær/ noun a pyrotechnic which emits a bright light in order to improve visibility at night. 2. Flares were dropped over the target zone.
flash /flæʃ/ noun 1. a sudden emission of bright light. 2. We saw a bright flash to the left. 3. a flash of light, a bright light, a bright flash. 4. to produce a brief emission of light. 5. He flashed his torch three times. 6. to send a radio message with the highest priority. 7. We flashed the information to HQ.
flash eliminator /flæʃ ,lɪmɪnətər/ noun perforations at the muzzle of a machine-gun or assault weapon, designed to reduce the flashes produced when firing
flash hood /flæʃ hʊd/ noun a fire-resistant covering for the head and face, worn by sailors in battle to reduce the effects of flash
flashlight /ˈflaɪsl/ noun US a hand-held battery-powered device for producing light.  We used flashlights to attract attention.  torch

flash message, flash signal noun a high priority radio message

flat /flæt/ adjective 1. (of surfaces) completely level 2. (of batteries) without electrical charge  

The battery is flat.  ■ noun a dwelling, consisting of a set of rooms all on one storey of a building  

We’ll have to clear that block of flats.

flèchette /flɛʃət/ noun an anti-personnel projectile in the form of a tiny dart, designed to be released in large numbers by certain types of explosive projectile (especially canister rounds)

flee /flē/ verb to run away from danger  

The civilian population fled into the hills. (NOTE: fleeing – fled)

flee /flē/ verb to run away from danger  

The enemy fleet could be seen on the horizon.

Fleet Air Arm /flɪt ˈeərəm/ noun an air force forming part of the British Royal Navy.  

Admiral.  Abbr FAA

flesh wound /flɛʃ wʊnd/ noun a wound which does not damage a bone or organ

flight /flaɪt/ noun 1. an act of flying  

We were able to observe the flight of the missile.  

The plane exploded in flight.  

2. a journey by air  

The flight to the target area only takes two minutes.  

3. a unit of an air-force squadron  

A small tactical grouping of aircraft  

An administrative air-force grouping of approximately 30 men (equivalent to a platoon in the army)  

An act of running away from danger  

With the flight of the civilian government, all resistance collapsed.

flight control /ˈflaɪt kənˌtrəʊl/ noun 1. the direction of aircraft within a specific airspace  

A unit (usually located on the ground) which directs aircraft within a specific airspace

flight crew /ˈflaɪt kruː/ noun US an aircrew

flight deck /ˈflaɪt dɛk/ noun 1. the deck of an aircraft carrier, used for the take-off and landing of aircraft  

A compartment for the pilot, navigator, etc. on a large aircraft

flight deck officer /ˈflaɪt dɛk, ˈfɪrsə/ noun full form of FDO

flight gear /ˈflaɪt ɡɛər/ noun the clothing and equipment worn by aircrew when they are on a flying mission

flight lieutenan /ˈflaɪt lɪtənt/ noun a middle-level officer in the air force, above flying officer and below squadron leader.  Abbr Flt Lt

flight officer /ˈflaɪt ˌfɜrsə/ noun a female Royal Air Force rank corresponding to flight lieutenant.  Abbr Flt Off

flight path /ˈflaɪt pɑːθ/ noun 1. a course of an aircraft or missile in flight  

A flock of birds flew across our flight path.  

2. a recognized air route  

You will have to avoid all civil flight paths.

flight sergeant /ˈflaɪt ˌseɪdʒənt/ noun a senior non-commissioned officer (SNCO) in the Royal Air Force.  Abbr Flt Sgt

flight simulator /ˈflaɪt ˌsmiːdʒəlɪtraɪ/ noun a computer program which allows a user to pilot a plane, showing a realistic control panel and moving scenes, used as training programme

fling /flɪŋ/ verb to throw  

He flung a couple of grenades into the bunker. (NOTE: flinging – flung)

float /fləʊt/ verb to rest upon the surface of water

Flogger /ˈflɔɡər/ noun a NATO name for the Soviet-designed MiG-23 and MiG-27 fighter aircraft

flood /flɔːd/ noun an overflow of water or other liquid beyond its normal limits  

The region has been affected by floods.  

A verb 1. (of rivers or the sea) to cover dry land with water  

The sea has flooded most of the town.  

2. to cause a flood  

The enemy have flooded the valley.  

3. (of motor engines) to overfill the carburettor with fuel  

The engine is flooded.
flood plain /'flʌd plɛn/ noun a valley bottom which becomes covered by water when the river floods

FLLOT /'flɔtɪl/ abbreviation forward line of own troops

frotilla /'flɔtɪlə/ noun a small group of warships or other vessels ○ He commanded a British flotilla in the Baltic.

flotsam /'flɒtsm/ noun debris or other objects found floating in water

Fit Lt abbreviation flight lieutenant

Fit Off abbreviation flight officer

Fit Sgt abbreviation flight sergeant

fluorescent /'flɔrəs(ə)nt/ adjective (of colours) very bright and highly visible ○ The ground crew wore fluorescent orange jackets.

fly /flai/ verb 1. to move through the air ○ The aircraft were flying towards the coast. 2. to travel by aircraft ○ We flew to Brussels. 3. to transport men or objects by aircraft ○ Reinforcements are being flown into the area. (NOTE: flying – flew – have flown)

flying officer /'flæin jəfɪsə/ noun a junior officer in the air force, below a flight lieutenant. Abbr FO

flyover /'flæɪəʊvər/ noun an embankment and bridge carrying one road over another

flypast /'flæɪpɑːst/ noun an event in which aircraft fly over a certain place as part of a ceremony. Compare march past

flysheet /'flæʃjɪt/ noun the outer-covering of a tent, designed to give extra protection from the weather

FM abbreviation field marshal

fmn abbreviation formation

FN /ef 'en/ noun a series of small arms manufactured the Fabrique Nationale in Belgium. Full form Fabrique Nationale

COMMENT: The British-made GPMG (general purpose machine-gun) and SLR (self-loading rifle) were modified from the original FN designs. However, the FN-FAL has an automatic capability while the SLR is semi-automatic

FN-FAL noun a 7.62mm assault weapon

FN-MAG /,ef 'en ,meɪɡ/ noun a 7.62mm general purpose machine-gun

FN-Minimi noun a 5.56mm light machine-gun

FO abbreviation flying officer

FOB /,ef 'əʊbi/ noun a supply dump (especially of ammunition and fuel) which is located in the battle area. Full form forward operating base

fo'c'sle /'fɔks(ə)/ noun another spelling of forecastle

FOD /foʊdi/ abbreviation foreign object damage

foe /fəʊ/ noun an outdated word for 'enemy'

fog /fɒɡ/ noun a thick cloud of water vapour at ground level, which reduces visibility

fog bank /fɒɡ bæŋk/ noun a mass of fog at sea

fog-bound /fɒɡ bəʊnd/ adjective unable to travel because of fog

foggy /'fɒɡi/ adjective obscured by fog

foghorn /'fɒɡhorn/ noun a noise-making device designed to warn ships in foggy conditions

fog of war /,fɒɡ ɔv 'wɔɹ/ noun a state of confusion on the battlefield owing to smoke, noise and limited information

foliage /'fɒlɪdʒ/ noun a mass of leaves or other vegetation

follow /'fləʊ/ verb 1. to move behind someone or something else ○ Follow that truck – it’s going to the HQ. 2. to pursue ○ We followed the enemy patrol back to their camp. ○ They were too exhausted to follow the enemy into the mountains. 3. (of an event) to come after another event

follow-on force attack /'fləʊ,əʊ nɛn /'fəʊs əˈtɛk/ noun a strategy by which reinforcements are attacked by aircraft and missiles as they are moving towards the battle area

follow-on forces /'fləʊ,əʊ nɛn /'fəʊs əˈsɛrz/ plural noun subsequent waves of an advancing force, which are in a position to reinforce the leading elements or take
follow through 100

over the lead when required. We will attack the enemy's follow-on forces with aircraft and missiles.

follow through /'flɔ:lu ˈθruː/ verb to continue an action to its finish. The enemy were able to counter-attack because the assault was not followed through.

follow up /ˈflɔ:lu ˈʌp/ verb to take further action. We followed up the attack by shelling the enemy as they withdrew.

galley /ˈflæli/ noun 1. a stupid action. To attack now would just be folly. 2. an ornamental building (in a park or garden). There was a sniper in the folly.

FOO abbreviation forward observation officer

foot /fʊt/ noun 1. part of the body on which a person or animal walks. On foot not in a vehicle. 2. a unit of linear measurement corresponding to 12 inches or 30.48 centimetres. (Note: The plural of foot is feet.) 3. the foot. Foot soldiers the infantry (historical)

footbridge /ˈfʊtbrɪdʒ/ noun a small bridge designed for pedestrians (i.e. not suitable for vehicles)

foothold /ˈfʊθhɔuld/ noun the capture of a small area of enemy territory, which can be used as a base for mounting or supporting further attacks. We have gained a foothold on the enemy position.

foothold line /ˈfʊθhɔuld ˈlɪn/ noun a tactical manoeuvre carried out under fire, in which men or vehicles withdraw to form an extended line out of direct enemy fire, prior to breaking contact or redeploying. Compare baseline

foot march /ˈfʊt ˈmɑːtʃ/ noun an organized journey along roads or across country by soldiers on foot.

-FOE /ˈfɔ:ri/ noun a suffix meaning Force, used in the titles of contingents engaged in international peacekeeping operations.

forage /ˈfɔrɪdʒ/ verb to search for food. To live off the land.

Comment: Foraging usually refers to the act of taking food from the civilian population without paying for it.

forage cap /ˈfɔrɪdʒ kæp/ noun a peaked military head-dress with a flat top (usually worn in barracks or on parade)

foray /ˈfɔrə/ noun an operation into enemy territory (usually a raid or reconnaissance). He was wounded on a foray behind the enemy lines. (Note: The verb form is to make a foray.)

force /fɔːs/ noun 1. the use of physical strength. We had to use force to remove the protesters. 2. a military power. If diplomacy fails, we will have to consider using force. 3. an unspecified military grouping. A large force of tanks is heading this way. 4. the forces a general title for army, navy and air force. The forces are expected to receive a pay increase in the new year. Verb 1. to make someone do something against his/her will. The enemy forced the captured soldiers to tell them where their commander was. 2. to achieve something with the use of strength or great effort. They forced their way through the crowd. 3. to break a lock or fastening. The window has been forced.

forced landing /ˈfɔːst ˈlændɪŋ/ noun an emergency landing made by an aircraft on unprepared ground. We had to make a forced landing in a potato field.

forced march /ˈfɔːst ˈmɑːtʃ/ noun movement by infantry over a long distance on foot. A series of forced marches enabled us to reach the Danube in four days.

force flow /fɔːs fʊl/ noun the movement and number of troops and logistics of moving them by land, sea, and air into or out of a theatre of operations or a deployment zone.

force multiplier /fɔːs ˈmʌltɪplaɪər/ noun any activity or equipment which increases the combat effectiveness of a military grouping without actually increasing its firepower (such as engineer support, electronic warfare, deception, surprise).

force-orientated mission /ˌfɔːs əˈrɪəntətɪd ˈmɪʃən/ noun a mission
with the principal aim of destroying enemy forces

**force projection** /fɔ:s prə'dʒekʃən/ noun the process of identifying and planning for possible future operations

**forces of occupation** /fɔrks əv 'nkjərəl/ plural noun military forces which occupy territory belonging to another state

**ford** /fɔrd/ noun a place on a river or stream where the water is shallow enough for men to wade across or for vehicles to drive through. a verb to cross a river or stream by wading or driving through the water

**forecast** /fɔrˈkɑːst/ noun a statement of what is likely to happen in the near future, especially of what the weather will be like in the next few days

**forecastle** /'foʊkəsl/ noun the forward part of a ship. Also called *fo'c'sle*.

**foreign** /fɔr'n/ adjective 1. belonging to or coming from another country 2. coming from outside. *He had a foreign object in his eye.*

**foreign aid** /fɔrnər 'eid/ noun assistance in the form of money, food or other necessities, provided by one nation to another in times of trouble

**foreigner** /fɔrnər/ noun a person who comes from another country. *alien, foreign national*

**Foreign Legion** /fɔr'n ɪˈlɪdʒən/ noun a force of foreign volunteers serving in a state's army (such as the French Foreign Legion or the Spanish Foreign Legion)

**foreign national** /fɔrnər 'neɪʃənl/ noun a person who is a citizen of another country. *alien, foreigner*

**foreign object damage** /fɔrnər ˈbaɪdʒekt 'dɛmədʒ/ noun damage to a jet aircraft caused by an object being sucked into the air intakes. Abbr FOD

**foreign occupation** /fɔrns ək'ʃən/ noun the occupation of territory by military forces of another state

**forenoon watch** /fɔrnən wɔtʃ/ noun the period of duty from 0800–1200hrs

**forest** /fɔrst/ noun a very large area of woodland

**Forger** /fɔrdʒər/ noun a NATO name for the Soviet-designed YAK-38 fighter aircraft

**fork** /fork/ noun a place where a single road divides into two. *Y-junction*

**formation** /fɔr'mæʃən/ noun 1. arrangement of aircraft, ships, troops or vehicles for movement or tactical purposes. *The tanks were moving in formation.* 2. a military grouping. *Several large enemy formations have crossed the river.* 3. a grouping. *He was posted to a different formation.*

**forming-up point** /fɔr'mɪŋ-əp pɔɪnt/ noun a place where soldiers or vehicles of a grouping get into tactical formation before commencing the next phase of an operation. Abbr FUP

**form up** /fɔrm əp/ verb to get into tactical formation prior to commencing the next phase of an operation

**fort** /fɔrt/ noun a small fortified building. *The rebels are based in hill forts to the north of the capital.*

**fortify** /fɔr'taɪ/ verb to prepare buildings or ground for defence. *He was put in charge of the fortification of the town.*

**fortification** /fɔrtɪfaɪ/ noun 1. an act of preparing buildings or ground for defence. *He was put in charge of the fortification of the town.* 2. an earthwork, structure or obstacle prepared for defensive purposes. *There is a strong line of fortifications along the coast.*

**fortress** /fɔrtres/ noun a fortified place or town. *They retreated to a fortress overlooking the Danube.*

**forward** /fɔrward/ adverb 1. straight ahead. *The tank moved forward slowly.* 2. beyond. *The OP was deployed forward of the main position.* 3. to the front line. *The battalion is moving forward tonight.*

**forward positions** /fɔrward pəˈzɪʃənz/ noun the forward positions were under fire for several hours.
forward air controller /ˌfoʊˈwɑrd ˈɛə kənˈtroʊl/ noun an air-force or artillery officer or NCO operating from an aircraft or attached to ground troops in order to direct close air support. Abbr FAC

forward area /ˌfoʊˈwɑrd ˈɛəriəl/ noun an area occupied by troops who are close to or in contact with the enemy. Everyone had to wear body armour in close to or in contact with the enemy.

forward armament and refuelling point /ˌfoʊˈwɑrd ərˈmənt ənd rɛˈfjuːlŋ ,pɔɪnt/ noun US full form of FAARP

forward defence /ˌfoʊˈwɑrd dɪˈfɛns/ noun the NATO doctrine of stopping an invasion as close to the border as possible

forward edge of the battle area, forward line of own troops noun a line formed by the positions of friendly forces which are closest to the enemy.

forward observation officer, forward observer noun an artillery officer or NCO attached to an infantry or armoured unit, or operating from an aircraft in order to direct artillery fire. A spotter. Abbr FOO

forward operating base /ˌfoʊˈwɑrd əˈpɜrətɪŋ ,bɛs/ noun full form of FOB

forward slope /ˌfoʊˈwɑrd ˈslaʊp/ noun the side of a hill which is facing the enemy. The enemy are dug in on the forward slope.

four-star general /ˈfɔːstɑr/ noun a general

Fox /fɒks/ noun a British-designed wheeled armoured reconnaissance vehicle (CVR)

Foxbat /fɒksˈbet/ noun a NATO name for the Soviet-designed MiG-25 fighter aircraft

foxhole /ˈfɒkʊrl/ noun US a hole in the ground used by infantrymen as a fire position and as shelter from enemy fire. (Note: The British English term is fire trench.)

Foxhound /ˈfɒkshaʊnd/ noun a NATO name for the Soviet-designed MiG-31 interceptor aircraft

Foxtrot /ˈfɒkstrɒt/ noun the sixth letter of the phonetic alphabet (Fi)

FPF /ˌɛf ˈpiː/ noun a pre-determined artillery target, registered on or just in front of your own position, as a final defensive measure in the event of being overrun by the enemy. The company commander called for his FPF. Full form final protective fire

frag /f्रæɡ/ verb US to deliberately wound an unpopular or unreliable comrade, while giving the appearance that he was hit by enemy fire. (slang) The sergeant was fragged by his own men. (Note: This word is derived from fragmentation grenade, a common means of fragging in Vietnam.)

fragment /ˈfræɡmənt/ noun a piece which has broken off an object. He was hit by fragments from a shell. A verb to break up into separate parts. The minefields will force the enemy formations to fragment.

fragmentary plan /ˈfræɡməntəri ˈplæn/ noun full form of FRAGPLAN

fragmentation grenade /ˈfræɡməntəʃən grəndə/ noun an anti-personnel grenade designed to explode into fragments

fragmentation mine /ˈfræɡməntəʃən miːn/ noun an anti-personnel mine which is designed to explode into fragments

fragment of an order /ˈfræɡmənt əv an ˈɔrdər/ noun full form of FRAGO

FRAGO /ˈfræɡəʊ/ noun US an amendment to parts of a set of orders. Full form fragment of an order

FRAGPLAN /ˈfræɡplæn/ noun US a list of actions for dealing with different contingencies which might occur during the course of an operation. Full form fragmentary plan

fraternization /ˌfrɛrəˈnætʃən/ noun an act of fraternizing. Fraternization with civilians is prohibited.
fraternize /ˈfretənəraɪz/, fraternise verb to be friendly towards enemy troops or enemy civilians ♦ We aren’t allowed to fraternize with the local population.

fraticide /ˈfretəsidaɪ/ noun casualties caused by friendly units firing on each other in error. ♦ friendly fire freddy /fred/ noun a fighter controller (slang) ♦ My freddy is on leave.

free /fri/ adjective 1. not in custody or under another person’s domination ♦ The hostages are now free. 2. unrestricted ♦ not engaged in any other activity ♦ I am free at the moment. ♦ verb to release someone from custody ♦ The hostages have been freed.

freedom /ˈfriːdəm/ noun a state of being free

freedom-fighter /ˈfriːdəm, ˈfɑːtə/ noun a person who uses armed force to resist foreign domination or the established government

free-fall /frɪː/ noun a method of opening a parachute, where the parachutist descends some distance through the air before pulling a rip-cord. Compare static line. ♦ HALO

free fire zone /friː/ noun an area of ground in which any person or vehicle should be considered hostile and may therefore be shot at

free rocket over-ground /friː/ rocket over-ground /ˈfrɒkətəvərˈɡraʊnd/ noun full form of FROG

Freestyle /ˈfrɪstəl/ noun a NATO name for the Soviet-designed YAK-41 fighter aircraft

freight /friːt/ noun goods or supplies carried by an aircraft, vehicle or train. Compare cargo

frenzy /ˈfrenzɪ/ adjective the target has not been destroyed (forward air controller jargon) ♦ Hello Cowboy this is G33, frenzy, frenzy, over.

frequency /ˈfriːkwənsi/ noun a radio setting (NOTE: The plural form is frequencies.)

FROG /ˌfroʊɡ/ noun a guided missile to fire baton rounds. Full form federal riot gun

friction /ˈfrɪkʃən/ noun the disruptive effect of unforeseen factors upon the execution of a plan

friendly /ˈfrendli/ adjective on the same side in a conflict or war (i.e. not enemy)

friendly fire /ˈfrendli ˈfaɪə/ noun an incident where friendly forces fire on their own troops or vehicles by mistake ♦ He was killed by friendly fire. Also called blue on blue. ♦ fratricide

friendly forces /ˈfrendli ˈfɔːzas/ plural noun your own forces or the forces of your allies (i.e. not the enemy). Compare enemy

frigate /ˈfrɪɡeɪt/ noun a medium-sized warship used to escort other ships or to carry out missions on its own.

Frigate /ˈfrɪɡeɪt/ noun a NATO name for Soviet-designed ballistic tactical surface-to-surface missile. Full form free rocket over-ground

Frogfoot /ˈfrɒɡfʊt/ noun a NATO name for the Soviet-designed SU-25 ground-attack aircraft

frogman /ˈfrɒɡmɑːn/ noun a person equipped with special clothing and breathing apparatus in order to operate underwater ♦ Naval frogmen attached mines to the ship’s hull. ♦ diver (NOTE: The plural form is frogmen.)

front /frent/ noun 1. the forward edge or forward part of something ♦ He aimed at the front of the tank. 2. a zone occupied by military forces which are fighting or preparing to fight the enemy ♦ We are moving up to the front tonight. ♦ The Germans are now fighting on two fronts. ♦ He was drafted into the army and immediately sent to the front. ♦ We attacked the enemy along a wide front. ♦ forward area

frontage /ˈfrɔntɪdʒ/ noun the distance along the front of a tactical formation or defensive position ♦ The brigade advanced on a wide frontage.
frontal /ˈfrant(ə)l/ adjective towards the front of something
frontal attack /ˈfrant(ə)l əˈtæk/ noun an attack on the front of an enemy position (as opposed to the flank)
frontier /ˈfrantɪər/ noun a region on the border between two states
front line /ˈfrant ləin/ noun the forward positions of an army at the front
frontal 104

fuel-air explosive /ˈfjuəl əˈtək ˈsplɔʊstrə juːn/ a munition containing a highly inflammable substance (such as ethylene oxide) which is delivered over a target as a cloud of vapour and then detonated, producing a powerful blast, intense heat, and depriving persons in the target area of oxygen. Abbr FAE

fuel tanker /ˈfjuəl ˈteŋkər, ˈfjuəl ˈtrʌk/ noun a large road vehicle designed to carry petrol

Fulcrum /ˈfʊlkrʌm/ noun a NATO name for the Soviet-designed MiG-29 fighter aircraft

 Fuller’s earth /ˈfʊləz ˈɛrə/ noun hydrous aluminium silicate powder, which is used to decontaminate things after a chemical attack

full military nomenclature /ˈfʊlˌmɪliəri ˈnəʊməklətər/ noun US an official identifying code designation stamped on pieces of military equipment

fumigate /ˈfjuːmɪɡeɪt/ verb to disinfect or kill insects with smoke or chemical vapour o The MO ordered us to fumigate the tents.

funnel /ˈfʌn(ə)l/ noun a chimney for a ship’s engine

FUP abbreviation forming-up point

furlough /ˈfɜrloʊ/ noun US permission to be absent from your unit for a specific period (NOTE: The British English term is leave.)

furze /ˈfɜːz/ noun in Ireland, a bush with spiked leaves and yellow flowers (NOTE: The British English term is gorse.)

fuse /ˈfjuːz/ noun 1. a length of fast-burning cord which is lit from a safe distance in order to activate an explosive device. 2. a component designed to detonate a bomb, shell or other explosive device on impact or after a specific period. 3. a component designed to prevent serious damage or fire, by safely burning out when an excessive electrical charge passes through it
fuselage /'fjuːzəlɑː/ noun the main body of an aircraft

fusilier /'fjuːzəlɪə/ noun US spelling of fusilier

fusillade /'fjuːzəlɪd/ noun (historical) 1. an infantryman armed with a light musket (called a "fusil") 2. the title of a normal infantryman in a grenadier regiment

COMMENT: Many infantry regiments still retain their historical title of Fusiliers.

fuze noun US spelling of fuse

FV-432 noun same as AFV-432

fwd abbreviation forward
GOLF - Gg

G1 /dʒiː/ 'wʌn/ noun the department of a headquarters responsible for personnel
G2 /dʒiː/ 'tjuː/ noun the department of a headquarters responsible for intelligence
G3 /dʒiː/ ˈθɜːrɪs/ noun the department of a headquarters responsible for operations and training
G4 /dʒiː/ ˈfɜːs/ noun the department of a headquarters responsible for operations and training
GA /dʒiː/ 'eɪ/ noun a type of nerve agent. Full form dimethylaminoethoxycyanophosphine oxide. Also called Tabun
G-agent /dʒiː, 'ɛdʒənt/ noun a non-persistent nerve agent
Gain /ɡeɪn/ noun an achievement or result ○ We lost all our gains next day when the enemy counterattacked. ■ verb to achieve something ○ We have gained most of our objectives. ■ to gain ground to move forwards ○ We have gained a lot of ground since yesterday. ○ After the battle we found we had only gained 200m.
Gainful /'ɡeɪnful/ noun an SA-6, Soviet-designed low to medium altitude surface-to-air missile (SAM)
Gailer /'ɡeɪlə/ noun a garment of fabric or leather, which is worn over the ankle and lower leg in order to keep your trousers dry and to prevent small stones and other objects going into your boots ○ The soldiers wore white belts and gaiters.
Gale /ɡeɪl/ noun a very strong wind
gallantry /ˈɡæləntrɪ/ noun bravery
gallery range /ˈɡæləri řɛndʒ/ noun a formal shooting range, consisting of a firing point, where several people can shoot side by side, and the butts, where targets are positioned
Galley /ˈɡeɪli/ noun a cabin or compartment on an aircraft or ship where food is prepared
Gallon /ˈɡælɔn/ noun a unit of measurement for liquids
COMMENT: In Britain one gallon (the imperial gallon) equals 4.546 litres; in the USA, a gallon equals 3.78 litres.
Gammon /ˈgæmən/ noun an SA-5, Soviet-designed long-range surface-to-air missile (SAM)
Ganef /ˈɡænəf/ noun an SA-4, Soviet-designed medium to high altitude radar-guided surface-to-air missile (SAM)
Gang /ˈɡæŋ/ noun a group of people who act together for some illegal purpose ○ Gangs of youths have been looting the town centre.
gangrene /ˈɡæŋɡriːn/ noun a condition where tissues die and decay as a result of bacterial action, because the blood supply has been lost through injury or disease of an artery
Gap /ɡæp/ noun an interval or space ○ He went through a gap in the fence. ○ There are large gaps between our positions.
Garden /ˈɡɑːrd(ə)n/ noun an area of ground (usually next to or surrounding a house) used for the growing of flowers and plants or fruit and vegetables
Garrison /ˈgɑːrs(ə)n/ noun troops who occupy a fortress or town in order to defend it ○ the garrison commander ○ The garrison held out for three weeks. ■ verb to occupy a fortress or town with troops in order to defend it ○ The general garrisoned the town with troops loyal to the president. ○ The troops garri-
soned in the town complained about the lack of amenities.

**garrison town** /ˈɡærstən/ noun a town in which troops are permanently stationed

**gas** /ɡæs/ noun 1. a substance which behaves like air by completely filling the space which it occupies 2. a chemical weapon in the form of gas, used to irritate the skin, to blind, to choke or to kill ◦ The president launched gas attacks on the civilian population. ◦ Gas! Gas! a verbal alarm given for a chemical attack 3. gas used as a fuel (such as butane) 4. US gasoline or petrol [informal] ◦ We are out of gas. ◦ verb to use poisonous gas as a weapon ◦ He was gassed during the war.

**gas gangrene** /ˈɡæs ˈɡæŋgrɪn/ noun a complication of severe wounds in which the bacterium *Clostridium welchii* breeds in the wound and then spreads to healthy tissue, which is rapidly decomposed with the formation of gas

**Gaskin** /ˈɡæskɪn/ noun an SA-9, Soviet-designed low-altitude surface-to-air missile (SAM), normally issued to motor rifle and tank regiments, and used in conjunction with the ZSU-23 anti-aircraft cannon

**gas mask** /ˈɡæs mɑːsk/ noun a protective face-covering containing an apparatus to filter air ◦ respirator

**gasoline** /ˈɡæsəlɪn/ noun US a liquid fuel made from petroleum, used by motor vehicles (NOTE: The British English term is *petrol*; in many other languages it is *benzin.*)

**gate** /ˈgæt/ noun a barrier which can be opened and closed in order to allow access through a fence ◦ Gatling gun /ˈɡætlɪŋ ˈɡæn/ noun a machine-gun with a cluster of barrels, which revolves in order to fire

**Gazelle** /ˈɡæzəl/ noun a French-designed and British-made reconnaissance helicopter

**GB** /dʒiː/ noun a type of nerve agent. Full form *methylisopropoxy-fluorophosphine oxide*. Also called Sarin

**GCI** /ˈɡeɪʃi/ noun 1. a pre-selected position that a unit or sub-unit will deploy to in the event of conflict 2. a ground-based radar 3. We destroyed a GCI site.

**GCT** /ˈɡeɪʃi t/ noun 1. a chemical weapon in the form of gas, used to kill ◦ fluorophosphine oxide

**GD** /dʒiː/ noun 1. a type of nerve agent. Full form *methylisopropoxy-fluorophosphine oxide*. Also called Soman

**GDP** abbreviation general deployment position

**Gds** abbreviation Guards

**Gdsman** abbreviation guardsman

**Gecko** /ˈɡekəʊ/ noun an SA-8, Soviet-designed low altitude surface-to-air missile (SAM)

**Geiger counter** /ˈɡɛɡə kʌntə/ noun an instrument for measuring levels of radiation

**Gen** abbreviation general

**general** /ˈdʒenərəl/ adjective 1. not restricted, not specialized ◦ This is a general warning to all base personnel. 2. common to everyone or everything ◦ noun 1. a senior army commander (not necessarily holding the rank of general) ◦ Napoleon was one of the greatest generals in history. 2. US a senior rank in the British army or marines

**general cease-fire** /ˈdʒenərəl ˈsiːfər/ noun a cease-fire observed by all participants in a war or armed conflict

**general deployment position** /ˈdʒenərəl ˈdiːpləmɑːnt/ noun a pre-selected position that a unit or sub-unit will deploy to in the event of war. Abbr GDP

**general headquarters** /ˈdʒenərəlˈhɛdərkwɔːtəz/ plural noun the headquarters of an army commander. Abbr GHQ

**general officer commanding** /ˈdʒenərəl ˈoʊfɪsər kəˈmɜːndɪŋ/ noun

**GBU-15** /dʒiː biː juː ˈfɜːtiːnm/ noun an American-designed glide bomb

**GBU-43/B** noun a huge aerial bomb weighing 9,500 kg which explodes above ground level. It is mainly designed to clear trees and vegetation for a helicopter landing zone. Also called MOAB

**GCI** /ˈɡeɪʃi iː siː/ noun a ground-based radar. We destroyed a GCI site. Full form ground controlled interception

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general of the air force /dʒenər(ə)l əv dəˈtэק tʃəs/ noun the top rank in the US Air Force (equivalent to the British marshal of the RAF), Abbr Gen

general of the army /dʒenər(ə)l əv dʒiˈartɪ/ noun the top rank in the US Army (equivalent to a British field-marshalmal)
general purpose /dʒenər(ə)l pərˈpjuːs/ adjective suitable for a variety of different uses, Abbr GP

general purpose bomb /dʒenər(ə)l bəm ˈbɒm/ noun a bomb which is simply dropped onto a target by an aircraft. Also called GP bomb, ballistic bomb, iron bomb

general purpose machine-gun /dʒenər(ə)l ˈməʃiŋ ɡən/ noun a medium-sized machine-gun which can be used for a variety of roles (such as air defence, infantry weapon, sustained fire (SF), vehicle armament, etc.)

1. a British-made 7.62mm machine-gun modified from the Belgian-designed FN-MAG ➔ abbr GPMG

g general staff /dʒenər(ə)l stəf/ noun a staff which has supreme control over a state’s armed forces

generator /dженərэстəl/ noun a machine designed for producing electricity

generic planning /dʒiˈnɛrɪk/ ˈplenɪŋ/ noun making plans for future operations where various elements have still to be identified

Geneva Convention /dʒiˈni:və kən ˈvенəfən/ noun an international agreement concerning the conduct of military personnel in war, and dealing with subjects such as treatment of prisoners, care of the wounded, protection of civilian lives and property, etc.
genocide /dʒiˈni:oʊsi/ noun the large-scale killing of people of a specific nationality, ethnic background or sectarian group

Gepard /ˈgeɪpərd/ noun a German-designed self-propelled anti-aircraft gun
germ /dʒɜrm/ noun a bacterium or virus which causes a disease
germ warfare /dʒɜrm ˈwɔːfər/ noun biological warfare

ghetto /ˈgetəʊ/ noun the part of a city (usually with poor housing), which is predominantly occupied by an ethnic or sectarian minority
ghillie /ˈhɪli suːt/, gillie suit noun a camouflage suit worn by a sniper, consisting of a set of khaki overalls with large quantities of scrim sewn onto it, in order to break up the outline of his body

GHQ abbreviation general headquarters

GI /dʒiː, ˈgaiː/ 'gэй/ noun an American soldier (informal) (NOTE: The plural form is Gis /dʒiːz/ 'gэйзиː/)

Giant Viper /dʒaɪənt ˈvaɪpər/ noun an apparatus for clearing a lane through a minefield, consisting of a long length of flexible tube filled with explosive, which is fired into the minefield by means of a rocket, and then detonated. ➔ We require Giant Viper at grid 449659.

GMC abbreviation general motor corps

GMC abbreviation general motor corps

gimpy /ˈdʒɪmpi/ noun a general purpose-machine-gun (GPMG) (slang)

gipsy /dʒɪpsɪ/ noun a member of an ethnic group of people who traditionally lead a nomadic lifestyle throughout Europe and the Near East (NOTE: The plural form is gipsies or gypsies.)

COMMENT: The word gipsy is considered by many people to be derogatory. A more acceptable alternative these days is traveller.
give in /ˈgɪv ˈɪn/ verb to admit that you have been beaten. ➔ Groups of snipers are still refusing to give in.
give up /ˈgɪv ˈʌp/ verb 1. to hand something over. ➔ We gave their weapons without a fight. ➔ During our attack they gave up several kilometres of territory. 2. to admit you cannot do something. ➔ After trying for six
achine (SAM)
glen /glen/ noun in Scotland and Ireland, a valley in the mountains
glide bomb /gloid bord/ noun an aerodynamic bomb which is released by an aircraft several kilometres from its target and which then makes a ballistic descent to the target controlled by a guidance system
glide path /gloid paθ/ noun a path which an aircraft follows as it comes down from its cruising altitude in to land
glider /gloidə/ noun an aircraft without an engine, which is used to land troops and is normally towed to the landing zone by a powered aircraft

Global

Global Positioning System /gloʊbəs ˈsɪstəm/ noun a satellite navigation system. Abbr GPS
Globemaster /gloʊbˈmɑːstər/ noun, C-17
glory /ˈɡlɔːri/ noun fame and honour as a result of a great achievement (such as winning a battle)

GP

go firm /ˈɡɔː fəm/ verb to stop moving and take up a position of defence. The platoon went firm on the edge of the wood. (NOTE: going – went – have gone)
goggles /ˈɡɒzlz/ plural noun spectacles with plain glass lenses, for protecting the eyes from dust, rain, wind, etc. He was wearing goggles.
going /ˈɡɔʊŋ/ noun conditions for movement (such as the state of the ground, effects of enemy fire, amount of traffic, etc.) The going was extremely difficult.

Golf /ɡɔlf/ noun the seventh letter of the phonetic alphabet (G)
gong /ˈɡɒŋ/ noun a medal (slang)
goose-egg /ˈɡʊs ˈɛɡ/ noun a tactical map-marking symbol for a defended locality, consisting of a circle or oval, intersected by a symbol for the size of grouping which occupies the locality. You’ve marked B Company’s goose-egg on the wrong hill.
goose-step /ˈɡʊs ˈstɛp/ noun a style of ceremonial marching, with raised steps in which the leg is kept straight verb to march with the legs kept straight. The guards goose-stepped past the President’s tomb.

Gopher /ˈɡɒfər/ noun an SA-13, Soviet-designed surface-to-air missile, usually attached to armoured and mechanized groupings

Gorge /ˈɡɔrdʒ/ noun a deep and narrow valley (usually with rocky sides)
gorse /ˈɡɔrs/ noun a bush with spiked leaves and yellow flowers (NOTE: The Irish English term is furze)

Gortex /ˈɡɔrˌtɛks/ trademark a trademark for a type of waterproof material which allows condensation produced by a person’s body to escape through it

government /ˈɡʌvərnmənt/ noun an official body of people who control all the activities of the state. The government is sending a task force to the area. Abbr Govt

Govt abbreviation government
GP abbreviation general purpose
GP bomb 110

GP bomb /'dʒiː/ noun same as general purpose bomb

Gp Capt abbreviation group captain

GPMG abbreviation general purpose machine-gun

GPO /'dʒiː/ pi: 'jʊ/ noun an officer in charge of the guns of an artillery battery when they are deployed on the gun line. Full form gun position officer

COMMENT: The gun position officer (GPO) normally accompanies the commander of the battle group which he is supporting.

GPS abbreviation Global Positioning System

GR-7 /'dʒiː/ a: 'sɛvə/ noun Harrier grade /'ɡreɪd/ noun a level of proficiency, quality, rank, etc.

gradient /'ɡreɪdɪənt/ noun the steepness of a slope

COMMENT: A gradient is usually measured as a ratio, such as 1:4 (say 'one in four').

Gremlin /'ɡreɪml/ noun an SA-7, Soviet-designed hand-held optically-tracked surface-to-air missile (SAM)

grain /'ɡreɪn/ noun 1. the edible seeds from cereal plants such as barley, maize, oats or wheat  
2. a predominant direction in which the high ground and rivers of a region run (thereby affecting the direction of routes)  
3. We'll have the disadvantage of advancing across the grain of the country  
4. cross-grain

grappling-hook /'ɡreɪplɪŋ.hɔk/ noun a metal hook with three or more prongs, which is attached to a rope, and can be used as an aid to climbing or to catch and drag an object (especially one floating in water)  
5. We used a grappling-hook to get over the wall.

graticule /'ɡrætɪkjuːl/ noun one of a number of fine lines visible in the lens of an optical instrument, as an aid to measuring distance or sighting objects

grave /'ɡreɪv/ adjective serious or threatening  

noun a hole in the ground, in which a dead body is buried  
6. They discovered the bodies of women and children buried in shallow graves.

COMMENT: For reasons of hygiene and logistics, soldiers killed in action are usually buried in temporary graves on or close to the battlefield, until such a time as the bodies can be returned home to relatives or, alternatively, reburied in a proper military cemetery.

Graves Registration Unit /'ɡreɪvz.rɪstrəʃnjuːt/ a unit responsible for recording the location of temporary graves in wartime

graveyard /'ɡreɪvərˈjɑːd/ noun an area of ground containing graves  
7. cemetery, churchyard

Green Berets /'ɡreɪn bərɪts/ plural noun an American special forces unit; British marines; US Army airborne special forces organization. Compare Blue Berets, red berets

Greenwich Mean Time /ˌɡriːnɪtʃ 'miːnt/ noun the local time on the meridian at Greenwich, London, used to calculate international time. Abbr GMT

COMMENT: Greenwich Mean Time is used by NATO forces on operations and is referred to as Zulu time.

Gremlin /'ɡreɪml/ noun an imaginary goblin who is blamed for unexplained mechanical failures in aircraft (informal)  
8. There must be a gremlin at work in this plane!

Gremlin /'ɡreɪml/ noun an SA-14, Soviet-designed hand-held surface-to-air missile (SAM)

grenade /'ɡrænd/ noun a small bomb designed to be thrown by hand

grenade launcher /'ɡrændər lənʃər/ noun a gun designed to fire small explosive projectiles
grenade necklace /'ɡrɛndə nekləs/ noun an improvised booby trap, consisting of a series of grenades which are secured to trees or other firm objects, with trip-wires attached to the safety-pins

grenadier /'ɡrɛndərə/ noun an elite infantryman (historical)

grid /grɪd/ noun 1. a system of numbered squares printed on a map in order to produce references to particular points 2. a grid reference: 'Hello 2, this is 22, request recovery at grid 559321', over: 'The bridge is at grid 423019'. 3. a framework of spaced parallel bars designed to prevent entry. The entrance to the tunnel was protected by a metal grid.

grid bearing /'grɪd beərɪŋ/ noun a bearing obtained from a map using a protractor

grid north /ˈgrɪd nɔːt/ noun north as shown on a map. Compare magnetic north

grid reference /ˈgrɪd ˈrefərəns/ noun a six-figure or eight-figure reference, obtained from the coordinates of a map grid, used to denote an exact location on the map. The grid reference for the church is 656364. Also called map reference

grid square /ˈgrɪd skwɛə/ noun a segment of a map grid formed by two eastings and two northings, normally showing an area of one square kilometre. (Note: The horizontal lines of a map grid and their coordinates are known as northings, while the vertical lines and their coordinates are known as eastings.)

Gripen /ˈɡriːpən/ noun Saab-39

groom /grʊm/ noun a person who looks after a horse

ground /ground/ noun the surface of the earth © to give ground to withdraw © the enemy was forced to give ground © to stop an aircraft from flying © The squadron was grounded by fog © 2. to stop a pilot or member of an aircrew from flying © He was grounded until the investigation was completed.

ground attack /ˈɡrɔund æ,tæk/ noun an attack by aircraft on a target on the ground

ground component noun all ground forces, including marines (which are actually part of the navy)

ground controlled interception /ˈɡrɔund kan,traʊld ,ˈmaɪnitʃən/ noun full form of GCI

ground crew /ˈɡrɔund kruː/ noun air force personnel who maintain an aircraft, but do not fly in it

ground forces /ˈɡrɔund fɔrəs/ plural noun military forces which operate on the ground, such as armour, artillery, engineers, infantry, etc. Also called land forces

ground of tactical importance /ˈɡrɔund av ,ˈtektɪk(ə)l impəˈtʃənz/ noun an area of ground which, if captured by the enemy, could seriously affect a unit or sub-unit’s ability to fulfil its mission. © vital ground

ground personnel /ˈɡrɔund pɜərson/ noun non-flying personnel of an air-force unit

groundsheet /ˈɡrɔundʃiːt/ noun a waterproof sheet which can be spread on the ground or used to construct an improvised shelter. Comment: In many armies, the groundsheets can also be used as a waterproof cape or poncho.

ground staff /ˈɡrɔnd stɑːf/ noun same as ground personnel

ground zero /ˈɡrɔund zərəʊ/ noun a point on the ground directly under the explosion of a nuclear weapon

Group /ɡruːp/ noun 1. a number of people or things which are close together © a group of trees 2. a number of people who work together 3. a division of the air force © to organize people or things into groups © The recruits were grouped into squads.

Group captain /ˈɡruːp ˈkeptɪn/ noun a senior officer in the air force, above a wing commander. Abbreviation: Gp Capt

Grouping /ˈɡruːpɪŋ/ noun 1. a number of people, vehicles or sub-units organized together for a specific role (such as a brigade, company, regiment, squad-
Grumble

ron, etc.) 2. a group of bullet-holes in a target, made by several shots which have been fired in order to test the accuracy of the weapon ○ Your grouping is two inches to the right of the aiming mark.

Grumble ː /græmb(ə)/ noun an SA-10, Soviet-designed medium-range surface-to-air missile (SAM)
grunt ː /grʌnt/ noun US an infantryman ( slang )
guard ː /ɡɑːrd/ noun 1. a person who protects other people or things ○ There are four guards at the front gate. 2. a person who keeps control of prisoners ○ The prisoners managed to kill their guards. 3. a military force assigned to protect other people or things ○ the Changing of the Guard a ceremonial parade in which a detachment of soldiers who are guarding a royal or presidential palace hands over to another detachment 4. a the Guards elite troops, who traditionally guard a monarch or head of state (such as a president) ○ the National Guard US a volunteer force of part-time soldiers, which can be used for home defence or the maintenance of public order, but is not deployed outside the USA ○ verb 1. to show someone the way to a destination ○ Local guides led the soldiers over the mountain pass. 2. written instructions ○ You will find the safety instructions set out in the guide. ○ verb 1. to show someone the way to a destination ○ They tried to find some local men to guide them across the desert. 2. to advise someone how to carry out a task ○ We must be guided by our instructions from HQ.
guided ː /gɑːrdɪd/ adjective equipped with a guidance system or by remote control
guided missile ː /gɑːrdɪd 'mɪsəl/ noun a missile which is directed to its target by a guidance system or by remote control
guided weapon ː /gɑːrdɪd 'weɪpən/ noun a weapon whose projectile is directed to its target by a guidance system or by remote control
Guideline ː /'ɡɔːdlain/ noun an SA-2, Soviet-designed medium-range surface-to-air missile (SAM)
Guild ː /ɡaʊld/ noun an SA-1, Soviet-designed medium-range surface-to-air missile (SAM)
gulf ː /ɡɑːlf/ noun a very large area of sea partly enclosed by land ○ oil exploration in the Gulf of Mexico ○ the Gulf 1. the Persian Gulf ○ I was in the Gulf or I served in the Gulf 2. Gulf War I or Gulf War II ○ (all senses) Desert Storm
Gulf War I ː /ɡɑːfl wɔː ː 'wɔn/ noun the Gulf War of 1990, following the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq
Gulf War II ː /ɡɑːfl wɔː ː 'tus/ noun the war fought in the spring of 2003 against
Iraq by a coalition of US, British, Spanish and other forces

Gulf War Syndrome /ˈɡɔːlf ˈwɔːdɪˈstrɒndəm/ noun the general name for various unexplained medical conditions suffered by servicemen after the first Gulf War of 1991

gually /ˈɡalɪli/ noun a small re-entry

gun /ˈɡʌn/ noun 1. any type of firearm 2. an artillery piece

gunboat /ˈɡʌnboʊt/ noun a small vessel with heavy guns, designed to operate in shallow waters

gunboat diplomacy /ˌɡʌnboʊt ˈdɪpləməsi/ noun political negotiation supported by the threat of military action

gun cotton /ˈɡʌn ,kɒtən/ noun a type of explosive

gun crew /ˈɡʌn kruː/ noun soldiers who operate an artillery piece

gunfire /ˈɡʌnfər/ noun the firing of guns ○ We could hear gunfire in the distance.

gung-ho /ˈɡʌŋ hoʊ/ adjective very eager to take military action (informal) ○ The general is a very gung-ho type.

gun group /ˈɡʌn ɡruːp/ noun an infantry machine-gunner and his loader

gun layer /ˈɡʌn ,lɛrə/ noun a person who aims an artillery piece

gun line /ˈɡʌn laɪn/ noun the fire position of a battery

gunman /ˈɡʌnmən/ noun a person equipped with a firearm for criminal or terrorist purposes

gunner /ˈɡʌnər/ noun 1. an artillery soldier ○ the Gunners the Royal Artillery 2. a private in the artillery. Abbr Gnr 3. a warrant officer or senior non-commissioned officer in charge of a battery on a warship

gunnery /ˈɡʌnəri/ noun the training in and operational use of artillery or large calibre guns

gunnery officer /ˈɡʌnərɪ ,oʊfɪsər/ noun an officer responsible for gunnery within a unit or warship
HOTEL - Hh

H /ɛt/ noun a type of blister agent. Full form 2,2-dichloro-diethyl sulphide. Also called Levenstein Mustard

hack /hæk/ verb 1. to chop or cut with a sharp tool or weapon. They hacked their way through the jungle. 2. to hack into a programme to gain unauthorised access to a computer programme. adverb (forward air controller jargon) minutes before an aircraft fired its weapons system at a target. Hello G33, this is Cowboy, hack three, over.

hackle /hækl(ə)/ noun a cluster of feathers worn in a military head-dress

haemorrhage /ˈheɪmərədʒ/ noun loss of blood from a damaged blood-vessel. verb to suffer from a haemorrhage

hail /heɪl/ noun small round pellets of frozen rain falling to the ground. A hail of bullets. shrapnel heavy small arms or artillery fire. We advanced into a hail of bullets

half-colonel /hɑːf ˈkɔːnl/ noun a lieutenant-colonel

half-track /hɑːf ˈtrækt/ noun an armoured military vehicle with two wheels in front and tracks at the rear

HALO /ˈheɪloʊ/ noun a covert method of deploying troops by parachute: the aircraft flies at a very high altitude in order to avoid detection, and the parachutists then descend a considerable distance through the air before opening their parachutes. Full form high altitude low opening

HALO Trust /ˈheɪloʊ trest/ noun a non-governmental organization (NGO) dedicated to clearing mines after the cessation of an armed conflict

halt /hɔːlt/ noun a temporary stop during a journey. After six hours marching through jungle we decided to call a halt. verb to stop moving (especially as a command). HALT, or I fire! HALT! Who goes there? A traditional challenge given by sentries

hamlet /ˈhæmlət/ noun a very small village

hammock /ˈhæmək/ noun a bed, made from fabric or netting, which is suspended by cords from trees or walls (formerly traditionally used by seamen)

hand /hænd/ noun any member of a ship's crew. All hands to action stations!

handcuff /ˈhændkaʊf/ noun a pair of lockable metal bracelets joined by a short chain, which are used to bind the hands of a prisoner (handcuffs). The policeman produced a pair of handcuffs. verb to secure a prisoner with handcuffs. He was handcuffed and placed in the vehicle. plasticuff

hand-grenade /ˈhænd ˈɡriːnəd/ noun a small bomb designed to be thrown by hand. grenade handguard /ˈhændɡɑːrd/ noun part of an apparatus or machine, which prevents the operator from harming his hands while using it. The handguard is made of wood.

handgun /ˈhændɡæn/ noun a small gun designed to be held in one hand and fired without holding it to the shoulder. pistol, revolver

handle /ˈhænd(ə)/ noun part of an object, which enables it to be carried by hand. The machine-gun has a carrying
handle: verb to operate with the hands. You should wear protective clothing when handling gas canisters.

handset /'hændset/ noun a radio or telephone apparatus containing an ear-piece and mouth piece, which is designed to be held in the hand.

hand-to-hand fighting /hænd 'tænd fætʃ/ close fighting, especially with the bayonet.

hangar /'hæŋər noun a large building for the housing of aircraft.

harass /'hærəs, hə'ræs/ verb to attack again and again in order to disrupt the enemy’s activities.

harassing fire /'hærəsing fər/ a random artillery fire mission directed at a likely area of enemy activity, in order to disturb the enemy’s rest, disrupt his movements and inflict casualties, and so affect his morale.

harbor /'hɑːbər, hɑːbər/ noun, verb US spelling of harbour.

harbour /'hɑːbɔr noun 1. a natural or man-made place where ships can shelter from the weather. The ship was unable to enter the harbour. 2. a secure area in the field, where units can rest and reorganize before starting the next phase of an operation. We set up a harbour in the woods.verb to provide shelter (especially for a deserter or escaped prisoner). He was arrested for harbouiring an escaped prisoner.

hardened aircraft shelter /'hɑːrdənd 'eəkrɑːft 'ʃelə/ noun full form of HAS.

hard-target /'hɑːrd 'tɑːgət/ verb to move across ground in such a way as not to present an easy target to the enemy. We had to hard-target across the square.

harm /'hɑːm/ noun injury or damage. He is safe from harm. Was any harm done to the radio?verb to cause injury or damage. I won’t let you harm the prisoners. It is almost impossible to harm this device.

HARM /'hɑːm/ noun an American-designed air-to-ground anti-radar missile (ARM). Full form high-speed anti-radiation missile.

harmful /'hɑːmf(ə)l/ adjective able to cause harm.

harmless /'hɑrmliəs/ adjective not able to cause harm.

harmonize /'hɑːmənaɪz, hərəˌnaɪz/ verb 1. to make things similar, to standardize operations. 2. to make sure that all guns on an aircraft are aimed at the same target.

harness /'hɑːrnəs/ noun straps which fasten a piece of equipment to a person’s body. His parachute harness was not attached properly.

Harpoon /'hɑːpʊn noun an American-designed anti-ship missile.

Harrier /'hærɪər noun a British-designed fighter aircraft with a vertical take-off capability. Sea Harrier a multirole fighter, designed to operate from aircraft carriers.

Harrier AV-8 /'hærɪər əv 'eɪti noun an American ground-attack variant, designed to operate from aircraft carriers and certain other ships.

Harrier GR-7 /'hærɪər ˈdʒiːət noun a British multirole variant, which is specially useful for ground attack.

HAS /'eɪtʃ es noun a shelter designed to protect an aircraft from artillery, bomb or missile attack. Full form hardened aircraft shelter.

hash marks /'heɪʃ mɑːks plural noun a stripe sewn on US Army uniforms, one for every two years of active duty.

hatch /'hætʃ noun an opening in an aircraft, ship or vehicle, which is fitted with a cover.

haven /'heɪvn noun 1. an old-fashioned word for harbour. 2. a place of safety.

haversack /'heɪvəsæk noun a canvas or webbing bag, carried slung over the shoulder.

havoc /'hævək noun great confusion to cause havoc in, to wreak havoc on to throw something into confusion. Atmospherics wrought havoc on our communications.
Havoc 116

Havoc /ˈhevəsk/ noun the NATO name for the Soviet-designed Mi-28 attack helicopter

Hawkeye /ˈhaʊkwiː/ noun see E-2

hawser /ˈhɔːzər/ noun a thick metal wire or rope used to moor or tow a ship. Also called cable

haybox /ˈheɪboks/ noun an insulated container, designed to keep food hot for several hours. The food was brought up to the position in hayboxes.

hazard /ˈhæzərd/ noun a danger

hazard beacon /ˈhæzərd ˈbeɪkən/ noun a warning beacon indicating that there is some danger to aircraft

haze /ˈheɪz/ noun a reduction in visibility caused by dust or hot air

HCN /ˌɛntʃiːn/ noun a type of blood agent. Also called AC

HD /ˌɛntʃiːd/ noun a type of blister agent. Full form 2,2-dichloro-diethyl sulphide. Also called Distilled Mustard (NOTE: HD is simply a purer form of H (Levinstein Mustard))

HE abbreviation high explosive a projectile or other explosive ordnance containing high explosive. 

head check /ˈhed tʃek/ noun a check to establish that everyone is present. He took a quick head check and found two men missing.

headcount /ˈhedkaʊnt/ noun an act of counting people. The sergeant did a quick headcount.

head-dress /ˈhed dres/ noun a cap or hat worn as part of a uniform

heading /ˈhɛdɪŋ/ noun 1. a direction. We moved on a heading of 3.540 mils. 2. a title at the head of a page or part of a document. He prepared his report under a number of headings.

Head of Mission /ˈhed ə ˈmænɪs/ noun the person in charge of a national or international mission to a particular country. Abbr HOM

headquarters /ˈhedkwaɪəztərz/ plural noun 1. an administrative and command centre of a tactical grouping. 2. the staff of a headquarters. Bridege headquar-
ters are being accommodated in the school. 

heads /hedz/ noun toilets on a ship (or in a naval or marine establishment)

headset /ˈhedset/ noun part of a radio or other audio-equipment, consisting of a set of earphones, sometimes with a microphone attached for speaking, which is worn on the head and is used to listen to transmissions or signals

heads-up /ˈhedz ˈʌp/ noun US notification by a commander to his subordinate commanders, informing them what he is thinking of doing

COMMENT: A heads-up should not be confused with a warning order, which is issued when the commander has definitely decided what he is going to do.

head-up display /ˈhed ˈʌp drɪˈplɛt/ noun full form of HUD

head wind /ˈhed wɪnd/ noun a wind blowing in the opposite direction to that in which an aircraft or ship is travelling

hearts and minds /ˈhɑːts ənd ˈmænɪz/ noun to win the hearts and minds of the population the philosophy of trying to win the support of the civilian population in your area of operations (e.g. by ensuring good behaviour of troops, providing free medical care, assistance to local authorities, entertainment, etc)

heat /hɪt/ noun the state of being hot. 

heat-seeking missile

HEAT /ˈhɪt/ noun an anti-tank projectile with a shaped-charge warhead. Load with HEAT! The tank was destroyed by a HEAT round. Full form

high explosive anti-tank

heat exhaustion /ˈhɪt ɪkˈzəʃn/ noun physical collapse, which is caused by carrying out intense physical activity (e.g. running) in hot weather, and is potentially fatal. We’ve got three cases of heat exhaustion.

heath /ˈhiːθ/ noun an uncultivated area of dry sandy soil, covered with bracken, heather and small bushes

heather /ˈheðə/ noun a low-growing plant with wooden stems and purple
flowers, which covers wide areas of ground on heathland and moorland

**heathland** /ˈhiːθlænd/  noun  terrain consisting mainly of heath

**heath-seeking missile** /ˈhiːθ sɪkɪŋ ˈmɪsɪl/  noun  a missile equipped with a guidance system which homes in on a source of heat (such as the jet pipes of an aircraft engine)

**heave to** /ˈhɛv tjuː/  verb  to bring a ship to a halt (Heave to immediately!  ○ We were ordered to heave to.

**heavy** /ˈhɛvi/  adjective  1. weighing a lot ○ The troops moved through the jungle carrying heavy packs.  2. difficult to lift or support ○ The firing-post is too heavy for one man to carry.  3. intense ○ We came under heavy fire.  4. (of weapons) having a large calibre ○ They moved up heavy artillery.

**Heckler & Koch** /ˈhɛklə ən ˈkoʊk/  noun  a German-designed 7.62mm assault weapon

**hedge** /ˈhɛdʒ, hɛdʒəroʊ/  noun  a fence made of living plants

**height** /ˈhɛrt/  noun  vertical distance from the ground

**heli** abbreviation  helicopter

**HELARM** /ˈhelərm/  noun  the use of attack helicopters in support of ground forces ○ HELARM is available on request.

**helicopter** /ˈhɛlkɪptər/  noun  an aircraft without wings, which obtains its upward lift by means of horizontally rotating blades (known as rotors), which are fitted to the top of the airframe

**heliograph** /ˈhɛliəɡrɑːf/  noun  a signalling device which uses a mirror to produce flashes of sunlight ○ I used my shaving-mirror as a heliograph.

**helipad** /ˈhelɪpæd/  noun  a prepared landing and take-off area for helicopters

**Helfire** /ˈhɛlfɑːr/  noun  an American-designed laser-guided air-to-ground missile

**helm** /hɛlm/  noun  a wheel or bar with which a ship or boat is steered ○ to take the helm to start steering a ship

**helmet** /ˈhɛlmɪt/  noun  a protective head covering

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**helo** /ˈheləʊ/  noun  US  a helicopter (informal)

**hemisphere** /ˈhɛmsfaɪər/  noun  half of the earth's surface

**hemorrhage** /ˈhɛmərɑːdʒ/  noun, verb  US spelling of haemorrhage

**Herc** /hɜːrk/  noun  an informal name for the Hercules C-130 transport aircraft

**Hercules** /ˈhɜːrkjuːlɪz/  noun × C-130

**Her Majesty’s Ship** /ˈhɛr ˈmeɪsɪdɪz ˈʃɪp/  noun  full form of HMS

**hero** /ˈhɪəroʊ/  noun  a man acknowledged by other people to have carried out an act of bravery ○ He was the hero of the battle.

**heroine** /ˈhɪəroʊn/  noun  a woman acknowledged by other people to have carried out an act of bravery ○ The media are calling her a heroine.

**heroism** /ˈhɪəroɪz(ə)m/  noun  bravery in the face of danger

**HESH** /ˈhɛʃ/  noun  an anti-armour warhead which flattens on impact before exploding, thereby creating a shock wave which causes part of the armour’s interior surface to break off and ricochet around the inside of the vehicle ○ Load with HESH! ○ We used HESH to destroy the bunker. Full form high explosive squash-head - spall

**COMMENT: HESH can also be used as a general purpose high explosive round by tanks and other large calibre direct-fire guns.

**hessian** /ˈhɛʃɪən/  noun  a coarse fabric used as camouflage or to make sandbags (NOTE: The American English term is burlap.)

**HET** /ˈhɛt/  noun  US  a large wheeled vehicle designed to carry a tank or other armoured vehicle over long distances by road. Full form heavy equipment transporter - tank transporter

**HF**  abbreviation  high frequency

**H-Hour** /ˈɛtʃ  ˈaʊər/  noun  the time at which an operation is due to begin ○ H-minus-ten ten minutes before H-Hour ○ H-plus-ninety ninety minutes after H-Hour ○ H-minus-three hours three
hide 118

hours before H-hour ¼ H-plus-five
hide /haid/ noun 1. a concealed location where a unit or sub-unit can rest or wait in reserve. B Company is in a hide at grid 221-434. 2. a hiding place used by guerrillas or terrorists to conceal weapons or explosives. There is a weapons hide in the wood. • verb 1. to conceal something: He hid the gun in the attic. 2. to conceal yourself: They were hiding in the cellar. (NOTE: hiding – hid – has hidden)

high altitude low opening /hæt 'elıtı:lu:`oʊəp(ə)nıŋ/ noun full form of HALO

High Command /hæt kə'maʊnd/ noun a senior command organization within a country’s armed forces

higher formation /hæt 'fɪərɪf(ə)nı/ noun a grouping to which a smaller grouping or sub-unit belongs. Your request for a transfer has been passed to the higher formation.

high explosive /hæt 'ekспľɔsrıv/ noun 1. a powerful explosive substance used in bombs, grenades, shells, etc. 2. a bomb or projectile containing high explosive. • HEAT, HESH • abbr HE. COMMENT: Ordnance containing high explosive is normally painted dark green, with yellow lettering and markings.

high explosive anti-tank /hæt 'ekспlızıntı:ntæŋk/ noun full form of HEAT

high frequency /hæt 'frɪkwənsɪ/ noun a range of radio frequencies from 3 – 30 megahertz (MHz). Abbr HF

highlander /hæt 'hændləz/ noun a member of a British infantry regiment which traditionally recruits its soldiers from the mountainous regions of Scotland. The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

high-mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle /hæt 'meı́pılɪtɪ `mʌltı́pæs ɔild 'vɪzı́k(ə)l/ noun full form of HMMW-V

high-power microwave /hæt 'meı́poʊ `meı́kraʊısvr/ noun full form of HPM

high-speed anti-radiation missile /hæt 'spɪd æntı́ ,retı́d`ɛrɪstrı́/ noun full form of HARM

high subsonic, optically guided, tube fire /hæt ɔskə,bænmı́k ,ɔptı́k(ə)l/ noun full form of HOT

high-tech /hæt 'tek/, hi-tech adjective using very sophisticated technology (especially computers). The enemy has very little hi-tech surveillance equipment. Full form high technology

high tide /hæt 'tæd/ noun the point at which the tide has risen to its highest level. The landing will take place at high tide.

high velocity /hæt ˈvɛləsi/ adjective (of projectiles) designed to travel faster than the speed of sound. • He was hit by a high velocity bullet. Compare low velocity

high-velocity bullet /hæt ˈveləsi `bultı́/ noun a bullet which travels faster than the speed of sound.

highway /hætweɪ/ noun UK, US a public road

hijack /hæjək/ verb to seize control of an aircraft or vehicle. The guerrillas hijacked a truck and killed the driver.

hijacker /hæjəkə/ noun a person who seizes control of an aircraft or vehicle. The hijackers threatened to blow up the plane if their demands were not met.

hill /hɪl/ noun an area of high ground

hillfort /hɪlfɔrt/ noun an ancient fortification (usually an earthwork)

hilllock /hɪlk/ noun a small hill

Hind /hænd/ noun a NATO name for the Soviet-designed Mi-24 and Mi-35 attack helicopters and Mi-17

Hip /hɪp/ noun a NATO name for the Soviet-designed Mi-8 and Mi-17 attack helicopters

hit /hɪt/ noun a shot which strikes the target at which it is aimed. We scored a direct hit on the fuel storage depot. • verb 1. to shoot at a target successfully. 2. to strike a person or thing: They couldn’t hit an elephant at this distance. – last words of Major General John
Sedgewick at the Battle of Spotsylvania /1864 (NOTE: hitting – hit)

hit and run /hit ən ˈtrən/ noun an attack followed by immediate withdrawal of troops (informal)

HL /ˈɛltʃ əl/ noun a type of blister agent

COMMENT: HL is a combination of the agents HD and L.

HLS abbreviation helicopter landing site

HMMW-V /ˈhæm viz/ noun an American-designed all-terrain vehicle (similar to a jeep). Full form high-mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle. Also called Hummer

HMS /ˈɛltʃ əm ˈɛv/ abbreviation prefix given to all ships of the Royal Navy and also to some naval establishments ○ I served on board HMS Sheffield. Full form Her Majesty's Ship

HN /ˈɛltʃ ən/ noun a type of blister agent. Full form nitrogen mustard

HN-1 /ˈɛltʃ ən wɑ/ noun 2.2 dihydroxyethylamine

HN-2 /ˈɛltʃ ən tu/ noun 2.2, 9 dichloro-diethyl methylamine

HN-3 noun 2.2, 9, 2-trichloro-triethylamine

HNS abbreviation host nation support

hoax /ˈhɔks/ noun a false alarm intended to waste time and resources ○ The bomb warning turned out to be a hoax.

hog's back /ˈhɒgz ˈbæk/ noun a ridge of high ground

Hokum /ˈhɒkæm/ noun a NATO name for a Soviet-designed Ka-50 attack helicopter

hold /ˈhəʊld/ noun a storage area in an aircraft or ship ○ We found three men hiding in the hold. ■ verb 1. to have something in your hand ○ He was holding a pistol. 2. to have possession of ○ The enemy are still holding the bridge. 3. to prevent the enemy from capturing ○ We must hold this position until last light. 4. to keep someone in custody ○ He is being held by the police.

holding action /ˈhəʊldɪŋ əˈkeɪʃən/ noun an operation intended to stop enemy forces from moving from their existing positions, in order to keep them away from another area of conflict or to cause them to use up supplies

holding attack /ˈhəʊldɪŋ əˈtek/ noun an attack mounted to halt the advance of an enemy and keep him occupied, while other friendly forces conduct operations elsewhere ○ S Brigade will mount a holding attack around Fallingbostel to enable the rest of the division to withdraw.

hold on /ˈhəʊld ən/ verb to wait for a short period ○ Hold on, I haven’t finished yet.

hold out /ˈhəʊld əut/ verb to continue to defend or resist ○ Small units of the enemy are holding out in the mountains. ○ We can’t hold out much longer.

hollow /ˈhəʊlk/ noun a depression in the ground

holster /ˈhɒlstə/ noun a carrying case for a pistol, which is worn on a belt or harness

HOM abbreviation Head of Mission

home defence /ˈhəʊm dɪˈfens/ noun the defence of a state’s own territory in the event of war, as opposed to territory belonging to another state ○ The division will be used for home defence. Compare civil defence

home in /ˈhəʊm ɪn/ verb to home in on something (of guidance systems and locating equipment) to be guided towards something (such as an emission of radiation, heat source, radio signal, etc.)

home-made explosive /ˌhəʊm ˈmeid ɪkˈsploʊsɪv/ noun an explosive substance manufactured by terrorists or criminals from readily available ingredients (such as fertilizer)

homogeneous /ˌhəʊməˈdʒiːniəs/ adjective ○ rolled homogeneous armour

honor /ˈhɒnər/ noun, verb US spelling of honour

honorable /ˈhɒnərəbl/ adjective US spelling of honourable

honour /ˈhɒnər/ noun 1. a moral code of conduct ○ Never surrendering to the en-
honourable

emy is a matter of honour. 2. an official or public recognition of a person’s achievement. n verb to acknowledge a person’s achievement

honourable /'honərəbl/ adjective 1. behaving in a good and moral way. 2. worthy of honour

honour guard /'həʊrnər ɡɑːd/ noun a detachment of servicemen assigned to salute a dignitary on a parade or other formal occasion

hooch /hʌtʃ/ noun US an improvised shelter, usually with some protection from enemy fire. (informal) o Make sure that your hooches are well camouflaged.

Hook /hʌk/ noun a NATO name for the Soviet-designed Mi-6 transport helicopter

horizon /həˈraɪzən/ noun a line in the far distance, on which the sky and ground appear to meet. o Two ships appeared on the horizon.

horn /hɔːrn/ noun an instrument fitted to a vehicle, which makes a noise as a warning signal. o One of the signals for a chemical attack is sounding the horn of your vehicle.

Hornet /hɔːnɪt/ noun, FA-18

horse /hɔːs/ noun a large four-legged animal which can be ridden or used as a transport animal

COMMENT: Horses still play a prominent role in military life, especially in the British Army. Horses are ridden on ceremonial occasions and the army encourages participation in equestrian sports such as polo, steeplechasing, show jumping and fox-hunting. Although they are now equipped with tanks, British and American cavalry regiments still retain many of the traditions and expressions from the days when their troopers fought on horseback.

hose /həʊz/ noun 1. a long flexible tube made of rubber or waterproof fabric, which is designed to convey liquid over a short distance and then pour it into a container or over an object. o All vehicles should carry a hose for siphoning fuel. o The hoses weren’t long enough to reach the fire. 2. a long sock, reaching to just below the knee, which is worn with shorts or a kilt. (no plural form) o The pipers were wearing kilts, tartan hose and spats.

hose down /həʊz ˈdaʊn/ verb to spray an object with liquid from a hose. o They hosed down the vehicles.

hospital /ˈhɒspɪt(ə)l/ noun an establishment which provides surgery, medical treatment and nursing to ill and injured people

host /hɔːst/ noun a person who invites other people as guests

hostage /ˈhɒstɪdʒ/ noun a person who is seized and held, in order to force other people to do something (e.g. paying a sum of money) or to deter them from doing something (e.g. attacking soldiers). o The aim of the operation is to secure the release of the hostages.

(Note: The verb form is to take someone hostage.)

hostile /ˈhɒstɪl/ adjective 1. enemy. o All aircraft should be considered hostile. 2. unfriendly. o He was extremely hostile towards me.

COMMENT: Hostile is normally used to refer to the forces of a state which is aggressive and threatening towards your own country, but not officially at war. Enemy is used when war has actually been declared.

hostilities /ˈhɒstɪlɪtɪz/ plural noun military action

hostility /ˈhɒstɪlɪtɪ/ noun aggressive or threatening behaviour directed towards another person or state

host nation /ˈhɒst ˈneɪʃən/ noun a nation which receives NATO forces on its territory

host nation support /ˈhɒst ˌneɪʃən ˈsəpərt/ noun support given by a host nation to help NATO’s efforts. Abbr: HNS

HOT /hɒt/ noun a European-produced wire-guided anti-tank missile (ATGW). Full form: high subsonic, optically guided, tube fire

Hotel /hɔːt ˈɛl/ noun the eighth letter of the phonetic alphabet (Hh)

hot LZ /hɒt ˈel ˈzed/ noun a landing zone which is under enemy fire (NOTE:
The British Army uses the phrase drop zone (DZ) for parachute landings.

hot pursuit /hɔt pə'sjʊt/ noun: the pursuit of terrorists, guerrillas, etc., who have just attacked someone. If we are only allowed to cross the border in the event of a hot pursuit.

hour /ˈhaʊər/ noun: a unit of time, corresponding to sixty minutes. H-Hour [verb (used in the plural after a 4-digit number)] to show the time. H-Hour is at 0600hrs.

COMMENT: Military timings are always given using the twenty-four hour clock, usually followed by the word hours which when written is abbreviated to hrs. Thus, 8.15am is 0815hrs, 1pm is 1300hrs, 6.30pm is 1830hrs, etc. (say ‘zero eight fifteen hours’, ‘thirteen hundred hours’, ‘eighteen thirty hours’).

house arrest /ˈhaʊər əˈrest/ noun: a state in which a person is detained in his own home.

Household /ˈhaʊshəuld/ adjective relating to the elite troops who traditionally guard the monarch.

Household Cavalry /ˈhaʊshəuld ˈkævələri/ noun: the Life Guards and the Blues and Royals.

Household Division /ˈhaʊshəuld ˈdɪvɪʒən/ noun: the Household Cavalry and the Brigade of Guards.

Household Troops /ˈhaʊshəuld ˈtrʌps/ noun: the Household Division and the King’s Troop of the Royal Horse Artillery.

housewife /ˈhaʊswaɪf/ noun: a small mending kit, consisting of needles, thread and spare buttons.

hover /ˈhaʊvə/ verb: to remain in the air without moving in any direction. The helicopter hovered over the village.

hovercraft /ˈhaʊvəkraːft/ noun: an amphibious vehicle which travels over land or water supported on a cushion of air.

howitzer /ˈhauətsər/ noun: a short-barrelled artillery piece designed to fire shells at high trajectories.

HPM noun: a bomb which sends out powerful electromagnetic impulses.

These can cause massive increases in electrical power and so destroy an enemy’s electrical and computer systems. Full form: high-power microwave.

HQ abbreviation: headquarters.

hrs abbreviation: hours.

HUD /ˈhjuːd/ noun: a display of instrument readings or other data, which is projected onto the windscreen of an aircraft, so that the pilot doesn’t have to look down at inconvenient moments. Full form: head-up display.

Huey /ˈhjuːə/ noun: an American-designed utility/transport helicopter (UH-1).

Huey Cobra /ˈhjuːə kəʊbrə/ noun: an American-designed AH-1 attack helicopter.

hulk /halk/ noun: 1. the body of an old ship, used as a target or as a floating storehouse. 2. an old tank or other armoured vehicle, used as a target on a range.

hull /hɔl/ noun: 1. the outer covering of a ship or boat. Her hull almost touched bottom as she was entering the harbour. 2. the lower part of an armoured fighting vehicle. The explosion penetrated the hull.

hull-down /hɔl ˈdʌn/ adjective: positioned so that only the top parts, such as the turret of a tank are visible and exposed. We could see the enemy fleet hull-down on the skyline. The tank was hull-down behind a wall.

human intelligence /ˈhjuːməntʃəlɪdʒ/ noun: full form: HUMINT.

humanitarian /ˈhjuːmənətəriən/ adjective: intended to prevent or reduce human suffering and hardship. The battalion is being sent to the disaster area to give humanitarian assistance.

human shield /ˈhjuːmən ˈʃiːld/ noun: 1. a group of hostages who are placed in a location, in order to deter an attack on that location. 2. a group of hostages, behind whom a person positions himself, in order to deter people from shooting at him.

HUMINT /ˈhjuːmɪnt/ noun: information about the enemy obtained.
Hummer 122
from people (e.g. friendly forces, agents, civilians, POW). Full form hum-
man intelligence
Hummer /ˈhʌmər/ noun US an infor-
mal nickname for the HMMW-V all-
terrain vehicle
hunter-killer /ˈhʌntər-ˈkɪlər/ noun a
submarine designed to locate and de-
stroy other submarines
hunter-killer submarine /ˈhʌntər-
ˈkɪlər ˈsʌbmaɪnəri/ noun a submarine
which is designed to locate and destroy
enemy submarines
hussar /ˈhʊsər/ noun a light cavalry-
man (historical)
COMMENT: Some armoured regi-
ments still retain their historical title of
Hussars.
hut /hʌt/ noun a simple wooden shelter
Hydra /ˈhaɪdruə/ noun an American-de-
signed unguided rocket, designed to be
fired by an aircraft at a ground target
hydrogen cyanide /ˌhaidrəˈsɛn-
ədʒən/ noun a type of blood agent.
Abbr HCN
hygiene /ˈhaɪdʒəni/ noun the practice
of keeping oneself and your surround-
ings clean, in order to prevent disease.
sanitation
hypothermia /ˌhaɪpəˈθɛrmə/ noun
an abnormally low body temperature,
usually caused by exposure to wind,
rain or extreme cold, which is potential-
ly fatal. He was suffering from hypo-
thermia.
INDIA - Ii

IAAG /əˈæg/ noun an IRA-designed home-made hand-thrown grenade, containing a shaped-charge warhead which is designed to explode when it hits the side of a vehicle. There have been several IAAG attacks over the past month.

ID card /ˌaɪd, ˈkaːd/ noun a card issued by a government or organization as a means of identification. Also called identity card.


ICBM abbreviation intercontinental ballistic missile

Ice /aɪs/ noun frozen water

Ice up /aɪs əp/ verb to become covered with ice 1. The aircraft crashed because the cockpit canopy had iced up.

ICM /aɪˈem/ noun an artillery shell filled with a quantity of anti-personnel or anti-tank bomblets, which is designed to explode in the air and scatter the bomblets onto the target area below.

ICP /aɪˈpiː/ noun the location from which the follow-up action to an incident is controlled 1. ‘Hello 2, this is 22. ICP at grid 434621. Over.’ Full form incident control point

ICRC abbreviation International Committee of the Red Cross

ID /aɪˈdiː/ noun (internal) 1. identity 2. a proof of identity (such as an ID card, driving licence, passport, etc.)

Do you have any ID? 3. identification ○ He made a positive ID on the gunman.

Do you have any ID? 3. identification ○ He made a positive ID on the gunman.

ICE disc /ˌaɪsi, ˈdɪsk/ noun a metal or plastic disc bearing a soldier’s personal details, which is worn round the neck. Also called identity disc, dog tag identification 1. dentfɪˈkeɪʃən noun an act of identifying someone or something identification beacon /ˌaɪdentfɪˈkeɪʃənˈbɛkən/ noun a radio beacon which sends out a signal by which a reference point can be identified. ○ IFF identification card /ˌaɪdentfɪˈkeɪʃənˈkɑːd/ noun an ID card identification friend or foe /ˌaɪdentfɪˈkeɪʃənˈfrend/ noun full form of IFF identification /aɪdentifɪˈkeɪʃən/ verb 1. to establish the identity of a person or thing ○ We haven’t identified the dead man, 2. to recognise a person or thing ○ He identified the gunman.

Identity /aɪˈdɛntɪti/ noun who a person is (i.e. name, date of birth, nationality, etc.)

Identity card /aɪˈdɛntɪti ˈkaːd/ noun same as ID card

Identity disc /aɪˈdɛntɪti ˈdɪsk/ noun same as ID disc

Ideology /ˈaɪdəlɪˌnɒdʒɪ/ noun a system of ideas and principles (especially political)

IED /aɪˈiːd/ noun a home-made bomb or mine. Full form improvised explosive device
IFF /ɪ'ɛf/ noun technology carried in an aircraft which utilizes coded radio signals to identify other friendly aircraft. Full form identification friend or foe

IFV abbreviation infantry fighting vehicle

IL-76 /aɪ el sevəntʃs/ noun a Soviet-designed transport aircraft (NOTE: known to NATO as Candid)

image /ɪˈmɪdʒ/ noun the appearance of an object as viewed through an optical instrument or other equipment (such as a thermal imager, radar, etc.)

image intensification /ˈɪmɪdʒɪntɪsɪfəʃən/ noun passive night-viewing technology which utilizes natural light (such as ambient light, moonlight, starlight). Abbr II

immediate action drill /ɪˈmiːdɪət əˈkʃən dərl/ noun full form of IA drill

immersion foot /ɪˈmɜːʃən fʊt/ noun a severe fungal infection of the feet, caused by wearing wet boots over a long period. Also known as trench foot

immigrant /ɪˈmɪgrant/ noun a person who enters a foreign country in order to live there

immobilize /ɪˈməbləˌzaɪz/, immobilise verb 1. to do something to a vehicle, so that it cannot be driven 2. to do something to a machine or weapon, so that it does not work. Compare mobilize

impact /ɪˈmپəkt/ noun an act of one object hitting another object

impact area /ɪˈmپəkt ˈeərə/ noun the part of a live firing range where projectiles strike or come to rest

impassable /ɪmˈpəsəbl/ adjective impossible to travel over, through or across. The mountain roads are impassable in winter.

implementation /ɪˌmplɪˈmɛniən/ noun putting something into effect

implementation plans /ɪˌmplɪˈmɛniən plɛnz/ plural noun plans which allow NATO commanders to put into action operations which have been agreed between NATO and local forces

impregnable /ɪmˈpɾɪɡnəbl/ adjective (of fortifications) impossible to be taken by force. The guerillas are based in impregnable hilltop camps.

improved conventional munition /ɪˌmпровd kənˌvɜːʃənl mjuˈʃən/ noun

improve /ɪmpləˈvɜːr/ verb to do or make something without any proper planning. We improvised a shelter out of branches.

improved anti-armour grenade /ɪmpləˈvɜːrd ænˈtiː ˈæmsə griːndʒ/ noun full form of improved anti-armour grenade

improved explosive device /ɪmpləˈvɜːrd ɪkˈsplɔʊsɪv dɪˈvɜːs/ noun a home-made bomb, booby-trap or mine. Abbr IED

IMR /aɪ ɛmˈɾər/ noun a Soviet-designed armoured engineer vehicle

inaccessible /ɪnˈæksəsəbl/ adjective impossible to get to. The village was inaccessible after the bridge was destroyed.
indecisive /ˈɪndɪsɪsɪv/ adjective 1. unable to make decisions easily 2. having no clear result 3. a sexual assault on a person which is not aimed at a particular target, (e.g. an artillery or mortar fire) 4. a sexual assault on a person which is not aimed at a particular target, (e.g. an artillery or mortar fire) 5. a sexual assault on a person which is not aimed at a particular target, (e.g. an artillery or mortar fire) 6. a sexual assault on a person which is not aimed at a particular target, (e.g. an artillery or mortar fire) 7. a sexual assault on a person which is not aimed at a particular target, (e.g. an artillery or mortar fire) 8. a sexual assault on a person which is not aimed at a particular target, (e.g. an artillery or mortar fire) 9. a sexual assault on a person which is not aimed at a particular target, (e.g. an artillery or mortar fire) 10. a sexual assault on a person which is not aimed at a particular target, (e.g. an artillery or mortar fire) 11. a sexual assault on 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inf

inf  abbreviation infantry

infantry /'ɪnfətri/ noun an exponent of infantry tactics. Of course, the infantry among us may disagree with me on this point.

infantry /'ɪnfətri/ noun soldiers who fight on foot. The infantry will advance at daybreak. The infantry attack was beaten back.

COMMENT: Although most modern infantry are now equipped with some form of vehicle to move them around the battlefield, their basic role remains to get out of the vehicles and fight on foot with the rifle and bayonet. Infantry is the queen of battles. [Napier]

infantry fighting vehicle /'ɪnfətri'fɪtʃɪŋ vɛrɪkəl/ noun an armoured personnel carrier, fitted with a gun or cannon, which is designed to transport a section of infantry around the battlefield and provide them with fire support once they are fighting on foot. Abbr IFV

infantryman /'ɪnfətrɪmən/ noun an infantry soldier. British infantrymen are famous for their discipline.

infest /ɪn'fɛst/ verb to transmit a disease or illness. The whole arm soon became infected.

infectious /ɪn'fɛktʃəs/ adjective (of diseases) capable of being transmitted to other people. This strain of flu is highly infectious.

inferior /ɪ'nfɪəriər/ adjective 1. of a lower rank than another person. A corporal is inferior to a sergeant. 2. smaller or weaker than something else. The enemy artillery had an inferior rate of fire to our guns. 3. of worse quality than something else. Our boots are inferior to those of the Germans. A noun a person who holds a lower rank than another person. He always treats his inferiors with respect. Compare superior

infestation team /ɪn'fɛstə'teɪn / noun a small special forces grouping, which operates behind enemy lines, directing artillery fire and air strikes.

infiltrate /ɪnkə'fɪlret/ verb to move into enemy territory in small groups by different routes, in order to avoid detection, and then to join up in order to attack an objective in force. Compare exfiltrate

infiltration /ɪn'fɪltrəʃən/ noun an act of infiltrating. Compare exfiltration

inflammable /'ɪnfləməbl/ adjective easy to set on fire. Many sailors were badly burnt because their clothing was made of inflammable material.

inflict /ɪn'fɪkt/ verb to do something unpleasant to another person. The bombing inflicted heavy casualties on the civilian population. A noun the worst defeat of the war on the enemy. (NOTE: This verb is usually followed by on or upon.)

in force /ɪn 'fɔ:s/ phrase 1. in large numbers. Enemy armour is crossing the border in force near Landshut. 2. valid. The regulations have been in force since Tuesday.

inform /ɪn'fɔrm/ verb 1. to tell someone something. He informed me of the change in the timings. 2. to inform on someone. To tell the authorities about another person's illegal activities. He informed on his neighbour.

information /ɪn'fəmeɪʃən/ noun facts (whether accurate or not) which are passed on from one person to another

information blackout /ɪn'fəmeɪʃən 'bлаukəʊt/ noun the act of withholding all information from the media and general public (usually for reasons of security)

information warfare /ɪn'fəmeɪʃən 'wɔːr/ noun the act of hacking into an enemy's computer network in order to disrupt it (e.g. by sowing a virus) or to obtain information or to insert false information

informer /ɪn'fɔrmər/ noun someone who tells the authorities about another person's illegal activities

infrared /ɪn'fərət/ adjective relating to a form of red light which is used in some night-viewing devices because it is invisible to the naked eye. Abbr IR

COMMENT: Night-viewing devices which utilize infrared light are de-
scribed as active, while those which do not are described as passive.

**infrastructure** /ɪnˈtræstræktʃər/ noun basic amenities and facilities upon which a modern society relies in order to function properly (such as electricity, roads and railways, telecommunications, water, etc.)

**inhabitant** /ɪnˈheɪbɪtənt/ noun a person who lives in a place o The original inhabitants were removed from their villages.

**initial nuclear radiation** /aˈnaʊəlɛktrəl rædɪəʃən/ noun the harmful rays of energy given off by a nuclear explosion

**inject** /ɪnˈdʒekt/ verb 1. to introduce something o The commanding officer was forced to initiate legal proceedings. 2. to activate an explosive or pyrotechnic device o The Claymores were initiated electronically.

**initiative** /ɪnˈtʃætɪv/ noun 1. the ability to assess a situation and take action, without asking for guidance o He lacks initiative. 2. the ability to make the enemy conform to your own movements o We must not allow the enemy to regain the initiative. o to lose the initiative to stop being able to force the enemy to react to your actions

**insect repellent** /ɪnˈsekt rɛˈpelənt/ noun a liquid designed to stop insects biting a person’s skin

**insecure** /ɪnˈsɪkjʊər/ adjective 1. (of objects) not properly attached or closed o Your magazine is insecure. 2. (of locations) undefended o The bridge is insecure. 3. (of communications) not coded or scrambled o The enemy is equipped with insecure radios.

**insert** /ɪnˈzɜːrt/ verb 1. to put one thing into another o He inserted a new battery into his torch. 2. to move into an area of operations o We will insert by helicopter. Compare extract

**insertion** /ɪnˈzɜːʃən/ noun an act of inserting. Compare extraction

**in-service** /ɪnˈsɜːrvɪs/ adjective currently being operated

**in-service support** /ɪnˈsɜːrvɪs səpˈɔrt/ noun support which is organised when in service

**inshore** /ɪnˈʃɔːr/ adjective designed for use close to the shore o an inshore fishing boat. 1. at sea but close to the shore o The boat was anchored in-
signs of damage

4. inspected for defects.

or unloaded

weapon in order to ensure that it is clean
toon’s weapons.

symbol (used to denote the identity of a
container .

structions are printed on the side of the

struction.

instructions.

He instructs soldiers in the use of the
instructor

installation

installation

inspection

inspection

insignia

shore. 2. towards the shore o The land-
ing craft moved inshore.

insignia /in'siŋgə/ noun a decorative
symbol (used to denote the identity of a
unit, specialist qualification, rank, etc.)

inspect /in'spekt/ verb 1. (of people)
to examine a person in order to ensure that
he is correctly dressed or that he
has all his equipment o The general in-
spected his troops. 2. to examine some-
thing in order to ensure that it is in
working order o He inspected his pla-
toon’s weapons. 3. (in the event of an
accident or malfunction) to examine
something in order to look for defects or
signs of damage o The vehicle was in-
spected for defects. 4. to examine a
weapon in order to ensure that it is clean
or unloaded o Upon inspecting the
man’s rifle he found a live round in the
chamber.

inspection /in'spektʃən/ noun an act
of inspecting a person or thing o The
soldiers stood to attention ready for in-
spect.

installation /in'stələʃən/ noun a building,
complex or other permanent
structure, which contains some form of
technical equipment (such as communi-
cations equipment, radar, weapons sys-
tem, etc.) o Our target was the radar in-
stallations along the north coast.

instruct /in'strækʃən/ noun 1. an act
of teaching something o We have
two periods of map-reading instruc-
tion today. 2. an act of telling someone to do
something o He did not carry out my in-
structions. 3. written directions telling
someone how to do something o The in-
structions are printed on the side of the
container.

instructor /in'stræktər/ noun a teacher
o Cpl Smith is our bayonet instructor.

insubordinate /in'səbə'dnadət/ ad-
dective 1. unwilling to carry out orders
2. unwilling to show respect to your su-
periors o He was quite insubordinate
and had to be restrained.

insubordination /in'səbə'dnaʃən/ noun
1. failure or refusal to carry out an order 2.
showing lack of re-
spect for a superior

insurgency /in'sərdʒən/ noun armed
resistance to the established gov-
ernment or foreign domination

insurgent /in'sərdʒənt/ noun a per-
son who uses force to resist the estab-
lished government or foreign domina-
tion. o rebel, revolutionary

insurrection /in'sərskərən/ noun armed
resistance to the established gov-
ernment or foreign domination. o insur-
gency, rebellion, revolt, revolution

int /'int/ abbreviation intelligence

intake /'intek/ noun a place where
air, fuel or water is drawn into a ma-
chine

integrate /'intəgreit/ verb to link up
several things to form a whole

integrated logistic support
/'intəgreitld ˈlɪdʒəstɪk ˈsəpst/ noun
support which is integrated into all parts
of the project as it is being developed

intel /'intɛl/ abbreviation US intelli-
gence

intelligence /in'telɪdʒəns/ noun 1.
any information which may be useful
(especially information about the ene-
my) o We have received some fresh in-
telligence on the enemy artillery. 2.
people and equipment involved in the
gathering, analysis and dissemination
of intelligence o We are feeding false in-
formation to the enemy’s intelligence.

COMMENT: The department respon-
sible for intelligence in a headquarters
is known as G2

intelligence officer /in'telɪdʒəns
ˈoʊfʃər/ noun an officer responsible for
intelligence. Abbr IO

intelligence summary /in'
telɪdʒəns ˈsʌməri/ noun a simple re-
port on the enemy’s locations, strength,
organization, intentions, etc., during a
specific period of time. Abbr INTSUM

intend /in'tend/ verb to decide to do
something
### intent /ɪnˈtɛnt/  noun
US a document issued to subordinate commanders, explaining a commander’s idea of how a future operation is likely to proceed.

### intention /ɪnˈtenfən/  noun
what a person has decided to do ○ We do not know the enemy’s intentions.

### intercede /ˌɪntəˈsɪd/  verb
to enter in order to support another person or group ○ The priest tried to intercede on behalf of the young men.

### intercept /ɪnˈtɛrsep/  verb
1. to meet up with or catch persons or vehicles as they move from one place to another ○ We intend to intercept them at the river.
2. to locate and listen to another person’s radio transmission ○ The message was intercepted ○ Here is a transcript of our last intercept.

### interception /ˌɪntəˈsepʃən/  noun
1. the act of intercepting a person or vehicle 2. the act of locating and listening to another person’s radio transmission ○ These countermeasures are designed to confuse the enemy interception.

### interceptor /ˌɪntəˈsepṭə/  noun
a fighter aircraft which is capable of flying great distances in order to intercept and engage enemy aircraft.

### interchangeability /ˈɪntərˈɪndʒəbɪləti/  noun
being able to be exchanged one for another

### interchangeable /ˌɪntərˈɪndʒəbərə/  adjective
possible to exchange one for another ○ The two parts are interchangeable.

### intercom /ɪnˈtɛrkəm/  noun
an internal telecommunication system within an aircraft, ship or vehicle allowing crew members to speak to each other.

### intercontinental ballistic missile /ˌɪntəkˈɔntənənt(ə)l/  noun
a guided missile which flies from one continent to another and ends its flight in a ballistic descent. Abbr ICBM.

### ballistic missile

### interdict /ˈɪntərˌdɪkt/  verb
to deny the enemy the use of something ○ The air-strikes were intended to interdict the enemy’s supply lines.

### interdiction /ˌɪntəˈdɪkʃən/  noun
the act of denying the enemy the use of something (typically, air attacks on enemy reinforcements and supply columns as they move towards the battle area) ○ Our principal role is the interdiction of the enemy railway network.

### interfere /ɪnˈtɛrˈfɪr/  verb
1. a to interfere in to involve oneself in another person’s activity without being asked ○ He is always interfering in the running of my platoon. 2. b to interfere with to obstruct or hinder ○ These air strikes are designed to interfere with the enemy’s supply system.

### interference /ˌɪntəˈfɪrəns/  noun
1. an act of interfering 2. the obstruction of a radio signal by other radio waves

### interior /ɪnˈtɪəriə/  noun
the part of a country which is not close to its coastline or borders

### interior lines /ɪnˈtɪəriərˈlaɪnz/  plural noun
routes available in territory which is protected by the forward and flank positions of an army or other large tactical grouping ○ The general failed to take advantage of his interior lines.

**COMMENT:** Good interior lines enable a commander to move troops directly from one part of his line to another over comparatively short distances, while enemy forces may have to travel a considerable distance around his perimeter in order to redeploy against him. Of course, on the modern battlefield, he would need air and electronic superiority to enjoy this advantage.

### interlocking arcs of fire /ˌɪntəlkɔrkɪŋ/  noun
a situation in which a weapon’s arc of fire overlaps with that of its neighbour

### intermediate staging base /ˌɪntəˈmiːdʒətɪŋ ˈsteɪdʒɪŋ_ˈbeɪs/  noun
full form of ISB

### intern /ɪnˈtɛrn/  verb
to confine a person in custody (usually for reasons of national security rather than because...
**internal security**

they have committed an offence)  ○ All enemy aliens will be interned for the duration of the war.

**internal security** /ˌɪnˈtɜːrənəl ˈsɪkərəti/ noun a state’s use of its armed forces (usually in support of its civilian police) to maintain or restore law and order within its own territory  ○ Several battalions are engaged in internal security duties.

**international maritime satellite** /ˌɪntəˈnæʃənəl ˈmərtɪmət səˈtələt/ noun full form of INMARSAT

**interment** /ɪnˈtɜːrəmənt/ noun an act of interning people  ○ The government has ordered the internment of all enemy aliens.

**interpreter** /ɪnˈtɜːprətə/ noun a person who acts as a translator in a conversation between two people who do not understand each other’s language

**interoperability** /ˌɪntəˈprərəbəlɪtɪ/ noun being able to operate in the place of something else

**interoperable** /ˌɪntəˈprərəbəl/ adjective able to operate in place of something else

**interrogation** /ɪnˌtɜːrəˈɡeɪʃən/ noun an act of interrogating  ○ Under interrogation he revealed the location of the camp.

**intersection** /ɪnˈtɜːrəˈsɛkʃən/ noun US a junction  ○ Turn left at the next intersection.

**interval** /ɪnˈtɜːrəv(ə)l/ noun a space between two persons or groups or vehicles  ○ I want intervals of twenty-five metres between vehicles.  ○ Vehicles will set off at five minute intervals.

**intervasion /ˌɪntəˈvɛʒən/ noun invading a state’s sovereign territory with the reluctant approval of that state’s government in order to deal with hostile elements within the population. Full form intervention & invasion

**intervention** /ɪnˈtrəvɛʒən/ noun an act of intervening  ○ There is a strong possibility of foreign intervention.

**intruder** /ˈɪntrudər/ noun 1. a person who enters an area or building without the authority or right to do so 2. an unidentified person, vehicle or aircraft which enters your area of responsibility

**intruder alarm** /ˈɪntrudər ˈælərm/ noun a device designed to detect movement
INTSUM /ɪnt'sʌm/, intsum abbreviation intelligence summary
invasion /ɪn'veɪʒən/ noun an act of invading ○ the invasion of Britain by the Normans in 1066 ○ They planned the invasion of the island.
invest /ɪn'veɪst/ verb to surround an area or town occupied by an enemy force, in order to prevent its being reinforced and resupplied and also to prevent any withdrawal, usually with the ultimate intention of capturing the place or of compelling the enemy force inside it to surrender ○ Our main objective is to invest Port Stanley. ○ besiege
investment /ɪn'veɪstment/ noun an act of investing a town or fortress. ○ siege
IO abbreviation intelligence officer
IR abbreviation infrared
Irish Defence Force /'iəris faɪəns/ noun the army of the Republic of Ireland (Eire) (NOTE: The Irish Defence Force should not be confused with the Irish Republican Army (IRA), which is a terrorist organization seeking to unite the British-controlled province of Northern Ireland with the Republic of Ireland (Eire).)
iron bomb /'aɪrən bɒm/ noun a bomb which is simply dropped onto a target by an aircraft. ○ ballistic bomb, general purpose bomb
iron ration /'aɪrən ˈræʃən/ noun a small pack of food carried by a soldier in case of emergency
iron sight /ˈaɪrən tɪnt/ noun a simple sight, forming part of the basic design of the weapon and consisting of a rear-sight and a fore-sight, which are lined up with each other and the point of aim
irregular /ɪrˈreɡjʊlər/ adjective not part of the regular army ○ The refugees were attacked by irregular troops. ○ noun a member of a unit which is not part of the regular army (i.e. guerrillas, mercenary, partisans, etc.) ○ He commands a small unit of irregulars.
irreplaceable /ˌɪrɪˈpleɪsəbəl/ adjective impossible to replace ○ The bombing has caused irreparable damage to the airfield.
irretrievable /ˌɪrɪˈtreɪvəbəl/ adjective impossible to retrieve ○ That data is irretrievable.
irrevocable /ˌɪrɪˈrevəkəbəl/ adjective impossible to alter or cancel ○ The order is irrevocable.
irritant /ɪrɪˈrænt/ noun something which causes irritation ○ The shells are releasing some sort of eye irritant.
irritate /ɪrɪˈreɪteɪt/ verb 1. to anger or annoy ○ He was irritated by the soldier's behaviour. 2. to cause discomfort or pain ○ This chemical agent irritates the eyes and respiratory system.
irritation /ɪrɪˈreɪʃən/ noun 1. anger or annoyance ○ He looked at me with irritation. 2. discomfort or pain ○ This substance causes irritation to the skin.
ISB /ˌɪzɪz/ noun an administration area located en route to a war zone or in the rear area, where a deploying force can offload and assemble its equipment before moving forward to the front line. Full form intermediate staging base
island /ˈaɪlənd/ noun a piece of land surrounded by water
ISO container /ˌaɪso kənˈtərniən/ noun a huge metal container, which is designed to be fitted to a lorry or loaded onto a ship, in order to transport goods overseas ○ We lived in ISO containers until the camp had been built.
isolate

**isolate** /'aʊsələt/ **verb** 1. to prevent movement to or from a location ○ *The village has been isolated by snow.* 2. to surround a unit so that it can neither retreat, nor be reinforced or supported ○ *The enemy battalion was isolated and then destroyed.* ○ **cut off**

**isolated** /'aʊsələtɪd/ **adjective** far from anyone or anything else ○ *There are a few isolated villages in the hills.* ○ *The platoon was left isolated when the rest of the company withdrew.*

**issue** /'ɪʃuː/ **noun** an act of supplying servicemen with equipment, supplies, etc. ○ *There will be an issue of rations at 1600hrs.* ○ **on issue** provided by the logistical system ○ *These boots are no longer on issue.* ○ **verb** to supply equipment, supplies, etc. ○ *Ammunition will be issued at 1600hrs.*

**isthmus** /'ɪsməs/ **noun** a narrow strip of land connecting two larger pieces of land

**item** /'aɪtəm/ **noun** an object or thing (especially one of several different things)

**ITG** /'aɪtiːdʒiː/ **noun** US a task carried out by pathfinders (i.e. advance reconnaissance, security and marking of a DZ or LZ or beach-landing site). Full form **initial terminal guidance**

**IVIS** /'aɪvɪs/ **noun** an American-designed computer system fitted to armoured fighting vehicles (e.g. Abrams M-1 tank), which shows the current locations of all other vehicles in the sub-unit and their ammunition and fuel states and which also has an e-mail facility for the transmission of orders. Full form **intervehicular information system**
JULIET - Jj

**J1** /ˈdʒet/ ˈʒeɪt/ noun the department of a joint headquarters (JHQ) responsible for personnel

**J2** /ˈdʒet/ ˈʒeɪt/ noun the department of a joint headquarters (JHQ) responsible for intelligence

**J3** /ˈdʒet/ ˈʒeɪt/ noun the department of a joint headquarters (JHQ) responsible for operations and training

**J4** /ˈdʒet/ ˈʒeɪt/ noun the department of a joint headquarters (JHQ) responsible for materiel

**J5** /ˈdʒet/ ˈʒeɪt/ noun the department of a joint headquarters (JHQ) responsible for civil/military relations

**JAAT** /dʒet/ abbreviation joint air attack team

**jack** /dʒæk/ noun a machine which is used to raise a vehicle or other heavy object a short distance off the ground

**JAG** /dʒæɡ/ noun US a legal department for the US armed forces. Full form judge adjutant general

**Jaguar** /dʒəɡuər/ noun a British/French-designed attack aircraft

**jam** /dʒæm/ verb 1. to block the enemy’s radio transmissions by causing interference o We are being jammed. 2. (of automatic weapons) to stop firing because of a mechanical failure o The machine-gun jammed.

**jamming** /dʒæmɪŋ/ noun an act of blocking the enemy’s radio transmissions by causing interference

**jankers** /dʒæŋkəz/ noun extra fatigue duty given as a punishment (especially unpleasant tasks: e.g. cleaning out latrines) (slang)

**Javelin** /dʒəˈvɛlɪn/ noun 1. a British-designed hand-held optically-tracked surface-to-air missile (SAM) 2. an American-designed precision-guided anti-tank missile

**JDAM** /ˈdʒeɪdæm/ noun an aircraft bomb which guides itself onto a target using the GPS system. Full form joint direct attack munition

**jeep** /dʒiːp/ noun any type of light general purpose all-terrain military vehicle

**jeopardize** /dʒəˈpɜːdai/ jeopādize, jeopardise verb to place in a dangerous situation o Your actions have jeopardized the entire mission.

**jerrycan** /dʒəˈriːkən/ noun a rectangular container for transporting fuel or water

**jet** /dʒet/ noun 1. a stream of fire, gas or water sent out under high pressure 2. an aircraft powered by jet propulsion o Enemy jets bombed our positions.

**jet engine** /dʒet ˈɛndʒɪn/ noun an engine which uses jet propulsion

**jet fighter** /dʒet ˈfɪtər/ noun a fighter plane that is powered by a jet engine or engines

**jet propulsion** /dʒet prəˈpɔːʃən/ noun forward movement caused by the backward ejection of a jet of gas at high speed

**jettison** /dʒəˈtɪs(ə)n/ verb to throw objects out of an aircraft, ship or vehicle because they are no longer needed or dangerous or in order to lighten the load o The aircraft was forced to jettison its bombs.

**JHQ** abbreviation joint headquarters
jigger

jigger /dʒɪɡə/ noun  chigger

jihad /dʒɪˈhaːd/ noun in Arabic, a holy war, waged by Muslims to defend the Islamic faith.  mujahideen

Jock /dʒɔk/ noun a Scottish soldier (informal)

join /dʒɔɪn/ verb 1. to become a part of something  She joined the army. 2. to come together  They joined us in the briefing room. 3. to connect two objects to each other  He joined the wires together.

joint /dʒɔɪnt/ adjective with two or more services working together, sharing a common purpose

joint air attack team /dʒɔɪnt eə ə tɛkm/ noun an American doctrine for a coordinated attack by aircraft (both from the air force and army aviation assets), artillery and naval gunfire. Abbr JAT

joint direct attack munition /dʒɔɪnt dɪˈrɛkt ə tɛkm jʌŋjəˈmɪnjən/ noun full form of JAM

joint headquarters /dʒɔɪnt hɛˈkwɛrst/ noun the headquarters of a joint force, with staff officers and other personnel from all three arms (navy, army and air force). Abbr JHQ

joint operation /dʒɔɪnt əˈpərəʃən/ noun an operation involving two or more different branches of the armed forces

joint-service /dʒɔɪnt səˈsɜrvis/ adjective performed and financed together by two or more military services

joint special operations task force /dʒɔɪnt spɛˈʃənl əˈtæsk fɔːs/ noun full form of JSOTF

joint surveillance and targeting attack radar system /dʒɔɪnt sə ˈvɜːrələns ə ˈtɛrkərə əˈtæk rəˈdɑːr sɪˈstəm/ noun full form of JSTARS

joint task force /dʒɔɪnt əˈtæsk fɔːs/ noun a large combined arms grouping involving different branches of the armed forces formed for a specific operation or campaign. Abbr JTF (note: If all services are involved in an operation, then they are not specified individually; if only two services are involved jointly, then they are specified: joint Navy-Air Force manoeuvres.)

join up /dʒɔɪn ʌp/ verb to join the armed forces  He joined up when he left school.

Jolly Green Giant /dʒɔˈlɪli ˈɡrɪzn ˈdʒʊərənt/ noun an unofficial nickname for the American-designed CH-53 heavy transport helicopter

joystick /dʒɔɪˈstɪk/ noun a stick used to steer an aircraft

JSOTF /dʒɔt fɔt/ noun US an elite unit of special forces personnel designed to deploy (usually by helicopter) at short notice and carry out specialised military tasks. Full form joint special operations task force

JSTARS /dʒɒt stərəz/ noun American-designed technology used by special aircraft to detect moving ground targets at long range. Full form joint surveillance and targeting attack radar system

JTF abbreviation joint task force

judge adjutant general /dʒʊdʒ ədʒəˈtænt ˈdʒʊərənt əˈdʒent əˈdʒent/ noun US full form of JAG

Juliet /dʒəˈluːt/ noun the tenth letter of the phonetic alphabet (J)

Juliett /dʒəˈluːt/ US spelling of Juliet

jump /dʒʌmpl/ noun a parachute drop  He was injured on the last jump.

jump-jet /dʒʌmpl ˈdʒet/ noun a fighter aircraft with vertical take-off capability (e.g. Harrier, YAK-38, YAK-41)

jump-leads /dʒʌmpl ˈlɛdɪz/ plural noun two lengths of electrical cable, which are used to convey electrical charge from one fully-charged vehicle battery to another which has lost its charge

jumpmaster /dʒʌmpl ˈmʌstmə/ noun an aircrew member who controls paratroopers as they jump out of an aircraft

jump-start /dʒʌmpl ˈstɑːt/ verb to start a vehicle, whose battery has lost its charge, by pushing, towing or using jump-leads
junction  /dʒʌŋkʃən/ noun a place where two or more roads or railway lines meet each other

jungle /dʒʌŋɡəl/ noun an area (in the tropics) which is covered by dense vegetation

junior /dʒuːnɪər/ adjective of low rank the Junior Service the Royal Air Force

junior non-commissioned officer /dʒuːnɪər nɔn-kəmˈʃənɪd / noun a corporal or lance corporal

junior ranks /dʒuːnɪər ˈreɪŋks/ plural noun junior non-commissioned officers and privates of a unit

junior technician /dʒuːnɪər ˈtɛkənɪʃən/ noun a non-commissioned rank in the air-force (equivalent to an experienced or well-qualified private soldier in the army). Compare senior

circumflex

junk /dʒʌŋk/ noun a traditional Chinese sailing ship

jurisdiction /dʒʊəˈrɪsdʒən/ noun legal or other authority: We have jurisdiction over this area.
KILO - Kk

k /keɪ/ abbreviation knot(s)
K noun a kilometre (used in speech) The village is 3 Ks beyond the river.
Ka-50 /kəˈʃɪfə/ noun a Soviet-designed attack helicopter (NOTE: known to NATO as Hokum)
Kalashnikov /kəˈlæʃnɪkəv/ noun a Soviet-designed 7.62mm assault weapon
karst /kaːst/ noun hilly terrain with crags and outcrops of limestone
Katyuša /kəˈtjuːʃə/ noun a Soviet-designed multiple rocket launcher, mounted on a truck
KE abbreviation kinetic energy
keel /kiːl/ noun a structure forming the base of a boat or ship
keg /kɛɡ/ noun a small metal barrel, designed to hold beer The device consisted of several beer kegs filled with homemade explosives.
Kelp /kɛlp/ noun seaweed with large brown leaves which grows in a dense mass close to the shore
kennel /ˈken(ə)l/ noun accommodation for dogs
Kerosene /ˈkerəsən/ noun a fuel distilled from petroleum, which is suitable for aviation fuel and also for heating and lamps. Also known as paraffin oil
Kevlar /ˈkevlər/ trademark a trademark for a synthetic material used in the manufacture of body armour, helmets, and some types of vehicle armour
key /kiː/ adjective of vital importance
noun 1, an instrument used to operate a lock or to start an engine or motor I don’t have a key for this door, 2, an explanatory list of symbols which are shown on a map The key is written in English and German.
KFOR /ˈfɔːr/ noun the NATO-led international peacekeeping force in Kosovo. Full form Kosovo Force
kg abbreviation kilogram
khaki /ˈkɑːki/ noun a brownish-green colour used for army uniforms and vehicle camouflage
kHz abbreviation kilohertz
KIA abbreviation killed in action
kill /kɪl/ noun the killing of an enemy soldier or destruction of an enemy aircraft, vehicle or ship, when viewed as a result The patrol reported three kills.
verb to deprive a person or animal of life Two of the hostages were killed in the gun battle. Their aim is to kill as many enemy soldiers as possible.
killed in action /kɪld ɪn ˈeɪkʃən/ adjective killed during an engagement. Abbr KIA
killing /ˈkɪlɪŋ/ noun an act of killing a person or animal
killing area, killing ground, killing zone noun an area of ground selected as a place to destroy an enemy force
Kilo /'kiːloʊ/ noun the eleventh letter of the phonetic alphabet (Kk)
kilometer /'kɪləmətər/ noun US spelling of kilometre
kilometre /'kɪlnətər/ noun a unit of linear measure, corresponding to 1,000 metres or 0.6214 mile. Abbr km
kiloton /'kɪlnətən/ noun a unit of explosive power equivalent to 1,000 tons of TNT
kilt /kilt/ noun a garment, similar to a woman’s skirt, traditionally worn by some Scottish and Irish regiments
Kim’s Game /'kɪmz ɡeɪm/ noun an activity designed to develop observation skills; a selection of different objects are placed on the ground and covered with a blanket. The blanket is removed for a few seconds and then replaced again. The participants then have to remember exactly what they saw. COMMENT: Kim’s Game is taken from the adventure story ‘Kim’ by Rudyard Kipling, in which the above exercise was used in the training of spies. It can be made as simple or as complex as you like, and is extremely worthwhile, especially if practised on a regular basis.
kinetic energy /'kɪnetɪk ˈɛnədʒɪ/ noun energy produced by an object moving at high speed. Abbr KE
kinetic energy round /'kɪnetɪk ˈɛnədʒɪ ˈraʊnd/ noun an anti-tank projectile, made of a heavy metal (such as depleted uranium or tungsten carbide), which is fired at a very high velocity, in order to punch its way through armour. Also called KE round, a long-rod penetrator
King’s Commission /'kɪŋz ˈkəmɪʃən/ noun Queen’s Commission
King’s Regulations /'kɪŋz ˈreɡjəluːʃənz/ plural noun Queen’s Regulations
kit /kɪt/ noun 1. equipment ○ All the platoon’s kit was left behind on the truck. ○ Make sure that all your kit is secure. 2. a set of tools or other articles used for a specific purpose (e.g. cleaning kit, decontamination kit, first-aid kit, etc.).
kitbag /'kɪtbæɡ/ noun a long cylindrical canvas bag, for storing spare clothing and other personal effects. ○ bivvy bag, sleeping-bag
COMMENT: Kitbags are normally used for any additional clothing which is not carried in the rucksack.
Kiwi /'kiːwi/ noun a soldier from New Zealand (informal)
klaxon /'klaːksɔn/ tdmk a trademark for a noise-making warning device, similar to a vehicle’s horn
klick /'klɪk/ noun a kilometre (informal) ○ It’s three and a half klicks to the RV. ○ click
km abbreviation kilometre(s)
knife /nɑːtʃ/ noun an instrument used for cutting or stabbing, with a sharp metal blade fixed in a handle ○ He silenced the sentry with a knife. ■ verb to kill or wound with a knife ○ He was knifed while he slept.
knock out /'nɔk ˈaut/ verb 1. to destroy a vehicle ○ We knocked out three tanks. 2. to make someone unconscious ○ He was knocked out by the blast from a shell.
knoll /nɒl/ noun a very small hill
knot /nɔt/ noun a unit of speed for a ship or aircraft, corresponding to one nautical mile per hour ○ The patrol boat was travelling at 15 knots or was doing 15 knots. Abbr k
Kormoran /ˈkɒrmərən/ noun a German-designed anti-ship missile
Kosovo Force /ˈkɒsəvɔʊ ˈfɔːs/ noun full form of KFOR
KP abbreviation key point
KPH abbreviation kilometres per hour
kukri /'kʊkrɪ/ noun a fighting knife carried by Gurkha soldiers
L /el/ noun a type of blister agent. Full form dichloro (2-chlorovinyl) arsine. Also called Lewisite
laager /ˈlaːɡər/, lager /ˈlaːɡər/ noun an encampment of armoured vehicles o The laager was attacked during the night. ● verb to form a laager o We will laager at grid 417339. || leager
LAC abbreviation leading aircraftman
LAC-C2 noun a command vehicle
LAD /el eɪˈdiː/ noun a detachment of vehicle mechanics from the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME), which is attached to an infantry battalion or armoured regiment on a permanent basis. Full form light aid detachment
lager /ˈlaːɡər/ noun another spelling of laager
lake /leɪk/ noun a large area of water surrounded by land
lamp /læmp/ noun a device which produces light
lance /ˈlɑːns/ noun a long spear used by cavalry soldiers
Lance /ˈlɑːns/ noun an American-designed tactical surface-to-air missile
lance-bombardier /ˈlɑːns bəmbɔrˈdiər/ noun a lance-corporal in the artillery. Abbr L/Bdr
lance-corporal /ˈlɑːns kəˈprɔrəl/ noun the lowest non-commissioned officer rank in the army or marines (usually second in command (2IC) of a section or equivalent-sized grouping). Abbr L/Cpl
lance-corporal of horse /ˈlɑːns kəˈprɔrəl ə və hɔrz/ noun a corporal in the Household Cavalry. Abbr L/Coh
lancer /ˈlɑːnsər/ noun a cavalry soldier armed with a long spear or lance (historical)
COMMENT: Some armoured regiments still retain their historical title of Lancers.
Lancer /ˈlɑːnsər/ noun an American-designed B-1 long-range strategic bomber aircraft
lance rank /ˈlɑːns ræŋk/ noun an army rank between private and corporal
lance-sergeant /ˈlɑːns ˈsɜːdʒənt/ noun a corporal in the Brigade of Guards. Abbr L/Sgt
land /lænd/ noun a solid part of the earth’s surface (i.e. not the sea) ● verb 1. to bring a flying aircraft back onto the ground ○ The squadron has just landed. 2. to leave a ship and go back onto dry land ○ We will start landing tomorrow morning. 3. to deploy troops from aircraft or ships ○ The invasion force landed near Bremen. ○ Enemy paratroopers are landing to the north of Arnhem.
land component /ˈlænd kəmˈpɔnənt/ noun same as ground component
Land Cruiser /ˈlænd kruːzər/ noun a Japanese-designed all-terrain vehicle similar to a jeep
land forces /ˈlænd, fɔːrsz/ plural noun same as ground forces ○ Allied land forces drove the enemy back to the coast.
landform /ˈlændfɔːrm/ noun a natural physical feature of the earth’s surface, e.g., a valley, mountain, or plain
landing /ˈlændɪŋ/ noun 1. an act of landing an aircraft ○ Landing on the jungle airstrip was difficult. 2. an act of leaving a ship and going back onto dry
The landing took several hours.

land ○ The landing took several hours.

3. a deployment of troops from aircraft or ships

landing craft /ˈlændɪŋ kraft/ noun a small flat-bottomed boat designed to move troops and vehicles from a transport ship to a beach (NOTE: The term craft is used for both singular and plural.)

landing craft air cushioned /ˈlændɪŋ kraft əˈkoʊʃənd/ noun full form of LCAC

landing craft medium /ˈlændɪŋ kraft ˈmɪdɪəm/ noun full form of LCM

landing craft utility /ˈlændɪŋ kraft ˈjuːtɪltɪ/ noun full form of LCU

landing craft vehicle and personnel /ˈlændɪŋ kraft ˈvɪriːk(ə)l ənˈˈpɑːsən/ noun full form of LCVP

landing helicopter assault /ˈlændɪŋ ˈhelɪkəptər əˈsɔlt/ noun full form of LHA

landing helicopter deck /ˈlændɪŋ ˈhelɪkəptər ˈdek/ noun full form of LHD

landing platform dock /ˈlændɪŋ ˈplætform ˈdɑk/ noun full form of LDP

landing platform helicopter /ˈlændɪŋ ˈplætform ˈhelɪkəptər/ noun full form of LPH

landing ship /ˈlændɪŋ ʃɪp/ noun a transport ship designed to transport and launch landing craft and helicopters during amphibious operations

landing ship dock /ˈlændɪŋ ʃɪp ˈdɑk/ noun full form of LSD

landing ship logistics /ˈlændɪŋ ʃɪp ˈlɔgɪstɪks/ noun full form of LSL

landing ship tank /ˈlændɪŋ ʃɪp ˈteɪŋk/ noun full form of LST

landing vehicle tracked personnel /ˈlændɪŋ ˈvɪriːk(ə)l trækt ˈpɑːsən/ noun full form of LVT-7A1

landing zone /ˈlændɪŋ ˈzoʊn/ noun 1. an area of ground selected for the landing or pick-up of troops by helicopter 2. US an area of ground selected for the landing of troops by parachute 3. abbr LZ

land-line /ˈlænd lʌn/ noun a telephone system which operates through electrical cable placed on, under or above the ground ○ I will call you on land-line.

landmark /ˈlændmɑrk/ noun a distinctive natural or man-made feature, which can be used as a reference point or as an aid to navigation ○ It’s easy to get lost when there are so few landmarks.

landmine /ˈlændmaɪn/ noun an explosive device which is buried in or placed on the surface of the ground, and is designed to detonate when a person steps on it or a vehicle drives over it. Also called mine

Landrover /ˈlændrəʊvər/ noun a British-designed all-terrain vehicle (similar to a jeep)

lane /ˈlen/ noun 1. a narrow rural road ○ These lanes are not wide enough for tanks. 2. a cleared route through a minefield or other obstacle ○ The lane is marked with mine tape. 3. one of several parallel routes ○ The brigade advanced along three parallel lanes. 4. a recognized route for aircraft or ships ○ We must avoid the main shipping lanes.

lanyard /ˈlænjərd/ noun 1. a cord used to attach a weapon or piece of equipment to a person’s body 2. a coloured cord, worn around the shoulder in order to denote the wearer’s rank, role or unit 3. a cord which is pulled in order to activate the firing mechanism of a gun

laser /ˈleɪzər/ noun a device which projects a beam of intense light

laser-guided bomb, laser guided missile noun a bomb or missile designed to home in on a target which has been illuminated by a laser beam. Abbr LGB, LGM

laser range-finder /ˈleɪzər ˈreɪnfɪndər/ noun a device which utilizes a laser beam in order to calculate the exact distance to an object

laser target designator /ˈleɪzər ˈteɪɡt ˈdesəznətər/ noun a device which projects a laser beam onto a target in order to illuminate it for a laser-guided bomb or missile

lashings /ˈlæʃɪŋz/ plural noun ropes used to tie a cargo down
last light

last light /ˈlɑːst/ noun the time of day when it becomes completely dark. 1. No move before last light.

Last Post /ˈlɑːst/ noun a bugle-call blown in barracks and bases at bedtime (usually around 2200hrs) and also at military funerals.

latrine /lɑˈtrɪn/ noun a toilet (especially one constructed in the field)

launch /ˈlɑːntʃ/ noun 1. an act of launching a missile or rocket. 2. a ceremony of placing a newly-built ship into the water for the first time. 3. Are you attending the launch next week?

LAV /ˈleɪv/ noun a light armoured vehicle. Full form light armoured vehicle

LAV-AD /ˈleɪv əd/ noun an air defence variant, fitted with Stinger missiles and a Gatling gun

LAV-AT /ˈleɪv ət/ noun an anti-tank variant, fitted with TOW missiles

LAV-L /ˈleɪl/ noun a load-carrying variant. Designed to transport supplies

LAV-M /ˈleɪm/ noun a mortar variant, fitted with an 81mm mortar

LAV-R /ˈleɪr/ noun a recovery variant

LAW /ˈleɪ/ noun a hand-held anti-tank rocket used by infantry. Full form light anti-tank weapon

lay /leɪ/ verb to place or position an object. The engineers are laying mines. 1. to lay a gun to aim an artillery piece at a target by adjusting the direction and elevation of the barrel

laydown bombing /ˈleɪdaʊn ˈbɒmɪŋ/ noun a low altitude attack in which the aircraft passes very low over its target and releases bombs fitted with parachutes or other devices to slow down the descent, so that the aircraft can get clear before the bombs explode.

L/Bdr abbreviation lance-bombardier

LBE abbreviation load-bearing equipment

LCAC /ˈel siː ˈsɪ/ noun an American-designed hovercraft which is used as a landing craft. Full form landing craft air cushioned

LCM /ˈel siː ˈɛm/ noun a landing craft of simple design which is capable of carrying a company of infantry or most types of equipment, except large armoured vehicles (it is smaller than the LCU). Full form landing craft medium

LCU /ˈel siː ˈjuː/ noun a large landing craft which is capable of transporting main battle tanks (MBT) and is able to operate over long distances in all types of sea conditions. Full form landing craft utility

LCVP /ˈel siː ˈlɪv/ noun a small landing craft which is capable of carrying a platoon of infantry or a small vehicle. Full form landing craft vehicle and personnel

LD abbreviation line of departure

lead /liːd/ adjective 1. moving in front of others. 2. The lead tank was destroyed by a mine. 3. an act of moving in front of others. 4. B Company will take the lead. 5. B Company was in the lead. 6. the distance which one must aim in front of a moving target in order to hit it. 7. He did not give the tank enough lead.

verb 1. to move in front of others. 2.
to command men by inspiring them and setting a good example. He leads from the front. He leads the men forward. He leads by example. He leads the way. He leads the charge.

leader /ˈlɛdə/ noun 1. a person who leads. He is a natural leader. 2. a commander

leadership /ˈlɛdəʃɪp/ noun the ability to make other people carry out your orders effectively and willingly. We engaged the leading tank. 2. senior

leading aircraftman /ˈlɛdɪŋ əˈskræftmən/ noun a junior non-commissioned rank in the air force (equivalent to an experienced private soldier in the army). Abbr LAC

leading rating, leading seaman noun a junior non-commissioned officer (NCO) in the navy (equivalent to a corporal in the army, marines or air force)

lead nation /lɛd ˈnetʃən/ noun a nation which takes the responsibility for organizing a multinational force, and coordinates the forces of other countries

leaflet /ˈlɛflɪt/ noun a piece of paper containing information or a message. Leaflets were dropped over the enemy lines.

leaguer /ˈlɛɡər/ noun an encampment of armoured vehicles. Leaguer. Leaguer

leapfrog /ˈlɛprɒɡ/ verb to move in alternate bounds, with one person, vehicle or sub-unit stationary and giving or prepared to give covering fire, while the other moves past to occupy a fire position beyond (NOTE: leapfrogging - leapfrogged)

leave /liːv/ noun 1. permission. May I have your leave to carry on. Sir? 2. a holiday or vacation. He is on leave.

level-crossing /ˈlevəl ˈkrɒsɪŋ/ noun a place where a railway line crosses a road, and instead of using a bridge, the tracks are actually embedded into the tarmac of the road

Levithen Mustard /ˈlevɪthən ˈmʌстəd/ noun L

levy /ˈlɛvɪ/ noun soldiers who are forced to join the army. The army relies on levies from the provinces.

Levisite /ˈlevɪsɪt/ noun LF

LGB abbreviation laser-guided bomb
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
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<tr>
<td>LGM</td>
<td>abbreviation laser-guided missile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGOP</td>
<td>/el di:/ au 'pi/ noun US small groups acting on their own initiative during the confusion of a hot LZ. Once the LGOPs had established a perimeter, we started to reorganize. Full form little groups of paratroopers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LHA</td>
<td>/el etʃ/ 'teʊ/ noun a ship which is designed to transport and launch landing craft and helicopters during amphibious operations. Full form landing helicopter assault</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LHD</td>
<td>/el etʃ/ 'diː/ noun a ship which is designed to transport and launch landing craft and helicopters during amphibious operations (an updated version of the LHA). Full form landing helicopter dock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LI</td>
<td>abbreviation light infantry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>liaison officer</td>
<td>/laɪˈɛznənstʃɜːl noun an officer who acts as a link between one tactical grouping and another or between a headquarters and its subordinate groupings. Abbr LO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>liberate</td>
<td>/ˈlɪbəreɪt/ verb 1. to set a person free from captivity. The prisoners were liberated by the Americans. 2. to set a country, region or town free from occupation by a foreign power. Paris was liberated in 1944. 3. to steal (slang). We've liberated a case of beer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>liberation</td>
<td>/ˌlɪbəˈreɪʃ(ə)n/ noun an act of liberating a person or place. The liberation of Europe began with the Normandy landings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>liberty</td>
<td>/ˈlɪbrəti/ noun 1. freedom from captivity, oppression or foreign domination. 2. (in the navy) free time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>liberty boat</td>
<td>/ˈlɪbrəti bɒt/ noun a small boat taking naval ratings ashore for free time off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lice</td>
<td>/laɪs/ noun a person who spends his or her entire career in one of the armed forces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lie</td>
<td>/laɪ/ verb 1. to be in or adopt a horizontal position. She lay on her bed. 2. He lay down on the floor. (NOTE: lie – lying – have lain) 2. to deliberately say something which is untrue. He lied about the troop movements. (NOTE: lie – lying – lied)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**lie up** /ˈlaɪ ap/ verb to rest or wait in a concealed position before continuing a patrol or other covert operation

**lie-up position** /ˈlaɪ ap pəˈzɪʃ(ə)n/ noun a concealed position where a patrol can rest, wait or observe, before carrying out the next phase of a covert operation. Abbr LUP

**lieutenant** /ˈlɪtənt/; US /ˈlɪtənt/ 'tenənt/ noun 1. a junior officer in the army or marines (equivalent of a first lieutenant in the US Army; usually in command of a platoon or equivalent-sized grouping). 2. a junior officer in the navy, below lieutenant-commander. 3. US an officer in the navy. Abbr Lt

**lieutenant-colonel** /ˈleɪtənt kəˈmənt/ noun an officer in the army or marines (usually in command of a battalion or equivalent-sized grouping) sometimes referred to as half-colonel. Abbr Lt-Col

**lieutenant-commander** /ˈleɪtənt kəˈmənt ˈkəməndər/ noun an officer in the navy above lieutenant and below commander. Abbr Lt-Cmdr

**lieutenant-general** /ˈleɪtənt dʒəˈnərəl/ noun a senior officer in the army or marines (junior to general and senior to major-general). Abbr Lt-Gen

**lieutenant junior grade** /ˈleɪtənt ˈdʒuːnjər ˈgreɪd/ noun US a junior officer in the navy (equivalent of sub-lieutenant in British Royal Navy)

**lifebelt** /ˈlaɪfbɛlt/ noun a plastic or wooden ring designed to keep a person floating in water

**lifeboat** /ˈlaɪfboʊt/ noun a small boat carried by a ship, in case the ship must be abandoned at sea
lifevest /ˈlaɪfvest/ noun a jacket designed to keep a person floating in water

light /laɪt/ noun 1. an act of transporting equipment, men or supplies by air ○ We lost three planes during the last lift. 2. a machine which takes people up or down from one floor to another in a building ○ The lift was damaged by the explosion. ● verb 1. to raise an object to a higher position ○ The bomb exploded as they were lifting it. 2. to transport equipment, men or supplies by air ○ We will start lifting supplies tomorrow. 3. to remove a restriction ○ Radio silence has been lifted. ● airlift

light /laɪt/ adjective 1. bright enough to see 2. low in weight ● noun 1. a natural or artificial brightness which makes it possible to see 2. any source of artificial light ○ We saw a light in the distance. 3. any pyrotechnical device or projectile which lights up an area of ground (e.g., an illuminating round, shermuly, star shell, etc.) ○ The platoon commander called for light. ● verb to apply fire to something ○ He lit his cigarette. (NOTE: lighting – lit – has lit)

light aid detachment /ˈlaɪt ɛd dɪˈtɛktʃən/ noun full form of LAD

light anti-tank weapon /ˈlaɪt əntɪˈtæŋk, ˈweɪpən/ noun full form of LAW

light armoured vehicle /ˈlaɪt ərməʊrd ˈvɪtrɪk(ə)l/ noun full form of LAV

Light Gun /ˈlaɪt ˈgæn/ noun a British-designed 105mm artillery piece, made of light alloy for ease of transportation and high mobility

light infantry /ˈlaɪt ˈɪnfəntri/ noun lightly equipped and highly mobile infantry, who specialised in reconnaissance and skirmishing (historical) Abbr LI

light machine-gun /ˈlaɪt ˈmeɪʃənˈɡæn/ noun a light man-portable machine-gun designed to be carried by infantry sections or squads. Abbr LMG

lights out /ˈlaɪts əʊt/ noun the time by which people in the armed forces are supposed to be in bed or asleep, or a signal indicating this

lightstick /ˈlaɪtstɪk/ noun a simple light-producing device, consisting of a slim plastic cylinder containing two chemicals in liquid form. When the cylinder is bent, the two liquids mix together and cause a chemical reaction which produces a weak form of light, lasting for several hours. ○ COMMENT: Lightsticks are available in several different colours and are ideal for marking routes at night.

light support weapon /ˈlaɪt ˈsɔːpɔt ˈweɪpən/ noun full form of LSW

light tank /ˈlaɪt ˈtæŋk/ noun another name for a tracked armoured reconnaissance vehicle (CVRT)

light up /ˈlaɪt əp/ verb to project light onto an object or over an area ○ Flares were dropped to light up the area. ● illuminate

Lima /ˈlɪmə/ noun the twelfth letter of the phonetic alphabet (LI)

limber /ˈlɪmbr/ noun a vehicle or trailer carrying artillery ammunition, which accompanies the guns

limit /ˈlaɪmt/ noun a level or point beyond which something cannot go ○ off limits prohibited (to the persons specified) ○ This pub is off limits to officers and NCOs. ● verb to impose a limit on something ○ Water has been limited to one litre per man.

limit of exploitation /ˈlaɪmt əvˌeksplɔˈteɪʃən/ noun a point on the ground beyond which the exploitation of a successful attack should not continue ○ Our limit of exploitation is the rear edge of the wood.

line /laɪn/ noun 1. a long thin feature which connects or appears to connect two or more points 2. a tactical formation where troops or vehicles move side by side in a single extended line ○ The platoon advanced in line formation. 3. ● the Line armoured and infantry regiments not forming part of the Household Division 4. ● the Line the Equator ○ We will be crossing the Line tomorrow. 5. an electrical cable used to connect field telephones to each other ○ We need to lay more line back to HQ. 6. a track of a railway ○ The line was blown
line of defence noun a line formed by a series of defensive positions and defended localities

line of departure noun a real or imaginary line, the crossing of which marks the start of an advance, attack or other offensive operation. Our line of departure is formed by the main road. Abbr LD. Also known as start line

line of fire noun the path of a bullet or other projectile from the weapon to the target. Some of C Company wandered into our line of fire.

line of march noun a route taken by troops or vehicles from one location to another

line of sight noun a line from a gun’s position to the target

lines plural noun a line or boundary formed by the positions of an army (often used in the plural)

lines of communication plural noun main roads, air routes and sea routes which connect a military force to its operational base, along which supplies are moved and along which its supply depots and reserve forces are located.

line up verb to form a line. They lined up outside the armoury.

link noun 1. something which connects 2. a metal clip used to fasten rounds of machine-gun ammunition together, in order to form belts 3. machine-gun ammunition (which is fastened together by links). We need 10,000 rounds of 7.62mm link. (NOTE: no plural in this meaning) 4. a contact or means of communication. A liaison officer acts as a link between two different units. We need another radio link with the Germans.

link up verb to come together. The battalion linked up with the Royal Hussars on the far side of the river.

listening post noun a small patrol, sent out in front of a defensive position at night, in order to listen to the approach of the enemy. A small radio station where radio operators listen to enemy communications.

little groups of paratroopers plural noun full form of LGOP

littoral noun a coastal area

live adjective relating to real ammunition, which is designed to kill (as opposed to blank ammunition, which is designed to simulate the firing of a weapon) a training exercise where live ammunition is used

live round noun a piece of real ammunition (as opposed to a blank round). Compare blank

LMG abbreviation light machine-gun

load noun 1. something that is carried by an aircraft, person or vehicle. This helicopter is capable of carrying heavy loads. 2. an amount or weight of what is carried by an aircraft, person or vehicle. In the Falklands conflict, soldiers were carrying loads in excess of 100 pounds.

load verb 1. to put a load or cargo onto an aircraft, vehicle or ship. They were attacked as they were loading the ship. 2. to put ammunition into a weapon. Have you loaded your weapon yet? 3. to put ammunition into a magazine. They are still loading magazines. 4. to put a loaded magazine onto a weapon. With a magazine of 30 rounds, load!

COMMENT: A loaded weapon can be in one of two states: made safe means that a loaded magazine is fitted, but the weapon is not cocked and there is no round in the breech,
whereas made ready means that a loaded magazine is fitted, the weapon is cocked and there is a round in the breech.

**load-bearing equipment** /'ləud,beriŋ/ kwipmant/ noun US a set of equipment pouches attached to a belt or harness. Abbrev LBE

**loader** /'ləʊdər/ noun a crew member responsible for loading an artillery piece, gun or other weapons system

**loam** /ləum/ noun US soil ○ It was easy digging into the soft loam.

**loan service** /'ləʊn, 'sərvıs/ noun a temporary secondment of servicemen to the armed forces of a friendly foreign state, usually to provide military expertise or training

**local superiority** /'ləʊk(ə)l sə'peərəri'tri/ noun a situation in which you have more troops than the enemy on one part of the battlefield, even though the enemy force as a whole may be equal in strength or even superior to your own

**local time** /'ləʊk(ə)l taim/ noun the time of the country in which one is operating ○ The general will be arriving at 1430hrs local time.

**locate** /'ləʊk(ə)l tɛkt/ verb 1. to discover the exact location of something ○ We have located the enemy battery. 2. to place or position something ○ The dressing station is located in the brigade administration area.

**location** /'ləʊk(ə)l tɛkt(ə)n/ noun 1. the place where something is ○ He is not at this location. 2. an act of locating something ○ He is responsible for the location of the supply dumps. ○ The location of the enemy positions is taking longer than expected.

**locator** /'ləʊk(ə)l tɛktə/ noun a device or equipment designed to locate something

**lock** /ləʊk/ noun 1. a mechanism for securing one object to another (which usually requires a key to open it) ○ We had to smash the lock in order to open the door. 2. an enclosed stretch of a canal or river, in which the water level can be raised or lowered by the use of gates

○ 5 Platoon is dug in around the lock. n verb 1. to secure with a lock ○ This door is to be locked at all times. 2. to secure behind locked doors ○ The weapons will be locked in the guardroom overnight.

**lock and load** /'ləʊk/ and /'ləʊd/ verb US to operate the cocking lever of a weapon so that a round is placed in the chamber and the weapon is cocked and ready to fire (informal) (NOTE: The British English term is make ready)

**locker** /'ləʊkə/ noun a compartment, cupboard or wardrobe which can be locked ○ locker inspection at 1800hrs

**lock-on** /'ləʊk ɒn/ noun a moment when the operator of a guided weapon has the target in his sights and the guidance system is activated. ○ acquisition, solution

***L of C*** abbreviation line of communication

**log** /ləʊg/ abbreviation logistics

**log** /ləʊg/ noun 1. the official diary of a ship ○ The captain entered the ship’s position in the log. 2. a chronological record of events ○ All radio operators must keep a log. 3. a record of journeys, maintenance, repairs, etc., for an aircraft, piece of equipment or vehicle ○ He inspected the vehicle’s log. n verb to make a chronological record ○ You are required to log all messages.

**loggie** /'lɒgi/ noun a person involved in logistics (informal)

**logistic** /'lɒdʒɪstɪk/, logistical /'lɒdʒɪstɪkl/ adjective relating to logistics

**logistics** /'lɒdʒɪstɪks/ noun the coordination of the supplying and resupplying of military units with the resources which they need in order to carry out their operational tasks (such as ammunition, equipment, food and water, fuel, medical facilities, replacement men and equipment, spare parts, transport, etc.) (NOTE: takes a singular verb)

**COMMENT: Logistics covers the design, development, acquisition, movement and storage of material; the movement of personnel; the construction and maintenance of buildings and other facilities; the provision of services such as medical services
long-range /lɒŋ ˈrɛndʒ/ adjective used over a long distance

long-range reconnaissance and patrolling /lɒŋ ˈrɛndʒ ˈriːkəndʒən si ənd ˈpætəlɪŋ/ noun special skills relating to covert patrolling far into enemy-held territory. He is going on a LRRP course. Abbr LRRP

long-rod penetrator /lɒŋ ˈrɒd ˈpɜːnətreɪtə/ noun an anti-tank projectile, consisting of a simple metal dart (made out of a high density metal, such as tungsten carbide or depleted uranium and usually fitted with fins in order to provide extra stability in flight) which is fired at a very high velocity and uses kinetic energy to punch its way through armour. Armour-piercing, kinetic energy round

COMMENT: Long-rod penetrators are the only means of defeating many modern types of armour. Because a long-rod penetrator is considerably smaller than the diameter of the gun barrel through which it is fired, it is usually fitted with a metal collar or sleeve known as a sabot, which falls away once the projectile has left the barrel.

loot /luːt/ noun 1. any private property belonging to the enemy, which is taken for your own personal use or gain. We found plenty of loot on the enemy position. 2. anything which is stolen in wartime or during a period of civil disorder. Several valuable paintings were discovered amongst the loot. a verb to steal during a period of disorder. Soldiers are looting the town.

looter /luːtə/ noun a person who loots. The army was ordered to shoot into the air to discourage looters.

looting /luːtnɪŋ/ noun an action of removing property during a period of civil disorder. There have been reports of widespread looting by the enemy.

lorry /ˈloʊri/ noun a large wheeled vehicle designed to transport men, equipment or supplies. truck

lose /luːz/ verb 1. to be unable to find something. He has lost his rifle. 2. to lose your way to be unaware of where you are. We lost three men yesterday. B Squadron lost four tanks. 3. to lose your nerve to be unable to control your fear. We have lost the battle. (NOTE: losing – lost)

loss /lɒs/ noun an act of losing something. He did not report the loss of his rifle. Casualties. personal losses. The battalion suffered heavy losses.

lost /lɒst/ adjective unaware of your exact location. We are lost. lost at sea missing, drowned

louse /luːs/ noun a tiny parasitic insect, which lives on a person’s body and in their clothes, breeding in great numbers and being easily transmitted to other people, thereby causing great discomfort and often transmitting disease. The prisoners were covered in lice. The plural form is lice /ˈlaɪs/ and is normally used in preference to the singular form.

lower /ˈlaʊə/ adjective below something else. We moved into the lower part of the town.

lower case /ˈlaʊə ˈkeɪs/ noun small letters written as a, b, c, etc.

low frequency /ˈloʊ ˈfriːkwənsi/ noun the range of radio frequencies from 30 – 300 kilohertz (kHz). Abbr LF

low-observables /ˈloʊ əb扎vɪəbəlɪz/ plural noun stealth technology. This aircraft design incorporates all the latest low-observables.

low tide /ˈlaʊ ˈtaid/ noun the point at which the tide has fallen to its lowest level. The low tide left the landing craft stranded on the rocks.

low velocity /ˈloʊ ˈvektəl/ adjective (of projectiles) designed to travel slower than the speed of sound. This helmet will resist a low velocity bullet. Compare high velocity
phibious operations. Full form landing craft and helicopters during amphibious operations. Full form air-assault infantry during amphibious operations. Full form transport and launch land armoured vehicles.

platform dock helicopter light support weapon. Full form designed 5.56mm light machine gun. Full form a Brit ish-designed a drug which causes intense hallucinations and can have serious long-term effects. Full form lysergic acid diethylamide

camouflage

 Lt-Col abbreviation lieutenant-general
 lubricant /ˈlʌbrɪkənt/ noun a substance, such as oil, which is applied to machinery in order to make it run smoothly
 full /flʌl/ noun a temporary period of inactivity or quiet o He moved back during a lull in the battle.
 luminous /ˈluːmɪnəs/ adjective (of a substance, especially paint) producing light (without electricity) o My watch has a luminous face.
 Lumocolor /ˈljuːməʊkɔːlər/ trademark a trademark for a felt-tipped pen, which is suitable for writing on plastic (e.g. map cases, overlays, etc.) o The enemy positions are marked in red Lumocolor.

COMMENT: Lumocolors come in two types: water-soluble will wash off on contact with any liquid (e.g. rain-wa ter, saliva, sweat, etc.), while permanent can only be removed by some sort of cleaning fluid.

LUP abbreviation lie-up position

lurk /lɜːk/ verb to wait in a concealed position in the hope that a target might present itself o I think there’s a tank lurking in that wood. o noun a patrol which waits in a likely area of enemy activity, in order to react to any incident which might occur there o Tonight we’re going to do a lurk by the railway bridge.

COMMENT: A lurk is really a counter-surgency term and differs from an ambush in that it is not set with the primary intention of killing anyone; in fact an arrest would be the more probable result.

LVTP-7A1 /ˈlɪvtrɪp/ noun an American-designed amphibious tractor. Full form landing vehicle tracked personnel. Also called Amphibious Assault Vehicle Seven (AAV-7A1)

Lynx /ˈlɪŋks/ noun a British-made multirole helicopter

lysergic acid diethylamide /ˈlaɪsərɡɪk ˈɔːdiθɪləməd/ noun full form of LSD
LZ noun 1. an area of ground selected for the landing or pick-up of troops by helicopter. The LZ is at grid 941623. B Company will secure the LZ. 2. US an area of ground selected for the landing of troops by parachute. Full form landing zone.
MIKE - Mm

M-1 /ˈwʌn/ noun same as Abrams
M-2 /ˈtuː/ noun, Bradley
M-3 /ˈbɹɪə/ noun, Bradley
M-16 /ˈsaɪkstɪn/ noun, Armalite
M-60 /ˈsɪkstɪ/ noun 1. an American-designed 1960s-era main battle tank (MBT) 2. an American-designed 7.62mm general purpose machine-gun (GPMG) (NOTE: The plural form is M-60s /ˈsaɪkstɪz/)
M-61A1 /ˈsaɪkstɪˌwæn/ noun an American-designed 20mm multi-barrelled anti-aircraft cannon. Also called Vulcan. > M-163, Phalanx
M-82 /ˈɛtɪ/ˈtuː/ noun, Barrett
M-109 /ˈwæn ə ˈnæn/ noun an American-designed 155mm self-propelled howitzer (SPH) (NOTE: The plural form is M-109s /ˈwænˌwænˌˈnænz/)
M-110 /ˈwænˌˈwæn/ noun an American-designed 203mm self-propelled gun (SPG) (NOTE: The plural form is M-110s /ˈwænˌwænˌˈwænz/)
M-113 /ˌwænˈwænˈbɹɪə/ noun an American-designed 1960s-era armoured personnel carrier (APC) (NOTE: The plural form is M-113s /ˌwænˌwænˌˈbɹɪəz/)
M-163 /ˌsɪkstɪ ˈbɹɪə/ noun an American-designed M-113 armoured personnel carrier fitted with the M-61A1 Vulcan 20mm multi-barrelled anti-aircraft cannon
M-198 /ˌwænˌˈnæntɪˈɛtɪ/ noun an American-designed 155mm artillery piece (NOTE: The plural form is M-198s /ˌwænˌˈwænˌˈnæntɪˈɛtɪz/)
M-247 /ˈtuː ʃəvən/ noun an American-designed self-propelled anti-aircraft gun (SPAA). Also called Sergeant York
M-249 /ˈtʃæn/ noun an American-designed 5.56mm light machine-gun (LMG). Also called Squad Automatic Weapon
M-551 /ˈfeɪv ˈwæn/ noun, Sheridan
M-1973 /ˌwænˌˈnænˌˈsevən ˈbɹɪə/ noun a Soviet-designed 152mm self-propelled gun (SPG) (NOTE: The plural form is M-1973s /ˌwænˌˈwænˌˈsevənˌˈbɹɪəz/)
Mach /ˈmɑːk/ noun same as Mach number
machete /ˈmɑːket/ noun in Central America, a long broad-bladed knife designed for clearing and often used as a weapon. > panga, parang
machine-gun /ˈmɑːʃəni ɡən/ noun an automatic firearm, which will continue to fire and reload for as long as its trigger is depressed. > verb to shoot someone with a machine-gun. > Enemy gunships have been machine-gunning refugee columns. > abbr (all senses) MG
machine-gunner /ˈmɑːʃəni ˈgənə/ noun a person who operates a machine gun
Mach number /ˈmɑːkˌnæmbəs/ noun the speed of an aircraft or missile in relation to the local speed of sound
COMMENT: The Mach number of an aircraft or missile will vary at different
made ready

alitudes. An aircraft which travels faster than Mach 1 is said to be supersonic.

made ready /ˌmɛd ˈredi/ adjective state of a gun when a loaded magazine is fitted, the weapon is cocked and there is a round in the breech

made safe /ˌmɛd ˈsetfl/ adjective state of a gun when a loaded magazine is fitted, but the weapon is not cocked and there is no round in the breech

mag /mæg/ noun a magazine (informal)

magazine /ˌmæɡəˈziːn/ noun 1. a metal or plastic ammunition container, which is fitted to a gun and is designed to feed the rounds directly into the breech. Every man is to carry five extra magazines. Also called mag 2. a building used for storing ammunition and explosives. We have captured an enemy magazine. 3. a compartment in a ship, used for storing ammunition. The shell pierced the ship’s armour and exploded in the magazine. 4. a building or compound, used for storing military supplies (such as ammunition, clothing, food, fuel, weapons, etc.) The enemy is resupplied by a network of magazines located in his rear areas.

maggot /ˈmægət/ noun 1. the larva of a fly. His wound was crawling with maggots. 2. a sleeping-bag (slang) He’s still in his maggot.

magnetic /mæɡˈnetɪk/ adjective 1. having the property of attracting or repelling iron. 2. relating to magnetic north

magnetic bearing /mæɡˈnetɪk ˈbɛərɪŋ/ noun a bearing obtained using a compass. Azimuth, backing-bearing

magnetic north /mæɡˈnetɪk ˈnɜːθ/ noun the direction in which the needle of a compass points. Compare grid north

magnetic tape /mæɡˈnetɪk ˈteɪp/ noun a type of tape used for recording sound, images or computer data

magnetic variation /mæɡˈnetɪk ˌveərɪˈeɪʃən/ noun the difference between magnetic north and grid or true north (as shown on a map)

COMMENT: The key of the map should tell you whether to add or subtract the magnetic variation in order to convert grid bearings to magnetic bearings and vice-versa.

main /mæn/ adjective 1. most important 2. largest or strongest

Main /mæn/ noun main headquarters. Main is located at grid 675784.

main battle area /ˌmɛn bɪˈtel(oʊ)lˈɛəreɪ/ noun the part of the battlefield or operational area in which most of the activity is taking place. Abbr MBA

main battle tank /ˌmɛn bɪˈtel(oʊ)lˈtæŋk/ noun heavily armoured tank, fitted with a large-calibre gun, which is primarily designed to destroy enemy tanks. Abbr MBT

main defence forces /ˌmɛn dɪˈfɛns fɔːrzz/ plural noun forces assigned to the major NATO commanders

main headquarters /ˌmɛn heds ˈkwɔːstəz/ plural noun the primary resourcing and planning headquarters for a large tactical grouping (normally located to the rear of the forward troops)

Mainstay /ˌmɛnstɪ/ noun a NATO name for the Soviet-designed A-40 airborne early warning and control (AEW & C) aircraft

maintain /mɛntˈten/ verb 1. to keep an activity going. We need to maintain the momentum of the attack. 2. to look after equipment, so that it continues to function properly. You are responsible for maintaining our vehicles.

maintenance /mɛntˈeɪnəns/ noun an act of maintaining. This section is responsible for vehicle maintenance.

COMMENT: Maintenance covers the inspection and repair of equipment and materiel to make sure it is kept in working order, the repair and upkeep of buildings and other facilities, and the continued supply of materiel to forces in the field.

maintenance check /mɛntˈeɪnəns ˈʧeɪk/ noun the act of checking that a vehicle or weapon is in good functioning condition

Maj abbreviation major

Maj Gen abbreviation major general

Maj-Gen abbreviation major-general
fire and the weapon is cocked and ready to fire. 

You made your plan yet? 

He is making tea. 

The guidance system has malfunctioned. 

That road is a major line of communication for the enemy.

The accident was due to a malfunction in the steering system. 

The battery is manned by six gunners. 

He sent six men to recce the road. 

Our mandate is to see that these people do not starve. 

His name isn’t on the manifest. 

We threw a grenade down every manhole. 

His name isn’t on the manifest. 

He is making tea. 

Our mandate is to see that these people do not starve. 

Our mandate is to see that these people do not starve. 

The accident was due to a malfunction in the steering system. 

The accident was due to a malfunction in the steering system. 

Our mandate is to see that these people do not starve. 

Our mandate is to see that these people do not starve. 

The accident was due to a malfunction in the steering system. 

Our mandate is to see that these people do not starve.
manoeuvrable adjective capable of moving easily over all types of terrain. The new tank is highly manoeuvrable.

manoeuvre /məˈnɔːvər/ noun 1. the art of moving troops and vehicles in order to achieve a military objective. The new tactical doctrine places great emphasis on manoeuvre. 2. a planned movement by troops or vehicles designed to achieve a specific objective. The manoeuvre was supposed to cut off the enemy’s line of retreat.

verb 1. to perform a manoeuvre. The brigade manoeuvred against the enemy’s flank. 2. to perform a complicated movement with a vehicle. We manoeuvred the tank into the farmyard.

manoeuvre element /məˈnɔːvər əˌˈelmənt/ noun a separate force or unit which is able to move about while engaging the enemy.

manoeuvres /məˈnɔːvər əz/ plural noun military training exercises. The manoeuvres will take place in April.

exercises, war games

manoeuvre warfare /məˈnɔːvər ˌwɔrˈfɛs/ noun a military doctrine which seeks to break an enemy’s will to fight by using mobility and constant aggression to shatter his cohesion and deprive him of any opportunity to reorganize. Compare attitudinal warfare, positional warfare.

COMMENT: Manoeuvre warfare relies on the use of directive command for its success, since subordinate commanders must be free to use their own initiative whenever necessary.

man-pack /mənˈpæk/ verb to transport something using people (as opposed to animals or vehicles or aircraft or boats). The ammunition will have to be man-packed up to the gun line.

MANPADS /ˈmænpædz/ noun any hand-held surface-to-air missile (e.g., Blowpipe, Grail, Stinger, etc.). Full form man-portable air defence system.

man-portable /mən, ‚pɔrtəb(ə)l/ adjective designed to be carried by one or more persons. This missile launcher is man-portable.

man-portable air defence system /ˌmæn ‚pɔrtəb(ə)l ‚aɪˈdefens, ‚sɪstəm/ noun full form of MANPADS. This missile launcher is man-portable.


MAOT /ˈmeɪtəʊt/ noun a small group of air traffic controllers for a temporary landing site. Full form mobile air operations team.

map /meɪp/ noun a scale drawing of an area of ground, with symbols representing natural and man-made features. MAPEX /ˈmeɪpˌɛks/ an exercise involving command elements of a grouping, in which a tactical scenario is played out on a map. Full form map exercise.

map grid /meɪp ˈgrɪd/ noun a system of numbered squares printed on a map in order to produce map or grid references.

map reading /meɪp ˈriːdɪŋ/ noun the ability to use a map to find out where places are located or how to reach them.

map reference /meɪp ˈref(ə)ˈrɛns/ noun same as grid reference.

map square /meɪp ˈskwɛr/ noun a square area between the grid lines marked on a map, usually designated by a letter and a number, e.g. H6.

march /mɑr/ verb 1. movement on foot. It was a long march to the assembly area. 2. a piece of music, traditionally played when a regiment is marching on a parade. Our regimental march is ‘The British Grenadiers’. 1. verb to move from one location to another on foot. We had to march to the concentration area. 2. to walk in a smart military manner (especially on a parade). The recruits are learning how to march.

marching order /ˈmɑrʃɪŋ ˈɔrədər/ noun a draft list. military equipment equipped with webbing and bergen.

march past /ˈmɑrʃpɑst/ verb to march in ceremonial order past an offic-
er or a saluting base o The battalion marched past to the tune of ‘The British Grenadiers’.
marchpast /mɑrtʃˈpɑːst/ noun a parade where troops march past a saluting base o The Queen took the salute at the marchpast. Compare flypast
Marder /ˈmaːrdər/ noun a German-designed infantry fighting vehicle (IFV)
marine /ˈmɑriːn/ adjective relating to the sea o He has a diploma in marine engineering. ■ noun 1. an infantry soldier serving with the navy, but trained to fight on land 2. the lowest non-commissioned rank in the marines (equivalent of a private in the army)

Comment: In most armed forces, marines have the same or a similar rank structure to the army, but they follow the customs and traditions of the navy. In the British armed forces, a marine’s rank has a higher status than the same rank in the army. Thus, a captain in the Royal Marines is considered to be the equivalent of a major in the army.
marine expeditionary brigade /ˌmɑrˈiːn ˌɛksˈpɪdɪʃə(ʊ)n(ə)riˈbrɪɡ/ noun full form of MEB
marine expeditionary force /ˌmɑrˈiːn ˌɛksˈpɪdɪʃə(ʊ)n(ə)riˈfɔːs/ noun full form of MEF
marine expeditionary unit /ˌmɑrˈiːn ˌɛksˈpɪdɪʃə(ʊ)n(ə)riˈjuːnɪt/ noun full form of MEU
maritime /ˈmɑrɪtɪm/ adjective relating to the sea and ships
mark /mɑrk/ noun 1. anything which is drawn, painted, written on, placed on or cut into the surface of an object or the ground, in order to convey a meaning 2. any cut or indentation in the surface of an object or the ground as a result of damage o We could see the marks made by the shrapnel. 3. model or type o Mark II or Mk. II fragmentation grenade. Abbr Mk ■ verb 1. to make a mark on something o He marked the tree with an ‘X’. o The map was marked with all the enemy positions and minefields. 2. (of targets, landing zones, etc.) to use a sign, light or coloured smoke, so that other people can see it o We will use yellow smoke to mark the LZ.
marker /ˈmɑrkər/ noun anything which is used as a sign, in order to convey meaning, or to draw other people’s attention to a location or object o He used a piece of mine tape as a marker.
market garden /ˈmɑrkɪt ˈgɑrd(ə)n/ noun a large area of ground used for the commercial cultivation of fruit and vegetables
marking /ˈmɑrkɪŋ/ noun 1. an act of making a mark o The general has forbidden the marking of maps because of security. 2. numbers, letters, symbols or insignia, which are painted or printed on an object as a means of identification o High explosive shells are usually painted dark green, with yellow markings.
marksman /ˈmɑrkzmən/ noun a soldier who is very good at shooting o They positioned marksman on the roofs of surrounding buildings.
marched past to the tune of ‘The British Grenadiers’.
march past /mɑrtʃ ˈpɑːst/ noun a military parade where the soldiers march past a saluting base. Compare flypast
marsh /mɑrʃ/ noun a large area of permanently wet ground
marshmallow /ˈmɑrʃmələʊ/ noun the most senior officer rank in the RAF. o The most senior officer rank in the RAF: air marshal, air chief marshal, air vice marshal
marshland /ˈmɑːʃlænd/ noun terrain consisting mainly of marsh

MASH /ˈmeɪʃ/ noun US a field hospital. Full form mobile army surgical hospital

MASINT noun intelligence, derived from many different sources and sensors, which identifies the specific characteristics of a target and enables it to be located and tracked. Full form measurement and signature intelligence

mask /mɑːsk/ noun a face covering worn as protection or as a means of disguise. The terrorists were wearing masks. • verb 1. to conceal. • That hedge will mask our withdrawal. 2. mask up =

mass /mæs/ noun 1. a large quantity of something. There is a huge mass of refugees at the frontier. • There are masses of refugees at the frontier. [NOTE: can be used in singular or plural form] 2. (as a principal of war) a concentration of troops and firepower at a decisive point. • verb to concentrate in large numbers. Enemy troops are massing on the border.

massacre /ˈmæskər/ noun an incident involving the killing of a large number of people. We are receiving reports of a massacre in Malmédy. • verb to kill a large number of people (in one incident). The villagers were massacred by the retreating troops.

mast /mɑːst/ noun a tall metal structure, usually situated on high ground, for supporting communications equipment (e.g. television, radio, mobile telephone technology)

master chief petty officer /ˈmɑːstə ˈpeti ˈptɪs/ noun US a senior non-commissioned officer (SNCO) in the navy

master gunnery sergeant /ˈmɑːstə ˈɡʌnərɪ ˈsɜːdʒənt/ noun US a senior non-commissioned officer (SNCO) in the marines

master sergeant /ˈmɑːstə ˈsɜːdʒənt/ noun US a senior non-commissioned officer (SNCO) in the army, marines or air force

master warrant officer /ˈmɑːstə ˈwərnət, ˈptɪs/ noun a rank for a senior warrant officer in the armed forces of the US and some other countries

material /ˈmætriəl/ noun 1. any substance from which things can be made. This armour is made of steel and other materials. 2. a fabric or cloth. The new uniforms are made of flame-resistant material. 3. information or data. This material is classified secret.

material /ˈmæ,trɪəl/ noun equipment and supplies (as opposed to personnel). Logistics involves the purchase, transport and storage of materiel.

COMMENT: The department responsible for materiel in a headquarters is known as G4.

Matterhorn /ˈmeɪtəˌhɔrn/ noun a type of military boot made of soft leather with a Gore-Tex lining

maul /mɔːl/ verb to inflict a lot of casualties. The brigade was badly mauled. [NOTE: This verb is normally used in the passive.]

Maverick /ˈmevrɪk/ noun an American-designed air-to-ground missile (AGM)

MAW abbreviation medium anti-tank weapon

MBA abbreviation main battle area

MBT abbreviation main battle tank

MCCP abbreviation movement control and check-point

MCT(S) /em siː tiː ˈɛs/ noun a variant of Spartan armoured personnel carrier, adapted to fire Milan ATGW. Full form Milan compact turret (Spartan)

meal ready-to-eat /miːl ˈredi tə ˈɪt/ noun full form of MRE

mean point of impact /miːn pɔɪnt əv ˈmiːpt/ noun full form of MPI

means /miːnz/ noun a radio terminology for a type of communications system (e.g.: radio or telephone or fax or email, etc.). Hello 22, this is 2, change to secure means, over.

measurement and signature intelligence /ˈmezəment ən ˈsɪɡnətʃər ɪnˈtɛlɪdʒəns/ noun full form of MASINT
MEB /ˈem.iː/ noun US a divisional-scale combined-arms grouping of BLTs, helicopter squadrons and logistics units. Full form marine expeditionary brigade

mech /mɛk/ abbreviation mechanized infantry

mechanic /ˈmɛk.nətɪk/ noun a person who repairs and services machinery

mechanized /ˈmɛk.naɪzd/ adjective equipped with machinery, especially transport

mechanized infantry /ˌmɛk.naɪzd ˈɪn.fəntri/ noun infantry equipped with infantry fighting vehicles (IFVs) or infantry fighting vehicles (IFVs) are often referred to as armoured infantry.

mechanized battalion /ˌmɛk.naɪzd ˈbæ.tən.jəl/ noun an infantry battalion equipped with armoured personnel carriers (APCs) or infantry fighting vehicles (IFVs)

mechanized infantry /ˌmɛk.naɪzd ˈɪn.fəntri/ noun infantry equipped with tour of operational duty, or that the wearer has received a medal.

medal /ˈmed.kəl/ noun an insignia (usually consisting of a metal cross, disk or star suspended from a piece of coloured fabric), which denotes the wearer’s participation in a campaign or tour of operational duty, or that the wearer has received an award for bravery or for an outstanding achievement (usually during operational service)

medal ribbon /ˈmed.kəl.ˈri.bən/ noun a piece of coloured fabric, which is worn on the breast of a uniform, to show that the wearer has received a medal. Also called decoration

Médecins Sans Frontières /ˌmɛd.ˈsɛn sa.ˈfrɔ̃t.ɛrəs/ noun a non-governmental organization (NGO) which is dedicated to providing medical treatment to all casualties, regardless of nationality, during an armed conflict. Abbr MSF

MEDEVAC /ˈmɛdiv.ək/, medevac noun the evacuation of a person due to illness rather than injury. We need to arrange a MEDEVAC. Full form medical evacuation a verb to evacuate an ill person. He was MEDEVAc because he had malaria.

media /ˈmi.dɪə/ noun a general term for the television, radio and newspapers, and the reporters who work for them

medic /ˈmed.ɪk/ noun a person who is not a doctor, but is trained to give medical treatment

medical /ˈmed.ɪkl/ adjective relating to the treatment of illness and injury

medical cover /ˈmed.ɪkl.ˈkʌvər/ noun medical personnel, ambulances, etc., which are available in the event of casualties

medical evacuation /ˈmed.ɪkl.ə ˌev.kə.ʃən/ noun full form of MEDEVAC

medical officer /ˈmed.ɪkl.ˈɒf.ɪsər/ noun a doctor attached to a unit. Abbr MO

medium /ˈmi.dɪəm/ adjective

1. neither light nor heavy

2. neither small nor large

medium anti-tank weapon /ˌmi.dɪə.mənt.ˈænti.ˈtæŋk.ˈweɪ.pən/ noun a man-portable launcher designed to fire a powerful anti-tank rocket or missile. Abbr MAW

meeting engagement /ˈmi.tɪŋ ɪn.ˈɡɛɪ.tɪŋ ɪn/ noun a fight between opposing forces which is unplanned and takes place at an unexpected time and place

MEF /ˈem.iː/ noun US a corps-scale combined-arms grouping of BLTs, helicopter squadrons and logistics units. Full form marine expeditionary force

megaton /ˌmɛɡə.tɒn/ noun a unit of explosive power, corresponding to that produced by one million tons of TNT

MEL /ˈem.iː/ noun a vehicle designed to carry and launch a surface-to-surface missile (SSM). Full form mobile erector launcher. Abbr TEL
Mentioned in Dispatches

Mentioned in Dispatches /ˌmenˈʃənd in disˈpərtiz/ noun a British award in recognition of achievement on operational service. Abbr MID

mercenary /ˈmɛrsə(ʃ)ənəri/ noun a person who serves in the armed forces of another state for payment. The rebels are led by foreign mercenaries.

COMMENT: The term mercenary is not usually applied to soldiers serving in officially recruited foreign units, such as the Gurkhas, or the French and Spanish Foreign Legions.

merchant navy /məˈtʃənt neɪv/ noun a state’s commercial shipping

Merkava /ˈmɜrkəvə/ noun an Israeli-designed 1980s-era main battle tank (MBT)

mess /mes/ noun 1. a place where servicemen of equal or similar rank eat and relax together. The officers’ mess, the sergeants’ mess. 2. a meal. He’s at mess.

message /ˈmesidʒ/ noun a verbal or written instruction, request, question or statement, which is passed from one person to another.

messenger /ˈmesɪndʒər/ noun a person who delivers messages

mess hall /ˈmes hɔːl/ noun a building where servicemen eat their meals

mess-kit /ˈmes kɪt/ noun a ceremonial uniform for evening wear

mess night /ˈmes nɔt/ noun a formal dinner in a mess, where mess-kit is worn and certain customs and traditions are observed

mess tin /ˈmes tɪn/ noun a metal container designed for cooking food in the field and also for use as a plate or dish

met /met/ abbreviation 1. meteorological 2. meteorology

metal detector /ˈmetədətər/ noun a portable electronic device which is used to detect metal objects buried in the ground

metalled US /ˈmetəld/ adjective (of roads) covered with a prepared surface of gravel or small stones (NOTE: Also used, in a general sense, to describe a surface of asphalt or tarmac.)

meteorological /ˌmiˈtɪərəl/ adjective relating to meteorology

meteorological office, met office /ˈmiːtərələdʒi/ noun a study of the weather

metric ton /ˈmetrɪk tʌn/, tonne /ˈtʌn/ noun a unit of weight corresponding to 1,000 kilograms

METT-T /ˌmiːt, ˈtɪz/ noun US factors which a commander must consider when making his appreciation. Full form mission, enemy, terrain, troops available, time

MEU /ˈmiːju/ noun US a brigade-scale combined-arms grouping, based on a battalion landing team (BLT), a squadron of helicopters (attack and utility) and a logistics battalion, which can be reinforced by more BLTs as the tactical situation requires. Full form marine expeditionary unit

COMMENT: At any time, the USA usually has at least three MEUs at sea in various parts of the world, ready to respond to any crisis in which American interests might be at risk.

MFC abbreviation mortar-fire controller

MG abbreviation machine-gun

MGRS /ˌmiːgriːs/ noun a worldwide series of maps which are compatible with the GPS satellite navigation system. Full form military grid reference system

Mi /ˈmiː/ noun a Soviet-designed series of helicopters

Mi-6 /ˈmiː siː/ noun a transport helicopter known to NATO as the Hook

Mi-8 /ˈmiː eɪ tʃiː/ noun a transport helicopter known to NATO as the Hip

Mi-17 /ˈmiː ˈtʃiː/ noun an updated version of the Hip Mi-8 transport helicopter

Mi-24 /ˈmiː tʃiː/ noun an attack helicopter known to NATO as the Hind

Mi-28 /ˈmiː tʃiː/ noun an attack helicopter known to NATO as the Havoc
157 military grid reference system

Mi-35 noun an updated version of the Hind Mi-24 attack helicopter
MIA abbreviation missing in action
MICLIC /ˈmɪklɪk/ noun US an apparatus for clearing a lane through a minefield, consisting of a long length of flexible tube filled with explosive, which is fired into the minefield by means of a rocket, and then detonated. Full form mine-clearing line charge. Giant Viper
microphone /ˈmaɪkroʊfen/ noun 1. an instrument (forming part of an intercom, radio or telephone mouthpiece) which converts sound into electromagnetic waves 2. the mouthpiece of an intercom or radio
MID abbreviation Mentioned in Dispatches
mid-air /ˌmɪd ər/ noun, adjective, adverb while flying, in the air or a mid-air collision. The helicopters collided in mid-air.
middle distance /ˌmɪdl dɪstəns/ noun an area half way between an observer’s location and the horizon
middle watch /ˌmɪdl ɒtʃ/ noun the period of duty from 0001–0400hrs
midshipman /ˌmɪdʃɪpman/ noun the lowest officer rank in the navy (an officer in training)
MiG /ˈmɪɡ/ noun a Soviet-designed series of fighter aircraft
MiG-21 noun a fighter aircraft with secondary ground attack role known to NATO as Fishbed
MiG-23 noun a multirole fighter known to NATO as Flogger
MiG-25 noun a high-altitude interceptor known to NATO as Foxbat
MiG-27 noun an updated version of Flogger
MiG-29 noun a multirole fighter aircraft known to NATO as Fulcrum
MiG-31 noun a strategic interceptor known to NATO as Foxhound
Mike /ˈmɑːk/ noun (informal) 1. a microphone 2. the mouthpiece of an intercom or radio
Mike /mɑːk/ noun thirteenth letter of the phonetic alphabet (Mm)
mil /ˈmɪl/ noun a unit of measurement for angles or bearings (NOTE: There are 6,400 mils in a circle. 6.400 mils are the equivalent of 360 degrees.)
COMMENT: Many armies use mils instead of degrees in order to measure bearings, because they offer greater precision.
Mil abbreviation military
Milan /ˈmɪlən/ noun a French/German-designed wire-guided anti-tank missile (ATGW)
Milan compact turret (Spartan) /ˌmɪlən ,kʌmpəkt ’tɑːt/ noun full form of MCT(S)
Milbank bag /ˈmɪlbæŋk bæɡ/ noun a fabric bag, which is designed to filter dirty water
mile /maɪl/ noun a unit of linear measurement, corresponding to 1,760 yards or 1,609 metres
mileage /maɪlɪdʒ/ noun the number of miles travelled
MILES /maɪlz/ noun an American-designed battle-simulation technology which uses harmless laser beams to simulate the firing of weapons, and laser detectors to record hits. Full form multiple integrated laser engagement system
militarize /ˈmɪlɪtəraɪz/, militarise verb to adapt for military use
military /ˈmɪlitəri/ adjective relating to the armed forces (such as air force, army and navy) military intelligence ■ noun a the military the armed forces (in general) the new government proposals are being resisted by the military
military academy /ˌmɪlitəri əˈkædəmi/ noun a college which trains students to become officers in the armed forces
military attaché /ˌmɪlitəri ətʃeɪt/ noun an officer attached to an ambassador’s staff in order to deal with military matters
military grid reference system /ˌmɪlitəri ’grɪd ,ref(ə)ʃən ˌstɪstəm/ noun a world-wide series of maps
military hospital

which are compatible with the GPS satellite navigation system. Abbr MGRS

military hospital /ˌmɪlɪt(ə)riˈhɒspɪtl/ noun a hospital for wounded military personnel

military observer /ˌmɪlɪt(ə)ri əbˈzaɪv/ noun a person (usually a serviceman), who observes the activities of another state’s armed forces (especially on operations). Abbr MILOB

military occupational specialty /ˌmɪlɪt(ə)ri əˈspeʃ(ə)lɪˈteɪti/ noun the type of work that a member of the armed forces specialises in, e.g. personnel or supply. Abbr MOS

military or tactical crest /ˌmɪlɪt(ə)ri əˈtektək(ə)l ˈkrest/ noun a highest point of a slope, from which there is an unrestricted view down to the bottom

military police /ˌmɪlɪt(ə)ri ˈpɔlɪts/ noun the organisation responsible for police duties within the armed forces

military policeman /ˌmɪlɪt(ə)ri ˈpɔlɪtsmən/ noun a member of the military police. A military policeman directed us to the Brigade RV. Abbr MP

military service /ˌmɪlɪt(ə)ri ˈsɜːvɪs/ noun service in one of the armed forces. All men of 18 years and over are required to do two years’ military service.

military time /ˌmɪlɪt(ə)ri ˈtaɪm/ noun time as measured by the 24-hour clock

militia /ˈmɪlitɪə/ noun 1. a military force which is raised to supplement the regular army in the defence of a state’s sovereign territory, and which does not normally serve overseas (historical). 2. a military-style police force (mainly responsible for maintaining public order). MILOB /ˈmɪlɪəbl/ abbreviation military observer

mine /main/ noun 1. an explosive device which is buried in or placed on the surface of the ground, and is designed to detonate when a person steps on it or a vehicle drives over it. Also called land mine. 2. an explosive device which is placed into or under water, and is designed to detonate when a boat or ship hits it or passes over it. 3. a tunnel which is dug in order to detonate an explosive charge under an enemy fortification. 4. a tunnel or large hole, which is dug into the ground in order to extract minerals. verb 1. to lay mines in the ground or in water. 2. to tunnel under an enemy fortification. The engineers are mining under the forward enemy trench positions. 3. to extract minerals from the ground

mine-clearing line charge /ˈmaɪnˌklaɪərɪŋ ˈlaɪn/ noun full form of MCLIC

mine-detector /ˈmaɪn ˈdɛtəˌktaʊr/ noun a device designed to locate mines

minefield /ˈmaɪnfiːld/ noun an area of ground or sea in which mines have been laid

minelayer /ˈmaɪnəˌleɪə/ noun an aircraft which scatters mines onto the ground. A ship which places mines into the water. A vehicle which places mines into or on top of the ground

mine plow /ˈmaɪn plau/ noun an implement which is fitted to the front of an armoured vehicle and is designed to break up the ground, in order to dig up or detonate mines

mine plough /ˈmaɪn plau/ noun US spelling of mine plow

minesweeper /ˈmaɪnswiːpə/ noun a vessel which removes mines. A ship designed to destroy floating and underwater mines

mine tape /ˈmaɪn ˈteɪp/ noun a white or fluorescent tape, designed for marking lanes through a minefield or for marking a boundary

miniflare /ˈmaɪnɪflər/ noun a small illumination flare, produced in several different colours, which is fired from a simple hand-held launcher and is used mainly for signalling

Ministry of Defence /ˌmɪnɪstəri əv dɪˈfɛns/ noun a British government department dealing with the armed forces. The Ministry of defence has refused to comment on the situation. He works at the MOD. Abbr MOD (NOTE: The American equivalent is the Department of Defense or Pentagon)

minute /ˈmaɪnt/ noun a unit of time, corresponding to sixty seconds or a sixtieth part of one hour
mission /ˈmɪʃn/ noun a specific task assigned to a tactical grouping. Our mission is to capture the bridge.

mission, enemy, terrain, troops available, time noun full form of METT-T

mission accomplished /ˈmɪʃn əˈkʌmplɪʃt/ noun mission completed

mission analysis /ˈmɪʃn əˈnælɪsɪs/ noun a process where a subordinate examines his mission in order to identify the intentions of his commander and thereby determine what action he should take or be prepared to take so that those intentions will be achieved.

mission creeps /ˈmɪʃn əˈkriːps/ noun alteration to an original mission, in response to a changing situation (e.g. troops being deployed to a disaster area to help in the rescue work, and then having to assist the local authorities in restoring order because rioting has broken out over a shortage of food).

mission-oriented protective posture /ˈmɪʃn əˈnɔːrdɪnt pəˈsɔːtʃ/ noun full form of MOPP

mist /mɪst/ noun 1. a cloud of water vapour suspended in the air, close to the ground. 2. something which looks like mist.

mist up /ˈmɪst əˈʌp/ verb (of glass) to become obscured by water vapour, so that visibility is obscured. My weapon sight keeps misting up.

misty /ˈmɪsti/ adjective obscured by mist.

Mk abbreviation mark

MLRS /ˈem ər el ˈes/ noun an American-designed multiple rocket launcher (MRL). Full form multiple-launch rocket system

MNC abbreviation 1. Major NATO Command. 2. Major NATO Commander

MO abbreviation medical officer

MOAB abbreviation Massive Ordnance Airburst Bomb. ã GBU-43/B

mobile /ˈmɒbəl/ adjective designed for movement.
mobile air operations team /ˌməʊbɔːləl ˈɪnərɪtɪs ˈtɪzm/ noun full form of MAOT

mobile army surgical hospital /ˌməʊbɔːləl ˈɔːmi ˈsədʒɪk(ə)l ˈhɒspɪt(ə)l/ noun full form of MASH

mobile army surgical unit /ˌməʊbɔːləl ˈtʃiːntʃ(ə)l ˈjuːntʃ(ə)l/ noun US a field hospital. Abbr MASH

mobile defence /ˌməʊbɔːləl ˈdiːfens/ noun a defensive doctrine employing the principles of manoeuvre warfare. Compare positional defence, static defence

COMMENT: In mobile defence, the holding of ground is of secondary importance, since the primary objective is to destroy the cohesion of an attacking force through the aggressive use of manoeuvre.

mobile-erector launcher /ˌməʊbɔːləl ɪˈrɛktər ˈlæntʃər/ noun full form of MEL

mobile training team /ˌməʊbɔːləl ˈtʃiːntʃ(ə)l/ noun a US small group of instructors sent to give military training to the armed forces of another country. Abbr MTT

mobility /ˈməʊbɪlɪti/ noun the ability of a military force to move from one place to another

mobilization /ˌməʊbɪləˈziʃ(ə)n/,
mobilisation noun a state’s preparations for war by bringing soldiers together and organizing equipment, ammunition, etc., so that armed forces are trained and ready for action. Compare immobilize

mobilize /ˌməʊbɪləɪz/, mobilise verb to prepare armed forces for war by bringing them together. They are worried because the neighbouring states have mobilized. Compare immobilize

MOD abbreviation Ministry of Defence

model /ˈmɒdəl/ noun a representation (roughly to scale) of the ground over which an operation will take place, which is used as an aid to briefing the participants

COMMENT: An efficient commander will normally carry a simple modelling kit, consisting of lengths of ribbon, coloured card and other suitable objects (e.g. houses or hotel rooms from a Monopoly set) to assist him in this task.

MOD Police /ˌem əʊ ˈdiː pɔɪ ˈlɪs/ noun a civilian police force responsible for dealing with offences committed by civilians on property owned by the Ministry of Defence (e.g. airfields, barracks, depots, training areas, etc.)

Modular Lightweight Load-bearing Equipment /ˌmɒdʌlə ˈlɛtəwɛt, ˈlɔɪd ˈbɛərɪŋ ˈrɪkwɪpmənt/ noun full form of MOLLE

MOLLE noun a waterproof backpack with removable sections for carrying weapons and ammunition. Full form Modular Lightweight Load-bearing Equipment

Molotov cocktail /ˌmɒlətʊv ˈkɒktɪl/ noun an improvised incendiary device consisting of a bottle filled with petrol and fitted with a wick of fabric, which is lit and then thrown at a target. A petrol bomb

momentum /ˈmɒmentəm/ noun the forward movement of an advance or attack. If we do not take that position immediately, the whole attack will lose momentum.

monarch /ˈmɒnək/ noun a king or queen

monitor /ˈmɒnɪtər/ verb 1. (of radio) to listen to other people’s radio transmissions, in order to know what is happening. We are monitoring B Company’s net. 2. (of incidents or situations) to find out what is happening, without getting involved. UN observers are monitoring the ceasefire. noun part of a surveillance or detection system which the operator looks at or listens to (e.g. television screen in a CCTV system). This monitor is not working.

monsoon /ˈmɒnəsuːn/ noun a season of heavy rain in southern Asia. Compare dry season, rainy season

monument /ˌmɒnəmənt/ noun a large ornamental structure, usually built to commemorate an important person or historical event
moor /ˈmɔːr/ noun a large area of flat, uncultivated high ground, usually covered by heather or coarse grass. • We advanced across the moor. ▲ verb to secure a boat or ship to an anchor or an object on the shore, in order to stop it drifting. • They moored the ship near the entrance to the harbour.

moorland /ˈmɔːrlənd/ noun terrain consisting mainly of moors

MOPP /ˈmɑːp/ noun US a state of readiness against chemical attack, which determines what protective measures should be taken. Full form mission-oriented protective posture

morale /ˈmɔːrəl/ noun a mental attitude, in relation to happiness and confidence. • Morale is very high at the moment. ▲ The enemy is suffering from low morale.

morning watch /ˈmɔːrɪŋ wɒtʃ/ noun the period of duty from 0400–0800hrs

morphine /ˈmɔrfain/ noun a drug used to relieve pain

Morse code /ˈmɔrəs ˈkɔːd/ noun an international code, in which letters of the alphabet are represented by combinations of short signals (dots) and long signals (dashes). ▲ He sent the message in Morse.

mortar /ˈmɔrtər/ noun a simple indirect-fire weapon, which is designed to fire projectiles at very high trajectories. ▲ verb to fire at a target with a mortar. • 'Hallo 2 this is 22, am being mortared, wait out.'

mortar-fire controller /ˈmɔrtər faɪər kənˌtrouəl/ noun a non-commissioned officer (NCO) from the mortar platoon, who is attached to a rifle company in order to direct mortar fire. Abbreviation MFC

mortar line /ˈmɔrtər lʌn/ noun the fire position used by several mortars

MOS abbreviation US military occupational specialty

mosque /ˈmɔsk/ noun a building used for religious worship by Muslims, the followers of Islam

motorized, motorised adjective (of troops) equipped with vehicles

motor-rifle /ˈmɔtrɪl rʌf(ə)l/ adjective (of infantry) Soviet term for mechanized. ▲ We have a motor-rifle regiment facing us.

motor transport /ˈmɔtrətræŋˈspɔrt/ noun full form of MT

Motor Transport Officer /ˈmɔtrəˌtræŋˈstɔːpət əˈfɪsər/ noun full form of MTO

motorway /ˈmɔtərweɪ/ noun a large road, with several lanes, which is designed for fast traffic

mount /ˈmaʊnt/ noun a supporting structure for a weapon or other equipment. ▲ verb 1. (of attacks, campaigns, operations, etc.) to plan, prepare and carry out. • This is the biggest operation which has ever been mounted by the allies. 2. (of weapons and other equipment) to attach to supporting structure. • This machine-gun can be mounted on a tripod. 3. to get onto a horse (historical). • He mounted and rode away. 4. to get into a high vehicle. • He was shot as he was mounting his tank.

mountain /ˈmaʊntən/ noun very high land, rising much higher than the land surrounding it. • The plane crashed in the mountains.

mountainous /ˈmaʊntənəs/ adjective (of terrain) consisting mainly of mountains

mounted /ˈmaʊntɪd/ adjective riding on a horse
mounting /'maʊntɪŋ/ noun 1. a supporting structure for a weapon or other equipment. Full form motor transport

mounting area /'maʊntɪŋ ,eərɪə/ noun a place where forces are assembled ready to be moved to the scene of an operation

mouseholing /ˈmɔʊʃoʊlɪŋ/ noun a FIBUA tactic of blowing a hole into the wall of a building in order to provide an entry for infantrymen. Full form mouseholing

movement /'mjuːvmənt/ noun an action of moving personnel, equipment or supplies from one place to another

movement control /'mjuːvmənt kənˈtrəʊl/ noun the planning and scheduling of the movement of personnel, equipment or supplies from one place to another

MP abbreviation military policeman

MP-5 /em pi: 'faɪv/ noun a German-designed 9mm sub-machine-gun

MP-5K noun a shortened version of the MP-5

MPH, mph abbreviation miles per hour

MPI /em pi: 'eɪ/ noun the centre of a grouping of shots fired at a target (especially when zeroing). Full form mean point of impact

MRE /em ri: / noun American-produced individual ration of food. Full form meal ready-to-eat

MRL abbreviation multiple rocket launcher

MSC abbreviation major subordinate command

MSF abbreviation Médecins Sans Frontières

MSR abbreviation main supply route

MST abbreviation mobile surgical team

MT /em 'tiz/ noun all vehicles held by a unit. The battalion's MT will move to the exercise area by rail. Full form motor transport

MT-LB /em ti: el 'lb/ noun a Soviet-designed multi-purpose armoured personnel carrier (APC)

MTO /em ti: 'ɔl/ noun an officer with overall responsibility for a unit's vehicles. Full form Motor Transport Officer

MT Platoon /em ti: pləˈtʊn/ noun a platoon consisting of the drivers of a unit's wheeled transport vehicles

MTT /em ti: ti: / noun US a small group of instructors sent to give military training to the armed forces of another country. Full form mobile training team

mud /mʌd/ noun wet soil

muddy /ˈmʌdi/ adjective 1. covered with mud. Full form muddy

mudflat /ˈmʌdfleɪt/ noun a wide area of mud along the edge of a river or lake or sea

multi /ˈmaʊ̯ti/ noun civilian clothing (informal). He was in multi

mujahideen /ˌmʊdʒəˈhiːdn/ noun Arabic a Muslim guerrilla, who believes that he is fighting a 'holy war' in defence of the Islamic faith. Full form mujahideen

mule /ˈmjuːl/ noun a four-legged animal produced by mating a horse with a donkey, which is suitable for carrying loads over rough terrain

MTT /em ti: / noun US a small group of instructors sent to give military training to the armed forces of another country. Full form mobile training team

mouseholing /ˈmɔʊʃoʊlɪŋ/ noun a FIBUA tactic of blowing a hole into the wall of a building in order to provide an entry for infantrymen. Full form mouseholing

Mullahs have been inciting the crowd.

multinational /ˌmʌltɪˈnæʃəlnəl/ adjective (of military forces) consisting of contingents from several different nations. The multinational force is made up of British and German divisions.

multinational logistics /ˌmʌltɪnæʃəlnəl ˌlɔsˈtɪskz/ noun
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>multiple /ˈmʌltɪp(ə)l/ adjective</td>
<td>consisting of several parts; a patrol, consisting of several teams which move along different routes, but are always able to support each other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>multiple independently-targeted re-entry vehicle noun</td>
<td>full form of MRL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>multiple integrated laser engagement system /ˈmʌltɪp(ə)l/ˈɪntɪgrətɪd ˈlɑːzər ˈɛnˈdʒeɪmənt ˌsɪstəm/ noun</td>
<td>full form of MILES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>multiple-launch rocket system /ˈmʌltɪp(ə)l/ˈlɑːntʃ ˈrɛkrɪt ˌsɪstəm/ noun</td>
<td>full form of MLRS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>multiple rocket launcher /ˈmʌltɪp(ə)l/ˈrɛkrɪt ˌsɪstəm/ noun</td>
<td>a rocket launcher which fires several rockets at the same time. Abbrev MRL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>multi-purpose /ˈmʌltɪˈpɜːpəs/ adjective</td>
<td>having several different purposes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>multirole /ˈmʌltɪrʊl/ adjective</td>
<td>having several different roles or functions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>munition /ˈmjuːnɪʃ(ə)n/ noun</td>
<td>any type of explosive device which is used as a weapon (such as a bomb, grenade, mine, projectile, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>munitions factory /ˈmjuːnɪʃ(ə)n ˈfɑːktrɪ/ noun</td>
<td>a factory where bombs, shells, etc., are made</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>murder /ˈmɜːdər/ noun</td>
<td>an unlawful killing of a person, especially of another person, where legal justification for the killing is not possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murphy's Law /ˈmɜːfɪz ˈlɔːr/ noun</td>
<td>a popular idea that if anything can go wrong, then it probably will go wrong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mushroom cloud /ˈmjuːʃəm klaʊd/ noun</td>
<td>a mushroom-shaped cloud of smoke and dust produced by the explosion of a nuclear weapon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>must /ˈmʌst/ verb</td>
<td>to take part in a mutiny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mustered /ˈmʌstəd/ adjective</td>
<td>able to support each other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mustered all available forces /ˈmʌstəd ɔf fɔːrz/</td>
<td>troops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mustering /ˈmʌstərɪŋ/ noun</td>
<td>an assembly of all soldiers at the beginning of the day to receive instructions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MILES /ˈmɪlɪz/</td>
<td>forces.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MILES /ˈmɪlɪz/</td>
<td>an act of assembling troops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MILES /ˈmɪlɪz/</td>
<td>The muster will take place at 0800hrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MILES /ˈmɪlɪz/</td>
<td>to assemble troops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MILES /ˈmɪlɪz/</td>
<td>They mustered all available forces.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MILES /ˈmɪlɪz/</td>
<td>to come together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MILES /ˈmɪlɪz/</td>
<td>B Company will muster at 0800hrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MILES /ˈmɪlɪz/</td>
<td>an act of assembling troops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>to come together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MILES /ˈmɪlɪz/</td>
<td>to deliberate inflict serious wounds on a person or dead body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MILES /ˈmɪlɪz/</td>
<td>The women's bodies had been mutilated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MILES /ˈmɪlɪz/</td>
<td>a serviceman who mutinies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MILES /ˈmɪlɪz/</td>
<td>a rebellion by servicemen against the military authorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MILES /ˈmɪlɪz/</td>
<td>The mutiny has spread to other units.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MILES /ˈmɪlɪz/</td>
<td>to deliberate inflict serious wounds on a person or dead body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MILES /ˈmɪlɪz/</td>
<td>The enemy was well dug-in in mutually supporting positions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MILES /ˈmɪlɪz/</td>
<td>the ability of two or more defensive positions, groupings or vehicles to give fire support to each other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MILES /ˈmɪlɪz/</td>
<td>This is a bad position because there is no mutual support between the three platoons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MILES /ˈmɪlɪz/</td>
<td>the open end of a gun's barrel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
muzzle velocity 164

muzzle velocity /ˈmæzəl/ noun the speed of a projectile, at the moment when it leaves the muzzle of a weapon
NOVEMBER - Nn

NAAFI /ˈneɪfi/ noun 1. an organization responsible for servicemen’s welfare 2. a bar, canteen or shop which is run by the NAAFI • full form Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes

NAAFI break /ˈneɪfi brék/ noun a break to have a cup of tea or coffee

NAIAD /ˈneɪeiəd/ noun an instrument which detects and warns of the presence of a nerve agent. Full form nerve agent immobilised enzyme alarm and detector

name tag /ˈneim tæɡ/ noun same as ID disc

napalm /ˈneipəlm/ noun jelly made from petroleum, which is used as an incendiary weapon

NAPS /ˈneips/ plural noun tablets, which are taken at regular intervals when the chemical threat is high, in order to give the body some resistance against the effects of nerve agents. We’ve been ordered to start taking NAPS. Full form nerve agent pretreatment set

NATEX noun an organization similar to the British NAAFI which provides shops and other services for personnel on some NATO bases. Full form NATO Exchange

nation /ˈneʃ(ə)n/ noun a community of people, united by a common language and history, who form a state

national /ˈneʃ(ə)nəl/ adjective relating to a nation or state

nationalist /ˈneʃ(ə)nəlɪst/ adjective seeking national independence • noun a person who is seeking national independence

nationality /ˈneʃ(ə)nalɪtɪ/ noun being a citizen of a particular state • His nationality is Czech

national logistic support /ˌneʃ(ə)lɔstɪk ˈsərpoʊt/ noun logistic support given by a nation to its own forces, or as part of a multinational force

National Missile Defence /ˌneʃ(ə)mɪlɪs ˈdiːfenz/ noun a projected American defence shield against hostile ballistic missile attacks, involving the use of anti-missile-missiles and missile-destroying lasers carried in aircraft or deployed in space satellites • guided missile, heat-seeking missile. Abbr NMD

national service /ˌneʃ(ə)nəl ˈsərvɪs/ noun compulsory military service

NATO /ˈnetəʊ/ noun a military alliance consisting of the USA, Canada and most western European states, which was originally formed in order to counter the growing threat from the Soviet Union, following the end of the Second World War, and which now acts in a peacekeeping role in support of the United Nations. Full form North Atlantic Treaty Organization

NATO accounting unit /ˌnetəʊ ə ˈkaʊntɪŋ ˈjuːnɪt/ noun a fictitious currency used to calculate costs of construction, manpower, etc., which are funded from a common NATO source

NATO commander /ˌnetəʊ ˈkəʊ ˈmɑːndər/ noun the commander of part of a NATO force • non-NATO commander

NATO Exchange /ˌnetəʊ ˈɛks/ noun full form of NATEX
NATO military authority

NATO military authority /ˈneɪtəʊˌmɪlɪtəri/ noun an organization or HQ which is part of a NATO command.

NATO – T /ˈneɪtəʊ ˈtiː/ noun a method of illuminating a helicopter landing zone at night, by positioning five torches in the shape of a capital letter T, with the stem pointing downwind.

natural features /ˈneɪtʃərəl ˈfɪətʃərz/ plural noun the natural features at sea, corresponding to 2,025 yards or 1,852 metres. Also called sea features.

nautical mile /ˈneɪtʃʊtl/ noun a unit of linear measurement at sea, corresponding to 2,025 yards or 1,852 metres. Also called sea mile.

naval /ˈneɪvəl/ adjective 1. relating to a navy. 2. relating to war at sea. It was the biggest naval engagement of the war.

naval forces /ˈneɪvəl/ plural noun military forces which operate at sea.

naval gunfire support /ˈneɪvəl ˈɡɜːnəflɜːr/ noun indirect fire provided by warships in support of ground forces. Also called NGS.

navigate /ˈnævɪɡeɪt/ verb to find your way from one location to another.

navigation /ˈnævɪɡeɪʃən/ noun an act or process of navigating.

navigator /ˈnævɪɡeɪtər/ noun an aircrew member who is responsible for navigation.

navy /ˈneɪvɪ/ noun the branch of a state's armed forces which operates at sea. Ships from several NATO navies were patrolling the area. The Royal Navy (RN) the British navy. The United States Navy (USN) the navy of the USA.

Navy Lynx /ˈneɪvɪ ˈlɪŋks/ noun a Lynx helicopter modified for operating from a ship. Also called Sea Lynx.

NBC /ˈneɪbiːs/ adjective relating to nuclear, biological and chemical warfare. Full form nuclear, biological and chemical.

NBC state /ˈneɪbiːs ˈsteɪt/ noun the degree of possibility or probability that the enemy will mount a nuclear, chemical or biological attack.

NBC suit /ˈneɪbiːs ˈsjuːt/ noun special clothing, which provides protection from radioactive fallout and biological and chemical weapons. Also called Noddy suit.

NCO abbreviation non-commissioned officer. He sent a squad of men with an NCO to investigate. (Note: The plural form is NCOs /ˈneɪˌsiːˈes/.)

ND abbreviation negligent discharge.

need-to-know /ˈniːd tuː ˈnoʊ/ adjective relating to secret information which is only given to those people who actually need to know it. negative /ˈneɪagtɪv/ adjective incorrect. That is negative. n adverb that is incorrect. (Radio terminology) ‘Hullo 23D this is 2, are you in position, over?’ negative, over. Compare affirmative.

negligence /ˈnɛglɪdʒəns/ noun 1. a lack of attention or proper care. The device malfunctioned because of negligence by the operator. 2. The accident was due to the negligence of the safety staff. 2. a failure to carry out correct procedure. The officer was accused of negligence.

negligent /ˈnɛklɪdʒənt/ adjective behaving with negligence.

negligent discharge /ˈnɛklɪdʒənt ˈdrɪstʃuːdʒ/ noun the unintentional firing of a weapon. Also called accidental discharge.

nerve agent /ˈnɜrv, ˈɛrdʒənt/ noun a chemical agent designed to attack a person's central nervous system. The enemy are using a nerve agent.

nerve agent immobilized enzyme alarm and detector noun full form of NAIAD.
nerve agent pre-treatment set /ˌnərv ˈɛdʒənt prɪˈtrɪstmənt ˈset/ noun full form of NAPS

net /net/ noun 1. a woven material made out of knotted cord, with large holes 2. a net used as a container (especially for underslung loads) 3. (of radio) a group of radio users (e.g. sub-units of a battalion, company or platoon), who are transmitting and receiving on the same frequency ○ We are monitoring the battalion net.

neutral /ˈnjuːtrəl/ adjective (of states) not allied to or supporting either of two opposing sides in a war or conflict

neutralization /ˈnjuːtrələz,ˌnjuːtrəˈləriz/ noun an act of neutralizing

neutralize /ˈnjuːtrəlaɪz/, neutralise verb to fire at an enemy, in order to prevent him using his weapons. ○ suppress

COMMENT: When neutralizing enemy forces, it is not necessary to kill them. The object is simply to make them keep their heads down.

neutron bomb /ˈnjuːtərɔn bɔm/ noun a tactical nuclear weapon which produces high levels of radiation but little blast, thereby causing high loss of life but comparatively little damage to buildings and installations

next of kin /ˈneksət ˈkɪn/ noun a person’s closest living relative, who must be informed in the event of death or injury or other misfortune

COMMENT: For most married people, the next of kin is their husband or wife. For most unmarried people, it is one of their parents.

NGO /ˈɛn dʒiː əˈnɔʊn noun a humanitarian organization, which is not sponsored by any particular government, and can thus claim neutral status in a war zone ○ Several NGOs are already established in the region. Full form non-governmental organization

NGS abbreviation naval gunfire support

nickname /ˈnɪknɪm/ noun 1. a name (often humorous), which is given to or used by a person instead of his real name ○ His nickname is Ferret. 2. a codename 3. a codeword

nicknumber /ˈnɪknʌmbər noun a number used to denote a location on the ground

night /nɑːt/ noun a period of darkness between sunset and sunrise

night-capable /ˈnæt ˈkeɪpəb(ə)l/ adjective able to be used in darkness

Nighthawk /ˈnæθɔːk/ noun, F-117A night-observation device, night-viewing device, night-vision device noun optical equipment which utilizes night-viewing technology

night sight /ˈnæt sɑːt/ noun a sight consisting of an optical instrument such as an image intensifier or infrared, which improves visibility at night

night-viewing technology /ˈnæt vjuːɪŋ tek ˈnaɪtlɪndʒɪərɪŋ/ noun optical equipment which makes it possible to see things at night (e.g. image intensification, infrared, thermal imaging, etc.)

Nimrod /ˈnɪmrəd/ noun a British-designed multi-purpose aircraft, based on a passenger airliner

Nimrod MR MK 2 noun a maritime patrol and anti-submarine aircraft

Nimrod R MK 1, /ˈnɪmrəd r ˈmɪkt ə ˈmiːt ˈtrɪsən/ a maritime reconnaissance, a projected American defence shield against hostile ballistic missile attacks, involving the use of anti-missile-missiles and missile-destroying lasers carried in aircraft or deployed in space satellites. Full form National Missile Defence
NOD

COMMENT: NMD is a new development of the unrealized Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) or Star Wars programme.

NOD (nɒd) /noun/ abbreviation night observation device

noddly suit (nɒdli sju:t) /noun/ an NBC suit (slang)

NODUF (nɒdəf) /noun/ NODUF, casualty with gunshot wound /slang/ an exercise scenario o Hello 2 this is 22, NODUF, casualty with gunshot wound at grid 532598, request CASEVAC, over! o 22 has just sent a noduf message saying that someone has been shot.

no fixed abode (nəʊ fɪkst 'bəʊd) /noun/ not having a permanent home or address

no-fly zone (nəʊ 'flaɪ 'zuːn) /noun/ airspace defined by a state or by international agreement, which the aircraft of another state are not allowed to enter

no-go area (nəʊ 'ɡəʊ 'ɡeərə) /noun/ an area which is too dangerous for routine patrolling by security forces or peacekeepers o The eastern part of the town is now a complete no-go area.

nomad (nɒmæd) /noun/ a member of an ethnic group which has no permanent home, but travels around from one place to another (often with herds of animals)

nomadic (nəʊ'mædɪk) /adjective/ relating to nomads

no-man’s-land (nəʊ 'mænz lænd) /noun/ an area of ground between the forward positions of two opposing forces o A patrol was sent out into no-man’s-land.

non-com (nɒn 'kɒm) /noun/ a non-commissioned officer (informal), NCO

noncombatant (nɒn'bəʊmbətənt) /noun/ a person who has no military role in a war or conflict (i.e. a civilian)

noncombatant status (nɒn'bəʊmbətənt 'stætəs) /noun/ the status of servicemen who are not directly involved in the fighting or the support of those who fight (such as chaplains and medical personnel). Compare combatant

non-commissioned officer (nɒn'kɒmɪʃnd 'ofɪsər) /noun/ a serviceman who holds a supervisory rank, but is not a commissioned officer (such as a corporal, sergeant, colour sergeant, etc.) o He sent a squad of men with an NCO to investigate. Abbr NCO

non-governmental organization (nɒnˌgʌvərnməntəl 'ɔganɪzaʃən) /noun/ an organization which may injure a person, but will not kill him or her

non-NATO commander (nɒn nəʊ'neɪtəʊ kə'məndər) /noun/ a commander from a country which is not a member of NATO but who is part of the command structure of a NATO force

non-persistent (nɒn pə'sɪstənt) /adjective/ of chemical agents designed to disperse in the air after a few minutes

north (nɔθ) /noun/ 1. one of the four main points of the compass, corresponding to a bearing of 0 degrees or 0 mils 2. an area to the north of your location o The enemy are approaching from the north. 3. o the North the northern part of a country o adjective relating to north o The landings took place on the north coast of France. o North wind blowing from the north o adjective towards the north o The enemy is moving north.

North Atlantic Treaty /nɔθ lɪtəkl 'trɪtɪ) /noun/ a treaty signed in Washington in 1949 by which NATO was set up

North Atlantic Treaty Organization /nɔθ lɪtəkl 'trɪtɪ,ˌɔganɪzaʃən) /noun/ full form of NATO

northbound (nɔθ'bænd) /adjective/ moving or leading towards the north o a northbound convoy

northerly (nɔrθəlɪ) /adjective/ 1. towards the north o They set off in a northerly direction. 2. (of wind) from the north 3. situated towards the north o The most northerly point of a country.

northern (nɔrθən) /adjective/ relating to the north o The northern part of the country.
North American/ Northern Hemisphere /'nɔːðən ˈhɛmɪsfər/ noun an area of the earth's surface north of the Equator.

northern /'nɔːðən/ noun 1. a horizontal line of a map grid, 2. one of the coordinates running from bottom to top across a map. Compare easting.
northward /'nɔːθwərd/ adjective towards the north o a northward direction. The army is moving northward.
northwards /'nɔːθwɜːdəz/ adverb towards the north o The army is moving northwards.

notice /'nəʊtɪs/ noun 1. a written document which is displayed in order to pass on information or a warning. Notice about the curfew have been displayed throughout the town. 2. a specified period of time before something happens o at short notice. We were at five minutes' notice to move. Notice to move at short notice. The platoon must be ready to move at short notice. Notify to become aware of something. He noticed that a tank was moving up the road.

notice to move /'nəʊtɪstrə 'ɪntrɪv/ noun a period within which a person or unit must be ready to move. We were at five minutes' notice to move. Abbr NTM的通知

notification /'nəʊtɪfɪˈkeɪʃ(ə)n/ noun an act of informing someone.

notify /'nəʊtɪfaɪ/ verb to inform someone. We were not notified of the change in plan.

November /'nɔːvəmbər/ noun the fourteenth letter of the phonetic alphabet (N)

NTM abbreviation notice to move in plan.
nuclear /'njuːtrɪkl/ adjective relating to the use of nuclear energy.

COMMENT: Although their meanings are not identical, the word nuclear has now superseded atomic for most general contexts.

nuclear, biological and chemical /'njuːtrɪklə bɪˈɒlədʒɪkəl/ and 'kjʊmɪk(ə)l/ adjective full form of NBC

nuclear deterrent /'njuːtrɪklə dɪˈtɜːrɪmənt/ noun the possession of nuclear weapons in order to deter an attack by a foreign power.
nuclear disarmament /'njuːtrɪklə ˈdɜːrmənt/ noun the removal or destruction of a country's nuclear weapons.
nuclear energy /'njuːtrɪklə 'enədʒi/ noun energy produced by a nuclear reaction.
nuclear power /'njuːtrɪklə 'pɔːr/ noun 1. a state which possesses nuclear weapons. Superpower. 2. energy produced by a nuclear reaction.
nuclear-powered /'njuːtrɪklə 'pɔːəd/ adjective driven or propelled by nuclear power.
nuclear response /'njuːtrɪklə riˈspɔns/ noun the use of nuclear weapons in order to defeat or punish an act of aggression by another state. Nuclear submarine /'njuːtrɪklə ˈsʌbmaʊərɪn/ noun a submarine driven by nuclear power.
nuclear warfare /'njuːtrɪklə ˈwɔːrfeɪ/ noun warfare involving the use of nuclear weapons.
nuclear weapon /'njuːtrɪklə ˈwɛpən/ noun a bomb or missile or other device which utilises the release of nuclear energy. NBC, tactical.
nuke /'njuːk/ noun a nuclear weapon. Nuke to attack with nuclear weapons. Let's nuke them.

NVG abbreviation night-viewing goggles.
oasis /ˈoʊərɪs/ noun a place in a desert where water can be found. After three days they came to an oasis. (NOTE: The plural form is oases /ˈoʊəz/.)

oath of service /ˈoʊθ əv ˈsiːvərəns/ noun a solemn promise of loyalty and obedience made by people when joining the armed forces

obey /ˈeɪbər/ verb to carry out a command or order. The soldiers were court-martialed for refusing to obey orders.

objective /əbˈdʒɛktɪv/ noun 1. something which must be accomplished or achieved. Our first objective is to improve radio security throughout the brigade. 2. a location or position which must be destroyed or captured. The platoon will reorganize on the objective.

obscure /əbˈskjʊər/ verb to make something difficult to see. The objective is obscured by smoke.

observation /ˌɒbˈzərveɪʃən/ noun an act of observing

observation post /ˌɒbˈzərveɪʃən poʊst/ noun 1. a covert position from which an area of ground may be observed. An enemy OP has been located at grid 882014. 2. troops occupying an observation post. All of the OP were captured. abbr OP

observation post vehicle /ˌɒbˈzərveɪʃən poʊst ˌvɪətʃəl/ noun full form of OPV

observe /əbˈzɜːv/ verb to look at or watch something. We can observe the road from that hill.

observer /əbˈzɜːvər/ noun a person who observes

obsolescent /əbˈsoʊləs(ə)nt/ adjective no longer in general use (because it is in the process of being replaced by something more modern). The enemy reserves are equipped with obsolescent tanks. (NOTE: Although it is not correct, many people use the word obsolete in this context.)

obsolete /əbˈsoʊlət/ adjective not used any more (because it has been replaced by something more modern). That tank is now obsolete. (NOTE: When something is becoming obsolete, but is still capable of being used (and repaired), the correct term is actually obsolescent. However, many people use the word obsolete in this context as well.)

obstacle /ˈɒbstəkl/ noun a natural or man-made feature, which hinders or obstructs the movement of a person or vehicle

COMMENT: Natural obstacles include features such as woods, rivers and high ground, while man-made obstacles include features such as built-up areas, canals and railway embankments. In addition, obstacles can be specially constructed: for example, crater, barbed-wire entanglements and minefields.

obstacle course /ˈɒbstɑrkəs/ noun a training area where soldiers have to get past various obstacles such as ditches or high walls as quickly as possible

obstruct /əbˈstrʌkt/ verb 1. to make it difficult or impossible for a person or vehicle to pass. The road was obstructed by a burning tank. 2. to make it difficult or impossible for a person to carry out a task or duty. He was constantly obstructed by his platoon sergeant.
obstruction /ˈɒbstrækʃən/ noun 1. an act of obstructing ○ Your platoon commander has accused you of obstruction. 2. something which obstructs ○ We used explosives to clear the obstruction. ○ obstacle

OC /ˈɒsɪtʃən/ noun a term usually applied to an officer commanding a company or equivalent-sized grouping. Full form officer commanding

occupation /ˈɔkˌjuˈpeʃən/ noun the use of military forces to take possession of and then control territory belonging to another state

occupy /ˈɔkˈjuːpi/ verb 1. (of tactical positions) to move into a position ○ We will occupy the position at 1700hrs. 2. (of tactical positions) to be in a position ○ The Coldstream Guards are occupying the forward positions. ○ to occupy a territory 1. to use military force to take possession of territory belonging to another state ○ Ruritania has occupied the neighbouring country 2. to use military forces to control territory belonging to another state ○ the town has been occupied by NATO troops

offence /ˈɒfsens/ noun 1. an aggressive military action (such as advance, attack, invasion, etc.) ○ The country has been condemned for its use of offence to control the indigenous population. Compare defence 2. an illegal act ○ He has committed several offences. (NOTE: Offensive is more common for describing aggressive military action.)

offense /ˈɑːfsens/ noun US spelling of offence

offensive /ˈɑːfensiv/ adjective relating to aggressive military action (such as advance, attack, invasion, etc.) ○ Their strategy concentrates mainly on offensive operations. ○ noun an aggressive military action (such as advance, attack, invasion, etc.) ○ The rebels are planning a new offensive. ○ to go or to move onto the offensive to change from defence to offence ○ The transition from the defensive to the offensive is one of the most delicate operations in war – Napoleon Compare defensive

offensive counter-air operations /ˌɑfensɪv ˈkaʊntər ˈeər ˈɒpɔrtjuˈneɪʃənz/ plural noun attacks on enemy airfields, surface-to-air missile sites, radar sites and other facilities associated with the enemy air force

offensive systems officer /ˌɑfensɪv ˈsɪstəmz ˈɒfsər/ noun full form of OSO

office /ˈɒfɪs/ noun 1. a room used for administrative and clerical work ○ The CO is in his office. 2. an administrative or supervisory position within an organization ○ He is unsuitable for this office. (NOTE: A person who holds an office in the armed forces is known as an officer, while a person who holds an office in a civilian organization (especially one involved in government or local administration) is usually known as an official.)

officer /ˈɒfɪsər/ noun ○ (commissioned) officer a serviceman with a supervisory rank, who derives his authority from a commission (such as a lieutenant, captain, major, etc.) ○ two officers led the assault on the enemy position

officer cadet /ˈɒfɪsər kəˈdɛt/ noun a rank held by a potential officer at an officer-training establishment

officer candidate /ˈɒfɪsər ˈkændɪdət/ noun a person who wishes to become, or is training to become, an officer in the armed forces

officer commanding /ˈɒfɪsər ˈkəʊmˈɑːndɪŋ/ noun who holds an office in a civilian organization ○ Two officers led the assault on the enemy position

officer of the watch /ˈɒfɪsər əv ði ˈwɒtʃ/ noun an officer on duty

official /ˈɒfɪʃəl/ adjective approved or authorized by someone who holds an office in an organization ○ noun a person who holds an office in the armed forces ○ The complaint was sent to the ambassador by official channels

official channels /ˈɔfɪʃəl ˈtʃænəls/ plural noun official ways of passing information ○ The complaint was sent to the ambassador by official channels.
off limits 172

off limits /ˌof ˈlɪmɪts/ adjective prohibited (to the persons specified) • This pub is off limits to officers and NCOs.
offr abbreviation officer
off-route mine /ˌɔf rʊtˈmiːn/ noun an explosive device which is placed at the side of a road or track, and is designed to fire an anti-tank projectile into a passing vehicle automatically
O Group /ˈoʊ ˌgrʊp/ noun 1. same as orders group 2. a meeting, where a commander issues operational orders to his subordinate commanders • The O Group is at 2200hrs. 3. people who attend an O Group • The O Group was informed that the CO had been killed.
oil /ɔɪl/ noun 1. a thick liquid refined from petroleum, which is used to lubricate machinery and protect metal from rust and corrosion 2. petroleum, a liquid mineral substance which is extracted from the ground and then refined to produce petrol, diesel, kerosene and lubricating oil • verb to apply oil to an object • Weapons should be cleaned and oiled before they are returned to the armoury.
oilfield /ˈɔɪlfɪld/ noun an area where petroleum is extracted from the ground
oil rig /ˈɔɪl rɪɡ/ noun a structure which supports equipment for extracting petroleum from an oil well
oil slick /ˈɔɪl skɪk/ noun a large patch of oil or petroleum floating on water (usually released from a damaged ship as a result of an accident or enemy action)
oil well /ˈɔɪl wɛl/ noun a hole in the ground from which petroleum is extracted
OK /ˈoʊk/ adjective 1. I have understood your instruction 2. all right or satisfactorily • That went OK. 3. (as a question) do you understand? 4. (as a question) is everything all right?
OMG abbreviation operational manoeuvre group
one-star general /ˌwʌn ˈstɑːr ˈdʒen(ə)rl/ noun US a brigadier general
one-up /ˌwʌn ˈʌp/ adverb using a tactical formation in which one sub-unit is leading as point, and the other two are following abreast of each other • We’ll be advancing one-up. Compare two-up
open arrest /ˌoʊpən ˈərɛst/ noun a state in which a person is considered to be in custody and his movements are restricted, but he is allowed to go about his normal daily business
open city /ˌoʊpən ˈsɪti/ noun a city which is abandoned to the enemy, in order to avoid the serious destruction and loss of life, which would result from trying to defend it • Vienna has been declared an open city.
open fire /ˌoʊpən ˈfaɪər/ verb to start shooting • The guerrillas opened fire on our platoon.
open ground /ˌoʊpən ˈɡraʊnd/ noun an area where there are no buildings or major natural obstacles
operate /ˈɔpəreɪt/ verb 1. to carry out military activity • Enemy special forces are operating in this area. 2. to carry out surgery (medical) • We will have to operate in order to remove the bullet. 3. to work the controls of an apparatus or device • He operates the ship’s sonar equipment. • He has not been trained to operate this equipment. 4. (of an apparatus or device) to work properly • The mechanism failed to operate.
operation /ˌɔpərəˈʃən/ noun 1. an act of operating • He has not been trained in the operation of this equipment. 2. a planned military task • This will be a covert operation. Also called op
op 3. operations involving various
branches of the armed forces (army and marines, e.g. • is on operations on operational service • noun an act of surgery (medical) • He will need an operation to remove the bullet.

COMMENT: The department responsible for operations in a headquarters is known as G3.

operational /ˈɒpərəˈʃənl/ adjective relating to military operations

operational command /ˈɒpərəˈʃənl ˈkəʊmand/ noun authority given to a commander to organize tasks, deploy personnel, etc., as he feels necessary to carry out an operation

operational control /ˈɒpərəˈʃənl kənˈtrol/ noun authority given to a commander to direct the forces under his command so as to carry out the mission that has been assigned to him. Abbr: OMG

operational manoeuvre group /ˈɒpərəˈʃənl məʊˈvjuːr/ group noun a Soviet armoured grouping designed to exploit a breakthrough. Abbr: Opso

operational mobility /ˈɒpərəˈʃənl məʊˈbɪləti/ noun the ability of forces to move rapidly from place to place

operational service /ˈɒpərəˈʃənl ˈsərvəs/ service noun service involving the possibility of real combat (as opposed to peacetime soldiering) (note: in the British armed forces, the term operational service is used to describe counter-insurgency and peacekeeping operations. When a state of war exists, the term active service is used instead.)

operations /ˈɒpərəˈʃənlz/ plural noun moving troops, equipment, etc., as part of a planned military task. Also called ops

operations centre /ˈɒpərəˈʃənl ˈsɛntə/ noun a place from which a unit or group’s operations are controlled and coordinated

operations officer /ˈɒpərəˈʃənl ˈɒfɪsər/ noun an officer responsible for the coordination and administration of a unit or group’s operational tasks. Also called ops officer

operations room /ˈɒpərəˈʃənl rʊm/ noun same as Ops Room

operator /ˈɒpərətər/ noun a person who operates an apparatus or device • He is the platoon commander’s radio-operator.

OPFOR /ˈɒp ˈfɔːr/ noun an enemy on a training exercise. Full form opposing forces

op order /ˈɑːp ˈɔːdər/ noun a document, containing detailed instructions for a military operation (note: short for operation order)

oppo /ˈɒpəʊ/ noun a colleague who holds the same position as you in another unit or sub-unit (informal) • My oppo in 6 Platoon was killed. Also called opposite number

oppose /əˈpouz/ verb 1. to be hostile to someone 2. to offer resistance 3. to disagree with someone • We were opposed by a group of well-armed snipers, 3. The general is opposed to our plan.

opposing forces /əˈpouzɪŋ ˈfɔːzɪz/ plural noun full form of OPFOR

opposite number /əˈpouzɪt ˈnʌmbər/ noun same as oppo

opposition /ˈɒpərəˈʃənl ˈnɔmbər/ noun 1. an act of opposing 2. There was some opposition to the CO’s plan. 2. resistance • The brigade has met with little opposition so far.

ops /ˈɒps/ plural noun same as operations

OPSCHED /ˈɒpskɛd/ abbreviation operation schedule

OPSEC /ˈɒpsɪsk/ abbreviation operational security

Opso /ˈɒpsəʊ/ noun an air-force operations officer

ops officer /ˈɒps ˈɒfɪsər/ noun same as operations officer

Ops Room /ˈɒps ruːm/ noun a command post in a permanent base location. Also called operations room

optic /ˈɒptɪk/ adjective relating to the eyes or vision

optical /ˈɒptɪk(ə)l/ adjective relating to the eyes and vision
optical device /ˈɒptɪkl dɪˈvaɪs/ noun a device which a person looks through (usually as a means of improving visibility)

optics /ˈɒptɪks/ plural noun optical equipment (such as imaging equipment, optic sights, periscopes, etc.) o The tank’s optics were damaged by artillery fire.

optic sight /ˈɒptɪk ˈsaɪt/ noun a weapon sight which gives the firer a magnified image of the target

option /ˈɒpʃən/ noun one of two or more alternative courses of action o We have no option but to withdraw.

OPV /əu pɪːˈvaɪrəν/ noun an armoured personnel carrier (APC) used by a forward observation officer (FOO). Full form observation post vehicle

OR abbreviation other rank

ORBAT /ˈɔːbət/ abbreviation order of battle

order /ˈɔːdər/ noun 1. an instruction or command o I gave you an order! 2. a position or sequence in which things or events are arranged 3. good behaviour o There has been a breakdown of law and order in the town. 4. a state in which things are correct o Is everything in order? 5. a style of dress or equipment 6. tidiness o You are in bad order. 7. verb to tell someone to do something o He ordered the platoon to load their weapons.

orderly /ˈɔːdəli/ adjective 1. disciplined or under control o The brigade carried out an orderly withdrawal. 2. relating to the execution of orders o noun 1. a serviceman who delivers messages and carries out various simple tasks in a headquarters. 2. a serviceman who cleans an officer’s kit. o batman

orderly officer /ˈɔːdəli ˈɒfɪsər/ noun a duty officer

orderly room /ˈɔːdəli ˈrʊm/ noun an administrative office of a unit

order of battle /ˈɔːdər əv ˈbæt(ə)r/ noun an arrangement of people, vehicles or sub-units as a tactical grouping. Abbr ORBAT.

order of march /ˈɔːdər əv ˈmɑːtʃ/ noun the sequence in which the sub-units of a grouping move (either on foot or by vehicle) from one location to another o Order of march: B Company will lead, followed by A Company, then D Company, then C Company. Abbr OOM

orders /ˈɔːdrz/ plural noun detailed instructions for an operation, given by a commander to his subordinates o noun 1. a unit or sub-unit parade, where disciplinary matters are dealt with o Company Commander’s orders are at 1000hrs. 2. the daily document produced by a unit or sub-unit, containing a programme of the day’s events and any other information which may be important o It was written on battalion orders.

orders group /ˈɔːdrz ɡruːp/ noun a meeting, where a commander issues operational orders to his subordinate commanders. Abbr O Group

ordnance /ˈɔːdnəns/ noun 1. military equipment and supplies in general 2. weapons and munitions

Org abbreviation organization

organization /ˌɔrganɪˈzaʃən/ noun 1. an act of organizing o He is responsible for the organization of our sports competition. 2. arrangement of people, vehicles or sub-units as a grouping o The organization of an infantry battalion consists of three rifle companies, a support weapons company, a headquarters company and a battalion headquarters. o order of battle 3. a group of people who are arranged into smaller groups or departments and are given different responsibilities and tasks, so that they can work together for a common purpose o How long have you been working for this organization?

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe /ˌɔrgənɪzaʃən fɔr ˌsɪkərəti ən kŏpərēʃən ɪn ˌjoʊɔrnləns/ noun international organization of 55 member states, including all European countries and the USA and Canada, with the aim of reducing tension and solving interna-
tional problems within Europe. Abbr OSCE
organize /ˈɔɡənaɪz/ , organise verb 1. to arrange a group of people into smaller groups or departments with individual responsibilities and tasks, so that they can work together for a common purpose 2. An infantry battalion is usually organized into three rifle companies, a support weapons company, a headquarter company and a battalion headquarters. 2. (of events) to make all the necessary arrangements, so that an event can take place 3. He organized the battalion sports day.
orient /ˈɔrɪənt/ verb US 1. a to orient yourself to establish your exact location 2. to hold a map, so that the top of the sheet is pointing towards north (NOTE: orient – oriented – orientation; British English is orientate – orientated – orientation)
orientate /ɔːˈrɪənteɪt/ verb 1. a to orientate yourself to establish your exact location 2. to hold a map, so that the top of the sheet is pointing towards north (NOTE: orientate – orientated – orientation. The US term is orient – orientated.)
orientation /ɔːrɪˈɔrɪəntəʃən/ noun 1. the exact position of somebody or something in relation to the points of the compass and to other objects or natural features 2. an action of orientating yourself 3. a map-reading race, where competitors navigate their way from one location to another
Orion /ˈɔrɪən/ noun an American-designed multi-purpose aircraft, which is based on a passenger airliner
Orion AEW & C noun an airborne early warning and control aircraft, with a large disk-like antenna (radome) mounted on the fuselage
Orion EP-3 /ˈɔrɪən ɪ piːˈɔrɪs/ noun an electronic intelligence (ELINT) aircraft
Orion P-3 /ˈɔrɪən ˈpɜːrɪs/ noun an anti-submarine and maritime patrol aircraft
Orthodox Church /ˌɔrθədɔks/ noun an eastern European form of Christianity, found in Greece, Russia, parts of the Balkans and the Near East. Compare Protestant Church, Roman Catholic Church
Oscar /ˈɔskər/ noun the fifteenth letter of the phonetic alphabet (Oo)
OSCE abbreviation Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
OSO /ˈɔsəʊ/ noun US an aircraft member on a bomber who operates the aircraft’s weapons systems. Compare BSO
other rank /ˈʌðə ræŋk/ noun a serviceman who is not an officer. Abbr OR (NOTE: The American English term is enlisted man.)
Otomat /ˌɔtɒmət/ noun a French/Italian-designed long-range anti-missile (ASM)
out /aʊt/ adverb this is the end of the conversation (radio terminology) 2. roger, out. Compare over 1. wait out COM: Although ‘over and out’ is often heard in films, it is not correct radio procedure.
outbrief /ˈaʊtbriːf/ noun a final briefing before aircrew get into their aircraft, including an update of weather conditions, last minute changes to situation, and equipment checks
outfit /ˈaʊtfɪt/ noun US a unit
outflank /ˈaʊtflæŋk/ verb to manoeuvre around an enemy’s flank 2. The enemy are outflanking us on the left.
outmanoeuvre /ˌaʊtˌməʊnəˈvəʊ/ verb US spelling of outmanoeuvre
outmanoeuvre /ˌaʊtˌməʊnəˈvəʊ/ verb to manoeuvre successfully against an enemy force which is trying to manoeuvre against you
out of area operation /aʊt əˈɛriə ˌɒpəˈreɪʃən/ noun a military operation conducted outside the area in which a state’s armed forces usually operate (e.g. British troops operating in South America)
out of bounds /aʊt əˈbaʊndz/ adverb where one is not allowed to go 2. That pub is out of bounds to troops. Abbr OOB
outpost /ˈautpɔːst/ noun a small detachment of troops placed at a distance from the main force, in order to provide warning of an approaching enemy. All the outposts have withdrawn to the main position.

outrange /ˈautrəndʒ/ verb to be able to shoot further than another weapon. During the Gulf War, British and American tanks outranged the Soviet-designed tanks used by the Iraqis.

outrank /ˈautræŋk/ verb to hold a higher rank than someone else. A naval lieutenant outranks a lieutenant in the army.

outrigger /ˈautrɪdʒə/ noun a projecting part which is attached to a gun in order to stabilize it, or which is attached to an aircraft to carry a weapon over /ˈəʊvə/ adverb it is your turn to speak (radio terminology) "Hullo 2, this is 22, what is your location, over?" Compare out

overalls /ˈəʊvərɔːlz/ plural noun 1. a garment combining jacket and trousers, which is worn over other clothes in order to protect them from dirt, mud, oil, etc. 2. skin-tight trousers worn by cavalry soldiers and members of certain supporting arms, as part of a ceremonial uniform or mess kit

overboard /ˈəʊvəbɔːd/ adverb from a ship or boat, into the water. He fell overboard.

overhead /ˈəʊvəhed/ adverb directly above you. Helicopters were flying overhead. • adjective positioned above you

overhead cover /ˈəʊvəhed ˈkʌvər/ noun a roof of a trench or other field fortification, which is designed to withstand bullets and shrapnel.

overhead protection /ˈəʊvəhed proˈtekʃən/ noun a roof constructed over a trench, in order to provide protection from shrapnel and chemical weapons.

overlay /ˈəʊvəleɪ/ noun a piece of transparent paper or plastic, marked with boundaries, positions, routes, and other information relating to an operation, which is designed to be placed over a map as a means of briefing the participants. Also called trace

overrun /ˈəʊvərən/ verb to fight your way onto an enemy position. We are being overrun. The enemy easily overran our defences. (Note: overrunning — overran — have overrun)

overseas adverb /ˈəʊvəsɛz/ in or to a foreign country. He was posted overseas. • adjective /ˈəʊvəsɛz/ located in a foreign country. He wants an overseas posting.

COMMENT: For American and British servicemen and servicewomen, most foreign countries are indeed located overseas. The word would be less appropriate for French soldiers serving in Germany, for example, since the two countries are not separated by a sea.

over-watch /ˈəʊvə,wɔtʃ/ noun a role in which troops or tanks observe and give covering fire if necessary. Two squadrons deployed into over-watch positions.
PAPA - Pp

P-15 /pɛt/ noun a Soviet-designed long-range anti-ship missile (ASM) (note: known to NATO as Styx)
PAA /pi: tɛt/ noun the number of aircraft allocated to a unit for the performance of its operational role (as opposed to training aircraft, spares, aircraft under maintenance). Full form primary aircraft authorized
pace /peis/ noun 1. a single movement of a foot when walking \The squad took two paces forward.\ 2. the distance which a person’s feet move when walking one pace \An officer should keep pace with some one to move at the same speed as another person or vehicle\ 3. speed (especially when walking) \to keep pace with someone to move at the same speed as another person or vehicle\pace-stick /peis stɪk/ noun a giant set of mathematical dividers, traditionally carried by drill instructors in order to determine the length of pace for marching \He was charged for hitting a recruit with his pace-stick.\ Pacific Command /pɑ sɪfrɪk ˈmɑnd/ noun full form of PACOM pacifism /pæsɪfrɪz(ə)m/ noun the belief that war is the wrong way to settle disputes pacifist /pæsɪfrɪst/ noun a person who believes that war is the wrong way to settle disputes \He is a committed pacifist.\ 1. adjective referring to pacifism \He became a conscientious objector because of his pacifist beliefs.\ pack /pæk/ noun 1. a large fabric container, designed to be carried on a person’s back \bergen, rucksack\ 2. a paper or cardboard or plastic container of a pack of cigarettes \a 24 hour ration pack\ package /ˈpækɪdj/ noun 1. any object which is wrapped in a protective covering of paper or plastic or fabric \The package might be a bomb.\ 2. same as package formation \This package will neutralize the enemy’s defense capability.\ package formation /ˈpækɪdʒ ʃərn/ noun a large aerial attack force made up of different types of aircraft (e.g. attack, escort, reconnaissance, SEAD, EW) pack-animal /ˈpæk ə ˈnɪml/ noun a mule or horse used to carry ammunition or equipment or supplies pack rations /ˈpæk ə reʃ(ə)nəz/ plural noun individual rations which are carried by each serviceman or servicewoman in a pack PACOM /ˈpækəm/ noun US the department of the US forces responsible for defending American national interests in the Pacific. Full form Pacific Command pad /pæd/ noun (slang) 1. a married quarter \There’s been an explosion down at the pads.\ 2. a soldier who lives with his or her family in a married quarter \We need to send trucks to pick up the pads.\ paddle /ˈpæd(ə)/ noun an instrument like a short oar, designed to propel an assault boat or canoe by hand \He dropped his paddle into the water.\ paddle /ˈpæd(ə)/ verb to propel a boat with a paddle \They paddled quietly up to the castle walls.\
which provides resistance to malaria

acting or being used together

by panic

Korea, Japan, etc.

ing used for religious worship in China, Korea, Japan, etc.

vertstrokesuperiorketʃ

designator

illuminate a target with a laser target

verb

to apply paint to an object

verb

a liquid substance

verb

to assemble at a specified time and place

noun

a large area near a barracks, where troops can parade

noun

a raised mound of earth protecting the rear of a trench. Compare parapet

noun

a drug meaning ‘armour’

noun

a German armoured infantryman

noun

the sixteenth letter of the phonetic alphabet (Pp) o British paras have taken the village.

noun

an apparatus consisting of a fabric canopy and a suspension harness which allows a person, vehicle or load to descend safely from an aircraft in flight o He was killed when his parachute failed to open. ■ verb 1. to descend by parachute o The group parachuted behind enemy lines. 2. to drop something by parachute o They parachuted supplies into the village.

noun

someone who descends by parachute

noun

1. an action of assembling at a specified time and place in order to be inspected before the commencement of an operation or period of duty 2. a ceremonial occasion (usually involving marching and military music) o The passing-out ceremony was followed by a parade. ■ verb to assemble for inspection at a specified time and place o The platoon will parade at the armoury at 0745 hours.

noun

a large area near a barracks, where troops can parade

noun

same as parade ground

noun

same as parade ground

noun

a drug

verb

to be affected by panic o He panicked when the enemy opened fire. (Note: paniccking – panicked)

noun

a simple drawing of an area of ground, made by an FOO or MFC, with likely targets and other useful information marked on it

noun

organized like an army (and pos-
sibly armed) ○ There are several paramilitary groups operating in the region.

parang /ˈpaːræŋ/ noun in Southeast Asia, a long broad-bladed knife designed for clearing vegetation and often used as a weapon. ○ machete, panga

parapet /ˈpærəpɛt/ noun a raised mound of earth protecting the front of a trench. Compare parados

parasite /ˈpærəsət/ noun an organism or insect which lives on or inside another animal and feeds off that animal (e.g. a louse, or worm) ○ The disease is transmitted by a parasite.

parasitic /ˈpærəsɪtɪk/ adjective relating to a parasite ○ The disease is transmitted by a parasitic worm.

paratrooper /ˌpærətrəˈpʊər/ noun an infantryman or member of a supporting arm who deploys into a war zone by parachute

COMMENT: Paratroopers of most armies undergo an exceptionally hard training programme and are consequently considered to be elite troops.

paratroops /ˌpærətrəˈpʊps/ plural noun paratroopers ○ Enemy paratroops landed near the village.

park /pɑːrk/ verb to stop a vehicle beside a road or in a special area and leave it there ○ noun an area on a military base where military vehicles are kept

parole /pəˈrɔul/ noun the release of a prisoner on the condition of a promise made by that prisoner (e.g. that he will no longer fight against the army which captured him) ○ He was released on parole. ○ verb to release a prisoner on parole ○ He has been paroled.

partisan /ˈpɑːtɪzn, ˈpɑːtɪrəzn/ noun an irregular soldier fighting against regular troops ○ The convoy was ambushed by a group of partisans. ○ guerrilla

Partnership for Peace /ˌpɑːtnəʃɪp fəˈpiːs/ noun full form of PIP

pass /pɑːs/ verb 1. to go past something ○ We passed the fuel dump an hour ago. 2. to move ○ We passed through Hildesheim without stopping. 3. to hand something to another person ○ Pass me that map, please. 4. to apply for or allow something ○ I have passed your application to join the Mortar Platoon. 5. to complete an examination or test successfully ○ You have passed the sergeants’ exam. ○ noun 1. a document authorizing the holder to do something ○ Show me your leave pass, please. 2. a narrow route through mountainous country ○ The enemy had blocked all the passes through the mountains. 3. an approach flight towards a target made by an attacking aircraft ○ We hit the tank on our second pass.

passage of lines /ˈpæsɪdʒ əˈleɪnz/ noun a process whereby a unit or grouping moves through the positions of another unit or grouping. ○ front line

passive /ˈpæsɪv/ adjective relating to night-viewing devices which do not require an external source of infrared (IR) light in order to operate. Compare active

passive night goggles /ˌpæsɪv ˈnait, ˈɡɒg(ə)lz/ plural noun full form of PNG

pass out /pɑːs ˈaʊt/ verb to successfully complete an officer training course ○ He passed out of Sandhurst in December. ○ Parents of cadets were invited to the passing-out parade.

password /ˈpɑːswəd/ noun words, letters or numbers used as a verbal recognition signal, usually in the form of a challenge and a reply ○ The sentry opened fire because the patrol did not give the correct password. ○ countersign

path /pɑːθ/ noun 1. a small track, which has been made artificially, or simply by people walking along it over a long period ○ The guide led the group along steep mountain paths. 2. a line along which something travels ○ the path of a missile

pathfinder /ˈpɑːθˌfiːndər/ noun 1. an aircraft which travels ahead of the main attack force in order to test enemy air defences and to mark targets. 2. a soldier (especially paratrooper or marine) who deploys ahead of the main force in order to reconnoitre, secure and mark a DZ or LZ, or beach-landing site. ○ ITG
Patriot /ˈpætriət/ noun an American-designed surface-to-air missile (SAM)

COMMENT: During the Gulf War in 1991, the Patriot proved itself to be highly effective at shooting down Iraqi Scud missiles.

patrol /ˈpɑːtrəʊl/ noun 1. a detachment of soldiers or vehicles sent out by a larger unit to carry out a specific task. 2. The patrol was ambushed as it entered the village.

2. a covert or overt task carried out by a small detachment of soldiers or vehicles. 1. He was killed on a patrol. 2. We will have to mount a patrol to check the route. 3. an act of walking or driving around an area on a regular basis in order to deter or prevent illegal or hostile activity. 4. There are regular enemy patrols along this route. 5. verb to carry out a patrol. 6. Soldiers patrolled the streets during the curfew. (NOTE: patrolling – patrolled)

patrol base /ˈpɑːtroʊl beɪs/ noun a covert base established in no-man’s-land or enemy territory from which patrols can be mounted

patrol pack /ˈpɑːtroʊl pæk/ noun a small pack which is designed to carry the equipment a soldier needs while on patrol

pattern /ˈpæt(ə)n/ noun 1. a decorative design, which is printed or painted on fabric or other materials. 2. the design of clothing, footwear or webbing. 3. He was wearing the latest pattern of combat boot.

Pave Tack /ˈpæv tæk/ noun an American-designed airborne laser target designator

Paveway /ˈpævweɪ/ noun an American-designed laser-guided bomb (LGB)

pay /peɪ/ noun the money which a person receives for doing his job. 1. He has difficulty bringing up his family on a corporal’s pay. 2. verb to give someone his pay. 3. The troops mutinied because they had not been paid for months. (NOTE: paying – paid)

pay attention /ˈpeɪ əˈtenʃən/ verb to concentrate on something

payload /ˈplɛɪləʊd/ noun 1. ordnance and equipment carried by an aircraft.

This fighter is capable of carrying an enormous payload. 2. The payload of this aircraft includes laser-guided bombs and heat-seeking missiles. 3. a type of ordnance delivered by a missile (such as bomblets, chemical agent, high explosive, etc.). 4. This missile is designed to carry a variety of payloads.

paymaster /ˈpeɪməstər/ noun a unit officer who is responsible for pay

PB pill /ˈpiːb/ noun a pill taken to counter the effects of nerve agents

P Company /ˈpiː kæmən/ noun a mandatory parachute training course for airborne troops. 1. He failed P Company.

COMMENT: P Company is an exceptionally difficult course to pass and requires an extremely high level of physical fitness. Only those soldiers who have successfully completed this course are entitled to wear the famous red beret of the Parachute Regiment.

PD /ˈpiː ˌdiː/ noun a type of blister and vomiting agent. Full form phenyl-dichloroarsine

PE abbreviation plastic explosive

peace /ˈpiːs/ noun 1. a state of not being involved in a war or armed conflict. 2. After the end of the war, Europe enjoyed two decades of peace. 3. the ending of a war or armed conflict

peacekeeper /ˈpiːskɪpər/ noun a serviceman, who is a member of a peacekeeping force. 1. Several UN peacekeepers have been injured.

peacekeeping /ˈpiːskɪpɪŋ/ noun a deployment, usually by the United Nations, of a neutral military force into an area where two sides are, or have recently been, engaged in armed conflict, in order to prevent or deter further military action by either side. 1. adjective referring to peacekeeping. 2. The UN is deploying a peacekeeping force in the region. 3. Ireland is very active in its UN peacekeeping role.

peace talks /ˈpiːs tæks/ plural noun negotiations aimed at ending a war or armed conflict

peace time /ˈpiːstəm/ noun a period during which a state is not involved in a
war or armed conflict • The army was disbanded and the troops returned to their peacetime occupations.

peace treaty /ˈpiːtɪ/ noun a signed agreement between opposing sides at the end of a war, stating the conditions under which they agree to exist in peace with each other • The peace treaty was signed at Versailles.

peak /piːk/ noun 1. a sharp summit of a mountain 2. a moment when something is at its worst, best, etc. • When the bombardment was at its peak, hundreds of shells were falling on the city every minute.

peat /piːt/ noun a type of soil, composed of decayed vegetation

penetrate /ˈpentrət/ verb 1. to force a way through the surface of something • This round is capable of penetrating most modern types of armour. • pierce 2. to force your way through a fortification or line of defence • The enemy have penetrated our perimeter in several places. 3. to find a way through a barrier or obstacle • Enemy engineers have penetrated the minefield.

penetration /ˈpɛntrəʃən/ noun an act of penetrating something • We have managed to contain the enemy penetration in the south.

Penguin /ˈpɛŋgwɪn/ noun a Norwegian-designed anti-ship missile (ASM)

peninsula /ˈpɛnɪnsələ/ noun a long narrow strip of land projecting into a sea or lake • The enemy advanced along the peninsula.

penknife /ˈpɛnˌnɪf/ noun a small pocket knife which folds up

pennant /ˈpenənt/ noun a small triangular flag

Pentagon /ˈpɛntəɡən/ noun a national headquarters of the US Department of Defense

COMMENT: The Pentagon is named after the five-sided building in which the Defense Department is housed.

perimeter /ˈpɜːrɪmtər/ noun an outer boundary of a fortified or defended area • The guerillas broke through the northern perimeter of the camp. • They strengthened the perimeter fence with barbed wire.

perimeter lights /ˈpɜːrɪmətə ləts/ noun lights round the edge of a helicopter landing area

peripheral /ˈpɜːrɪf(ə)rəl/ adjective on the edge of an area or in the surrounding area • The base has suffered some peripheral damage.

periscope /ˈpɛrɪskəup/ noun an optical instrument, which enables an observer on a lower level (e.g. in a submerged submarine or at the bottom of a trench) to see things on a higher level (such as on the surface of the sea or ground)

permission /ˈpɜːmɪʃən/ noun consent or authorization given by one person, which allows another person to do something • He left the barracks without permission. • Permission to carry on, Sir?

permit noun /ˈpɜːrɪmit/ a document which authorizes someone to do something • You will need a permit to get into the camp. • verb to allow or authorize someone to do something • This pass permits two people to visit the HQ.

persistent /ˈpɜːrsɪstənt/ adjective (of chemical agents) designed to remain effective for several hours or days

COMMENT: Persistent agents are normally used against targets in rear areas, whereas non-persistent agents are used against a forward
personal details 182

position, shortly before an assault is mounted.

personal details /pəsə(nəl/) 'dirtiz/ plural noun a person’s name, date of birth, occupation, address, etc.

personnel /pəsən(ə)l/ noun people who are employed by an organization personnel replacements

COMMENT: The department responsible for personnel in a headquarters is known as G1.

personnel carrier /pəsən(ə)l kərə/ noun a vehicle (usually armoured) designed to carry troops.

anti-personnel

petrol /'petrəl/ noun a liquid fuel made from petroleum, used by motor vehicles

petrol bomb /'petrəl bəm/ noun an improvised incendiary device consisting of a bottle filled with petrol and fitted with a wick of fabric, which is lit and then thrown at a target.

Molotov cocktail (NOTE: The American English term is gasoline; in many other languages it is benzin.)

petroleum /ˈpɛtroʊliəm/ noun a liquid mineral substance which is extracted from the ground and then refined to produce petrol, diesel, kerosene and lubricating oil

petroleum transfer point /ˈpɛtroʊliəm ˌtrɛnsfər ˌpɔɪnt/ noun full form of PTP

petty officer /ˈpeti ˈnɪfsə/ noun a non-commissioned officer (NCO) in the British and US navies. Abbr PO

Pfc abbreviation US private first class

PIP noun an agreement between NATO and various non-NATO countries to cooperate in the interests of peace and security, especially in Europe. Full form Partnership for Peace

PGM abbreviation precision guided munition

Phalanx /ˈfɛlənks/ noun an American-designed radar-controlled 20mm naval anti-aircraft cannon (CIWS), which automatically detects, tracks and engages targets (NOTE: Phalanx is based on the M-61A1 Vulcan.)

Phantom /ˈfɛntəm/ noun F-4

phase /feɪz/ noun a specific stage in a planned or predicted sequence of events o This will be a five-phase operation.

phase line /feɪz lən/ noun an imaginary line (often defined by a topographical feature, such as a road) used as a reference point or objective during movement o The squadron crossed Phase Line Charlie at 1345 hours.

phonetic alphabet /fəʊnetɪk/ˈɛlɛfbet/ noun an alphabet consisting of words (such as Alpha, Bravo, Charlie), which is designed to avoid confusion between similar letters, when speaking on the radio

Phosgene /ˌfəʊsədʒi/ˈɛn/ noun, CG

Phosgene Oxime /ˌfəʊsədʒi ɒksəm/ noun

phosphorus /ˈfəʊsfəros/ noun, white phosphorus

draft /ˈfɒzə/ noun a photograph (informal)

photograph /ˌfəʊtəˈɡrɑːf/ noun a picture produced by a camera o verb to take a photograph with a camera o He was arrested while he was photographing the base.

photo-interpreter /ˈfəʊtəˌɪntəprətər/ noun a person who studies air or satellite photographs

physical /ˈfɪzɪk(ə)/ noun a medical examination for new recruits to find out whether they are physically fit for service

physical training /ˈfɪzɪk(ə)/ noun activities and exercises designed to improve or maintain physical fitness. Abbr PT

physical training instructor /ˈfɪzɪk(ə)/ noun a serviceman who is trained to supervise physical training. Abbr PTI

pick /pɪk/ noun a simple tool consisting of a curved metal bar with a point at one end and a blade at the other, attached at right angles to a long wooden handle, designed to break up hard ground o verb to select o The sergeant picked two soldiers to carry the ammunition.
pickaxe /ˈpɪkæk/ noun US spelling of pickaxe
pickaxe /ˈpɪkæk/ noun a simple tool consisting of a curved metal bar with a point at one end and a blade at the other, attached at right angles to a long wooden handle; designed to break up hard ground. ə pick
picket /ˈpɪkɪt/ noun 1. a small group of soldiers sent out to watch for the enemy or to cover the activities of other troops ə It was necessary to place pickets along the route. ə outpost, standing patrol 2. a metal stake used in the revetting of trenches and other fortifications ə verb to deploy a picket ə It will be necessary to picket the high ground.
pick helve /ˈpɪk hɛlv/ noun a pick handle, sometimes used as a baton. ə pickaxe
pick off /ˈpɪk ˈɒf/ verb to shoot systematically at selected targets ə The snipers were ordered to pick off the enemy commanders.
pick up /ˈpɪk ˈʌp/ verb 1. to lift an object off the ground (usually by hand) ə You should not pick up unexploded bombs. 2. to collect people or things with an aircraft, boat or vehicle, in order to transport them to another location ə The patrol was picked up by helicopter.
pick-up point /ˈpɪk ʌp, pɪˈpɔɪnt/ noun a location where people or things are picked up. Abbrev PUP
picquet /ˈpɪkɪt/ noun another spelling of picket
picquet officer /ˈpɪkɪt ˈɒfɪsər/ noun a duty officer
pierce /ˈpaɪs/ verb to force a way through the surface of something ə The shell pierced the tank’s armour. ə penetrate
pillbox /ˈpɪlbɔks/ noun a small bunker constructed from reinforced concrete
pilot /ˈpɪlət/ noun 1. a person who operates the flying controls of an aircraft 2. a person employed to take control of ships which are entering or leaving a harbour, or passing through a waterway ə verb to act as a pilot on an aircraft or ship
pilot officer /ˈpɪlət ˈɒfɪsər/ noun the lowest officer rank in the air force. Abbrev PO
pincer movement /ˈpɪnsər ˈmu:vment/ noun a tactical manoeuvre, in which two groupings attack an enemy force at the same time from different directions
pin down /ˈpɪn ˈduːn/ verb to direct so much fire at an enemy that he is unable to move (in any direction) ə We were pinned down for over an hour.
P-INFO /pi: ˈɪnفوʊ/ noun a department responsible for dealing with the media. Full form public information
Pink /ˈpɪŋk/ noun the Pink document containing the planned or probable sequence of events for a military exercise
pioneer /ˈpærənər/ noun an infantry soldier who is trained to carry out field engineering tasks for his unit (preparing fortifications, clearing obstacles, etc.)
pipe /paɪp/ noun an insignia in the form of a star, which is used in certain badges of rank by the British Army. ə star
pipe bomb /ˈpaɪp ˈbɒm/ noun a homemade grenade consisting of a piece of metal pipe filled with explosive
pipeline /ˈpaɪplain/ noun a huge pipe built to convey water, oil or gas over long distances ə The pipeline will be a serious obstacle for our tanks.
piper /ˈpaɪpər/ noun a musician who plays the bagpipes
pipe range /ˈpaɪp reɪndʒ/ noun an indoor shooting range constructed from a length of large-diameter concrete pipe, which is used for the zeroing of weapons
pipes /ˈpaɪps/ plural noun pipes and drums
pipes and drums /ˈpaɪps ənd ˈdræms/ plural noun a band of pipers and drummers, belonging to a battalion or regiment
pistol

pistol /ˈpɪstəl/ noun a small gun designed to be held in one hand

pistol-grip noun a handle shaped like a pistol, which is mounted behind the trigger of a machine-gun. • handgun

pit /pɪt/ noun a wide deep man-made hole in the ground

pitch /pɪtʃ/ noun 1. (of aircraft and ships) movement up and down by the front and rear alternately • The elevator is used to control pitch. 2. an area of ground where a sport is played • The helicopter landed on the football pitch. • verb to erect a tent • We pitched our tents in a small field.

pl platoon

plague /pləg/ noun a highly infectious and potentially fatal disease, which is often carried by rat fleas and can be transmitted to man, sometimes resulting in widespread epidemics. Also called bubonic plague

COMMENT: Caused by a bacterium Pasteurella pestis, the symptoms of plague are fever, shivering and rash, which is often carried by rat fleas and which is often transmitted to man by the bites of rat fleas. Certain nations are known to have developed plague for use as a biological weapon. Abbrev PE

plastic /ˈplæstɪk/ noun a man-made material

plastic bullet /ˈplæstɪk ˈbʌltɪ/ • rubber bullet /ˈrəʊbər ˈbʌltɪ/ noun a large projectile made of plastic or rubber which is fired from a special gun and is designed to knock a person over but not to cause a serious injury. Also called baton round

plastic explosive /ˈplæstɪk ˈɛkspləʊsɪv/ • plastic explosive • plastic explosive

plastic cuff /ˈplæstɪk ˈkʌf/ noun a flexible plastic strip with a self-locking catch, which is designed to bind a prisoner’s hands together • The prisoners were secured with plasticuffs.

COMMENT: The advantage of plastic cuffs is that they are light and disposable; thus each person can carry several and does not have to worry about retrieving them.

platoon /ˈplətən/ noun a large comparative level area of ground (usually with few trees) • The division advanced rapidly across the north German plains.

plan /plæn/ noun a procedure, decided after consideration by a person or group, by which a mission or task will be carried out • The Company Commander is making his plan. • according to plan in the same way as it was planned • the operation is running according to plan • verb to make a plan • ‘No plan survives contact with the enemy.’ Moltke • They planned the operation very carefully. • We plan to attack under cover of darkness. (Note: planning − planned)

plane /plɛn/ noun a fixed-wing aircraft • aeroplane, airplane

planner /ˈplænə/ noun a person involved in the making of a plan • Military planners have prepared the invasion in great detail.

planning /ˈplænɪŋ/ noun the process of making a plan • He was involved in the planning of the operation.

plastic /ˈplæstɪk/ noun a man-made material

plastic bullet /ˈplæstɪk ˈbʌltɪ/ • rubber bullet /ˈrəʊbər ˈbʌltɪ/ noun a large projectile made of plastic or rubber which is fired from a special gun and is designed to knock a person over but not to cause a serious injury. Also called baton round

plastic explosive /ˈplæstɪk ˈɛkspləʊsɪv/ • plastic explosive • plastic explosive

plastic cuff /ˈplæstɪk ˈkʌf/ noun a flexible plastic strip with a self-locking catch, which is designed to bind a prisoner’s hands together • The prisoners were secured with plasticuffs.

COMMENT: The advantage of plastic cuffs is that they are light and disposable; thus each person can carry several and does not have to worry about retrieving them.

platoon /ˈplətən/ noun a large comparative level area of ground (usually with few trees) • The division advanced rapidly across the north German plains.

platform /ˈplætʃəm/ noun 1. a raised structure alongside the railway line at a railway station, which enables the passengers to get into the train • a firm surface or structure to which a weapon or other device is fitted • an aircraft or ship or vehicle upon which a weapon or weapons system is fitted and used

platoon /ˈplətən/ noun 1. a tactical and administrative infantry grouping of three or more sections or squads (i.e. about 30 men) • 2. a tactical and administrative armoured grouping of three or more tanks or armoured reconnaissance vehicles

COMMENT: Platoons are usually commanded by lieutenants or second lieutenants. In the British Army, platoon-sized groupings of tanks, artillery and certain supporting arms (such as engineers) are known as troops.

platoon commander /ˈplətən ˈkærəməndər/ noun the commander of a platoon.
### Political Officer

**Platoon leader** /pləˌtuːn ˈliːdz/ noun US
The officer in command of a platoon

**Platoon sergeant** /pləˌtuːn ˈsɜːrdʒənt/ noun
A sergeant who acts as second-in-command in a platoon

**Pliers** /ˈplæzə/ plural noun
A tool shaped like scissors for squeezing, pulling or cutting wire

**Plot** /plɔt/ noun
1. A secret plan to carry out an illegal act
2. To make a secret plan to carry out an illegal act
3. They were plotting a coup
4. To plan a course or route on a chart or map
5. He plotted a course between the islands.

**Plotter** /plɔtə/ noun
A circular board, printed with a grid of squares and fitted with a revolving cursor, which is used to calculate the bearing required for an artillery piece or mortar to hit a target.

**Plume** /ˈpluːm/ noun
A tall decoration of coloured feathers or animal hair, which is attached to a ceremonial headdress.

**PMC** abbreviation
Private military company

**PNG** /piː nˈdʒiz/ noun
A night-viewing device, similar to a pair of binoculars, which is normally fitted to a person’s face so that his hands are free. Full form passive night goggles

**PO** abbreviation
1. Petty officer
2. Pilot officer

**Pod** /pɒd/ noun
An external container suspended under an aircraft (used to carry electronic equipment or fuel or weapon systems or munitions)

**Point** /pɔnt/ noun
1. A sharp or tapered end
2. A location
3. They found a suitable point to dump the ammunition.
4. A precise moment
5. It was at this point that he decided to withdraw
6. The reason or purpose
7. There was no point in continuing the patrol.

**Political officer** /ˌpəˌlɪtsə/ noun
US
In Communist countries, an officer who is responsible to the government and outside the usual military chain of command, and whose job is to
POL point 186

ensure that troops remain loyal to the regime

POL point /pɔl 'ptənt/ noun a location where vehicles are refuelled

poncho /'pɒntʃəʊ/ noun a waterproof cape

poncho liner /'pɒntʃəʊ 'lænə/ noun a lightweight quilt used for bivouacking

pond /pɒnd/ noun a very small lake

pongo /'pɒngəʊ/ noun a member of the army (air-force slang)

pontoon bridge /'pɔntuən 'brɪdʒ/ noun a temporary bridge supported by boats

POR /piˈɔər/ abbreviation post-operation report

port /pɔrt/ noun 1. a harbour, containing docks and other facilities for the loading and unloading of ships 2. the left-hand side of an aircraft, boat or ship • Enemy fighters approaching port!

Compare starboard

portable /ˈpɔrtəbəl/ adjective able to be carried easily. • air-portable, man-portable

Portakabin /ˈpɔrtəkəbɪn/ noun a small building, which is easy to assemble and can be transported by vehicle (designed for use as a temporary office or shelter on building sites, etc.)

port arms /ˈpɔrt ər'zməz/ verb to hold a rifle diagonally across the chest • for inspection port arms to hold a weapon with the working parts pulled to the rear, so that it can be inspected to make sure that it is clear of ammunition

position /ˈpɔzɪʃ(ə)n/ noun 1. a place occupied by troops or equipment for tactical purposes • The enemy positions were clearly visible in the satellite photograph. 2. a situation • Our position is now critical. • verb to place in a specific location • He positioned the mortar line in a shallow gully.

positional defence /ˈpoʊʃənl dɪfn/ noun a defensive doctrine which relies on static defensive positions and the use of attrition to halt an enemy advance. Also known as static defence. Compare mobile defence

positional warfare /ˈpoʊʃənl wɔr/ noun a military doctrine which places emphasis on the possession of ground and its denial to the enemy. Compare manoeuvre warfare

position of attention /ˈpɔzɪʃ(ə)n əˈtenʃən/ noun the act of standing erect, with the feet together and the arms held in to the sides

posn abbreviation position

post /pəust/ noun 1. a place where a serviceman is stationed 2. a military base or installation 3. a tactical position 4. a job or position in an organization • verb 1. to assign a serviceman to a new grouping or location • He has been posted to HQ 7 Brigade. • I’ve been posted to Belize. 2. to position soldiers for a task • The sentries have been posted. • Last Post bugle-call blown in barracks and bases at bedtime (usually around 2200hrs) and also at military funerals

post exchange /ˈpəust ɪkənˈdʒɛrn/ noun US full form of PX

posting /ˈpəustɪŋ/ noun an assignment of a serviceman to a new grouping or location • My next posting is in Germany.

postpone /ˈpəustˈpəʊn/ verb to make an event happen at a later time than originally planned • H-Hour has been postponed until 1530hrs.

post-traumatic stress disorder /ˈpəʊsttrəˈmeɪtɪk ˈstrɛst dɪsˈɔɪdə/ noun mental collapse, as a result of a frightening or horrific experience. Abbr PTSD • battle fatigue, shell shock

potable /ˈpɔtəbəl/ adjective US fit for drinking • It was impossible to find any potable water in the contaminated area.

pouch /pəʊʃ/ noun webbing or leather container, which is attached to a soldier’s belt and is designed to hold ammunition or equipment

pound /pɔund/ noun a unit of weight, corresponding to 0.4536 kilograms

POW abbreviation prisoner of war

POW camp /ˈprɔz(ə)n kæmp/, prison camp noun a secure location where
prisoners-of-war are accommodated.

power /pəʊ(r)/ noun 1. mechanical or electrical energy ○ The engine keeps losing power. 2. a military strength ○ Does the gun have the power to knock out that battery? 3. a state with international influence which is based upon military strength ○ There is a danger of involvement by foreign powers. 4. an authorization to do something ○ verb to supply an apparatus or machine with mechanical or electrical energy ○ This submarine is powered by nuclear energy.

power lines /ˈpɔːə lains/ plural noun wires, which convey large quantities of electricity from one location to another

power of arrest /ˈpɔːə ov əˈrɛst/ noun legal authority to arrest a person

powerpack /ˈpɔːə pæk/ noun an engine of an armoured fighting vehicle. Also known as powerplant

powerplant /ˈpɔːə plant/ noun an engine of an armoured fighting vehicle. Also known as powerpack

powers of arrest /ˈpɔːə ov əˈrɛst plural noun the conditions under which a member of the security forces may legally arrest a person ○ There is no power of arrest for this offence.

power station /ˈpɔːə stɛnʃ(ə)n/ noun an installation which produces electricity

PR abbreviation public relations

precaution /prɪˈkəʒ(ə)n/ noun an action or procedure which is carried out in advance, in order to counter or prevent danger or failure ○ The accident happened because he failed to take the correct precautions. ○ Wear your helmet as a precaution.

precautionary /prɪˈkəʒ(ə)nəri/ adjective (of actions or procedure) as a precaution ○ This is just a precautionary measure.

precision /prɪˈsɪʒ(ə)n/ noun accuracy

precision guided munition /prɪˈsɪʒ(ə)n ˈgɑrdid mjuːˈtʃɪf(ə)n/ noun a bomb or missile, containing an automatic guidance system (such as an anti-radar missile, cruise missile, laser-guided a bomb, etc.). Abbr PGM. ○ smart bomb

Predator /ˈpreddətə/ noun an American-designed hand-held anti-tank missile

pre-emptive strike /prɪˈemptɪv ˈstrʌɪk/ noun an act of attacking a potential enemy before he attacks your own forces or territory

preparation /ˌprɛpəˈreɪʃ(ə)n/ noun an act of preparing for something ○ The operation failed because of poor preparation. ○ We were still making our preparations when the enemy attacked.

preparatory /prɪˈpærət(ə)ri/ adjective ○ as a preparation

preparatory bombardment /prɪˌpærəˈtɔrɪ bɔrmənd/ noun the bombardment of an objective, prior to an assault

prepare /prɪˈpɛər/ verb to make yourself or a thing ready for something ○ He prepared the weapon for firing. ○ Prepare to move!

prepared for demolition /prɪˌpɛrd fəˌdɛməˈlɪnf(ə)n/ adjective fitted with explosive charges

presence /ˈprɛzəns/ noun the fact of having people or units which represent a particular country or organization within a particular area ○ a permanent US presence in the Persian Gulf

presence patrol /ˌprɛzəns pəˈtrɔʊl/ noun a patrol conducted for the purpose of reminding people that there is a military presence in the area

present /ˈprɛzənt/ adverb at this location ○ The company is present and ready for your inspection. Sir. ○ noun this moment in time ○ At present, we are unaware of the enemy’s intentions. ○ verb to offer or give ○ He was presented with a painting of a Warrior.

present arms /prɪˈzent əmz/ verb to salute someone by holding a rifle in front of the body in a vertical position

Presidential Guard /ˌprezɪdənˈf(ə)n/ noun elite troops whose duty is to protect the president
pressel-switch

pressel-switch /'pres(ə)l ,swɪtʃ/ noun a switch, connected to or forming part of a microphone, which is pressed in order to transmit a radio message. 1. No-one will hear you if you don’t keep the pressel-switch pressed down. 2. Three clicks on the pressel-switch means that the enemy is approaching the ambush.

prevent /prɪ'vent/ verb 1. to stop something happening. 2. to stop someone doing something. 3. We managed to prevent the civilians attacking the prisoner.

primary aircraft authorized /ˈprɪmərɪ əˈkærɪf əˈzɔrdɪtɪd/ noun full form of PAA.

primary call sign /ˈprɪmərɪ ˈkɔl ˌsæm/ noun the main identifying call sign used by a radio operator or station.

primary jungle /ˈprɪmərɪ ˈdʒʌŋɡəl/ noun a jungle where the trees have grown to a considerable height, and there is little ground vegetation.

primary objective /ˈprɪmərɪ əˈbɪv ˈdʒɛktɪv/ noun the most important objective of an operation.

primary radio frequency /ˈprɪmərɪ ˈreɪdɪəˌfrɛkwənsi/ noun the usual or strongest radio frequency.

prime /ˈprɪm/ verb to prepare an explosive device for detonation. 1. He is priming grenades. 2. The missile primes itself when fired.

primer /ˈprɪmər/ noun a small explosive charge used to detonate an explosive of a bomb or other explosive device. 1. He removed the primer from the bomb.

principle /ˈprɪnsəpl/ noun a general rule which is the basis for political or military action.

principles of war /ˈprɪnsəplz ˈwɔr/ plural noun the mass, manoeuvre, surprise, security, simplicity, objective, offensive, economy of force, unity of command.

prison /ˈprɪzn/ noun a secure location, where people (especially convicted criminals) are confined.

prison camp /ˈprɪzn(k)/ kæmp/ noun a camp, where prisoners of war are confined.

prisoner /ˈprɪznər/ noun 1. a person who is confined in a prison. 2. a person who has been arrested or captured. 3. to take someone prisoner. 4. to capture someone. 5. A prisoner of war is someone who tries to kill you and fails, and then asks you not to kill him – Sir Winston Churchill.

private /ˈprɪvət/ noun the lowest rank in the British and US armies. Full form private soldier.

private first class /ˈprɪvət ˈfaɪst ˈklɑs/ noun US 1. an experienced private soldier in the army, with certain supervisory responsibilities (equivalent to a lance corporal in the marines). 2. the lowest rank in the marines. 3. abbr. PFC.

private military company /ˌprɪvət ˈmɪlitərɪ ˈkæmpǝn/ noun a private business organization, which markets military training and expertise, and in some cases, personnel and equipment, to foreign clients (e.g. governments of developing nations), usually in a counter-insurgency or internal security situation. Abbr. PMC.

privateer /ˈprɪvətɪər/ noun a private ship or character in the 17th and 18th centuries, who attacked ships of war, conducted private military engagements, etc.

public relations officer /ˈpʌblɪk ˈreɪʃənz əˈfɪsər/ noun a person who manages public relations for an organization, and is responsible for communicating with the media, the general public, and stakeholders, in order to maintain a positive image and build trust.

COMMENT: This is an emotive subject, and many critics, including journalists and government officials, have dismissed PMCs as mercenaries, using the term in a derogatory context. PMCs which operate within the constraints of international law and the Geneva Convention would argue that they provide a legitimate service, especially to the governments of poorer nations, whose own military assets are inadequate and who, for political or strategic reasons, have been unable to obtain military assistance from the international community (e.g. UN peacekeeping forces).
proactive /prəˈæktɪv/ adjective taking the initiative in order to prevent problems occurring (of actions or policy) 1. We need a more proactive response to the increase in terrorism. Compare reactive

probe /prəʊb/ verb to attack in order to test the enemy defences and locate any weak points 1. The enemy has been probing our line throughout the night. 2. an act of making a probing attack 2. The attack was just a probe. 2. a long thin instrument which can be pushed into something to search for or examine something inside it. 1 refueling probe

procedure /prəˈsidʒə/ noun a series of actions, which are carried out in specific sequence or manner

procedure words /prəˈsidʒə wəˈdʒə/ plural noun special codewords used in radio transmissions to indicate a particular action e.g. 'roger' or 'over'

production logistics /prəˌdʌks̩ʃən ləˈɡiːs̩tɪks/ noun the design and manufacture of materiel for use by the armed forces

prohibit /prəʊˈhaɪbɪt/ verb to make a rule or law to stop something being done

projectile /prəˈdʒektɪl/ noun 1. anything which is fired at a target (e.g. a bullet, missile, shell, etc.) 2. anything which is thrown or propelled by other means at a target 1. The defenders ran out of ammunition and threw stones and other projectiles at the attacking forces.

projectile velocity /prəˌdʒektɪl vəlˈɪsɪtɪ/ noun the speed at which a bullet, shell, etc., travels

promote /prəˈməʊt/ verb to raise a serviceman to a higher rank 1. He was promoted to sergeant. Compare demote

promotion /prəˈməʊʃən/ noun an act of promoting someone 1. On his promotion to sergeant he decided to get married.

prone /prəʊn/ adjective lying on your stomach 1. He was shooting from the prone position.
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<td>PSYWAR</td>
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PTSD abbreviation post-traumatic stress disorder

**Public** /ˈpʌblɪk/ adjective 1. relating to people in general 2. open to the general public 3. the general public people in general 4. the army base is not open to the general public

**Public duties** /ˈpʌblɪk ˈdjuːtɪz/ plural noun ceremonial duties in London or at one of the other royal residences (e.g. guarding Buckingham Palace, Trooping the Colour, etc.)

**Public information** /ˌpʌblɪk ɪnˈfɔːrmeɪʃn/ full form of P-INFO

**Public order** /ˌpʌblɪk ˈɔːrdər/ noun a state of law and order within a community

**Public relations** /ˌpʌblɪk ˈreɪʃənz/ plural noun the management of an organization’s image and reputation

**Public relations officer** /ˌpʌblɪk ˈreɪʃənz ˈɒfɪsər/ noun a person whose job it is to communicate with the public, in order to improve the image of an organization. Abbr PRO

**Pulka** /ˈpʊlkə/ noun a lightweight sledge designed to be towed by a man on skis, and used to carry extra equipment or stores

**Pull back** /ˈpʊl ˈbæk/ verb to withdraw 1. We were forced to pull back 2. The enemy is pulling out

**Pull out** /ˈpʊl ˈaʊt/ verb to abandon a position 1. I’ll have to pull rank on you over this matter 2. Pull-through /ˈpʊl ˈθruː/ noun a length of cord with a weight at one end and a strip of flannelette at the other, which is pulled through the barrel of a weapon in order to clean it 3. I’ve broken my pull-through.

**Pulse** /ˈpʌls/ noun the slight movement which can be felt in the wrist or neck as blood passes along a blood vessel when the heart beats 1. His pulse is very weak.

**Provost Sergeant** /ˈprɒvəst ˈsiːrжен/ noun an NCO in charge of the Regimental Police (RP)

**Proxy bomb** /ˈprɒksi bɒm/ noun a terrorist bombing tactic, where an innocent civilian is forced by the terrorists to carry an explosive device or drive a car containing an explosive device up to a target (e.g. security force base); the device is then initiated by a timer or by remote control.

**Psychological** /ˌsaɪkələˈdʒɪsk(ə)l/ adjective relating to a person’s mental state

**Psychological operations** /ˌsaɪkələˈdʒɪsk(ə)l əˈparətʃənz/ plural noun activities designed to lower the enemy’s morale (such as the use of leaflets, radio transmissions, etc.). Abbr PSYOPS

**Psychological warfare** /ˌsaɪkələˈdʒɪsk(ə)l ˈwɔːfər(ə)r/ noun the use of psychological operations in wartime. Abbr PSYWAR

**PT** /pɪti/ noun US a location where fuel is transferred from large tanker vehicles into smaller tanker vehicles which are capable of advancing with the fighting units. Full form petroleum transfer point

**Provost** /ˈprɒvəst/ noun US a French-designed transport helicopter

**Pull rank** /ˈpʊl ˈreŋk/ verb to invoke the authority of your rank when disagreeing with a subordinate 1. I’ll have to pull rank on you over this matter

**Prowords** /ˈprəʊwɜːrdz/ plural noun procedure words
punish /ˈpʌnɪʃ/ verb to make someone suffer, because they have done something wrong ○ He was punished for being absent without leave.
punishment /ˈpʌnɪʃmənt/ noun an act of punishing a person punitive /ˈpjuːnɪtɪv/ adjective intended as a punishment ○ The government is mounting a punitive expedition against the rebels.
punji /ˈpʌnʤi/ noun in Vietnam, a sharpened stick concealed in a shallow pit in order to injure the foot of anyone who steps on it PUP abbreviation pick-up point purification /ˌpjuːrɪˈfɪʃ(ə)n/ noun the action of making something, usually water, clean and fit for use purification tablet /ˌpjuːrɪˈfɪʃ(ə)nˈtæbl/ noun a tablet designed to make water fit to drink by killing bacteria ○ You must use purification tablets with this water.
Puritabs™ /ˌpjuːrɪˈteɪbs/ noun a type of water purification tablet pursue /pəˈsjuː/ verb to follow a retreating or withdrawing enemy force, with the intention of destroying or capturing as much of it as possible ○ We were too exhausted to pursue the enemy into the mountains. ○ to pursue by fire to shoot at a retreating enemy until he is no longer visible or beyond the effective range of your weapons pursuit /pəˈsjuːtʃər/ noun an act of pursuing (especially after a successful attack)
push /pʊʃ/ noun 1. an act of pushing ○ The car’s stuck in the mud, can you give us a push? 2. a large-scale offensive operation ○ They made a push to capture the capital before Christmas. ○ verb to use physical force on an object, in order to move it away from one ○ We had to push the truck off the road. ○ We pushed the enemy back to their original positions.
push on /ˈpʊʃ ən/ verb to move forwards as fast as possible ○ Our aim is to push on as fast as possible to capture the capital.
puttee /ˈpʌtʃi/ noun a strip of cloth (similar to a bandage) which is wrapped around the ankle and lower leg in order to provide support and to prevent small stones and other loose objects going into your boots ○ When I joined the army, we still wore puttees.
PW abbreviation prisoner of war PWO /ˈpiːwuː/ noun an officer on a warship who coordinates the sea battle. Compare AWO PX /piːx/ shop or shopping centre on an American military base or camp. Full form post exchange (NOTE: The British equivalent is the NAAFI.) pylon /ˌpaɪlən/ noun a metal structure, designed to support power lines above the ground pyrotechnic /ˌpaɪrəˈteknik/ adjective 1. designed to burn, in order to produce light for illumination or signalling purposes 2. designed to explode, in order to produce noise for battle simulation ○ noun a pyrotechnic device (e.g. a trip-flare, thunderflash, Very light, etc.) pyrrhic victory /ˈpɜːrk ˈvɪktər/ noun a victory in which the losses suffered by the winning side are so high, that they outweigh the advantages gained by winning the battle PZ abbreviation pick-up zone
QUEBEC - Qq

Q-5 /ˌkwɛbɪk/ noun a Chinese-designed close-support fighter aircraft (Note: known to NATO as the Fantan)

Q-fever /ˌkwɛvər/ noun a disease of cattle and sheep, which is transmissible to humans

Comment: Caused by Coxiella burnettii, the symptoms of Q-fever are fever, cough, and headaches. Certain nations are known to have developed Q-fever for use as a biological weapon.

QM abbreviation quartermaster

Q-matters /ˈkwɛmətəz/ plural noun logistics at battalion level (i.e. those dealt with by the quartermaster or company quartermaster sergeants)

QMG abbreviation quartermaster general

QRA /ˈkwɛrə-/ noun an air force state of readiness, where aircraft are prepared to take off and go into action at very short notice. The squadron is on QRA. Full form quick reaction alert

QRF abbreviation quick reaction force

quarry /ˈkwɒrri/ noun a place where stone is extracted from the ground. The RAP was located in a quarry.

quarter /ˈkwɔːtər/ noun 1. a house or flat provided for a married serviceman and his family. We’ve got a lovely quarter. 2. sparing an enemy’s life on condition that he surrenders. Quarter was neither expected nor given. No quarter! take no prisoners! 3. verb to quarter someone on someone to provide accommodation for someone. He was quartered on the local priest.

Quartermaster /ˌkwɔːtəmɑːstər/ noun an officer (usually a captain) responsible for the logistics of a battalion or equivalent-sized grouping. Abbr QM

Comment: In the British Army, a quartermaster commission has a lower status than a Queen’s Commission. Thus, a captain holding a quartermaster commission is considered to be junior to a second lieutenant holding a Queen’s Commission.

Quartermaster commission /ˌkwɔːtəmɑːstər kəˈmiʃ(ə)n/ noun a commission held by an officer who has been promoted from the ranks, instead of undergoing normal officer selection and training which results in a Queen's Commission

Quartermaster general /ˌkwɔːtəmɑːstər ˈdʒenə(ə)rəl/ noun a senior army officer, responsible for quartering. Abbr QMG

Quarters /ˈkwɔːtəriz/ plural noun living accommodation on a military base. He was confined to his quarters. He’s in his quarters.

Quay /ˈkwɔɪ/ noun a structure built alongside or into water, which is used for the loading and unloading of ships

Quebec /ˈkwɛbɪk/ noun the seventeenth letter of the phonetic alphabet (Qq)

Queen’s Commission /ˈkwɪzn kəˈmiʃ(ə)n/ noun a commission held by an officer who has undergone normal officer selection and training (Note: When the British monarch is a king, the commission becomes the King’s Commission.)
quick reaction alert /kwɪk rɪˈækʃən/ noun full form of QRA
ROMEO - Rr

RA abbreviation Royal Artillery
rabbie /ˈræbi/ noun a disorganized crowd of people ° The enemy force disintegrated into a rabble.
rabid /ˈræbid/ adjective infected with rabies ° A rabid fox came into the camp.
rabies /ˈreɪbɪz/ noun a fatal virus affecting mammals (especially dogs, foxes and wolves but also man), which is transmitted by the animal’s saliva
COMMENT: Wild animals infected with rabies often lose their fear of people.
radar-absorbent material /ˈredər əbˈzɔːbənt maˈtʃəriəl/ noun a substance which does not reflect radar waves, used as a covering on earlier types of stealth aircraft, in order to make them invisible to enemy radar equipment. Abbr RAM
radar-absorbent structural material /ˈredər əbˈstrækʃəl maˈtʃəriəl/ noun a substance which does not reflect radar waves, used in the construction of stealth aircraft, in order to make them invisible to enemy radar. Abbr RAS
radar cross-section /ˈredər ˈkros ˈsɛkʃən/ noun the shape of an object in relation to its ability to reflect radar waves. Abbr RCS
radar guided /ˈredər ˈgærədi/ adjective equipped with a guidance system which uses radar to acquire its targets
radar scan /ˈredər ˈskæn/ noun the movement of a radar beam as it turns and searches for objects
radar seeker /ˈredər ˈsiːkər/ noun a guidance system which uses radar to locate its targets
radar warning receiver /ˈredər ˈwɔrɪŋ riˈsɪtʃər/ noun full form of RWR
radiation /ˈredʒərəʃən/ noun an emission of energy as rays of heat, light or electromagnetic waves
radiation sickness /ˈredʒərəʃən ˈsɪknəs/ noun an illness caused by exposure to radiation from a radioactive substance
radio /ˈredʒəu/ noun 1. a transmission and reception of audible signals, using electromagnetic waves ° to impose radio silence to start radio silence ° to lift radio silence to end radio silence 2. an apparatus designed to transmit and receive radio signals
radioactive /ˈredʒərəˈeɪktɪv/ adjective giving off radiation in the form of harmful rays
radioactivity /ˈredʒərəˌeɪktɪvɪtɪ/ noun radiation given off by a radioactive substance
radio check /ˈredʒəou ˈtʃek/ noun a radio transmission to ensure that the radios are working and on the correct frequency
radio contact /ˈredʒəou ˈkɒntækt/ noun the ability to communicate with another person or grouping over the radio ° We were in radio contact with the
base this morning.  o The HQ has lost radio contact with the platoon.
radio control /ˌreɪdiəʊ ˈkɑːnˈtrɔːl/ noun a means of operating a device or machine by radio signals (e.g. radio-controlled aircraft, radio-controlled bomb)
radio-controlled /ˌreɪdiəʊ ˈkɑːnˈtrɔːld/ adjective controlled by radio signals
radio frequency /ˈreɪdiəʊ ˈfriːkwənsi/ noun a radio setting on which a signal is transmitted and received o alternate radio frequency a second or emergency radio frequency
radioman /ˈreɪdiəʊmən/ noun same as radio operator (NOTE: The plural form is radiomen.)
radio operator /ˌreɪdiəʊ ˈɒpərətər/ noun a person whose job is to send and receive signals on a radio
radio silence /ˌreɪdiəʊ ˈsɪləns/ noun a state when no one is allowed to transmit on the radio
radio watch /ˌreɪdiəʊ ˈwɒtʃ/ noun a period of duty which is spent listening to a radio
radome /ˈreɪdiəʊm/ noun a large disk-like antenna, which is mounted on the fuselage of airborne early warning and control (AEW & C) aircraft such as A-40, E-3, Orion AEW&C
RAF abbreviation Royal Air Force
raid /reɪd/ noun a military operation in which a small force enters enemy territory in order to cause casualties, destroy equipment or take prisoners, and then withdraws back to its own lines again o We must keep a look out for possible raids by guerrillas.  o verb to carry out a raid o The enemy raided our supply depot.
rail /reɪl/ noun 1. one of many long metal bars, which are fitted together to form a railway line 2. transport by train o The battalion is moving by rail.
railhead /ˈreɪlheɪd/ noun a point on a railway, where troops leave their trains and continue their journey using other forms of transport
railroad /ˈreɪtrɔʊd/ noun US a railway
rail warrant /ˌreɪl, wɔːrənt/ noun an official document which entitles a serviceman to a free railway ticket
railway /ˌreɪliwei/, railway line /ˌreɪliweɪ lʌn/ noun two parallel lines of rails, along which a train travels
rain /reɪn/ noun drops of water, which fall from the sky o Heavy rain delayed the start of the offensive.  o The tropical rain turned the paths to mud.  o verb (of rain) to fall from the sky o It is raining heavily and this makes any immediate attack unlikely.
rainy season /ˈreɪni ˈsɪzn/ noun a time of year when there is a lot of rain o With the end of the rainy season, military operations will restart. Compare dry season, monsoon
raise /reɪz/ verb 1. to lift or put an object into a higher position o The tank raised its gun barrel.  2. to promote to a higher rank o He was raised to corporal.  3. to establish radio contact with another call-sign (radio terminology)  o I can’t raise 22B.
rake /reɪk/ verb to fire over a wide area with an automatic weapon o They raked the street with machine-gun fire.
rally /ˈreɪli/ verb to reassemble after a period of confusion o The platoon rallied at the edge of the village.  o The sergeant rallied his men. (NOTE: rallying – rallied)
RAM abbreviation radar-absorbent material
RAMC noun the unit of the British army responsible for the medical care of service personnel. Full form Royal Army Medical Corps
ramp /ræmp/ noun an inclined surface designed to enable people or vehicles to move onto or off a vehicle or aircraft or ship
R & D abbreviation research and development
R & R /ɑːn ˈɛrə/ noun a period of holiday taken during operational duty o American troops come to the resort for a period of R & R Full form rest and recuperation
range /rɛndʒ/ noun 1. the maximum distance that a weapon can fire ○ This missile has a range of one hundred kilometres. ○ in range, within range within the effective range of a weapon ○ that tank is in range ○ out of range beyond the effective range of a weapon ○ that tank is out of range 2. the distance between a weapon and its target ○ He destroyed the tank at a range of two hundred metres. 3. an area of ground used for shooting practice

range card /rɛndʒ kɑːd/ noun a card showing topographical features or targets and the distance to them from a specific location

rangefinder /rɛndʒfrɛndər/ noun a device designed to calculate the exact distance to an object

Rangers /rɛndʒz/ plural noun a US Army special forces organization

range tables /rɛndʒ,tɪəbl(ə)lz/ plural noun a set of figures displayed in columns, showing the elevations required by artillery or mortars to hit targets at specific distances

COMMENT: In most armies, range tables have been replaced by computerized fire-control data systems.

rank /ræŋk/ noun 1. an official title, indicating a serviceman’s position in the hierarchy (such as corporal, sergeant, lieutenant, etc.) 2. ○ the ranks ○ ordinary soldiers as a group ○ He rose through the ranks to become a general 3. a parade formation, in which men stand side-by-side in a line ○ Form three ranks!

ranker /ræŋkə/ noun a soldier who is not an officer

rank insignia /ræŋk ɪnˈsɪgnjə/ noun US insignia which show a person’s rank

RAP abbreviation regimental aid post

rape /rɛp/ noun an act of raping a woman ○ Two soldiers were accused of rape ○ verb to force a woman to have sex ○ The marines were accused of raping a girl they had met in a bar.

rapid /ˈræpɪd/ adjective quick

rapid fire /ˈræpɪd ˈfərə/ verb to fire several shots in quick succession

rapid reaction force /ˈræpɪd riˈækʃən ˈfɔːr/ noun a combined-arms force, which is ready to deploy to an area of operations at very short notice 2. a multinational combined-arms force under command of the European Union (EU), with a primary role of peacekeeping. Abbr RRF

Rapier /ræˈpɪər/ noun a British-designed surface-to-air missile (SAM)

rappel /ræˈpɛl/ verb to descend, using a rope ○ The patrol rappelled into the jungle from a helicopter.

Raptor /rɛptər/ noun F-22

RAS abbreviation radar-absorbent structural material

rate of fire /ˈreɪt əv ˈfərə/ noun the number of rounds fired by a weapon in one minute

rating /ˈreɪtɪŋ/ noun a junior non-commissioned rank in the navy

ration /rəˈʃən/ noun a regulation amount of food, fuel or other resource, which is issued or available to a person in times of shortage ○ The water ration is one litre per man. ○ verb to limit the amount of food, fuel or other resource that a person is allowed to have ○ Petrol is being rationed.

rationing /rəˈʃənɪŋ/ noun the policy of restricting supplies, especially during wartime ○ The government is going to introduce petrol rationing.

rations /rəˈʃənz/ plural noun food issued to a soldier on operations or exercise ○ The company will draw rations at 1400hrs.

rats /ræts/ abbreviation rations

Raven /ˈrævən/ noun EF-111A

ravine /rəˈvɪn/ noun a deep narrow valley, with steep sides

raw /rɔː/ adjective 1. (of meat) uncooked ○ The refugees were eating raw horse meat. 2. (of soldiers) very inexperienced ○ The reserves consisted of raw recruits.

razor wire /rɛzər, ˈwɔːrə/ noun a wire with a sharp cutting edge, similar in use to barbed wire ○ concertina wire

RCS abbreviation radar cross-section
**Rct** abbreviation recruit  
**RE** abbreviation Royal Engineers  
**react** /riːˈæk/ verb to do something in response to an incident or situation  
**reaction** /riːˈækʃən/ noun 1. an act of reacting to something  2. His immediate reaction was one of shock.  
**ploy** to an area of operations at very short notice  
**multinational forces** under his command  
**rear** /riːər/ adjective 1. moving or located at the back of a formation or position  
2. His immediate reaction was one of shock.  
3. The national rear headquarters  
4. Rear is located at grid 453654.  
**rear admiral** /ˌriːər ˈædmərəl/ noun 1. US a senior officer in the navy  
2. Rear admiral /ˌriːər ˈædmərəl/ noun a senior officer in the navy  
**rear guard** /ˈrɛərdʒərd/ noun 1. the primary logistical headquarters for a large tactical grouping (normally located well to the rear of the front line)  
2. The first act of rearming  
3. A rearward movement  
4. The back of a formation or position  
**rear headquarters** /ˌriːər hed ˈkwɔːtəz/ plural noun 1.反弹 to rearmament  
2. a rearmost  plural noun 1. the furthest in the rear  
**rearward** /ˈrɛərwərd/ adjective towards the rear  
**rebels** /ˈreɪbləz/ plural noun 1. The rebels have captured the barracks.  
2. The rebellion spread rapidly to neighbouring provinces.  
3. Some mountain tribes have rebelled against the provincial government.  
**rebellion** /ˈreɪblən/ noun armed resistance to the established government or to the army command  
**rebro** /ˈriːbrəʊ/ abbreviation rebroadcast
rebroadcast noun an act of rebroadcasting a radio signal.

recall verb to order a person or unit to return to a location or grouping

recapture verb 1. to capture a position or location which has been captured by the enemy 2. to capture a prisoner who has escaped

recce noun a small covert patrol sent out to gather information or reconnoitre ground

receiver noun 1. an instrument which detects electronic signals and converts them into a form in which they can be seen or heard 2. a frame on a gun that guides the round into the chamber 3. a person who receives communications

reception noun 1. an act of receiving a radio signal 2. the quality of a radio signal 3. very poor reception in this area

recharge verb 1. to put electrical power into a dead battery 2. to put ammunition into an empty magazine or ammunition compartment

recognition noun an act of identifying a person or thing
reconnaissance by fire /rɪˈkɒnˌsəns/ noun the act of firing at likely enemy positions, in order to cause the enemy to reveal his location by moving or by returning fire

reconnaissance in force /rɪˈkɒnˌsəns in ˈfɔrs/ noun reconnaissance carried out by a large well-armed grouping, which is strong enough to engage the enemy if necessary

reconnaissance unit /rɪˈkɒnˌsəns ,juːtʃnt/ noun a unit which moves ahead of the main body of an advancing force, in order to identify suitable routes, give warning of natural and man-made obstacles, and to locate the enemy

reconnoiter /rɪˈkɒnˌnətər/ verb US spelling of reconnoitre

reconnoitre /rɪˈkɒnˌnətər/ verb to carry out reconnaissance ○ A patrol was sent out to reconnoitre the enemy position. ○ recce, scout

recon platoon /rɪˈkɒn pləˈtʊn/ noun a platoon which specializes in reconnaissance

record /rekɔrd/ noun ○ record of data or information, which is written down for future reference ○ Units will submit records of all ammunition fired during the year. ○ We captured a large quantity of enemy records. ○ verb to write down data or information, so that it may be used in the future ○ He recorded the information in his notebook.

recover /rɪˈkʌvər/ verb 1. to become healthy after illness or injury ○ He is recovering from his wounds. 2. to find and bring back ○ The crew of the helicopter which was brought down have all been recovered. 3. (of damaged or defective vehicles) to collect and bring back for repair ○ The tank has been recovered.

recovery /rɪˈkʌvərɪ/ noun an act of recovering a vehicle ○ 'Hello 2, this is 22, request recovery at grid 559321, over.' ○ The recovery will have to be delayed until first light.

recruit /rɪˈkrʊt/ noun a newly-enlisted serviceman, who is undergoing basic training ○ A batch of raw recruits arrived at the barracks. ○ verb to encourage or persuade people to join the armed forces, and then arrange for them to do so ○ They are running a TV advertising campaign to recruit for the marines.

recruitment /rɪˈkrʊmtment/ noun the process of recruiting men and women for the armed forces ○ The marines are planning a recruitment drive.

red /red/ noun, adjective the colour of blood ○ He wore red flares on his collar.

comment: The positions of enemy forces are usually marked on a map in red, while those of friendly forces are marked in blue.

red berets /red ‘beretz/ plural noun British paratroopers (informal) Compare Blue Berets, Green Berets

redcap /redcap/ noun a military policeman (informal) ○ Run for it boys! The redcaps are here!

Red Crescent /red ‘krezənt/ noun 1. an international medical and relief organization, which is closely connected to the Red Cross 2. an internationally-recognized insignia, consisting of a red crescent-moon on a white background, used by the Red Crescent, displayed on military ambulances, hospital ships, and medical facilities, and worn by medical personnel in Islamic countries. ○ Red Cross

Red Cross /red ‘krɒs/ noun 1. an international organization, dedicated to providing assistance (especially medical) during times of war or natural disaster 2. an internationally-recognized insignia, consisting of a red cross on a white background, used by the Red Cross, displayed on military ambulances, hospital ships, and medical facilities, and worn by medical personnel. ○ Red Crescent

Red Ensign /red ‘ensain/ noun a flag displayed by ships of the British Merchant Navy (it is red, with the Union Jack in one corner)

redeploy /rɪˈdɪpləʊ/ verb 1. to deploy to a new location ○ We redeployed to a position south of the hill. 2. to deploy into a different tactical formation ○ They redeployed into columns.
mountain (often between two spurs)
valley cutting into the side of a hill or
rection for obtaining information
ber.
reference to my letter dated 26 November.
reference point
What's your reference?
reference
re-entry vehicles.
This missile is fitted with three nuclear
to make smaller or less
reduction
redundancy
the practice of maintaining additional military resources to replace those which are destroyed or neutralized
re-entrant
a small valley cutting into the side of a hill or mountain (often between two spurs) (topographical term)
The vehicles were concealed in a small re-entrant on the other side of the hill.
re-entry vehicle
a warhead of a surface-to-surface missile which is designed to travel through space on its way to its target
This missile is fitted with three nuclear re-entry vehicles.
ROM.
 COMMENT: One missile might be fitted with several re-entry vehicles, each of which might be directed at a different target.
ref
abbreviation reference
reference
1. a direction for obtaining information
to Reference. Section 69 of the Army Act.
1955. 2. a grid or map reference
What's your reference? ■ preposition in relation to
Hello 22, this is 2, reference my last order, cancel, over.
With reference to my letter dated 26 November.
Reference the church.
reference point
any object or feature on the ground, which is used to assist in the giving of directions or to draw another person's attention to a target or other object of interest
reflect
verb (of heat, light, sound, radar waves, etc.) to send something back towards its source
Sonar detects underwater objects by transmitting sound waves which are reflected back by the object.
refuel
verb to put fuel into a vehicle's fuel tank
We made a refueling stop before crossing the desert.
(NOTE: refueled – refueling. The US spelling is refueled – refueling.)
refueling on the move
on to 'muv' full form of ROM
refueling point
a place where vehicles can refuel
refuelling probe
noun a long rigid tube, fitted to the front of an aircraft, which is inserted into a receptacle called a 'basket', in order to carry out air-to-air refuelling
refuge
noun a place of safety
The villagers sought refuge in the crypt of the local church.
refugee
noun a person who leaves his or her home in order to escape from danger (especially war), and looks for refuge elsewhere
The road is blocked with refugees.
refuse
verb 1. to not agree to do something
He refused to obey my orders. I refuse to believe that the enemy are beaten. 2. (of a line of defence) to position one end of the line back at an angle to the main frontage, in order to meet the threat of a flanking attack or envelopment
regiment
1. a tactical and administrative army grouping of two or more battalions
Two enemy regiments have crossed the river.
2. an administrative grouping of one or more infantry battalions plus a separate regimental headquarters
He served in one of the Highland Regiments.
3. a tank battalion, consisting of three or more squadrons
The brigade consists of two infantry battalions and one armoured regiment.
4. a battalion-sized artillery
grouping, consisting of three or more batteries. We have a regiment of artillery in support. A battalion-sized grouping for certain supporting arms (such as engineers). The government is sending a regiment of engineers to assist in the rescue operation. An armoured cavalry grouping of two or more squadrons. An American armoured cavalry regiment led the advance. 

**regimental** 

**COMMENT:** In the British Army, the use of the word regiment is rather confusing, since it no longer refers to a tactical grouping of two or more battalions (the British use a brigade of three or more battalions instead). Regiments continue to exist in name, however, because their histories and traditions are considered to be extremely valuable in promoting unit identity and esprit de corps. Infantry regiments are essentially administrative groupings, and most currently consist of only one battalion plus a regimental headquarters, which is responsible for recruiting, career planning and welfare. If a regiment does have more than one battalion, these do not normally serve together in the same brigade. Battalion-sized groupings of artillery, tanks and certain supporting arms (such as engineers) are known as regiments for different historical reasons. A British armoured brigade might consist of two armoured regiments and one armoured or mechanized infantry battalion or, alternatively, two infantry battalions and one armoured regiment, plus artillery and supporting arms. On operations, these units are broken down and combined into battle groups. As an example, an armoured battle group might consist of two squadrons of tanks and one infantry company, which are organized into two squadron and company groups and a company and squadron group under the command of the armoured regimental HQ. The exact composition will vary according to the tactical requirement at the time. In the US Army, a battle group is known as a task force, while company and squadron groups and squadron and company groups are known as company teams. 

**regimental** /ˈredʒɪməntəl/ adjective 1. relating to a regiment; regimental headquarters (RHQ) 2. (in certain contexts only) relating to a specific infantry battalion 3. relating to service with a unit (as opposed to service on a staff or at a training establishment) 4. He is an excellent regimental officer. 

**regimental aid post** /ˈredʒɪməntəl əd ˈpoʊst/ noun a battalion casualty clearing-station, where casualties are assessed and given emergency medical treatment, before being evacuated to a dressing station. Abbr RAP 

**regimental commander** /ˈredʒɪməntəl kəˈməndər/ noun the officer in command of a regiment 

**regimental lieutenant-colonel** /ˈredʒɪməntəl ˌlɪtəˈnənt ˈkənənəl/ noun an officer commanding a regimental headquarters (usually a colonel) 

**regimental medical officer** /ˈredʒɪməntəl ˈmedɪkəl ˈoʊfɪsər/ noun a doctor attached to a battalion. Abbr RMO 

**regimental officer** /ˈredʒɪməntəl ˈoʊfɪsər/ noun an officer serving in a particular regiment 

**regimental police** /ˈredʒɪməntəl ˈpɔrli/ noun a small group of NCOs assigned to carry out police duties within a battalion or equivalent-sized grouping. Abbr RP 

**regimental quartermaster sergeant** /ˈredʒɪməntəl ˈkwɔrtəməstər ˈsɛrʒənt/ noun a warrant officer who assists the quartermaster of a battalion or equivalent-sized grouping. Abbr RQMS 

**regimental sergeant major** /ˈredʒɪməntəl ˈsɛrʒənt ˈmərjər/ noun the most senior warrant officer in a battalion, who assists the adjutant in disciplinary matters and the day-to-day administration of the battalion. Abbr RSM 

**regimental signals officer** /ˈredʒɪməntəl ˈsɪɡnəls ˈoʊfɪsər/ noun a battalion officer responsible for communications. Abbr RSO 

**region** /ˈredʒɪn/ noun a large area of land with well-defined boundaries or distinctive features
register /redʒistər/ noun 1. an official record of information or data 2. a book or document in which information or data is recorded 3. to record in writing 2. (of artillery targets) to allocate a target with a target number, and then calculate and record the firing data, which must be applied to the guns in order to hit it 4. to register with fire to register an artillery target and then fire it in order to confirm that the firing data is correct, making adjustments if necessary

registration /redʒɪˈstreɪʃən/ noun 1. an act of registering something 2. a vehicle registration number /redʒɪˈstreɪʃən, nəmbər/ noun a combination of numbers and letters, which is displayed on a vehicle as identification

regroup /rɪˈɡruːp/ verb to stop an activity or operation temporarily, in order to regroup o The battle was ordered to regroup south of the town.

Regt abbreviation regiment

regular /ˈrɛɡjʊlər/ adjective 1. (of actions) always happening at the same time or on the same day o This is a regular weekly inspection. 2. (of armed forces and servicemen) relating to a full-time professional force, with a proper organization and rank structure and regular training o noun a member of the regular armed forces (as opposed to a reservist, territorial or guerrilla) o We were attacked by a battalion of regulars.

regular soldier /ˈrɛɡjʊlər ˈsəʊldʒə/ noun a person who makes a career of soldiering

regulate /rɪˈgjuːleɪt/ verb to control the actions of a person or thing

regulation /rɪˈgjuːleɪʃən/ noun an official directive, restriction or rule

rehearsal /rɪˈhɛəs(ə)/ noun an act of rehearsing o There will be a rehearsal at 1430hrs.

rehearse /rɪˈhɛəs/ verb to practise carrying out an operation or task, before doing it for real o The brigade rehearsed the passage of lines in some fields outside the town.

reinforce /rɪˈmɑːnʃ(ə)/ verb 1. to make something stronger 2. (of military forces) to send additional personnel and equipment to give assistance or to replace casualties o Our right flank needs reinforcing.

reinforcement /rɪˈmɑːnʃ(ə)ment/ noun an act of reinforcing o Before reinforcement, the brigade was down to approximately 1,500 men. o plural noun reinforcements men or units sent to reinforce another grouping o The division was unable to send any reinforcements.

reinforcements /rɪˈmɑːnʃ(ə)mənts/ plural noun men or units sent to reinforce another grouping o The division was unable to send any reinforcements.

rejoin /rɪˈdʒɔɪn/ verb to return to a person or grouping, after being away from them o We were unable to rejoin our unit after the bridge was blown up.

relay /rɪˈleɪ/ noun an act of relaying a radio signal o We are setting up a relay. o verb 1. to receive a radio signal and then transmit it on to another receiver, who is too far away to receive the original signal o The signal was relayed to Brigade HQ. 2. to broadcast 2. to pass on a message to another person o He received the message from HQ and immediately relayed it to the troops.

release /rɪˈlɪs/ noun an act of releasing o The aim of the operation is to secure the release of the hostages. o verb 1. to let a prisoner go free o We captured the camp and released the prisoners. 2. to remove a control or restriction o He was released from duty to attend the funeral. o He released the safety catch on his rifle. 3. to allow a substance to come out o The missile released a chemical agent over our position.

release point /rɪˈlɪs pɔɪnt/ noun a point on a route where sub-units leave their parent unit and continue independently by different routes

relief /rɪˈlɪf/ noun 1. an act of providing assistance or support 2. an act of destroying or driving off an enemy force which has surrounded another friendly force or is besieging or investing a
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>belief</td>
<td>a belief in a god, and the rituals which express that belief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>god</td>
<td>and the rituals which express that belief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reload</td>
<td>to load a weapon again after firing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>relocate</td>
<td>to move to a new location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>religious</td>
<td>relating to religion</td>
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<tr>
<td>religiously</td>
<td>adjective relating to religion</td>
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<tr>
<td>remote</td>
<td>a means by which a device or machine can be operated from a distance</td>
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<tr>
<td>remote control</td>
<td>a means by which a device or machine can be operated from a distance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>remotely piloted vehicle</td>
<td>a miltary force which is sent to relieve another friendly unit or place which is surrounded by the enemy</td>
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<tr>
<td>rendezvous</td>
<td>a place where people have agreed to meet up with each other</td>
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<td>relief agency</td>
<td>a civilian organization which provides assistance to victims of war or disaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>relief force</td>
<td>a military force which is sent to relieve another friendly unit or place which is surrounded by the enemy</td>
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<tr>
<td>relief-in-place</td>
<td>an act of taking over positions from another unit or grouping</td>
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<td>relocate</td>
<td>to move to a new location</td>
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<td>a means by which a device or machine can be operated from a distance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
repeat /rɪˈpɪt/ verb 1. to say something again ○ He repeated the question. 2. to do something again ○ He was warned not to repeat his mistake. (NOTE: On the radio, repeat is only used when you want the artillery or mortars to repeat a fire-mission. It is never used when you want someone to repeat a message. In that situation, say again is used instead.)

repel /rɪˈpel/ verb to fight and push back ○ They repelled all attempts to board their ship.

replace /rɪˈpleɪs/ verb 1. to put something back in its original position ○ He replaced the handset. 2. to obtain a new object to take the place of one that has been damaged or lost ○ We need to replace the firing pin. 3. to take the place or job of another person ○ I am replacing Major Knight. 4. to arrange for someone to take the place of another person ○ We will have to replace Sergeant Jones. 5. to be replaced (in passive) to be dismissed from a position or job ○ The general is being replaced.

replacement /rɪˈpleɪsmənt/ noun a person or thing which takes the place of another person or thing.

replen /rɪˈplɛn/ abbreviation replenishment

replenish /rɪˈplenʃ/ verb to provide someone with fresh supplies (such as ammunition, food and water, fuel, etc.)

replenishment /rɪˈplenʃmənt/ noun an act of providing fresh supplies (such as ammunition, food and water, fuel, etc.).

report /rɪˈpɔrt/ noun 1. verbal or written information, which is given or sent to another person 2. a disciplinary action ○ I am putting you in the report. ○ verb 1. to give or send information to another person ○ B Company report enemy recce to the east of Karlsbad. 2. to take disciplinary action against someone ○ I am reporting you for this offence. 3. to show that you are officially present ○ He reported for duty three days late. ○ to report to a place to arrive officially at a place ○ New recruits are asked to report to the training camp.

report line /rɪˈpɔrt laɪn/ noun a real or imaginary line on the ground, with a code word which units use when they cross, so that a commander can monitor their progress.

reprisal /rɪˈpræzl/ noun a severe punitive action (usually intended as a deterrent) ○ Ten villagers were shot as a reprisal for the attack on the convoy.

Republican Guard /rɪˈpʌblɪkənˈɡɜːrd/ noun elite troops in some armies; French ceremonial troops

repulse /rɪˈpʌls/ verb to beat off an attack ○ All enemy attacks were repulsed with considerable losses on both sides.

request /rɪˈkwest/ noun an act of asking for someone or something ○ Have you received my ammunition request? ○ verb to ask for something ○ Hello 2, this is 22, request immediate assistance, over.

required capability /rɪˈkwɔrtd ˈkeɪpəlɪtɪ/ noun the resources that are necessary to do what is required

re-route /rɪˈrʊt/ verb to make someone travel by a different route ○ The convoy was re-routed because of the chemical attack.

rescue /rɪˈskjuː/ noun an act of saving someone ○ verb 1. to save someone from a dangerous situation ○ We used a helicopter to rescue the sailors. 2. to free someone from captivity ○ All the prisoners of war have been rescued. ○ The hostages were rescued by the SAS.

research and development /rɪˈsɛrkJənd ˈdevəlmənt/ noun full form of R & D

reserve /rɪˈzɔːv/ noun 1. units or sub-units which are held back from an engagement, so that they can be used to reinforce or support any unit which gets into difficulties ○ The general was unwilling to use his reserves. ○ In reserve acting as a reserve ○ 6 Platoon will be in reserve for Phase 1. 2. ○ the Reserve manpower (usually consisting of ex-servicemen) which can be used to supplement the regular forces in times of war or national emergency ○ On leaving the armed forces, a serviceman is liable for a further seven years in the Reserve.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>plurals</strong></th>
<th><strong>noun</strong></th>
<th><strong>reserves</strong></th>
<th>spare manpow-</th>
<th>or equipment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>reservist</strong></td>
<td>/rɪˈzɛrizt/</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td>a person (usually an ex-serviceman) who is liable for service with the Reserve, in the event of war or national emergency</td>
<td>All reservists must report to their nearest police station.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>reservoir</strong></td>
<td>/ˌrezərˈwɔːr/</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td>a natural or man-made lake, used as a supply of water</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>residual force</strong></td>
<td>/ˌrezıˈdjuəl ˈfɔːs/</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td>a small security force which remains in a war zone after hostilities have ended and the main force has withdrawn</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>residual nuclear radiation</strong></td>
<td>/ˌrezıˈdjuəl ˈnjuːkliər ˈreɪdɪʃən/</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td>the harmful rays of energy given off by radioactive substances left after a nuclear explosion</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>resist</strong></td>
<td>/rɪˈzɪst/</td>
<td>verb</td>
<td>1. to fight against something</td>
<td>We were surprised that the garrison resisted so strongly.</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>2. to oppose something</td>
<td>The snipers resisted all our attempts to dislodge them.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3. to take action as a result of</td>
<td>The Army is resisting the new proposals.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>resistance</strong></td>
<td>/rɪˈzɪstəns/</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td>1. an act of resisting</td>
<td>The enemy is putting up little resistance.</td>
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<td>2. also resistance movement</td>
<td>a secret organization which opposes (often with armed force) the established government or an occupying power</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>resource</strong></td>
<td>/rɪˈzɜːs/</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td>anything which is available for use (such as ammunition, equipment, manpower, etc.)</td>
<td>The guerrillas have enough resources to cause considerable damage.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>verb</td>
<td>to allocate resources</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>respirator</strong></td>
<td>/ˈresɪpərətər/</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td>a protective face-covering containing an apparatus to filter air, which is used to protect a person from chemical agents and radioactive contamination.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>respond</strong></td>
<td>/rɪˈspɒnd/</td>
<td>verb</td>
<td>1. to answer or reply</td>
<td>He did not respond to the accusation.</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>2. to take action as a result of an incident or situation</td>
<td>They responded by shooting the hostages.</td>
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<td><strong>response</strong></td>
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<td><strong>responsibility</strong></td>
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<td><strong>responsible</strong></td>
<td>/rɪˈspɒnsəbl/</td>
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<td><strong>rest and recuperation</strong></td>
<td>/rɪst ən rɪˈkjuːpərəʃən/</td>
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<td><strong>restrict</strong></td>
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<td><strong>restricted</strong></td>
<td>/rɪˈstrɪktɪd/</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>restriction</strong></td>
<td>/rɪˈstrɪkʃən/</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>restriction of privileges</strong></td>
<td>/rɪˈstrɪkʃən əv ˈprɪvəldʒɪz/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
restrictive control

restrictive control /ˈrestrɪktɪv kənˈtraʊl/ noun a doctrine of command and control which relies upon detailed planning and strict obedience to precise orders. Compare directive command.

resupply /ˈrɪsəpl/ noun an act of providing fresh supplies (such as ammunition, food and water, fuel, etc.) ○ There will be a resupply of ammunition at 1800hrs. ■ verb to supply something again ○ They resupplied the garrison with water.

retake /ˈrɛtkeɪ/ verb to capture a position or location which has been captured by the enemy ○ B Company have retaken the hill.

retaliate /rɪˈteɪliət/ verb to take action in response to an attack, insult or provocation ○ The soldiers have been ordered not to retaliate if they are insulted by the local population.

retaliation /rɪˈteɪleɪʃən/ noun an act of retaliating ○ There has been no retaliation to the air strikes. ○ They killed three villagers in retaliation for the murder of the general.

retaliatory /rɪˈteɪlətərē/ adjective made in retaliation to an act or incident ○ NATO has authorized retaliatory air strikes.

retire /rɪˈtaɪər/ verb 1. to move away from the enemy ○ We retired to our own lines. 2. to move back towards your own forces or territory ○ The enemy have retreated. ○ The company's position was overrun. 3. to move back towards your own forces or territory ○ The enemy are retreating. ○ retire, withdraw

retreat /rɪˈtrɛt/ noun 1. an act of retreating ○ The enemy forces are in retreat. ○ The retreat from Moscow was accompanied by huge losses. 2. (retreat) a ceremony to signify the close of the working day in barracks (usually around 1800hrs), when the flags are lowered ○ beating the retreat ceremonial parade of music and marching, which is held in the evening. ■ verb 1. to move away from the enemy ○ We had to retreat when B Company's position was overrun. 2. to move back towards your own forces or territory ○ The enemy are retreating. ○ retreat, withdraw

COMMENT: The word retreat is normally used when one is forced to move back (for example because one has been defeated or your position has become untenable), whereas retire or withdraw imply a movement as part of a planned manoeuvre or in order to occupy a better position. Consequently, retire or withdraw are sometimes used instead of retreat because they sound more positive.

return /rɪˈtɜːn/ verb 1. to come back ○ The patrol has returned. 2. to go somewhere ○ He returned the equipment. ○ to return fire to shoot back, when shot at

returned to unit /rɪˈtɜːnd tjuː/ 'jʊnt/ verb full form of RTU

reverse /rɪˈvɜːsr/ verb to drive backwards ○ The tank reversed into a barn. ■ noun a failure or misfortune ○ After several reverses, the enemy withdrew. ■ adjective opposite

reverse slope /rɪˈvɜːs slʌp/ noun the far side of a hill, which is in dead ground to the enemy ○ The Duke of Wellington always preferred a reverse slope position.

revet /rɪˈvet/ verb to strengthen the sides of a trench or other fortification, using corrugated iron, wood or other material ○ Pickets are used in the revetting of trenches and other fortifications. (NOTE: revetting – revetted)

review /rɪˈvjuː/ noun a large-scale parade and inspection of troops ○ He is attending a review. ■ verb to inspect a large number of troops, etc., on parade ○ The Queen came to review the fleet.

revolt /rɪˈvɔːlt/ noun armed resistance to the established government or to the army command ○ The revolt has spread to the neighbouring provinces. ■ verb to oppose the established government with armed force ○ We expect members
of the former president’s bodyguard to revolt against military rule.

**revolution** /ˈrevəluːʃ(ə)n/ noun an overthrow of a government or social order by the use of force.

**revolutionary** /ˈrevəluːʃ(ə)nəri/ adjective relating to a revolution. A person who takes an active role in a revolution. Most of the leading revolutionaries have been arrested.

**Revolutionary Guard** /ˌrevəluːʃ(ə)nəri ˈɡɑːd/ noun elite troops in some communist armies.

**revolver** /ˈrɪvələr/ noun a hand-held gun, with a chamber which turns when a shot is fired, so that a fresh cartridge is ready for firing. He used his revolver to kill the civilian.

**RF-4C** /ˈɛf fɛks ˈsɜː/ noun a reconnaissance version of the F-4 Phantom.

**R Group** /ˈɛri ˈgrープ/ noun a small group (usually consisting of a commander and his subordinate commanders), which carries out a reconnaissance before planning an operation or task. Full form recce group.

**RHA** abbreviation Regimental Headquarters.

**ricochet** /ˈrɪkoʊɛt/ noun a projectile (especially a bullet) which bounces off a surface. He was hit by a ricochet.

**verb** (of projectiles, especially bullets) to hit the ground or some other hard object and bounce off (often in a different direction to the original line of flight). The bullet ricocheted around the room. (NOTE: The plural form is pronounced /ˈrɪkoʊɛt/) ride /raɪd/ noun a wide path cut through a wood or forest. We came under fire as we were crossing a ride.

**verb** 1. to travel on a horse or motorcycle. The general rode into the defeated city on a white horse. 2. to travel, sitting on the top of a vehicle. The infantry were riding on tanks. (NOTE: riding – rode – has ridden)
risk /risk/ noun the danger or the possibility of a bad result

river /'rɪvə/ noun a body of fresh water, which flows along a natural channel towards a sea or lake

RLC noun the unit of the British Army responsible for logistics. Full form Royal Logistic Corps

RLG abbreviation rocket-launched grenade

RM abbreviation Royal Marines

RMO abbreviation regimental medical officer

RN abbreviation Royal Navy

doom /ˈrdəʊm/ noun a way with a prepared surface, designed for use by vehicles ○ Only one road was suitable for tanks. ○ There are very few roads in the region.

roadblock /ˈrɔdˌblk/ noun 1. an obstruction set up by troops or police in order to control the movement of vehicles ○ We set up a roadblock on the edge of the town. 2. the troops or police maintaining a roadblock ○ The roadblock was attacked during the night.

doom /ˈrʊk/ noun 1. a hard mineral substance, forming part of the earth’s surface ○ The sappers were digging into the rock under the castle walls. 2. a piece of rock ○ Rocks had rolled down the hillside and blocked the road.

rocket /ˈrɒkɪt/ noun a projectile which contains its own propellant

COMMENT: The term rocket usually refers to a direct-fire or indirect-fire weapon, whereas a missile is normally equipped with its own guidance system, which controls its flight onto the target.

rocket-booster /ˈrɒkɪt ˈbruːstraʊ/ noun an additional charge of propellant fitted to an artillery shell, which detonates in mid-air and increases its range

rocket-launched grenade /ˌrɔkɪt ˈləʊntʃən/ noun a grenade which has been launched from a rocket. Abbr RLG

rocket launcher /ˈrɒkɪt ˈləʊntʃən/ noun an apparatus or vehicle from which a rocket is fired

rocky /ˈrɒki/ adjective (of terrain) consisting mainly of rock

ROE abbreviation rules of engagement

roger /ˈroʊdʒər/ adverb (radio terminology) 1. that is correct ○ ‘Hallo 22, this is 2, confirm that you are at the RV, over.’ – ‘2, roger, out.’ 2. I have understood your instructions ○ ‘Hallo 22, this is 2, move now, over.’ – ‘2, roger, out.’ ○ affirmative, copy

Roland /ˈroʊlənd/ noun a French/German-designed short-range surface-to-air missile (SAM)

doom /ˈroʊl/ noun the function or purpose for which a person or thing is used ○ The role of an anti-tank platoon is the destruction of enemy armours.

role specialization /ˌrəʊl ˈspɛʃələti/ noun a situation where one nation is responsible for supplying one type of equipment or personnel for a multinational force. ○ multirole

rolled homogeneous armour /ˌrɔld ˈhəʊmədʒənəs ˈɑːmər/ noun a single substance (such as steel alloy), which has been rolled to a uniform thickness. Abbr RHA (NOTE: Homogeneous is often written incorrectly as homogenous, pronounced /ˈhoʊmədʒənəs/) which is actually a biological term describing organisms which are similar because they share a common ancestry. The error is so common that many dictionaries now treat the two words as interchangeable.)

roll up /ˌrəʊl ˈʌp/ verb to assault through an enemy position sideways, destroying or capturing it by trench ○ Once we had gained a foothold on the position, we were able to roll it up from the right.

ROM /rəʊm/ abbreviation refuelling on the move

Roman Catholic Church /ˌrəʊmən ˈkætəlik/ noun an original western European form of Christianity. Compare Orthodox Church, Protestant Church

Romeo /ˈrəʊmiəʊ/ noun the eighteenth letter of the phonetic alphabet (Rt)
**Romers** are a simple mathematical instrument for calculating accurate grid references from a map, consisting of a piece of clear plastic printed with a grid which subdivides a grid square into ten northings and ten eastings. I need a romer for a 1:20,000 map.

**COMMENT:** Military protractors are usually printed with romers for the most common scales of map (i.e. 1:50,000 and 1:25,000).

**Rookie** is a recruit (slang).

**Rope** is a thick line of twisted fibres, normally used for pulling or suspending heavy objects.

**Rotary-wing aircraft** is a helicopter.

**Rotate** means to revolve around an axis. The rotor was not rotating properly.

**Round** means a projectile plus the propellant required to fire it. We require 2,000 rounds of 5.56mm ball.

**Roundel** means a circular identification mark painted on aircraft (usually denoting nationality).

**Rout** means a retreat following a defeat, where command and control has completely broken down. What was intended to be an orderly retreat turned into a rout.

**Route** means the way from one location to another, the route into/out of the town. The companies moved to the FUP by different routes.

**Route card** means a card showing the different stages of a journey, with locations, distances, bearings and other information.

**Route march** means a long-distance march, designed to improve or maintain physical fitness.

**Routine** is normal, which happens all the time. This is a routine inspection.

**Routings** are tasks or duties. That is not part of our routine.

**Routine** means the work of finding the best route to send people, vehicles or goods from one place to another.

**Royal** means in the service of a king or queen.

**Royal Air Force** means the British air force. Abbr RA

**Royal Armoured Corps** means the tank regiments of the British Army. Abbr RAC

**Royal Army Medical Corps** means a group which protects the interests of British ex-servicemen.

**Royal Corps of Signals** means British troops who specialize in communications.

**Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers** are engineers of the British Army. Abbr RM

**Royal Engineers** are the work of the tank regiments of the British Army. Abbr RE Also called Sappers.

**Royal Logistic Corps** are full form of RLC.

**Royal Marines** are full form of British marines. Abbr RM

**Royal Military Academy Sandhurst** and Royal Military Academy Sandhurst are full form of Sandhurst.

**Royal Navy** means the British navy. Abbr RN
Royal Warrant /ˈroʊəl/ warrant/ noun  an authority by which a warrant officer holds a rank in the armed forces.

RP abbreviation regimental police

RPG-7 /ˈɑːpi dʒiːˈsevn/ noun a Soviet-designed hand-held anti-tank rocket

RPK /ˈrɛki/ noun a Soviet-designed light machine-gun (LMG), based on the AK-47 assault weapon

RPV abbreviation remotely piloted vehicle

RQMS abbreviation regimental quartermaster sergeant

RRF abbreviation rapid reaction force

RSM abbreviation regimental sergeant major

RSO abbreviation regimental signals officer

RTU /ˈruːtu/ tiːˈjuː/ verb to remove a person from a training course prematurely, usually as a result of injury or failure or misdemeanour.  His Royal Warrant has been RTU'd. Full form returned to unit.

rubber bullet /ˈrʌbba/ build/ noun  a large projectile made of plastic or rubber which is fired from a special gun and is designed to knock a person over but not to cause a serious injury. Also called plastic bullet, baton round.

rubble /ˈrʌbl/ noun fragments from damaged or destroyed buildings. The streets are blocked with rubble.

rucksack /ˈrʌksæk/ noun a large fabric container, designed to be carried on a person’s back. A bergen, pack.

rudder /ˈrʌdər/ noun 1. a vertical blade at the stern of a boat or ship which is used for steering. 2. a vertical blade hinged to the tail of an aircraft, which is used for steering.

ruffles and flourishes /ˈrʌf(ə)lz/ an ˈflɜːrs/ plural noun drumbeats or an introductory passage played before a ceremonial piece of music such as a national anthem.

rules of engagement /ˈruːls əv ˈgerəndʒmənt/ plural noun a set of rules governing the firing of weapons and use of force by soldiers (usually in a peace-keeping or counter-insurgency role). Abbr ROE.

run /rʌn/ verb 1. to move quickly on foot. He ran to the latrine. 2. to manage something. He is running the mortar course. (NOTE: running – ran – have run)

runner /ˈrʌnər/ noun a soldier used to deliver verbal messages. A runner came up with a message from the general.

runway /ˈrʌnweɪ/ noun a prepared surface used by aircraft for take-off and landing. The runway has been captured by the enemy. This runway if too short for transport aircraft.

runway lights /ˈrʌnweɪ ləts/ plural noun lights arranged along the sides of a runway or across it, to indicate where it is.

Rupert /ˈrʌprət/ noun an officer (solder’s slang). He got busted for hitting a Rupert.

rural /ˈruərəl/ adjective relating to the countryside (as opposed to towns and cities). Compare urban.

ruse /rəs/ noun an act of deception. The enemy withdrawal was just a ruse.

rush /rʌʃ/ noun a sudden assault. The last enemy rush overran 6 Platoon’s trenches. Verb. 1. to move suddenly and quickly towards something. They rushed towards the vehicles. 2. to make a sudden assault. The enemy tried to rush our positions.

rust /rʌst/ noun a harmful brown discolouration to iron or steel, caused by exposure to damp air or water. There is rust on your weapon. Verb to be affected by rust. Your weapon will rust if you don’t oil it. Rusting equipment littered the courtyard of the former command HQ.

rusty /ˈrʌstɪ/ adjective affected by rust. Look at that gun – it’s rusty. The road through the desert was lined with rusty tanks.

rut /rʊt/ noun a deep mark made by wheels passing over damp ground. The lorry got stuck in a deep rut.
rutted /rʌtɪd/ adjective (of ground, especially roads and tracks) affected by ruts. The track is badly rutted.

RV /əːv/ noun 1. rendezvous. The RV is at grid 453213. 2. a re-entry vehicle. The missile is fitted with three nuclear RVs. verb to meet at a rendezvous. We will RV at grid 453213.

RWR /,rɔːr/ noun a device which warns a pilot that his aircraft is being hit by a radar beam. Full form radar warning receiver.
SIERRA - Ss

S-3 /ˈsʌri/ noun an American-designed sea-strike aircraft. Also called Viking
SA-7 /ˈsæbətɑ/ noun a Swedish-designed multirole fighter aircraft, which is also suitable for ground attack. Also called Gripen
SABOT /ˈsæbət/ noun an act of damaging or destroying an enemy installation or piece of equipment, so that it cannot be used. verb to carry out an act of sabotage. Protesters tried to sabotage the missile installation.
the breech is not cocked and there is no round in loaded magazine fitted, but the weapon opened fire as we were moving across

gers in order to avoid greater loss else-
in the situation was resolved by the United Nations.

sabre squadron /ˈsæbərəˈskwædrən/ noun a squadron of tanks
SACEUR /ˈseɪkər/ noun the most sen-
ior NATO commander in Europe, one of the two MNCs. Full form Supreme Al-
lied Commander Europe
SACLANT /ˈseɪklænt/ noun the most sen-
ior NATO commander in the Atlantic, one of the two MNCs. Full form Su-
preme Allied Commander Atlantic
SACLOS /ˈseɪkləʊs/ noun a missile
guidance system, which relies upon the operator continuing to track the target after launching until the missile actually hits it. Full form semi-automatic com-
mand line of sight
sacrifice /ˈsækrɪfɪs/ verb to accept
the loss of one or more of your group-
ings in order to avoid greater loss else-
where ○ 5 Brigade was deliberately
sacrificed so that the rest of the corps could withdraw.
saddle /ˈsæd(ə)l/ noun a ridge joining
the tops of two hills ○ The enemy
opened fire as we were moving across
the saddle.
safe /ˈseɪf/ adjective 1. free from dan-
ger ○ You are safe now. 2. (of weapons)
loaded, but not cocked and with no
round in the breech ○ made safe with a
loaded magazine fitted, but the weapon is not cocked and there is no round in
the breech ○ on safe with the safety
catch applied 3. (of explosive devices)
not armed ○ The bomb is now safe. •
noun a strong container fitted with a
lock, which is used to store secret doc-
ments, money, valuable property, etc.
safe haven /ˈseɪf həvən/ noun a peacekeeping term for a secure area in
which members of an ethnic or sectari-
an minority can seek safety from the
hostility of the main population
safe lane /ˈseɪflen/ noun a route or
path which enables people or vehicles to
pass safely through a minefield
safety /ˈseɪfti/ noun a state of being safe
safety catch /ˈseɪfti ˈkætʃ/ noun a mechanism which prevents a weapon from being fired
Sagger /ˈseɪɡər/ noun a Soviet-de-
dsigned wire-guided anti-tank missile
(ATGW)
sail /səl/ verb to travel by ship ○ The
German fleet sailed along the English
channel.
sailor /ˈsælər/ noun 1. a member of a
ship’s crew ○ Sailors from the aircraft
carrier came ashore. 2. a person serv-
ing in the navy (especially one who is
not an officer) ○ Fights broke out when
a group of soldiers went into a sailors’
bar.
salient /ˈsælɪənt/ noun part of an
army’s front line, which sticks out at an
angle towards the enemy’s front line
COMMENT: A salient usually occurs in
one of two ways: either when an at-
tack has largely failed but a small part
of the attacking force has managed
to capture ground, or when an attack
has largely succeeded but a small part
of the defending force has man-
aged to hold its positions. Either way,
the troops occupying the salient are
particularly vulnerable, because they
can be attacked on two sides by the
enemy
Salmonella /ˌsælmoʊˈnelə/ noun a
group of bacteria which cause food poi-
soning and typhoid fever
COMMENT: Certain nations are known
to have developed Salmonella bacte-
ria for use as a biological weapon.
salute /ˈsɔlət/ noun a military greet-
ing made between officers and other
ranks, which is carried out by raising
the right hand to the peak of the cap ○
to take the salute to salute and be saluted
by marching troops on parade ○ verb to

saboteur /ˌsæboʊˈtjuər/ noun a person
who carries out an act of sabotage
sabqua /ˈsæbkuə/ noun another spell-
ing of sabkha
sabre /ˈsæbrə/ noun a heavy curved
sword, traditionally used by cavalrymen
sabre-rattling /ˈsæbrə ˈræt(ə)lɪŋ/ noun
an increase in military activity
during a period of international tension
(deployment of troops on a border, re-
call of reservists, etc.) (informal) ○ After
a period of sabre-rattling by both sides,
the situation was resolved by the United Nations.
SALUTE /sɔ'lʌt/ noun a word used to help soldiers remember the important things to note when observing a situation (Size, Activity, Location, Unit, Time, Equipment)

saluting base /sɔ'lʌtɪŋ ,bɛs/ noun a small wooden stand for the officer or important person taking the salute at a military parade

salvo /'sælvəʊ/ noun 1. the firing of several large-calibre guns at the same time (especially at sea) 2. the firing of several rockets at the same time

SAM /seɪm/ abbreviation surface-to-air missile

Sam Browne /sæm 'braun/ noun a leather belt with a diagonal shoulder strap, traditionally worn by army officers

sand /sænd/ noun a substance consisting of tiny grains of rock, which covers the ground on beaches and in deserts

sandbag /'sændbæg/ noun a small hessian sack, designed to be filled with sand or soil, and used in the construction of fortifications

sandbank /'sændbæŋk/ noun a deposit of sand, found in shallow water in rivers, estuaries and the sea

Sandhurst /'sændhɔst/ noun a British army officer training establishment. He passed out of Sandhurst in 1980. Full form Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

sangar /'sæŋgər/ noun 1. a field fortification, constructed by building a circular wall of rocks or sandbags, when the ground is too hard or too wet to dig trenches. 2. a reinforced position for a sentry, constructed on the perimeter of an army base or installation

sanitation /'seɪnɛtʃ(ə)ʃ(ə)n/ noun 1. the practice of keeping yourself and your surroundings clean, in order to prevent disease. 2. Sanitation is extremely important in refugee camps.

Sanitation is extremely important in refugee camps.

Saracen /'sɑːrəsən/ noun a British-made wheeled armoured personnel carrier (APC)

SAS /es 'ɛs/ an elite British Army special forces organization. Full form Special Air Service

satellite /'sætləlæt/ noun an unmanned spacecraft, which is positioned in the earth’s orbit and is designed to carry communications, surveillance or other electronic equipment

satellite photograph /'sætələɡraf/ noun a picture of an area of ground, taken from a satellite

SATNAV /'sætnæv/ abbreviation satellite navigation

savannah /'sɔvənə/ noun a wide level area of grassland with few trees (in tropical regions)

saw /sɔː/ verb 1. to rescue a person from danger. The helicopter managed to save the crew of the ship. 2. to rescue a person from captivity. The hostages were saved by the SAS. 3. to avoid waste. Save your ammunition. 4. to keep something for future use. We are saving most of our mortar rounds for the main assault.

SAXON /'sæksən/ noun a British-designed wheeled armoured personnel carrier (APC)

say again /seɪ ə'gen/ verb to repeat a message (radio terminology). Hello 2, this is 22. Say again last message. Over.
when you want the artillery or mortars to repeat a fire-mission. It is never used when you want someone to repeat a message.

SBS /ˌesˈbiː/ ‘es/noun an elite British special forces organization, recruited from the Royal Navy and Royal Marines. Full form Special Boat Service

scale /skɛl/ noun 1. the ratio of size between a map and the area of ground which it represents ○ Most military maps have a scale of 1:50,000. 2. a diagram representing distance, which is usually found on the key of a map ○ Look at the scale to work out how far the village is from here. 3. a quantity of ammunition, equipment or weapons, which are allocated to a unit or group ○ Special forces have larger scales of ammunition than normal units. ○ The new ammunition scale is 200 rounds per gun.

Scarb /ˈskærab/ noun a Soviet-designed tactical surface-to-surface missile

scarper /ˈskæpə/ verb to run away (slang) ○ The enemy have scarpered.

scatter /ˈskætə/ verb 1. to throw or drop objects over a wide area ○ These shells are designed to scatter leaflets over the enemy lines. 2. (of a group or crowd) to run away or take cover in different directions ○ The protesters scattered when we opened fire.

scrapes of crime officer /ˈskeɪns ovˈskræpl/ noun full form of SOCO

schedule /ˈskedʒul/ verb to fix the time at which something will happen ○ The attack was scheduled to begin at 0600 hrs.

Schwerpunkt /ˈʃvɛrpoŋkt/ noun the point of main effort ○ The Schwerpunkt for this attack will be at Lingen. (Note: German nouns are always spelt with a capital letter.)

Scimitar /ˈsɪmɪtər/ noun a British-made light tank (CVRT), equipped with a 30mm Rarden cannon

scorched earth /ˈskɔrəd ˈɜəθ/ noun the deliberate destruction of your own infrastructure and resources so that the enemy cannot use them ○ Throughout history, the Russians have used scorched earth tactics to defeat invaders.

scorpion noun an insect with two front claws and a long jointed tail which it uses to inflict a venomous sting

Scorpion /ˈskɔːpʃən/ noun a British-made light tank (CVRT), equipped with a 76mm gun

scout /ˈskaut/ noun 1. a person sent out on a reconnaissance ○ The scouts haven’t returned yet. 2. a person or vehicle which moves ahead of a grouping, in order to find a suitable route or locate the enemy ○ The scout vehicle drove into a minefield. 1 verb to act as a scout. 2 to reconnoitre ○ 6 Platoon is scouting the enemy position.

Scout /ˈskaut/ noun a small British-made utility helicopter

scramble /ˈskræmb(ə)n/ verb 1. to move over rocky terrain, using your hands when necessary 2. (of fighter aircraft) to take off quickly in order to go into action ○ Two fighter squadrons scrambled. 3. (of communications) to adapt a transmission electronically, so that it can only be understood by someone with the correct receiving equipment ○ All messages to HQ must be scrambled.

scramble net /ˈskræmb(ə)n/ noun a net used by soldiers to climb from a ship into a landing-craft

scrape /skreɪp/ noun a shallow pit dug to provide a hull-down position for an armoured fighting vehicle ○ The tank was hit as it was reversing out of the scrape. ○ shell-scrape

scree /ˈskriː/ noun a loose surface of a mountain slope, consisting of a thick layer of small stones ○ We heard the enemy patrol moving across the scree.

scrim /ˈskrɪm/ noun small pieces of fabric, used as camouflage on helmets and camouflage nets (Note: no plural)

scrub /ˈskræb/ noun 1. vegetation consisting of small trees and bushes ○ The hill is covered with scrub. 2. an area of ground covered with scrub ○ The enemy position is to the right up the scrub. (Note: no plural)
scrubland /ˈskrʌblænd/ noun terrain consisting mainly of scrub

Scud /skʌd/ noun a Soviet-designed surface-to-surface missile, capable of carrying a variety of warheads (e.g. chemical, high explosive, nuclear, etc.)

SDI abbreviation Strategic Defence Initiative

sea /siː/ noun a mass of salt water, which covers most of the earth’s surface

seaborne /ˈsɪbərən/ adjective deployed or carried by ships ○ The operation will be supported by a seaborne landing near Ostend.

SEAD /ˈsiːd/ abbreviation suppression of enemy air defence

Sea Dart /ʃərt/ noun a British-designed long-range naval surface-to-air missile (SAM)

Sea Eagle /ˈsiːgl/ noun a British-designed anti-ship missile

Sea Harrier /ˈsiːhærər/ noun a British-designed multirole fighter aircraft with a vertical take-off capability, which is designed to operate from aircraft carriers and certain other ships

Seahawk /ˈsiːhɔːk/ noun an American-designed multirole helicopter designed to operate from a ship

Sea King /ˈsiːkɪŋ/ noun an American-designed multirole helicopter designed for operating off ships

SEALS /ˈsiːlz/ noun American naval special forces. Full form sea, air, land

Sea Lynx noun same as Navy Lynx

seaman /ˈsiːmən/ noun 1. a rank in the British Navy (formerly) Also called able rating, leading rating 2. US a junior non-commissioned rank in the navy

seaman apprentice /ˈsiːmənəpri/ noun US the lowest non-commissioned rank in the navy

sea mile /ˈsiːmaɪl/ noun same as nautical mile

seaplane /ˈsiːplɛn/ noun an aircraft designed to take off from and land on water

sea power /ˈsiːpʊə/ noun warships and weaponry used at sea

search /sær/ noun an act of searching ○ verb to look for someone or something

search and rescue operation /ˈsɜːtʃəndriːz/ noun an operation to look for someone and rescue them

searchlight /ˈsɜːtʃlɑːt/ noun a powerful electric light, which produces a concentrated beam for illuminating objects

search warrant /ˈsɜːtʃwɔːnt/ noun a warrant authorizing the security forces to search a specified building or property

Sea Skua /ˈsiː,skjuːə/ noun a British-designed medium-range naval surface-to-air missile (SAM)

Sea Stallion /ˈsiː,steɪljən/ noun CH-53

sea-strike /ˈsiːstrɪk/ noun a naval aviation role, involving the use of carrier-based aircraft to attack enemy shipping

COMMENT: Sea-strike is the maritime equivalent of fighter ground-attack.

Sea Wolf /ˈsiːwʊlf/ noun a British-designed short-range naval surface-to-air missile (SAM)

second1 /ˈsɛkənd/ noun a unit of time, corresponding to a sixtieth part of one minute

second2 /ˈsɛkənd/ verb to post a serviceman to another arm or service or even to the armed forces of a foreign state, usually to provide specialist expertise or training ○ He was seconded to the Sultan of Oman’s Armed Forces.

secondary armour /ˈsɛkərəriər/ noun additional armour fitted onto an armoured vehicle in order to increase its protection

secondary jungle /ˈsɛkərəriədiŋgl/ noun a jungle where the original trees have been cleared (by man or by fire) and replaced by a dense growth of bushes and young trees
**second dogwatch** /ˈsɪk ˈdɒgtvɑːt/ noun the period of duty from 1800–2000hrs. • watch

**second in command** /ˈsɛkənd ɪn kəˈmænd/ noun the most senior person after the commander and nominated to take command in his absence. Abbr 2IC

**second lieutenant** /ˈsɛkənd ˈlɪtənənt/ US /ˈsɛkənd ˈlɪtənənt/ noun 1. the lowest officer rank in the army or marines (usually in command of a platoon or equivalent-sized grouping) 2. US the lowest officer rank in the army, marines or air force (usually in command of a platoon or equivalent-sized grouping) • abbr 2Lt

**secondment** /ˈsɛkəndmənt/ noun an act of being seconded • He went on secondment to the Sultan of Oman’s Armed Forces.

**secret** /ˈsɛkrət/ adjective 1. not for common knowledge • They got out of the camp through a secret tunnel. 2. high level of security classification for documents and information • This information is classified as secret. • noun a fact or information which is secret • He was charged with passing secrets to the enemy.

**Secretary for Defense** /ˈsɛkrətri fə ˈdiʃən/, Defense Secretary /ˈdiʃən/ noun a US government minister in charge of the armed forces

**Secretary of State for Defence** /ˈsɛkrətri əv ˈstæt fə ˈdiʃən/, Defence Secretary /ˈdiʃən/ noun a government minister in charge of the armed forces

**sectarian** /ˈsɛktəriən/ adjective relating to conflict caused by differences in religion (e.g. Roman Catholic as opposed to Protestant or Orthodox) • This was a sectarian attack. • The conflict in Bosnia was sectarian rather than ethnic.

**section** /ˈsɛkʃən/ noun 1. a sub-unit of a platoon 2. a tactical infantry grouping of eight men (usually divided into two fireteams) 3. US a tactical armoured grouping of two tanks (NOTE: In the US Army, section-sized infantry groupings are known as squads.)

**COMMENT:** British infantry sections are usually commanded by corporals.

**section commander** /ˌsekʃən kəˈmɑːndər/ noun an NCO in command of a section

**sector** /ˈsektər/ noun a subdivision of an area of ground • There has been no enemy activity in this sector.

**secure** /ˈsɪkjʊər/ adjective 1. (of ground) in your possession and prepared for defence • The LZ is now secure. 2. (of objects) properly attached or fastened • Make sure that all your kit is secured. 3. (of containers, rooms, buildings or places) locked or otherwise protected against theft • Put these documents in a secure place. 4. (of communications) encoded or scrambled • Is the line to HQ secure? • verb 1. (of ground) to capture or otherwise take possession of a location, and prepare it for defence • The objective has been secured. 2. (of objects) to attach or fasten properly • He secured the field dressing to his webbing. • All batches have been secured. 3. to make sure that something happens • The aim of the operation is to secure the release of the hostages.

**security** /ˈsɪkjʊərɪti/ noun 1. all measures taken by a unit to protect itself from surveillance or offensive action by the enemy • The enemy has breached our security. 2. all measures taken by an organization to protect its property and personnel from attack, espionage, sabotage, theft or any other threat or danger • He is responsible for security on the base. 3. a department or organization responsible for protection against theft, etc. • Security has reported a break-in.

**security forces** /ˈsɪkjʊərɪti ˈfɔːsiz/ plural noun a state’s armed forces and police force (especially in a counter-insurgency situation)

**security zone** /ˈsɪkjʊərɪti ˈziːn/ noun an area of ground around a grouping’s positions, which is covered by its weapons systems, surveillance equipment and patrol activity

**seek** /ˈsɪk/ verb 1. to look for something 2. to try to achieve something • He is seeking promotion.
seeker /ˈsiːkər/ noun a person or device which is looking for something

segregate /ˈsɛɡrəɡeɪt/ verb to separate a person or group from other people, and keep them apart. The officers were segregated from the other prisoners.

seize /ˈziːz/ verb 1. to capture. A company has seized the objective. 2. to take something by force. The security forces have seized a large quantity of explosives.

self-control /ˈsɛlf ˈkənˈtrəʊl/ noun the ability to control your own emotions (e.g. anger, fear, etc.)

self-inflicted wound /ˈsɛlf ɪnˈfɪkltɪd ˈwʌnd/ noun a wound inflicted by a person on himself, usually in order to get out of the combat zone.

self-loading rifle /ˈsɛlf ˈləʊdɪŋ ˈrɪfl/ noun 1. a semi-automatic rifle (that is, one that reloads itself after each shot) 2. a British-produced 7.62mm assault weapon, based on the Belgian-designed FN-FAL. Abbr. SLR

self-propelled /ˈsɛlf ˈprəˈpɛld/ adjective having a motor which makes it move

self-propelled anti-aircraft gun /ˈsɛlf ˈprəˈpɛld ənˈtɪ ˈɛskrərɪft ˈgʌn/ noun an armoured fighting vehicle fitted with an anti-aircraft gun. Abbr. SPAAG. (Note: These weapons frequently have two or more barrels.)

self-propelled gun /ˈsɛlf ˈprəˈpɛld ˈgʌn/ noun an artillery piece, in the form of an armoured vehicle. Abbr. SPG

self-propelled howitzer /ˈsɛlf ˈprəˈpɛld ˈhauətsə/ noun a howitzer in the form of an armoured fighting vehicle (AFV). Abbr. SPH

semi-automatic /ˈsɛmi ˈɔːtəˈmeɪtɪk/ adjective (of firearms) designed to reload automatically after each shot (as opposed to bolt-action rifles, which are operated by hand). The government forces are equipped with semi-automatic weapons.

semi-automatic command line of sight /ˈsɛmi ˈɔːtəˈmeɪtɪk kəˈmɑːnd lɪn əv ˈsɑːt/ noun full form of SAC-LOS

semi-automatic weapon /ˈsɛmi ˌɔːtəˈmeɪtɪk ˈweɪpən/ noun a firearm which reloads itself after each shot (e.g. a self-loading rifle)

Semtex /ˌsemiˈtɛks/ noun a Czech-produced plastic explosive (PE). Comment: Semtex is favoured by terrorists, because it has no smell and does not ‘sweat’. This makes it very difficult to detect.

send /ˈsɛnd/ verb to make something go from one place to another. Britain has sent two battalions to the region.

senior /ˈsiːnɪər/ adjective of higher rank. He is senior to you. The senior officers were accommodated in a hotel. The Senior Service the Royal Navy

seniority /ˈsiːnɪərətɪ/ noun a position in the rank structure. You do not have the seniority to do this job.

sensitive site exploitation /ˈsɛnsɪtɪv sɪt əˌksploʊˈteɪʃən/ noun a device which is designed to detect something (such as chemical agent, movement, radiation, etc.)

sentry /ˈsɛntəri/ noun 1. a serviceman assigned to guard a military base or installation. A sentry challenged us as we approached the perimeter fence. 2. a soldier assigned to watch for any approaching enemy, while others rest or carry out other tasks.

Sentry /ˈsɛntəri/ noun an American-designed E-3 airborne warning and control system (AWACS) aircraft

screamer /ˈsiːmər/ noun a non-commissioned officer (NCO) in the US and British army, marines or air force. Abbr. Sgt. Flight sergeant, master sergeant, staff sergeant

sergeant major /ˈsiːdʒənt ˈmeɪdʒər/ noun 1. a warrant officer in the army or marines. 2. US a senior non-commissioned officer in the army, marines or air force.
ordered officer (SNCO) in the army, marines or air force

**Sergeant York** /'sɜːdʒənt 'jɔːk/ noun a nickname for the American-designed M-247 self-propelled anti-aircraft gun (SPAAG)

**SERPACWA** noun a cream or paste which is smeared on the skin in order to reduce or delay the exposure to chemicals used in chemical warfare. Full form skin exposure reduction paste against chemical warfare agents.

**serve** /sə:v/ verb to be employed in the armed forces ○ Men serving in the armed forces are eligible for a pension. ○ She served ten years in the RAF.

**service** /sə:vɪs/ noun 1. an act of serving in the armed forces ○ He has ten years’ service. ○ Time in service the number of years a person has been in the services 2. the services the armed forces ○ verb to repair equipment and keep it in good condition

**service commander** /sə:vɪs ˈkɔːməndər/ noun the most senior commander from one particular service (e.g. army, navy or air force) in a combined armed force

**service dress** /sə:vɪs dres/ noun smart khaki uniform worn on formal duties and parades

**serviceman** /sə:vɪsˌmən/ noun a man serving in the armed forces. ○ ex-serviceman

**service number** /sə:vɪs ˈnʌmbr/ noun the number given to each individual member of the armed forces for identification purposes

**service support** /sə:vɪs sərˈpɔːrt/ noun a general term for administration and logistics at small unit level

**servicewoman** /sə:vɪsˌwʊmən/ noun a woman serving in the armed forces

**servicing** /sə:vɪsɪŋ/ noun doing work for someone, repairing or maintaining equipment. ○ cross-servicing

**set** /sɛt/ adjective ready to function ○ The ambush is now set. ○ noun apparatus ○ a radio set ○ verb to put something into a certain position ○ He set the controls to manual. (NOTE: setting – have set)

**set off** /sɛt ˈɒf/ verb to start on a journey ○ They set off under cover of darkness.

**setting** /ˈsetɪŋ/ noun a position in which the control knobs or switches of an apparatus are set

**set up** /sɛt ˈʌp/ verb 1. to assemble something ○ We will set up the mortar here. 2. to establish something at a location ○ The RAP has been set up in the village.

**sewer** /ˈsuːər/ noun a system of underground tunnels, used to carry water from drains and toilets

**SF** /ɛs ˈɛf/ noun a machine-gun in the sustained fire role ○ The SF was dug in on the forward edge of the wood. ○ The SFs will be located on that small knoll.

**sustained fire**

**Sgt** abbreviation sergeant

**shake out** /ʃeɪk ˈəʊt/ verb to deploy from march formation (e.g. column or file) into tactical formation for advance or assault ○ As soon as we clear the breach, we will shake out into assault formation.

**shanty town** /ˈʃænti tuːn/ noun an area of poor dwellings built from waste materials (often found on the edges of cities in poor countries)

**SHAPE** /ˈʃeɪp/ abbreviation Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers in Europe

**shaped-charge warhead** /ˌʃeɪpt ʃeɪpt ˈwɔːrriːd/ noun an anti-tank warhead, in which the explosive is packed around an inverted metal cone (on detonation, the cone collapses inwardly to form a high velocity liquid-like jet which is capable of penetrating armour). ○ HEAT

**shaping fire** /ˌʃeɪpɪŋ ˈfɑːr/ noun a preliminary attack which is an attempt to weaken enemy forces so that they can be easily destroyed by later attacks

**shared** /ʃeəd/ adjective used by several different people together

**shared use** /ʃeəd juːs/ noun the use of forces or supplies sent by different nations to a multinational force
mouth during sandstorms
suitable for protecting the nose and around the neck or as a headdress and is additional Arab scarf, which may be worn
sheltering from shell shock.
wait out!
for a long period of time and physical collapse, as a result of being on his stomach
protection from artillery fire to a man
scrapes every time we halt.
from any dangerous effects machinery, in order to protect the operator

shemagh
British troops to wear a shemagh.
Gulf War, it was fashionable among
shell shock
post-traumatic stress disorder

shemagh /ʃəˈmɑːg/ noun Arabic a traditional Arab scarf, which may be worn around the neck or as a headdress and is suitable for protecting the nose and mouth during sandstorms. During the Gulf War, it was fashionable among British troops to wear a shemagh.
Sheridan /ˈʃɛrɪdən/ noun an American-designed light tank.
shermuly /ʃɜrˈmʌli/ noun a parachute flare, which is fired from a small handheld disposable launcher
shield /ʃild/ noun 1. a piece of metal, plastic or other material, which is designed to be held in front of your body as protection from blows or projectiles.

2. anything which is used as a shield 3. a structure which is fitted to a piece of equipment or machinery, in order to protect the operator from any dangerous effects. He was injured because he had removed the safety shield. 

verb to protect a person by placing something between him and a source of danger. We were shielded from the blast by the truck.
Shilka /ˈʃɪlka/ noun a Russian nickname for a ZSU-23 anti-aircraft gun
ship /ʃɪp/ noun a large boat
shipping /ˈʃɪpɪŋ/ noun ships in general (especially commercial vessels)
shock /ʃɒk/ noun 1. an effect caused by the violent collision of two objects.
shock 2. physical collapse, as a result of a serious wound or horrifying experience. He was suffering from shock.
shell shock
shock troops /ʃɒk ˈtrʊps/ plural noun elite troops who are kept in reserve in order to attack or counterattack the enemy when he is at his most vulnerable (e.g., during reorganization)
shoot /ʃuːt/ noun a field of fire. This position offers a good shoot into the valley.
verb 1. to fire a weapon at someone. Stop or I’ll shoot you! 2. to kill or wound someone by firing a weapon at him. He was shot in the leg. Both commanders were shot in the fighting.
3. to kill someone as a punishment. The deserters were taken away and shot. (NOTE: shooting – shot – have shot)
shoot away /ʃuʃ ˈweɪ/ verb to remove part of a vehicle, aircraft, etc., by firing a weapon at it. The tailplane was almost shot away by cannon fire.

shooting /ʃuˈtɪŋ/ noun 1. an act of shooting. We heard shooting during the night. 2. an incident in which a person is shot. There has been a shooting.
shore /ʃɔr/ noun land at the edge of a lake or the sea
shortage /ˈʃɔrtɪdʒ/ noun a situation where there is not enough of something.
shortages
short-range /ˈʃɔrtrɪnдж/ adjective used over short distances. The Exocet is a short-range missile.
short take-off and landing /ʃɔt ˈteɪk əv ˈlændɪŋ/ noun a technology
which enables a fixed-wing aircraft to take off and land over considerably shorter distances than those required by conventional fixed-wing aircraft. Abbr STOL

COMMENT: Vertical take-off aircraft also require a short take-off and landing capability because vertical take-off is not usually possible when the aircraft is carrying a full payload of munitions. Once these munitions have been discharged, however, a normal vertical landing would again be possible. The acronyms STOLV (short take-off and vertical landing) and V/STOL (vertical or short take-off and landing) are used to describe these capabilities.

shot /ʃɒt/ noun 1. an act of firing a weapon. We heard a shot. He took two shots at the enemy tank. 2. a person who shoots. He’s an excellent shot. 3. small metal balls fired from a shotgun (NOTE: The term is plural in this meaning.)

shotgun /ˈʃɒtɡən/ noun a gun, usually with two barrels, which fires a quantity of small metal balls (or shot)

shoulder-launched multipurpose assault weapon /ˌʃɔldərˈlaʊntd ˌmʌltɪˈpɜrsjuːs ɔːrˈsæl əˈwɛpən/ full form of SMAW

shovel /ˈʃɒvəl/ noun a simple tool consisting of a rounded metal blade attached to a long wooden handle, designed for digging holes in the ground

shovel recce /ˈʃɒvəl əˈrekə/ noun going to the toilet in the field I’m just going on a shovel recce.

shrapnel /ˈʃræpnəl/ noun 1. an artillery shell containing ball-bearings, which become projectiles when the shell explodes (historical) 2. projectiles formed by fragments of an exploding artillery shell or grenade He was hit in the leg by shrapnel. He was blinded by a piece of shrapnel. (NOTE: no plural)

Shrike /ʃraɪk/ noun an American-designed air-to-ground anti-radar missile (ARM)

shrine /ˈʃraɪn/ noun a small building or structure which is used for religious purposes

SIB /ˈsɪb/ noun the detective branch of the military police, which investigates criminal offences committed by servicemen while they are subject to military law (e.g. on MOD property or while on operational service) The SIB have been called in. Full form Special Investigation Branch

sick /sɪk/ adjective US suffering from an illness or disease

side /saɪd/ noun 1. a vertical surface of an object. He aimed at the side of the tank. 2. one of two opposing states or alliances, which are involved in a war or conflict opposite side, other side enemy forces our side friendly forces Our side has inflicted considerable damage on the enemy positions.

side arm /ˈsaɪdərm/ noun a pistol

Sidewinder /ˈsaɪdwaɪndə/ noun an American-designed heat-seeking air-to-air missile (AAM)

sight /sait/ noun 1. the ability to see out of sight no longer visible 2. a device on a weapon, which is used by the firer to aim at a target a verb to see something for the first time 6 Platoon have sighted the enemy. The enemy destroyer was sighted on the horizon.

sighting /ˈsaɪtɪŋ/ noun an act of seeing something (usually for the first time) There have been no sightings of the enemy.

Sight Unit Small Arms Trilux /sɪgnt ˈjuːnt ˈsmɔːl ərmz ˈtræləks/ full form of SUSAT

SIGINT /ˈsɪgɪnt/ noun intelligence obtained by listening to the enemy’s radio
sign

transmissions. Full form signals intelligence

sign /sɪŋ/ noun 1. written words or symbols painted or printed on a board or on the surface of an object, in order to convey information (such as direction, identity of a unit, location of a minefield, etc.) ○ Follow the signs to Brigade HQ. 2. a gesture designed to convey a meaning ○ He made a sign for us to keep quiet. 3. evidence of activity or the presence of something (such as blood, discarded equipment, vehicle tracks, etc.) ○ There was no sign of the enemy. ■ verb to write your name in a special way to show that you have approved a document ○ The report must be signed by the author. ■ to sign on to join the armed forces for a period of time and sign a contract of employment ○ He signed on for seven years.

signal /ˈsɪɡn(ə)/ noun 1. a sign made by flags, gestures, light or any other means, in order to convey information or instructions ○ The signal to withdraw is a red flare followed by a green flare. 2. a message transmitted by radio ○ We have received a signal from HQ. 3. the electromagnetic waves transmitted by a radio transmitter ○ I am getting a very weak signal. ■ verb 1. to make a sign, in order to convey information or instructions ○ He signalled to us to get down. 2. to send a message by radio ○ They signalled HQ to request air support for the operation.

signaller /ˈsɪɡn(ə)lə/ noun US spelling of signalman

signaller /ˈsɪɡn(ə)lə/ noun 1. a serviceman, who specializes in the use of radios and other communications equipment 2. the title of a private in the Royal Corps of Signals ○ Signalman Jones

signalman /ˈsɪɡn(ə)lmən/ noun same as signaller (NOTE: The plural form is signalmen.)

signals /ˈsɪɡn(ə)lz/ plural noun communications (especially radio) ○ We have captured an enemy signals detachment.

signals centre /ˈsɪɡn(ə)lz ˈsentə/ noun same as communication centre

signals intelligence /ˈsɪɡn(ə)lz ɪnˈtɪlɪdʒəns/ noun information obtained by listening to the enemy’s radio transmissions. Abbreviation SIGINT

signals officer /ˈsɪɡn(ə)lz ˈfɪʃər/ noun an officer in charge of a unit’s communications

signal van /ˈsɪɡn(ə)l ˈvæn/ noun a vehicle containing communications equipment

signature /ˈsɪɡnərɪ/ noun 1. a person’s name written by him/her, usually to show authorization for something ○ I need your signature on this document. 2. any distinctive sign (e.g. heat, light, smoke or radiation) which is produced or emitted by a weapon or other piece of equipment, and which reveals its location to observers or surveillance equipment ○ This tank produces a strong thermal signature.

signpost /ˈsɪŋpəʊst/ noun a sign positioned at a road junction, which shows the direction (and sometimes the distance) to a town or village ○ to put signposts along a road or route to show the direction of something

silence /ˈsaɪləns/ noun 1. a state when there is no noise 2. a state when no one speaks ○ silent ○ verb 1. (of guards or sentries) to kill or immobilize ○ He silenced the sentry with a knife. 2. (of enemy artillery, machine-guns, fire-positions, etc.) to destroy or immobilize ○ The battery has been silenced.

silencer /ˈsaɪlənsə/ noun a device which is fitted to a firearm, in order to reduce the noise made when it is fired

silent /ˈsaɪlənt/ adjective 1. (of people) not speaking ○ They were ordered to remain silent. 2. (of things) not making any noise ○ We made a silent approach to the objective.

silhouette /ˌsaɪlʊˈɛt/ noun the shape of an object when seen on the skyline or against a lighter background ○ We could see the silhouette of a tank. ■ verb to appear as a silhouette ○ The tank was silhouetted on the ridge.

silo /ˈsɪləʊ/ noun 1. an underground chamber where a missile is stored and from which it can be launched 2. a large
structure (often cylindrical) used for storing grain

Silva /s’ilvə/ trademark for a compass which is designed to be placed onto a map in order to calculate bearings (without the need for a protractor)

simulate /s’mjʊlət/ verb to imitate effects or conditions for training purposes

simulation /s’mjʊləʃ(ə)n/ noun an act of simulating

simulator /s’mjʊlətər/ noun an apparatus designed to simulate effects or conditions for training purposes (such as the control of an aircraft, direction of artillery fire, firing of a missile, etc.)

single file /s’ɡɪŋ(ə)l/ noun a single line of men or vehicles moving one behind the other

sink /sɪŋk/ verb 1. (of boats and ships) to go to the bottom of the sea, river or other area of water o The ship sank in a storm. 2. to make a boat or ship sink (especially as a result of an attack) o The enemy have sunk HMS Sheffield. (NOTE: sinking – sank – have sunk)

Sioux /ˈsoʊ/sˈoʊ/ noun an outdated American-designed reconnaissance helicopter

siphon /sɪf(ə)n/ noun a device which is designed to move liquid from one container to another using atmospheric pressure. One container is placed in a higher position than the other and liquid is then sucked from the higher container through a hose and directed into the lower container. The liquid will then flow freely as a result of pressure. o We caught some men trying to siphon fuel from our truck.

siren /ˈsɜːrən/ noun a device which makes a loud noise as a signal or warning

site /sɪt/ noun a location which is selected for a particular purpose o This would be a good site for the RAP. 1. verb to select a location for a particular purpose o Where have you sited the machine-gun?

SITREP /‘sɪtrəp/ abbreviation situation report

situation /ˈstʃuʃ(ə)n/ noun what is happening at a particular moment in time

situation report /ˈstʃuʃ(ə)n rɪˈpɔːt/ a verbal or written message describing everything of importance which is happening or has happened in a unit or sub-unit’s area of responsibility. Abbreviation SITREP

ski /ski/ noun one of a pair of long thin pieces of wood or plastic, which a person attaches to his feet in order to move over snow o In winter, they patrol the border on skis. 1. verb to move on skis o We will have to ski to the RV.

ski-jump /ski ‘dʒʌmp/ noun a ramp at the end of the flight deck on an aircraft carrier, which is designed to assist take-off

skill /skɪl/ noun the ability to carry out a task or procedure (usually improved by teaching and practice)

skill at arms /skɪl ət ˈaːmz/ noun skill in the use of weapons, especially small arms. Abbreviation SAA

ski-mask /ˈskiː maːsk/ noun a woolen garment which covers the head, neck and face, with holes for the eyes, which is designed to protect a person’s face in extremely cold conditions, but is also sometimes used to conceal a person’s identity o The terrorists were all wearing ski-masks.

skin exposure reduction paste against chemical warfare agents /ˌskɪn ɪkˈspɔːʃn ˈrɛdʌktʃ(ə)n əˈdʒents/ noun full form of SERPACWA

skirmish /ˈskɜːmɪʃ/ noun a short battle between small groups of soldiers o Skirmishes broke out along the line. 1. battle, engagement, firefight 1. verb to assault or withdraw, using fire and manoeuvre o The section skirmished onto the forward edge of the enemy position.

Sky Flash /ˈskeɪ ˈflæʃ/ noun a British-designed radar-guided air-to-air missile (AAM)

Skyhawk /ˈskeɪhɔːk/ noun same as A-4

SL abbreviation start line
slacken /ˈslækən/ verb to become less intense ○ We assaulted as soon as the enemy fire started to slacken.

SLAM /ˈslæm/ noun an American-designed long-range air-to-ground missile. Full form stand-off land attack missile

sleeper /ˈslɪpər/noun an agent who lives and works in an enemy country but carries out no action until the time is right (e.g. at the outbreak of war) ○ We believe that a sleeper has planted a virus in our computer system.

sleeping-bag /ˈslɪpɪŋ bæg/noun a quilted bag used for sleeping in. Oil bivy bag, kit bag

sleeping sickness /ˈslɪpɪŋ sɪknəs/noun a common name for the disease, African trypanosomiasis, which is spread by the tsetse fly

sling /slɪŋ/noun a leather or webbing strap, by which a weapon can be hung from a person’s shoulder so that he is free to use his hands ○ We made a rope out of rifle slings.

sling shot /ˈslɪŋʃɒt/noun US a weapon made of a Y-shaped piece of metal with a rubber attached, used to send stones and other small projectiles over long distances (Note: The British English term is catapult.)

slit trench /ˈslɪt trentʃ/ noun same as fire trench

sloop /ˈslʊp/noun a small armed naval ship

slope /ˈsləʊp/ noun 1. an area of ground, in which one part is higher than the other ○ The tank rolled down the slope. 2. the side of a hill ○ The enemy is dug in on the forward slope. a verb (of ground) to form a slope ○ The ground slopes to the south.

SLR abbreviation self-loading rifle

small arms /ˈsmɔːl ərznz/ plural noun arms which can be carried, such as rifles, machine-guns and sub-machine-guns

smallbore /ˈsmɔːlbɔːr/ adjective with a barrel which has a small bore ○ a smallbore shotgun

smallpox /ˈsmɔːlpɔks/noun a potentially fatal infectious disease, causing fever and a severe rash on the skin, which often results in permanent scars. Comment: Caused by the pox virus, smallpox is also known as variola. The disease has been practically eradicated from the developed world as a result of widespread vaccination programmes. However, certain nations are believed to have developed strains of the virus for use as a biological weapon.

smart bomb /ˈsmɑːt bɔm/noun a name given by the media to precision guided munitions (PGM). Compare dumb bomb

SMAW /ˈsmɔː/ noun an American-designed hand-held rocket launcher (basically an anti-tank weapon). Full form shoulder-launched multipurpose assault weapon

smoke /sməʊk/noun 1. particles of carbon produced by a burning object or substance, which are suspended in the air to form a thick black or white cloud ○ Clouds of smoke reduced visibility. 2. any projectile or grenade, which is designed to produce smoke, in order to blind the enemy or to mask the movements of friendly forces ○ Five rounds smoke, fire for effect! a verb 1. to give off smoke ○ The burnt-out tank is still smoking. 2. to smoke a cigarette ○ He reminded his men that they were not allowed to smoke after dark.

smoke break /ˈsməʊk brək/noun a break to have a cigarette

smoke canister /ˈsməʊk ,kɒnɪstər/noun a metal container containing chemicals which produce smoke

smoke discharger /ˈsməʊk dɪʃeɪtər/ noun a device which releases smoke or smoke canisters

smoke grenade /ˈsməʊk ɡrɪndʒ/noun a grenade which releases smoke

smoking /ˈsməʊkɪŋ/noun an act of smoking a cigarette ○ Smoking is dangerous close to fuel supplies.

smooth-bore /ˈsmɔːθ bɔːr/ adjective referring to a gun with a barrel that has a smooth inside surface with no rifling
smuggle /ˈsmʌɡ/ verb 1. to import illegal goods (e.g. drugs, weapons) or import goods without paying customs duties (e.g. alcohol, tobacco) o He was prosecuted for smuggling cigarettes. 2. to convey something secretly into or out of a location o They were caught trying to smuggle a girl into the barracks.

smuggler /ˈsmʌɡlər/ noun a person who smuggles o He is a well-known drug smuggler.

snake /snæk/ noun a creature with a very long, thin body and no legs, which often has a poisonous bite

snatch /snɔtʃ/ verb to rush in and arrest or capture a person o Our mission is to snatch an officer from the enemy position.

snatch squad /ˈsnɔtʃ skɔwrd/ noun a small group of soldiers detailed to grab and arrest someone

sniffer dog /ˈsnɪfər dʊg/ noun a dog trained to detect explosives or weapons by their smell

snipe /ˈsnɪp/ verb 1. to shoot at a person from a hidden fire-position 2. to shoot at selected enemy personnel such as commanders, machine-gunters, signalers, etc., as opposed to any person who happens to be within your field of fire 3. to shoot at enemy personnel as a form of harassment (especially when they are not actually fighting)

sniper /ˈsnɪpər/ noun a trained marksman, who specializes in sniping at the enemy o The street patrol came under sniper fire. o He was disabled by a sniper’s bullet.

COMMENT: Snipers are usually sited away from the main force, so that they can concentrate on shooting at selected targets instead of being drawn into the general firefight. They are also less likely to be affected when the main force comes under artillery fire.

snorkel /ˈsnɔrk(ə)l/ noun 1. a tube used by a person to breathe through, when swimming underwater o He was using a snorkel. 2. a breathing tube, fitted to a tank for crossing rivers or landing on a beach o This tank can be fitted with a snorkel for river crossings.

snow /ˈsnɔʊ/ noun flakes of crystallized ice, which fall from the sky o Most of the mountain roads were blocked by snow. o verb (of snow) to fall from the sky o It was snowing hard as the attack began.

snowcat /ˈsnɔʊkæt/ noun a lightweight tracked vehicle designed for use in arctic conditions

snowshoe /ˈsnɔʊʃu/ noun a device, similar in appearance to a tennis racket, which is strapped on the foot to allow a person to walk across deep snow

SOCEUR /ˈsɔkɔr/ abbreviation US Special Operations Command Europe

SOCO /ˈsɔkɔʊ/ noun a civil police officer responsible for searching for evidence at the scene of a terrorist incident o SOCO has arrived at the ICP. Full form scenes of crime officer

Sod’s Law /ˈsɑdz ˈlɔː/ noun a further development of Murphy’s Law, which states that if something does go wrong, then it is certain to go wrong in the worst possible way o Well, that’s Sod’s Law, isn’t it?

SOF /ˈsɔf/ special forces (e.g. commandos, rangers, SAS, SEALs, Spetznaz, etc.). Full form special operating forces

soft-skinned vehicle /ˈsɔft skɔnd ˈvɪərk(ə)l/ noun a vehicle which is not protected by armour (such as a jeep, lorry, truck, etc.) o All soft-skinned vehicles were withdrawn to the rear.

soft target /ˈsɔft ˌtɔrɡt/ noun a person or unit or vehicle which is vulnerable or unable to defend itself properly o The terrorists are only interested in attacking soft targets.

soil /ˈsɔl/ noun a substance, consisting of particles of rock and decayed vegetation, in which plants grow

solar still /ˈsɔlər ˈstɪl/ noun an emergency method of producing water in the desert. A pit is dug in the sand and a container placed at the bottom. The pit is then covered with some plastic sheeting which is secured at the sides by heaped sand and weighted in the centre by a small stone, thereby forming an inverted cone. Droplets of water form through
condensation on the underside of the sheet and trickle down into the container. (NOTE: Condensation can be increased by placing pieces of vegetation in the pit or even urinating in the sand of the pit.)

**soldier** /sɔldʒər/ **noun** (private)  A person serving in the army.  A group of soldiers took command of the radio station.  We were trapped in the camp by enemy soldiers.

**soldiering** /sɔldʒərᵻŋ/ **noun** the profession of being a soldier

**soldier of fortune** /sɔldʒər əv 'fɔrtn/ **noun** a mercenary

**solution** /səˈluːʃən/ **noun** 1. a mixture of a solid substance with a liquid.  He cleaned the wound with a solution of salt and water.  2. an answer to a problem.  We've got a solution to your supply problem.  3. a moment when the operator of a guided weapon has the target in his sights and the guidance system is activated.  He achieved a solution on the leading plane.  lock-on (NOTE: used with the verb achieve)

**Somali** /ˈsɒməli/ **noun** GD

**sonar** /ˈsɔnər/ **noun** a system for detecting underwater objects through the transmission of sound waves, which are reflected back by the object

**SOP** **abbreviation** standard operating procedure

**sortie** /ˈsɔrti/ **noun** 1. an operational flight.  We lost two aircraft in the last sortie.  2. a small offensive operation mounted by troops who are occupying a defensive position.  We made a sortie while the enemy were reorganizing.

**SOS** /ˈes əʊ səʊs/ **noun** an international distress signal, signifying an urgent request for assistance.  They sent out an SOS.

**source** /ˈsoʊs/ **noun** an agent or informer who provides intelligence.  We've heard from a reliable source that the terrorists are planning an attack.

**south** /sɔuth/ **noun** 1. one of the four main points of the compass, corresponding to a bearing of 180 degrees or 3200 mils.  2. an area to the south of your location.  The enemy are approaching from the south.

**south** **adjective** relating to south.  The South the southern part of a country.  South American a person serving in the South.

**southbound** /ˈsɔʊθbaʊnd/ **adjective** moving or leading towards the south.  A southbound convoy

**southerly** /ˈsɔːθəli/ **adjective** 1. towards the south.  The troops were heading in a southerly direction.  2. (of wind) from the south

**southern** /ˈsɔːðən/ **adjective** relating to the south.  The southern part of the country

**Southern Hemisphere** /ˌsɔːðən ˈhɛmɪˌsfer/ **noun** an area of the earth's surface south of the Equator

**southward** /ˈsɔʊθwərd/ **adjective** towards the south.  They moved in a southward direction.  southwards.  They are moving southward.

**southwards** /ˈsɔʊθwərdz/ **adverb** towards the south.  They are moving southwards.

**Soviet** /ˈsɔvɪət/ **adjective** of or relating to the Soviet Union.  The Soviet Union (USSR) the empire of communist Russia, which disintegrated in 1991.

**SP** **abbreviation** start point

**SPAAG** **abbreviation** self-propelled anti-aircraft gun

**space** /ˈspeɪs/ **noun** 1. an empty area between objects.  There is not enough space to deploy the brigade.  2. an unlimited area beyond the earth's atmosphere.  The Americans have sent another satellite into space.

**Space Command** /ˈspeɪs ˈkɔmənd/ **noun** the department of the US forces responsible for the use of satellites (e.g., for surveillance, communications, GPS, missile guidance, NMD, etc.)

**spacecraft** /ˈspeɪsˌkraɪft/ **noun** a machine designed to travel in space
**spade** /speɪd/ noun a simple digging tool consisting of a metal blade attached to a long wooden handle.

**shovel**

**spall** /speɪl/ noun fragments of armour which are broken off and blasted into the interior of an armoured vehicle, as a result of a hit by an anti-tank projectile.

**Spandrel** /ˈspændrəl/ noun a Soviet-designed tube-launched, wire-guided anti-tank missile (ATGW).

**spanner** /ˈspænər/ noun a metal tool with an opening which fits round a nut and which can be twisted to undo the nut or tighten it.

**spare** /spɛər/ adjective kept in order to replace something which is lost or damaged. • **spare wheel**, **spare tire**

**spare parts** /ˈspɛər pɑːrts/ plural noun spare parts

**sparkle** /ˈspɑːrkl/ verb to illuminate a target with a laser target designator (forward air controller jargon). • **sparkle**, **spark**

**sparks** /ˈspɑːks/ plural noun spark parts

**Sparrow** /ˈspærəʊ/ noun an American-designed radar-guided air-to-air missile (AAM).

**sparrow-fart** /ˈspærəʊ ˈfɑːrt/ noun first light (slang) • • **We’ll move out at sparrow-fart.**

**Spartan** /ˈspərtn/ noun a small British-designed armoured-personnel carrier (APC) normally used by specialist troops (e.g. anti-tank, artillery, engineers).

**spat** /speɪt/ noun a garment of fabric, which is worn over the ankle and lower leg and extends over the upper part of the shoe or boot, in order to keep your trousers dry and to prevent small stones and other objects going into your boots. • **The pipers were wearing kilts and white spats.**

**spat** /speɪt/ plural noun white spats.

**COMMENT:** Spats are now usually worn as part of a ceremonial uniform, although American troops wore them in combat during World War II.

**spearhead** /ˈspærəhd/ noun leading elements of a large-scale offensive operation. • **The enemy’s spearhead has reached Minden.** • **spearhead**

**special** /ˈspɛʃəl/ adjective for a specific purpose.

**Special Air Service** /ˈspɛʃəl ə ˈseɪvəriʃən/ noun an elite British Army special forces organization. Abbr **SAS**

**Special Boat Service** /ˈspɛʃəl ə ˈboʊt ə ˈsɛrvəs/ noun an elite British special forces organization, recruited from the Royal Navy and Royal Marines. Abbr **SBS**

**special forces** /ˈspɛʃəl ˈfɔːzɪz/ plural noun highly trained elite troops, who specialize in unconventional military operations (such as covert operations, intelligence gathering, raids, sabotage, etc.)

**Special Investigation Branch** /ˈspɛʃəl ɪnˈvestɪɡeɪʃən ˈbrɑːntʃ/ noun the detective branch of the British military police, which investigates criminal offences committed by servicemen while they are subject to military law (e.g. on MOD property or while on operational service). Abbr **SIB**

**speciality** /ˈspɛʃəlitɪ/ noun something that a person is specially trained to do, or is particularly good at.

**special operating forces** /ˈspɛʃəl ə ˈɔpəreɪtɪŋ ˈfɔːzɪz/ plural noun full form of SOF

**special operations capable** /ˈspɛʃəl ə ˈɔpəreɪtɪŋ ˈkeɪpəbl/ adjective having sufficient training and expertise to carry out specialized military tasks. Abbr **SOC**

**special training** /ˈspɛʃəl ˈtræinɪŋ/ noun training in specialist areas such as guerrilla warfare

**speciality** /ˈspɛʃəltɪ/ US same as **speciality**

**special weapon** /ˈspɛʃəl ə ˈwɛpən/ noun same as **weapon of mass destruction**

**specifications** /ˈspɛʃɪfɪkeɪʃənz/ plural noun detailed information about
spent /spent/ adjective used ○ Spent ammunition lay round the machine-gun.

Spetznaz /spetsnäz/ noun an elite Soviet special forces organization ○ Spetznaz units are operating in this area.

SPG abbreviation self-propelled gun

SPH abbreviation self-propelled howitzer

Spigot /spigot/ noun a Soviet-designed wire-guided anti-tank missile (ATGW)

spinnaker /spinnər/ noun a small wood ○ We think the enemy has an OP in that spinnaker.

Spiral /ˈspərəl/ noun a Soviet-designed laser-guided anti-tank missile (ATGW)

spire /ˈspər/ noun a sharp pointed tower, usually forming part of a church

Spirit /ˈspɪrət/ noun 1. B-2

spitlock /ˈspɪltlɒk/ verb to mark the proposed layout of a trench or other field fortification, by digging its outline into the turf ○ The recce group had spitlocked the positions for us.

splash /ˈspleʃ/ verb (of liquids) to be thrown in small drops onto another object or thing ○ He was splashed with burning petrol when the jeep exploded. ○ noun the impact of an explosive projectile as seen by an observer (usually the firer) ○ We didn’t see the splash but we heard the explosion.

splice /ˈsplæs/ verb ○ splice the mainbrace according to a naval custom, to give every man a measure of rum ○ The admiral told his captains to splice the mainbrace.

sploite /ˈsploʊt/ noun a stiff support tied to a broken leg or arm to prevent the bone from moving

spoliner /ˈspɒlnər/ noun a thin, sharp fragment ○ He was killed by a shell splinter.

spoil /ˈspɔɪl/ noun soil or sand which is dug out of the ground ○ The spoil from a trench is used to build the parapet and parados.

spoiling attack /ˈspɔɪlɪŋ ˈætæk/ noun an attack mounted on an advancing enemy force in order to disrupt its activities and prevent it carrying out its intentions ○ H-hour was delayed when the enemy mounted a spoiling attack in 3 Brigade’s sector.

spook /ˈspʊk/ noun a person involved in extremely covert operations (e.g. spy, special forces, etc.) (slang)

spore /ˈspɔːr/ noun a reproductive body in certain bacteria ○ This warhead releases spores of anthrax into the atmosphere.

spot /ˈspɒt/ verb 1. to catch sight of ○ I spotted someone moving in the garden. 2. to observe and direct artillery fire (usually from an aircraft) ○ He was spotting from a helicopter. ○ noun a location ○ This is a good spot for the mortars. ○ on the spot at the particular place where something happens

spot height /ˈspɒt ˈheɪt/ noun a point marked on a map to show where a measurement of altitude has been made

spotter /ˈspɒtə/ noun an officer or NCO who directs artillery fire (usually from an aircraft)

spotter aircraft, spotter plane noun an aircraft used for observing and directing artillery fire

spring /ˈspɹɪŋ/ noun 1. a place where water comes out of the ground naturally ○ There are very few springs in these mountains. 2. a flexible piece of metal (often in the form of tightly coiled wire), which is used as a shock absorber or to keep a catch or clip closed or to maintain tension ○ We need to replace the springs on this vehicle.

springing-mine /ˈsprɪŋɪŋ ˈmaɪn/ noun an anti-personnel mine, which is designed to jump into the air in order to inflict injury to a person’s upper body

spur /ˈspɜːr/ noun a ridge protruding from a hill or mountain into lower-lying ground (topographical) ○ We cannot ad-
tank grouping of three or more troops to observe or to act as a spy to obtain information about the enemy, or about a foreign power. Information about the troop movements came from spies in the capital. A tank grouping of three or more troops, one tank company and one battalion of mechanized infantry or, alternatively, two infantry battalions and one armoured regiment, plus artillery and supporting arms. On operations, these units are broken down and combined into battle groups. As an example, an armoured battle group might consist of two tank companies and one armoured regiment. In the army, a battle group is known as a task force, while company and squadron groups and squadron and company groups are known as company teams.

spy /ˈspiː/ noun a person who secretly tries to obtain information about the enemy, or about a foreign power. Information about the troop movements came from spies in the capital. A tank grouping of three or more troops to observe or to act as a spy to obtain information about the enemy, or about a foreign power. Information about the troop movements came from spies in the capital. A tank grouping of three or more troops, one tank company and one battalion of mechanized infantry or, alternatively, two infantry battalions and one armoured regiment, plus artillery and supporting arms. On operations, these units are broken down and combined into battle groups. As an example, an armoured battle group might consist of two tank companies and one armoured regiment. In the army, a battle group is known as a task force, while company and squadron groups and squadron and company groups are known as company teams.

squad /skwɔd/ noun 1. a small grouping of servicemen, formed for a specific purpose or task (such as drill) 2. a sub-unit of an infantry platoon 3. US a tactical infantry grouping of nine men (usually divided into two fire teams) 4. US a tactical armoured cavalry grouping of seven men 5. a US Marine Corps tactical grouping of thirteen men (usually divided into three fire teams)

Squad Automatic Weapon /ˌskwɔd əˈtɔmətrɪk ˈweɪpən/ noun M-249. Abbr SAW (Note: In the British Army, a squad-sized infantry grouping is known as a section.)

squaddie /ˈskwɔdə/ noun an ordinary soldier (slang)

squad leader /ˈskwɔd ˈlɪdə/ noun US the commander of an infantry squad

squadron /ˈskwɔdrən/ noun 1. a small tactical grouping of warships ○ He commanded a British squadron in the West Indies. 2. an air force unit consisting of two or more flights, ie between ten and eighteen aircraft ○ Two squadrons of fighters were sent to intercept the bombers. 3. a company-sized tank grouping of three or more troops ○ US a battalion-sized armoured cavalry grouping, consisting of three cavalry troops, one tank company and one battery

COMMENT: The number of aircraft in a squadron will vary according to aircraft type and role. A bomber squadron may have as few as six aircraft while a fighter squadron may have as many as twenty-four. In the army, a

British armoured brigade might consist of two armoured regiments and one armoured or mechanized infantry battalion or, alternatively, two infantry battalions and one armoured regiment, plus artillery and supporting arms. On operations, these units are broken down and combined into battle groups. As an example, an armoured battle group might consist of two tank companies and one armoured regiment. In the army, a battle group is known as a task force, while company and squadron groups and squadron and company groups are known as company teams.
**SSG**

**stagger** /ˈstægər/ verb 1. to arrange actions so that they do not happen at the same time • The departures of the companies were staggered at fifteen minute intervals. 2. to arrange vehicles or aircraft or men so that they are not in a straight line • We advanced in a staggered formation.

**staging area** /ˈstɛndʒər ,ɛrəl/ noun a place along a route where troops can stop, in order to rest and reorganize before continuing their journey. • The enemy are using that wood as a staging area.

**staging camp** /ˈstɛndʒɪŋ ,kɛmp/ noun a camp where troops are accommodated for a short period, before moving to another destination • You will go to a staging camp, where you will wait until we can move you forward to your battalion.

**stalk** /stɒk/ verb to creep towards a person or vehicle, in order to shoot at him or it from a close range

**stand** /stænd/ verb to support yourself, using your feet and legs, in a stationary position • He was standing next to the tank. (NOTE: standing – stood)

**standard** /ˈstændərd/ adjective 1. basic or normal • This is the standard type of respirator. 2. officially recognized as the correct way to do something • noun 1. a measure of quality, by which all similar things are judged • Your boots are not up to standard. • The standard of shooting is very high. 2. a regimental flag (especially in cavalry regiments)

**standardization** /ˌstændəˈzeɪʃən/ noun making sure that all procedures, personnel and material all work in the same way

**standard agreement** /ˌstændədərˌzeɪʃən/ noun an agreement between various nations to use standard equipment, operating procedures, etc.

**standard** /ˈstændərd/ noun an American-designed long-range naval surface-to-air missile (SAM)

**standard operating procedure** /ˌstændərd ˈɒpəreɪtɪŋ prəˌsidʒəl/ noun a set of instructions, produced by an arm, grouping or unit, which explain...
stand fast /stand fas/ verb to stop standing to (as part of a routine) ○ The battalion is on stand-by ready to do something ○ Stand down is thirty minutes after first light. Compare stand by, stand to

stand fast /stand 'fast/ verb to stop what you are doing and wait for further instructions ○ We were ordered to stand fast.

standing army /standing 'ɑ:mɪ/ noun the regular army of a state, as opposed to reserve forces ○ The country maintains a standing army of 100,000 men.

standing orders /standing 'ɔ:dzər noun a set of rules and regulations relating to duties and discipline

standing patrol /standing 'pɑ'trɔul noun a patrol sent out to occupy a covert position in no-man’s-land in order to provide warning of enemy activity

stand off /stand 'of/ verb to remain at a distance from something ○ The tanks stood off in order to engage the enemy from the flank.

stand-off land attack missile /stand of land 'atk 'misil noun full form of SLAM

stand to /stand 'tu:/ verb (of a unit or sub-unit) to be awake and at battle stations, in order to receive an enemy attack ○ The battalion stood to at first light. ○ noun an act of standing to (as part of a routine) ○ Stand to is at 0545hrs.

star /stɑr noun 1. a tiny point of light, visible in the sky at night 2. an insignia in the shape of a star, used as a badge of rank. Also called pip

COMMENT: In the British Army, one star denotes a second lieutenant, two a lieutenant and three a captain. In the US Army, one star denotes a brigadier general, two a major general, three a lieutenant general and four a general.

static /'stætɪk adjective not moving, in a fixed position
static defence

**static defence** /ˈstætɪk.dɪˈfɛns/ noun a defensive doctrine which relies on static defensive positions and the use of attrition to halt an enemy advance. Also known as **positional defence**. Compare mobile defence

**static line** /ˈstætɪk.lain/ noun a method used to pull a parachute open as the parachutist jumps out of the aircraft. Compare free-fall

**station** /ˈstæʃn/ noun 1. a place where soldiers are based  2. a base location for an air-force grouping  3. a regular stopping place on a railway line  The train finally arrived at the station two hours late.  verb to send a service-man to serve in a particular location  He was stationed in Germany.

**stationary** /ˈstæʃn.əri/ adjective not moving  He aimed at the stationary tank.

**station commander** /ˈstæʃn.kəˈmɑndər/ noun a commanding officer of a RAF unit.

**steal** /stɛл/ verb to take another person's property without his or her agreement or permission  Someone has stolen my helmet.  (NOTE: stealing – stole – have stolen. The noun for this verb is theft.)

**stealth** /stɛlθ/ adjective referring to an aircraft which is difficult to detect by radar and other surveillance equipment, as a result of its design: e.g. reduced radar cross-section (RCS) and the use of materials such as radar absorber material (RAM) and radar-absorber structural material (RAS)  Stealth bombers were used in the operation.

**steel** /stɛl/ noun a metal, made of iron and carbon, which is used in the production of armour, weapons and vehicles

**steep** /stɛp/ adjective (of hills or steps) to slope at a high angle

**steppe** /stɛp/ noun a wide area of uncultivated grassland with few trees (especially in Russia and Eurasia)  (NOTE: The American English term is prairie)

**Step Up** /ˈstɛp əˈp/ noun a small headquarters party, which moves forward in advance of the main party to set up a new headquarters location. Once Step Up is established, the old headquarters hands over control of the battle and moves forward to join it

**stern** /stɛrn/ noun 1. the rear part of a ship. Compare bow 2. a thin sheet of metal or plastic or stiff card, out of which letters or numbers or other shapes have been cut, and which is placed on the surface of an object (e.g. vehicle, container, etc.) and painted over to reproduce the shapes on the surface below  I need stencils for the letters A and G.  3. a stiff sheet of plastic, out of which a selection of geometrical shapes have been cut, and which is used for drawing tactical symbols on a map

**stick** /stɪk/ noun 1. a long thin piece of wood, which is broken or cut from a branch of a tree  2. a quantity of bombs, which are released by an aircraft at the same time  3. a group of paratroopers, who jump out of an aircraft during a single pass over the drop zone (DZ)

**Stinger** /ˈstɪŋə/ noun an American-designed hand-held surface-to-air missile (SAM)

**stock** /stɒk/ noun a quantity of supplies held ready for use

**Stockholm Syndrome** /ˈstɔkholm ˈsɜndrəʊm/ noun a psychological reaction to fear and stress, in which hostages start to feel sympathetic towards their captors

**STOL** abbreviation short take-off and landing

**stone** /stɒn/ noun a small piece of rock  The sentry heard stones rolling down the slope.  verb to throw stones at a person or vehicle  The patrol was stoned by a group of youths.

**stonk** /ˈstɒŋk/ , **stonking** noun an attack by artillery or mortars (slang)  We gave the enemy OP a bloody good stonking!

**stood to** /stəd ˈtʌd/ adverb standing to (i.e. awake and at battle stations)  The battalion was stood to for most of the night.
stop /ˈstɒp/ verb 1. to finish doing something ○ He stopped working. 2. to stop moving and stand still ○ Stop, or I will shoot! 3. to prevent someone or something from moving ○ Our orders are to stop all vehicles and check the drivers. 4. to prevent the enemy from advancing or successfully completing an attack ○ The enemy have been stopped at the river.

stoppage /ˈstɑːpɪdʒ/ noun (of automatic or semi-automatic firearms) a mechanical failure, which prevents further firing

store /stɔːr/ noun 1. a quantity of things, which are kept for future use ○ The fire destroyed our store of winter clothing. 2. a place used for storing things ○ He works in the clothing store. 3. US a shop ○ Several stores were looted during the riot. ▪ verb to keep things for future use

stores /stɔːz/ plural noun quantities of different things which are stored for a particular purpose ○ We airlifted stores to the garrison.

storm /stɔːrm/ noun 1. violent weather, consisting of high wind and rain, snow or hail ○ The sortie was cancelled because of the storm. 2. ○ by storm using force in order to occupy an enemy position ○ the troops took the enemy positions by storm ▪ verb to assault and capture a position or place ○ The town was stormed by the 7th Infantry Regiment.

storm channel /ˈstɔːrm ˈʃeɪdn(ə)l/ noun a ditch designed to receive water produced by seasonal rainstorms

Storm Shadow /ˈstɔːrm ʃædəʊ/ noun a cruise missile which was developed for attacking fortified buildings

STOVL abbreviation short take-off and vertical landing

stow /stəʊ/ verb to pack equipment or supplies tidily into an aircraft, ship or vehicle ○ All the equipment has been stowed ready for take-off.

straddle /ˈstræd(ə)l/ verb 1. (of troops, formations or positions) to be positioned on either side of something ○ A Company’s position straddles the main road. 2. (of artillery or mortar fire) to land rounds on either side of a target

strafe /ˈstreɪf/ verb (of fighter aircraft) to shoot at targets on the ground, especially along a road, or at ships at sea ○ Enemy fighters strafed the advancing column.

straggle /ˈstræɡ(ə)l/ verb to be unable to keep up with your unit during a long journey or march ○ Many of the soldiers were unfit and started to straggle.

straggler /ˈstræɡlə/ noun a soldier who is unable to keep up with his unit during a long journey or march ○ We captured some enemy stragglers.

strait /ˈstref/, straits /ˈstrefəz/ noun, plural noun a narrow stretch of sea connecting two larger areas of sea ○ the straits of Gibraltar (NOTE: often used in the plural)

strap /stræp/ noun a long thin piece of webbing or leather, which forms part of a soldier’s load-bearing equipment or is used to fasten objects together

STRATCOM /ˈstrætˌkɒm/ noun US the department of the US forces responsible for inter-continental ballistic missiles (ICBM) and missile submarines. Full form strategic command

strategic /ˈstrɑːdʒɪk/ adjective 1. relating to strategy ○ This town is of great strategic importance. 2. (of bombs and missiles) directed at the enemy’s home territory, in order to destroy both his civil and his military infrastructures, thereby reducing his ability to conduct a war

strategic bombing /ˈstrɑːdʒɪtʃɒmbɪŋ/ noun bombing of enemy towns and cities, industrial centres or communications (such as ports and airports, railways, roads, etc.), command centres, missile sites, airfields or any other target of strategic importance

strategic command /ˈstrɑːdʒɪtʃədərn/ noun full form of STRATCOM

Strategic Defence Initiative /ˈstrəˌstrætɪdʒɪk dɪˈfɛns ɪˌnɪʃəˈɛtv/ noun an American programme to develop satellites which are capable of destroying...
strategic mobility

enemy missiles in space. NMD, Abbr SDI. Also called Star Wars

strategic mobility /strəˈtɪdʒɪk muːnˈɜːrɪtɪ/ noun the ability of forces to move over very great distances

strategic nuclear weapon /strəˌtɪdʒɪk ˈnjuːkrɪliə/ noun a large long-range nuclear weapon designed to destroy targets of strategic importance. Compare tactical

strategist /strəˈtɪdʒɪst/ noun a person who is concerned with strategy. Military strategists in the high command recommended a different course of action.

strategy /strəˈtɪdʒi/ noun an art of using of large military groupings (such as armies, corps, fleets, etc.) in order to achieve long-term objectives which will affect the course of a campaign or war. The commander’s long-term strategy was to wear the enemy down by cutting off his supply routes. Compare tactics

COMMENT: Strategy refers to the movement of armies in order to achieve the overall objectives of a campaign or war (for example the capture of a port, which can be used to land supplies and reinforcements for future operations), while tactics refers to the movement of battalions, brigades, divisions and equivalent-sized groupings, in order to achieve local objectives (for example the destruction of an enemy battalion, which is defending one of the approaches to the port).

stray round /ˈstriː ˈraʊnd/ noun a bullet or other projectile, which misses the target at which it was aimed. He was killed by a stray round.

stream /strɪm/ noun a small river

street /stret/ noun a road with buildings on each side

strength /ˈstreŋθ/ noun 1. a state of being strong or in large numbers. This projectile will test the strength of the tank’s armour. 2. the number of men, aircraft, ships or vehicles available to a grouping. At full strength having all the men, aircraft, ships or vehicles which one should have in strength in large numbers. The enemy is crossing the river in strength. On strength available to a unit. We have 875 men on strength.

stretcher /ˈstreʃər/ noun a piece of fabric suspended between two poles, which is used to carry an injured person. stretcher-bearer /ˈstreʃər ˈbeərə/ noun a person who helps to carry a stretcher. stretcher-case /ˈstreʃə kɛs/ noun a casualty who needs to be carried on a stretcher.

strike /strɪk/ 1. (of projectiles, especially missiles) an act of hitting a target. An attack (especially by aircraft or missiles on ground targets). The last strike destroyed our fuel dump. Strike a lamp which is defending one of the approaches to the port. (NOTE: striking – struck)

strike aircraft /strɪkˌɛrkəˈrɛft/ noun a fighter aircraft used to attack targets on the ground. Fighter-bomber (NOTE: The term aircraft is used for both singular and plural.)

string /strɪŋ/ noun a thin line of twisted fibres, normally used for binding objects together.

string of mines /strɪŋ av ˈmainz/ noun several mines which are connected in such a way that the detonation of one will cause all the others to detonate too

strip /strɪp/ verb 1. (of people) to take off all your clothing. To strip down to take a weapon to pieces (for cleaning)

stripe /strɪp/ noun a chevron (slang)

strip map /strɪp ˈmeɪp/ noun a simple map showing a route between two places and any significant features along that route, but giving no details of the surrounding area.

stripwood /ˈstrɪpwoʊd/ noun long thin wood

strobe /strəʊb/ noun a lamp which produces intermittent flashes of very bright light and is used by someone on the ground to attract the attention of aircraft. We switched on the strobe when we heard the helicopter.
strong point /ˈstrɒŋ pɔɪnt/ noun a key point in a defensive position, which is usually heavily fortified and well-armed

Stryker /ˈstrækər/ noun an eight-wheeled armoured vehicle used by the US Army

stun grenade /ˈstʌn ɡrɪd, -n/ noun a blast grenade designed to stun its victim, but not inflict physical injury

Styx /stɪks/ noun a NATO name for Soviet-designed P-15 long-range anti-ship missile (ASM)

SU-24 /es ˈzuː twenti ˈfɒzl noun a Soviet-designed fighter-bomber (NOTE: known to NATO as Fencer)

SU-25 /es ˈzuː twenti ˈfɜːzl noun a Soviet-designed ground-attack aircraft (NOTE: known to NATO as Frogfoot)

SU-27 /es ˈzuː twenti ˈsevnəl noun a Soviet-designed fighter aircraft (NOTE: known to NATO as Flanker)

sub /ˈsʌb/ abbreviation submarine

subaltern /ˈsʌbəltən/ noun a lieutenant or second lieutenant

sub-lieutenant /ˈsʌb ˈleɪtənt/ noun a junior officer in the navy. Abbr Sub-Lt

Sub-Lt /ˈsʌb leɪtənt/ abbreviation sub-lieutenant

sub-machine-gun /ˌsʌbˈmɪʃən ˌɡʌn/ noun a small hand-held machine-gun, which is carried as a personal weapon

submarine /ˈsʌbˌmɑːrɪn/ noun a warship designed to move and operate underwater, armed with torpedoes or nuclear weapons. Submarines attacked and sank three of our ships. Their ship was torpedoed by an enemy submarine.

submariner /ˈsʌbˌmɑːrina/ noun a sailor who serves on a submarine

submerge /ˈsʌbˌmɜːdʒ/ verb to go or position something underwater. The submarine has submerged.

submunitions /ˌsʌbˈmʌnɪʃənz/ plural noun small projectiles, which are often used in clusters. TGSM

subordinate /ˈsʌbˈɔːrdɪnət/ adjective 1. of a lower rank (than another person) 2. working under another person's command or supervision 3. You are subordinate to Captain Jones for this operation. 4. noun a person who works under another person's command or supervision 5. He is always rude to his subordinates.

subsonic /ˈsʌbˈsɑːnɪk/ adjective travelling at less than the speed of sound. This is a subsonic projectile.

substantive /ˌsʌbˈstɑːntɪv/ adjective (of rank) permanent (as opposed to acting or temporary). He has the substantive rank of colonel.

sub-unit /ˈsʌb ˈjuːznit/ noun a grouping, which forms part of a larger grouping. Comment: A section is a sub-unit of a platoon; a platoon is a sub-unit of a company; a company is a sub-unit of a battalion.

subway /ˈsʌbweɪ/ noun 1. a tunnel under a road. 2. US an underground railway

suffer /ˈsʌfər/ verb to experience discomfort, pain or unhappiness 1. The civilian population suffered many casualties. 2. We have suffered heavy losses. 3. The enemy is suffering from low morale. 4. After three months on the front line he suffered a breakdown.

suffering /ˈsʌfərɪŋ/ noun an experience of discomfort, pain or unhappiness

suicide bomb /ˈsjuːsəsɪd bɔm/ noun a terrorist bombing tactic, where a terrorist carries an explosive device or drives a vehicle containing an explosive device up to a target (e.g. a security force base) and initiates it, deliberately killing himself in the process.

suicide bomber /ˈsjuːsəsɪd boʊməl/ noun a terrorist who detonates, or attempts to detonate, a suicide bomb

Sukhoi /ˈsʊkɔɪ/ noun a Soviet-designed fighter aircraft

Sultan /ˈsʌltən/ noun a British-designed armoured vehicle, which is designed to be used as a mobile command post

summit /ˈsʌmɪt/ noun the highest point of a hill or mountain
Sunray /ˈsʌnreɪ/ noun the commander of a unit or sub-unit (radio terminology)
○ Sunray will be at your location in ten minutes.

sunrise /ˈsʌnraɪz/ noun a time at which the sun appears over the horizon in the morning. ○ dawn, first light

sunset /ˈsʌnset/ noun a time at which the sun disappears below the horizon in the evening. ○ dusk, last light

Super Etendard /ˈsuːprə ˈɛtændərd/ noun a French-designed multirole fighter aircraft, designed to operate from an aircraft carrier.

superior /ˈsuːpərɪər/ adjective 1. of higher rank than another person ○ He is always rude to superior officers. 2. bigger or stronger than something else ○ We were attacked by a superior force. 3. of better quality than something else ○ Our night-viewing equipment is superior to the enemy’s. ○ noun a person who holds a higher rank than another person ○ You must obey your superiors. Compare inferior

superiority /ˈsuːpərɪərɪti/ noun a state of being superior

supernumerary /ˈsʌpərənjuːmərər/ adjective additional to the establishment of a grouping ○ All supernumerary personnel will return to their own units. ○ noun an extra or unwanted person or thing ○ All supernumeraries were ordered to move to the rear.

superpower /ˈsʌpərˈpouər/ noun an extremely powerful country with great economic strength and large armed forces ○ The USA is the world’s single superpower.

supersonic /ˈsʌpərˈsɒnik/ adjective capable of travelling faster than the speed of sound

Super Stallion /ˈsuːpər ˈstælɪjn/ noun CH-53

supervise /ˈsʌpərvɑːz/ verb to control or guide the actions or work of other people ○ He is supervising the digging of the latrines.

supervisor /ˈsʌpərəvəzər/ noun a person who supervises other people

supervisory /ˈsʌpərəvərizər/ adjective controlling or guiding the actions or work of other people ○ He has been given a supervisory job

supplies /ˈsʌplɪz/ plural noun items which an army needs in order to carry out its tasks (such as ammunition, food, fuel, etc.). ○ The enemy is short of supplies.

supply /ˈsʌpli/ noun 1. an act of supplying something ○ He is responsible for the supply of food. 2. a quantity of equipment, materiel, etc., which is available for use ○ We have a large supply of fuel. ○ verb to provide a person or group with the things they need ○ We haven’t been supplied with NBC suits.

supply depot /ˈsʌpli ˌdepəʊ/ noun a military establishment, where supplies are stored

supply dump /ˈsʌpli ˌdʌmp/ noun a temporary store of supplies in the field

supply point /ˈsʌpli ˈpɔɪnt/ noun a temporary place where military supplies and services are issued

support /ˈsəpərət/ noun 1. assistance or help ○ B Company are calling for support. ○ in support providing or ready to provide support 2. units or sub-units which provide support ○ Brigade can’t send us any support. 3. fire support ○ We are providing support to C Company during phase 3. ○ verb 1. to assist or help another person or group 2. to provide fire support to another grouping ○ Company B will support us.

support company /ˈsəpərət ˈkæmpəni/ noun a company of an infantry battalion, consisting of specialist platoons (e.g. anti-tank, mortar, reconnaissance, etc.)

supporting arms /ˈsəpərətɪŋ ˈæntɪm/ plural noun arms which support the teeth arms (e.g., engineers, signals, transport). Compare teeth arms

support weapons /ˈsəpərətɪŋ ˈweɪpənɪz/ plural noun specialist weapons held by an infantry unit (such as anti-tank weapons, machine-guns, mortars, etc.)
suppress /ˈsəʊprəs/ verb to fire at an enemy, in order to prevent him using his weapons. 
neutralize 
COMMENT: When suppressing enemy forces, it is not necessary to kill them. The object is simply to make them keep their heads down.
suppression /ˈsəʊprəʃ(ə)n/ noun an act of suppressing

supreme /suˈprɪm/ adjective most senior ○ the Supreme Commander of NATO forces in Europe.
Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic /suˈprɪm əˈlɛrd kə ˈmɔːndər ət ˈlɛntɪk/ noun full form of SACLANT
Supreme Allied Commander Europe /suˈprɪm əˈlɛrd kə ˈmɔːndər ˈjʊərəp/ noun full form of SACEUR

Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers in Europe noun the main NATO headquarters in Europe. Abbr SHAPE, SACEUR, SACLANT
surface /ˈsɜːfəs/ noun 1. the outside of an object 2. the top part of the earth (i.e. the land or sea) ○ verb (of submarines) to return to the surface of the sea after being under water ○ We dropped depth charges in order to try to force the submarine to surface.
surface-to-air missile /ˈsɜːfəs tu ˈɛsərəl ˈmɪsɪl/ noun an anti-aircraft missile designed to be fired from the ground or from a ship. Abbr SAM
surface-to-surface missile /ˈsɜːfəs tu ˈsɜːfəs ˈmɪsɪl/ noun a missile designed to be fired from a launcher on the ground or on a ship at a target on the ground. Abbr SSM
surface vessel /ˈsɜːfəs ˈvɛsə(ʊ)/ noun a boat or ship which travels on the surface of water (as opposed to a submarine)
surgeon /ˈsɜːdʒən/ noun a doctor who specializes in surgery
surgeon-captain /ˈsɜːdʒən ˈkæptɪn/ noun a naval medical officer with the rank of captain
surgery /ˈsɜːdʒəri/ noun the process of treating illness or injury by cutting into a person’s body in order to repair or remove damaged tissue or organs ○ He will need surgery.
surgical /ˈsɜːdʒɪk(ə)l/ adjective relating to surgery ○ A surgical team is on stand-by.
surprise /ˈsɜːrprɪz/ noun 1. an unexpected action or event ○ The raid was a complete surprise to the enemy. 2. an act of surprising someone ○ Surprise will be vital to the success of this operation. ○ verb 1. to do something unexpected to another person ○ We surprised him as he was stealing petrol. 2. to mount a surprise attack ○ We surprised the enemy as they were crossing the river.
surprise attack /ˈsɜːrprɪz ˈætək/ noun an attack which is mounted on the enemy when he is not expecting it
surrender /ˈsɜːrrendər/ noun an act of surrendering ○ We don’t know what happened to him after the surrender. ○ At the surrender, the defeated enemy general gave up his sword. ○ verb to stop fighting and hand oneself over to the enemy ○ 7 Brigade has surrendered. ○ Two thousand soldiers surrendered to our unit.
surround /ˈsɜːraʊnd/ verb 1. to be on all sides of something ○ The village is surrounded by woods. 2. to position your forces on all sides of an enemy, so that he is unable to escape or be reinforced ○ 6 Brigade is surrounded.
surveillance /ˈsɜːrvələns/ noun 1. any method which can be used to locate the enemy or observe his activities and movements or listen to his radio transmissions ○ The general places great importance on good surveillance. 2. people or equipment involved in surveillance ○ This manoeuvre is designed to confuse the enemy surveillance.
surveyor /ˈsɜːrvər/ noun an assistant to a forward observation officer (FOO). Also called OP/ack
survival /ˈsɜːvər(ə)l/ noun an act or process of surviving
survival area /ˈsɜːvər(ə)l əˈzəriə/ noun a concealed location, to which a unit deploys when war is imminent, because the unit’s peacetime location is probably registered as a target and may be attacked as soon as hostilities begin
survival course

survival course /ˈsɜːvərəl koʊs/ noun a series of lessons, lectures and practical exercises on how to survive in a particular situation ○ I am going on a survival course.

survive /ˈsɜːvɪv/ verb to remain alive, in spite of a dangerous situation or life-threatening injury ○ He survived the plane crash.

survivor /ˈsɜːrvər/ noun a person who survives ○ There were no survivors from the massacre.

SUSAT noun an optical sight used on a combat rifle. Full form Sight Unit Small Arms Trilux

suspect /ˈsəspekt/ noun a person who is thought to have committed a crime

sustainability /ˌsəstəməˈbɪləti/ noun the ability of a force to remain equipped and ready for action during the whole of an operation

sustained fire /ˈsəstænd ˈfaɪər/ noun fire from a machine-gun, which has been mounted on a tripod and fitted with a special sight, so that it can engage registered targets at long ranges, even when visibility is poor. Abbr SF

swamp /swɔmp/ noun a thick woodland growing on wet ground, much of which is permanently under water

sweep /swiːp/ noun a search of an area of ground or sea ○ a verb to search an area of ground or sea (especially for mines) ○ The channel has been swept for mines. (NOTE: sweeping – swept)

Swingfire /ˈswɪŋfaɪər/ noun a British-designed wire-guided anti-tank missile (ATGW), usually fired from a variant of the AFV-432

sword /ˈsɔrd/ noun a weapon with a long blade, formerly used in warfare, but now ceremonial ○ At the surrender, the defeated enemy general gave up his sword.

sword of honour /ˈsɔrd ɔv ˈɔnər/ noun a sword presented to the best student in a class at a military college

synagogue /ˌsɪnæˈɡɔʊ̯/ noun a building used for religious worship by Jews

synchronize /ˈsɪŋkrənaɪz/, synchronise /ˈsɪŋkrənaɪz/ verb 1. to make (actions, etc.) happen at the same time ○ The attacks were not synchronized properly. 2. to adjust clocks or watches, so that they are all showing the same time ○ The commanders forgot to synchronize their watches at the O Group.

syphon /ˈsafən/ noun another spelling of siphon

syrette /ˈsʊrɪt/ noun a device similar to a syringe, containing an individual dose of a drug or vaccine, which is designed to be carried by a soldier so that he can inject himself in an emergency ○ Each man was issued with three syrettes of atropine.

syringe /ˈsɜrɪndʒ/ noun a device, consisting of a tube, plunger and needle, which is used to inject liquid into a person’s body or to extract blood or other fluids ○ We found a syringe in his locker.
TANGO - Tt

T-54 /tɛ fɪtɪ/ noun a 1950s-era Soviet-designed main battle tank (MBT) (NOTE: The plural form is T-54s /tɛ fɪtɪz/.)

T-62 /tiː sɪkstɪ 'tʊz/ noun a 1960s-era Soviet-designed main battle tank (MBT) (NOTE: The plural form is T-62s /tiː sɪkstɪz/.)

T-64 /tiː sɪkstɪ 'tʊz/ noun a 1970s-era Soviet-designed main battle tank (MBT) (NOTE: The plural form is T-64s /tiː sɪkstɪz/.)

T-72 /tiː sɛvəntɪ 'tʊz/ noun a simpler version of the Soviet-designed T-64 main battle tank, produced for export to Warsaw Pact countries and other allies of the Soviet Union (NOTE: The plural form is T-72s /tiː sɛvəntɪz/.)

T-80 /tiː 'ɛtɪ/ noun a 1980s-era Soviet-designed main battle tank (MBT) (NOTE: The plural form is T-80s /tiː 'ɛtɪz/.)

TA abbreviation Territorial Army

TAA abbreviation tactical assembly area

tab /təb/ noun 1. a small coloured patch worn on each side of the collar ○ The general is the one with the red tabs. 2. a march (infantry slang) ○ We had a long tab to our pick-up point. ● verb to go on foot (infantry slang) ○ We were tabbing for most of the night.

Tabun /təˈbʌn/ noun GA

TAC /tɛk/, TAC HQ abbreviation tactical headquarters

TACC /tɛk sɪz/ 'sɪz/ noun US the principal command centre for air operations in an operational theatre. Full form tactical air command centre

TACP /tɛk 'pɪzi/, Tac-P noun US a small group, trained to direct close air support ○ We’ve got a TACP attached to us for Phase 1. Full form tactical air control party ○ FAC

TACSAT /tɛkˈsæt/ noun a secure radio system, in which the signal is transmitted to a satellite before being redirected to another radio with the correct receiving equipment. Full form tactical satellite radio

tac-sign /ˈtæk sɛn/ noun 1. a small unobtrusive signpost (often marked with symbols instead of words) ○ Just follow the tac-signs. 2. identification symbol painted on a vehicle ○ Our tac-sign is a black triangle. ● full form tactical sign

tactic /ˈtæktɪk/ noun a combination of firepower, formation and manoeuvre, which is used to achieve a military objective

COMMENT: Strategy refers to the movement of armies in order to achieve the overall objectives of a campaign or war (for example the capture of a port, which can be used to land supplies and reinforcements for future operations), while tactics refers to the movement of battalions, brigades, divisions and equivalent-sized groupings, in order to achieve local objectives (for example the destruction of an enemy battalion, which is defending one of the approaches to the port).

tactical /ˈtæktɪkəl/ adjective 1. relating to tactics 2. relating to the battlefield

tactical air command centre /ˌtæktɪk(ə)l ə kəˈmɑːnd ˌsentɛl/ noun full form of TACC

tactical air control party /ˌtæktɪk(ə)l ə kə kanˈtrəʊl ˌpɑrtɪ/ noun full form of TACP
tactical area of responsibility

1. /ˈtæktɪkl/ n noun the area of ground defended and patrolled by a unit or other tactical grouping. Abbr TAOR

tactical bombing /ˈtæktɪkl/ 'bomɪŋ/ noun bombing carried out in direct support of ground forces

tactical bound /ˈtæktɪkl/ 'baʊnd/ noun a distance which ensures that one group is close enough to support another group without the risk of both coming under effective fire from the same enemy. ○ Platoon HQ was moving in a tactical bound behind the point section.

tactical electronic reconnaissance system /ˈtæktɪkl/ 'elɛktrɒnɪk /ˈreɪkənznəs ,sɪstəm/ noun full form of TERECS

tactical exercise without troops /ˈtæktɪkl/ 'eksəsaɪz wɪ,ˈhau t/ 'trʌps/ noun full form of TEWT

tactical fighter wing /ˈtæktɪkl/ 'faɪtə ,ˈwɪŋ/ noun US a tactical air-force grouping of three fighter squadrons plus supporting arms. Abbr TFW

tactical headquarters /ˈtæktɪkl/ ˈhedəˈkwɔtəz/ plural noun a small mobile headquarters, used by a commander when he is moving around the battlefield. Abbr TAC

tactical mobility /ˈtæktɪkl/ 'məʊvɪŋ/ noun the ability to move forces to respond to an enemy attack

tactical nuclear weapon /ˈtæktɪkl/ 'njuːkliə 'wɛpən/ noun a small nuclear weapon designed to destroy enemy forces on the battlefield

tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel /ˈtæktɪkl/ ˈrɪ,keɪvərri əf,ˈpɜːsənl/ noun full form of TRAP

tactical reserves /ˈtæktɪkl/ 'rɪ ,ˈzɜːrɪvz/ plural noun reserve forces kept for use in the battlefield

tactical satellite radio /ˈtæktɪkl/ 'sætələt ˈreɪdiəʊ/ noun full form of TACSAT

tactical sign /ˈtæktɪkl/ 'sɪŋ/ noun full form of tacsign

tactical situation /ˈtæktɪkl/ 'stɪʃən/ noun positions, strengths and known or probable intentions of both friendly forces and enemy forces. Compare strategic

tactical withdrawal /ˈtæktɪkl/ 'wɔrɪdʒəl/ noun withdrawal from the enemy as part of a planned manoeuvre

tactician /ˈtæktɪʃən/ noun a person who is an expert at tactics

tail /teɪl/ noun 1. the rear elements of a large military force or grouping ○ The enemy's tail is now extremely vulnerable to air attack. 2. the rear end of an aircraft (informal) ○ Look out! There's a bogey on your tail!

tailplane /ˈteɪplən/ noun a small wing-like structure at the rear of an aircraft ○ The tailplane was almost shot away by cannon fire.

tail wind /teɪl wɪnd/ noun a wind blowing in the same direction as that in which an aircraft or ship is travelling

take /teɪk/ verb 1. to acquire ○ He took a cigarette from the packet. 2. to capture ○ The enemy has taken the bridge. 3. to purchase ○ The patrol took two prisoners. 3. to remove ○ Someone has taken my rifle. 4. to carry with you ○ The patrol is taking a night viewing device. 5. to be accompanied by ○ We took a local farmer as a guide. (NOTE: taking – took – have taken)

take action /teɪk ˈækʃən/ verb to do something

take off /teɪk ˈɔf/ verb (of aircraft) to leave the ground ○ The fighters took off at first light.

take-off /teɪk ˈɔf/ noun an action of an aircraft taking off from the ground ○ Take-off at 0630hrs. ○ The plane crashed on take-off. ○ Take-off was delayed by fog.

COMMENT: Vertical take-off is not usually possible when the aircraft is carrying a full payload of munitions. In such cases, the aircraft would need to take off from a runway like any conventional fixed-wing aircraft. Most
vertical take-off aircraft, however, require a considerably shorter distance to take off than do conventional aircraft, and would therefore be able to use stretches of road or grass areas as runways. Once the aircraft has discharged its munitions it would be able to carry out a normal vertical landing. The acronyms STOVL (short take-off and vertical landing) and V/STOL (vertical or short take-off and landing) are used to describe these capabilities.

take out /ˈteɪk ˈaʊt/ verb to kill or destroy. B troop took out six APCs.

talc /ˈteɪlk/ noun clear plastic sheeting, which is used to cover maps and which may be written upon or marked

tally /ˈteɪli hoʊ/, tally ho! adverb I have seen an enemy aircraft or other target (air force terminology)

COMMENT: This expression is taken from the sport of foxhunting.

tandem warhead /ˈtændəm ˈwɜːrd/ noun an anti-tank warhead, consisting of two shaped charges positioned one behind the other, which is designed to defeat explosive reactive armour (ERA); the first charge activates the ERA and the second charge then penetrates the main armour underneath

Tango /ˈtændɡoʊ/ noun the twentieth letter of the phonetic alphabet (Tt)

tank /ˈteɪŋk/ noun 1. an armoured fighting vehicle fitted with tracks and a gun 2. a large container or structure designed to hold liquid or gas. A shell hit a fuel storage tank. 3. part of an aircraft or ship or vehicle which contains its fuel. The plane exploded when a round hit its fuel tank.

tank action /ˈteɪŋk ˈækʃən/ noun the act of using a gun as a direct-fire weapon against tanks

tank commander /ˈteɪŋk ˈkə,mʌnədə/ noun an officer in charge of a tank or tank unit

tanker /ˈteɪŋkər/ noun 1. an aircraft, ship or vehicle fitted with a tank or tanks designed to carry liquid or gas (especially fuel) 2. a soldier in an armoured unit

tank gunner /ˈteɪŋk ˈɡʌnər/ noun a soldier operating a tank’s guns

tank-heavy task force /ˈteɪŋk, ˈhevi ˈtæːsk, ˈtræs/ noun three tank companies and one company of infantry

tank transporter /ˈteɪŋk ˈtrænsˈpɔrtər/ noun a large wheeled vehicle, designed to carry a tank or other armoured vehicle over long distances by road

tannoy /ˈteɪnəʊ/ tdmk a trademark for a system of loudspeakers in a ship or building, which are used to make announcements

TAOR abbreviation tactical area of responsibility

tape /ˈteɪp/ noun 1. a strip of fabric or plastic, used to bind objects together or as a marker or for other purposes 2. a magnetic tape, used for recording sound. He was listening to a tape of military music. They played back the tape of the conversation. 3. verb to record on magnetic tape. We have taped some of the enemy radio transmissions.

tape off to use mine tape as a barrier or boundary. We have taped off the area of the explosion.

taps /ˈteɪps/ noun US a nickname for the bugle-call ‘Last Post’

target /ˈteɪdʒt/ noun any object or area which is shot at, fired upon or bombed. Two of our shells missed the target. Two of our shells missed the target. 2. verb to select as a target. The enemy have denied that they were targeting civilians.

target acquisition /ˈteɪdʒt əˈkwɪz ˈtærɪʃ(ə)n/ noun the act of selecting and locking onto a target with a weapon guidance system

target indication /ˈteɪdʒt ɪnˈdɪk ˈtʃər(ə)n/ noun a sequence of verbal instructions for informing your comrades of the exact location of a target

tarmac /ˈteɪmɑrk/ tdmk a trademark for a road surface made of a mixture of tar and gravel. (Note: The American English term is asphalt.)

tarp /ˈteɪp/ abbreviation tarpaulin

tarpaulin /ˈteɪpəˈlɪn/ noun a waterproof sheet used to protect an object from dust or rain
tartan /ˈtɑːtɪn/ noun a traditional Scottish fabric pattern of coloured lines and checks. Some Scottish regiments wear tartan flashes on their bonnets.
task /tɑːsk/ noun something which must be done. He failed to complete his task. We have been given the task of collecting information on underground organizations. verb to allocate a task to B Company has been tasked for this mission.
task force /ˈtɑːsk fɔːs/ noun 1. a US combined arms grouping based on an infantry or tank battalion (note: the British equivalent is battle group; the US Marine Corps equivalent is battalion landing team (BLT)). 2. a large combined arms grouping formed for a specific operation or campaign. The government is sending a task force to the area. joint task force 3. an outdated British Army term for an armoured brigade.
technical officer /ˈteknlɪkəl/ˈtɛfnɪsə/ noun an officer who has technical skills, e.g. in engineering or communications.
technical quartermaster /ˈteknlɪkəl/ˈkwɑːtərmɑːstər/ noun an officer (with a quartermaster commission) responsible for all technical equipment and machinery held by a battalion or equivalent-sized grouping. Abbr TQM

technical quartermaster sergeant /ˈteknlɪkəl/ˈkwɑːtərmɑːstərˈsæriŋtənt/ noun a warrant officer who assists the technical quartermaster of a battalion or equivalent-sized grouping. Abbr TQMS
technical sergeant /ˈteknlɪkəl /ˈsæriŋtənt/ noun US a senior non-commissioned officer in the air force.
technician /ˈtekniʃən/ noun a person trained in the repair and maintenance of technical equipment.
teeth arms /ˈtiːθəmz/ plural noun branches of the armed forces which actually fight (such as armour, artillery, infantry). Compare supporting arms.
telescopic /ˈtelɪskɒpɪk/ adjective 1. relating to a telescope. 2. made in sections which slide together, for ease of carriage or storage.
telescope /ˈtelɪskɒp/ noun an optical instrument formed of a single long tube with lenses at both ends, designed for looking at distant objects. He examined the bridge through a powerful telescope. Field-glasses, binoculars.
telescopic sight /ˈtelɪskɒpɪkˈsɛntənt/ noun a small telescope used as a sight for a rifle.


team /tiːm/ noun a group of people who work together.
tear agent /təərˈeɪdʒənt/ noun a chemical agent designed to irritate the eyes and throat, normally used for crowd control.
tear gas /ˈteər ˈgæs/ noun a chemical agent which irritates the eyes and makes people choke.
technical /ˈteknlɪkəl/ adjective relating to instruments, machinery, radios, weapons, etc.
technical arrangements, technical agreements plural noun agreements reached between commanders of different NATO forces regarding the implementation of higher level agreements on the ground. Also called detailed support arrangements.
marked on a map by means of a template. That road is inside the template.

**tenable** /ˈtenəb(ə)l/ adjective possible to defend. Our position is no longer tenable.

tent /tent/ noun a portable shelter made of waterproof fabric, which is supported by poles. The unit will be housed in tents for the period of the exercises.

**TEREC** /ˈtɛrək/ noun an airborne radar receiving system used for the location of enemy radar sites. Full form tactical electronic reconnaissance system.

**terminally guided** /ˈtɛrinəməli ˈɡeɪdɪd/ adjective capable of guiding itself automatically towards its own target.

**terminally guided submunitions** /ˈtɛrinəməli ˈɡeɪdɪd ˈsəbmuːnɪʃənz/ plural noun full form of TGSMS.

**terminally guided warhead** /ˈtɛrinəməli ˈɡeɪdɪd ˈwɜːʃəd/ noun an anti-tank missile which uses a radar seeker to search for suitable targets. Abbr TGW.

**terminate** /ˈtɛrmɪnət/ verb 1. to finish something. We will have to terminate the conference now. 2. US to kill. He has been terminated.

terrace /ˈtɛrəs/ noun one of a series of level areas constructed on the side of a hill, in order to cultivate crops.

terraced housing /ˈtɛrɪt ˈhauzn/ noun a line of houses along a street or road, which are all joined to each other.

**terrain** /ˈtɛrɪrn/ noun 1. ground. 2. a type of land (such as desert, farmland, mountains, woodland, etc.). The attack will be launched through wooded terrain.

**terrain feature** /ˈtɛrɪrn ˈfiːtʃər/ noun part of a landscape, e.g. a mountain or river.

terrain-orientated mission /ˈtɛrɪrn ˌɔrɪˈnərɪtərd ˈmiʃn/ noun a mission with the principal aim of either capturing or holding ground. MOPP.

terrier /ˈtɛriər/ noun a member of the Territorial Army (TA) (informal).

We’re being relieved by a battalion of terriers.

**territorial** /ˈterɪtɔrɪəl/ adjective relating to the territory of a state. A territorial unit is a member of the Territorial Army. 200 territorials were sent to the area.

**Territorial Army** /ˈterɪtɔrɪəl ˈɑːmɪ/ noun a volunteer force of part-time soldiers, designed to reinforce the regular army in the event of war. Abbr TA.

**territorial waters** /ˈterɪtɔrɪəl ˈwɔːtəz/ plural noun an area of sea coming under the jurisdiction of a state. The ship was attacked in French territorial waters.

**territory** /ˈterɪtɔrɪ/ noun an area or region coming under the control or jurisdiction of a state or military force. The squad wandered into enemy-occupied territory.

terrorism /ˈtɛrərɪzəm/ noun the use of physical violence to intimidate a government or the general public, in order to achieve political objectives.

**terrorist** /ˈtɛrərist/ noun a person involved in terrorism. Comment: The use of this word is very much a question of perception. A terrorist in one person’s view may very well be seen as a freedom fighter by another person holding opposing views.

tetanus /ˈtɛtənəs/ noun a sometimes fatal bacterial disease, an infection affecting the nervous system caused by *Clostridium tetani* in the soil; it affects the spinal cord and causes spasms in the muscles which occur first in the jaw.

**TEWT** /ˈtjuːt/ noun an exercise involving only the command elements of a tactical grouping, who examine an area of ground in order to plan and then discuss a hypothetical military operation. We are going on a TEWT tomorrow.

Full form tactical exercise without troops.

**TEZ** abbreviation 1. tactical exclusion zone 2. total exclusion zone.

**TF** abbreviation task force.

**TFW** abbreviation tactical fighter wing.
to heat es to move rapidly between theatres. Strategic mobility implies the ability of forces to move rapidly between theatres.

thermos /\θɜːməs/ noun a container designed to keep drinks hot for several hours. I took a thermos of tea out to the gun position.

thermobaric bomb /\θɜːməˈbɑːrɪk bɒm/ noun a bomb that sends out a cloud of explosive material which then ignites and so creates a pressure wave.

thermos /\θɜːməs/ tmk a trademark for a container designed to keep drinks hot for several hours.

thermal image /\θɜːməl ɪˈdʒɪʃən/ noun an image produced by equipment which can identify the varying levels of heat given off by different objects. Abbr TI

thermal image /\θɜːməl ɪˈdʒɪʃən/ noun an optical instrument which produces a thermal image. Abbr TI

thermal imaging sight /\θɜːməl ɪˈdʒɪʃən sɪt/ noun a weapon sight designed around a thermal imager. Abbr TIS

thermal radiation /\θɜːməl ˈrædɪəʃən/ noun the rays of heat and light given off by a nuclear explosion.

threat /θriːt/ noun 1. something which is dangerous or hostile. The partisans are posing a major threat to our supply routes. 2. enemy forces. The main threat is from the east. 3. a statement declaring a person’s intention to do harm. He was making threats to other people in the bar.

threaten /θriːtn/ verb 1. to manoeuvre against. The enemy is threatening our left flank. 2. to say that you intend to do harm to someone. He threatened me. He threatened to shoot me.

three-star general /\θriː sɛn/ noun a lieutenant general

threat-mike /θrɛt mɪk/ noun a radio microphone which is strapped to the user’s throat and utilizes the vibrations from his vocal cords.

thrust /θrʌst/ noun an advance. G2 reports a strong enemy thrust in the direction of Prague. verb to move forward with force. The invaders thrust on towards the capital.

thumbs-up /\θʌms 'ʌp/ noun a gesture, consisting of a clenched fist with the thumb pointing upwards, which indicates that everything is alright, or that the next phase of an activity may proceed. Once the minefield was breached, he gave a thumbs-up to the company commander. to give something the thumbs-up to approve a course of action. The operation has been given the thumbs-up.

Thunderbolt /\θʌndəˈbloʊt/ noun same as A-10

thunderbox /\θʌndərbox/ noun a la-trine, usually consisting of a box-seat positioned over a pit (slang). As a punishment, you can clean out the thunderbox.

thunderflash /\θʌnˈdərfləʃ/ noun a pyrotechnic device, producing a small explosion but no shrapnel or other dangerous fragments, which is designed to simulate artillery or grenade explosions on training exercises.

TI abbreviation 1. thermal image 2. thermal imager
tick /tɪk/ noun a small insect which attaches itself to an animal’s skin in order to suck its blood
tidal /ˈtɜːdl/ adjective affected by tides o The river is tidal as far as Carrick-on-Suir.
tide /ˈtaɪd/ noun the rise and fall of the sea which takes place twice a day
tilt-switch /ˈtɪlt swɪtʃ/ noun a device for initiating an explosive device (especially booby traps), consisting of a small glass or plastic container, fitted with a positive and a negative electric wire and half-filled with mercury; when the container is moved, the mercury flows over the exposed ends of the two wires, completing the electrical circuit and thus initiating the explosion.

COMMENT: Terrorist bombs which have been designed to be initiated by timer or remote control, are often fitted with a tilt-switch as well, in case anyone tries to remove or defuse the device.
time-bomb /ˈtaɪm bɒm/ noun a bomb detonated by a time mechanism
time phased force deployment list /ˈtaɪm fɛzd for dˈplɔmənt lɪst/ noun full form of TPFDL
timer /ˈtaɪmər/ noun a device for arming or initiating an improvised explosive device (IED) at a pre-set time o They used a small alarm clock as a timer.
timing /ˈtaɪmɪŋ/ noun a time at which an event is scheduled to occur o All the timings were changed at the last moment. o He sent a list of timings to HQ.

COMMENT: Military timings are always given using the twenty-four hour clock, usually followed by the word hours which is abbreviated to hrs. Thus, 8.15am is 0815hrs, 1pm is 1300hrs, 6.30pm is 1830hrs, etc. NATO forces normally use Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) for their timings. This is known as Zulu time (for example: H-Hour at 0645Z. The time of the country in which one is operating is known as local time.
tin /ˈtɪn/ noun a metal container in which food or drink is hermetically sealed for storage over long periods o We found some tins of meat left in the

T intersection /ˈtiːntrəkʃən/ noun US same as T-junction
tyre /ˈtaɪər/ noun US spelling of tyre
TIS abbreviation thermal imaging sight
T-junction /ˈtiːdʒənʃən/ noun a place where two roads meet at right angles to each other
TNT /ˈtiːntən/ noun a type of high explosive. Full form trinitrotoluene
TOGS /ˈtɔːɡz/ abbreviation thermal observation gyroscope
Tomahawk /ˈtɒməhɔːk/ noun an American-designed cruise missile
Tomcat /ˈtɒmtk/ noun F-14
ton /ˈtɒn/ noun 1. a unit of weight corresponding to 1,016.05 kilograms (long ton) 2. US a unit of weight corresponding to 907.19 kilograms (short ton)
tonne /ˈtɒn/ noun a unit of weight corresponding to 1,000 kilograms (metric ton)
topographical crest /ˈtɒpəɡrəfɪk ˈkrest/ noun an actual crest from which the bottom of the slope may not be visible
top secret /ˈtɒp ˈsɛkrət/ adjective highest security classification for documents and information o That information is classified top secret. o He left some top-secret documents on the back seat of a taxi.
torch /tɔːtʃ/ noun a hand-held battery-powered device for producing light o He used a torch to attract attention. o flashlight verb to set fire to something (informal) o They torched the village.
Tornado /ˈtɔːnəroʊ/ noun a British/German/Italian-designed fighter aircraft
Tornado F-3 /ˈtɔːnəroʊ f ˈɔːrti/ noun a long-range interceptor
Tornado GR.1 /ˈtɔːnəroʊ ˈdʒɹi ə:ˈwɛn/ noun a multirole fighter optimized for ground-attack
torpedo /ˈtɔːpədəʊ/ noun an underwater missile, designed to explode when it hits a ship o verb to hit (and
torpedo-boat 246

sink) a ship using a torpedo ○ Their ship was torpedoed by an enemy submarine.

**torpedo-boat** /tɔrˈpidoʊ bɔt/ noun a small fast-moving warship, designed to fire torpedos at other ships.

torpedo tube /tɔrˈpidoʊ tjuːb/ noun a barrel through which a torpedo is fired from a submarine.

torture /ˈtɔrtʃur/ noun a deliberate act of inflicting pain on a person (usually in order to extract information) ○ The enemy is known to use torture. ○ The prisoner died under torture. ■ verb to deliberately inflict pain on another person ○ The rebels have been torturing civilians.

toss-bombing /ˈtɔs-ˈbɔmn/ noun an attack where bombs are released as the aircraft is making a shallow climb at high speed; the bombs’ trajectories then carry them forward a considerable distance before they hit the ground, making it unnecessary for the aircraft to pass directly over its target.

**toss-bombing** ○ time phased ○ force deployment list

total personnel strength /ˌtɔrəl ˈpɜrsoʊnəl ˈstreŋθ/ noun the total number of personnel available for an operation.

touch /tɑːtʃ/ verb to come into physical contact with another thing ○ He couldn’t touch the dead man. ■ noun physical contact ○ I can’t stand the touch of a dead body. ○ in touch radio contact with another call-sign ○ Are you in touch with 33? ○ to get in touch to establish radio contact with another call sign ○ Get in touch with 22B and ask them for a SI-TREP.

touch down /ˈtɑːdʌn/ verb (of aircraft) to land ○ The aircraft touched down at 1500 hrs.

tour /tɔr/ noun a period of operational duty ○ The regiment has just completed its second tour of duty in the region.

tourniquet /tʊrnɪˈkwet/ noun an act of twisting a stick through a bandage which is bound around a limb, in order to constrict the artery and thus reduce the bleeding from a serious wound ○ He applied a tourniquet.

COMMENT: A tourniquet can do more harm than good if it is incorrectly applied.

tow /təʊ/ verb to move a vehicle, aircraft or ship by pulling it ○ We had to tow the tank off the battlefield. ■ noun an act of pulling a vehicle behind another one using e.g. a rope ○ The broken-down truck was on tow.

**tow** ○ abbreviation troop ○ tube-launched, optically-tracked, wire-guided missile

tower /ˈtɔʊər/ noun a tall structure, usually built for observation or defence ○ town /taʊn/ noun a large settlement ○ toxic /ˈtəʊsɪk/ adjective poisonous ○ Clouds of toxic gas rose from the burning supply dump.

TP abbreviation trooper
tpq abbreviation technical quartermaster
tqms abbreviation technical quartermaster sergeant
tr-1 /trri/ noun US a document showing the order in which units and groupings deploy to an area of operations. Full form time phased ○ force deployment list
tpr abbreviation technical quarter

tpr abbreviation technical quartermaster

*tr-1* ○ abbreviation ○ technical quarter ○ master sergeant

trace /treɪs/ noun a piece of transparent paper or plastic, marked with boundaries, positions, routes, and other information relating to an operation, which is designed to be placed over a map as a means of briefing the participants. Also called *overlay*

tracer /ˈtreɪsə/ noun a bullet which is designed to ignite after firing and burn in flight, so that the fall of shot can be observed. Also called *incendiary bullet*

**tracer bullet** same as *incendiary bullet*

track /træk/ noun 1. marks on the ground, made by the movement of a person or vehicle ○ We followed the tracks of the convoy. 2. a rough path or
road  

Someone is moving along the track.  

There are several tracks through the wood.  

3. a railway line  

The track has been blown up in several places.  

4. a moving band of metal links fitted around the wheels of a tank or other armoured vehicle, enabling it to move over soft or uneven ground.  

The tank came off the road when it lost a track.  

Half-track  

1. to follow the track of a person or vehicle  

The deserters were tracked to the local railway station.  

2. to follow the movement of an aircraft, vehicle or ship using surveillance equipment or a missile guidance system.  

They were unable to track the aircraft.  

We are being tracked.

trained  

/trækld/ adjective (of armoured vehicles) fitted with tracks.

tracker dog  

/trækdr dɒg/ noun a dog trained to follow the smell of a person.

tracking  

/trækŋ/ noun the act of following the movement of an aircraft, vehicle or ship using surveillance equipment or a missile guidance system.

trade  

/træd/ noun 1. a general term for the business of buying and selling goods (especially between different countries).  

The war has severely disrupted all trade in the region.  

2. targets (especially enemy aircraft; air-force jargon)  

Hello Fruitbat, this is Merlin. I have some trade for you, north-west of Minden.

traffic  

/træfɪk/ noun 1. vehicles moving on a road  

The convoy was delayed by heavy traffic.  

2. a mass of messages on radio.  

There is too much unnecessary traffic on this net.

trail  

/trεl/ adjective relating to the subsequent waves of an advancing force, which are in a position to reinforce the leading elements or take over the lead when required.  

The enemy trail units were broken up by our airstrikes.  

follow-on forces  

noun 1. a rough path or track  

The patrol made its way up the trail.  

2. marks on the ground, made by the movement of a person or vehicle.  

We followed the trail left by enemy soldiers.  

3. a structure at the rear of an artillery piece, which enables it to be towed by a vehicle.

He fell over the trail of the gun.  

4. the way in which a bomb falls behind an aircraft after it has been dropped, because the aircraft’s forward speed is greater than that of the bomb.

trailer  

/ˈtreɪlə/ noun a vehicle with no engine, designed to be towed by another vehicle.

train  

/trɛn/ noun 1. several railway carriages towed by a railway engine.  

The battalion will move by train.  

2. a column of vehicles carrying supplies, which accompanies a military force.  

The enemy has captured our train.  

verb 1. to teach or instruct  

He has been trained in the use of explosives.  

2. (of artillery) to point a gun  

They trained their guns on the town.

trainer  

/trɛnə/ noun an aircraft used for training.

training  

/trɛnɪŋ/ noun the teaching and practice of military skills.  

We were sent to signals school for training.  

The unit spent two weeks in Norway undergoing Arctic training.

traitor  

/ˈtreɪtər/ noun a person who assists an enemy power against the interests of his own state.

trajectory  

/ˈtrædʒəktəri/ noun the curved flight of a projectile from the weapon to the point of impact.  

Mortars fire projectiles with a very high trajectory.

transceiver  

/trænsˈsɪvr/ noun a combined radio receiver and transmitter.

transfer  

/trænsˈfɔːzər/ noun an action of moving someone or something to a different position.

transfer of authority  

/trænsˈfɔːzər əv əˈɔrɪtəri/ noun the action of passing authority over forces from one commander to another, or from a national command to a NATO command.

transistor  

/trænsˈzɪstr/ noun part of a radio which amplifies the signal received.

transit  

/trænˈsɪt/ noun movement from one location to another.  

in transit moving from one location to another.  

The equipment was damaged in transit.
transit camp /ˈtrænsɪt kæmp/ noun
a camp providing temporary accommodation for people who are moving from one location to another

transmission /trəˈzɪmʃən/ noun
an act of sending a radio signal

transmit /trəˈzɪm/ verb
1. to send a radio signal ○ We were unable to transmit the signal. 2. to infect with a disease ○ The disease is transmitted by a parasite.

transmitter /trəˈzɪmər/ noun
an apparatus used to send a radio signal ○ We found a transmitter hidden in the attic of the farmhouse.

transport /trænspɔrt/ noun
1. an act of moving people or things by aircraft, ship or vehicle ○ The transport of the brigade will be carried out by aircraft. 2. an aircraft, ship or vehicle used to transport people or things ○ They stayed in the camp for ten days, waiting for transport. 3. verb to move people or things by aircraft, ship or vehicle ○ The tanks were transported by train.

transportation /trænspɔrtʃən/ noun
same as transport

transport helicopter /trænspɔrtˈhelɪkˌkɒptə/ noun
a helicopter designed to transport men or equipment. ○ chopper, gunship, rotary-wing aircraft

trap /træp/ noun
a deception or trick which encourages a person to place himself in a dangerous situation from which there is no escape ○ B Company have walked straight into a trap. 1. verb to place a person in a dangerous situation from which there is no escape ○ 3 Brigade has been trapped by the enemy encirclement. 2. The pilot was trapped in his cockpit. ○ TRAP/træp/ noun a mission to recover an aircraft and its crew, after being shot down or crashing in enemy territory. Full form tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel

trapdoor /træpˈdɔːr/ noun
a small door or hatch in a ceiling, floor or roof

traveller /træv(ə)lər/ noun
1. a person who travels from one place to another 2. same as gipsy

traverse /trəˈvɑːrs/ noun
a pair of right-angled bends in a trench, which is designed to prevent anyone firing up the entire length (in the event of the enemy capturing part of the trench) 1. verb 1. to move across an area of ground ○ We had to traverse 200m of open field. 2. (of guns) to move the barrel sideways when aiming or firing ○ Traverse left!

treachery /ˈtreʃəri/ noun
an act of betraying your country or comrades

treason /ˈtrezən/ noun
an act which threatens the interests or security of your own state

treaty /ˈtrɛti/ noun
a legal agreement made between countries, e.g. to form an alliance or set out peace terms after a war

treeline /ˈtriːlən/ noun
1. a line of trees ○ There is an enemy OP in that treeline. 2. the edge of a forest or wood ○ We stopped at the treeline. 3. an altitude above which trees cannot survive ○ The patrol moved back down to the treeline.

trembler /ˈtrɛmlər/ noun
a device designed to initiate an explosive device at the slightest movement. ○ tilt-switch

trench /ˈtrentʃ/ noun
a narrow hole or channel dug into the ground, in order to provide protection from enemy fire ○ COMMENT: The length of a trench can vary from a few metres to several kilometres, depending upon the tactical requirement at the time. During the First World War (1914–18), both the Allies and the Germans occupied trench systems which extended, without a break, from the North Sea to the Alps.

trench foot /ˈtrentʃ ˈfʊt/ noun
a severe fungal infection of the feet, caused by wearing wet boots over a long period

trews /ˈtrruz/ noun
trousers of tartan cloth, worn by some Scottish regiments

triage /trɪˈeɪdʒ/ noun
the process of assessing a casualty’s priority for medical treatment according to the nature of his injuries ○ We’ll set up triage over there.

triangulate /trɪəˈnæŋɡjəleɪt/ verb
1. to locate a radio using direction-finding equipment, by taking bearings on its emissions from three different locations
and then seeing where the bearings intersect on a map 2. to calculate your position by working out the back-bearings from three known or probable reference points and then seeing where the back-bearings intersect on a map

**triangulation point** /'træŋgjə'leɪʃn/ noun a small concrete or stone pillar, designed to serve as a firm base for cartographers' surveying instruments. Also called **trip point**

COMMENT: Triangulation points are permanent structures, and are represented on maps by a triangle with a dot in the centre.

**tribal** /'traːb(ə)/ adjective relating to tribes. *The civil war is essentially a tribal conflict.*

**tribe** /'traɪb/ noun a group of families or communities sharing a common language or dialect, distinct ethnic or religious links, and a strong sense of group identity and loyalty to their own leaders. *In Nigeria, the two main tribes are the Ibo and the Yoruba.*

COMMENT: The word tribe has rather a primitive connotation, and is really only applicable to communities in certain developing countries, especially Africa.

**tributary** /'trɪbjuːtəri/ noun a river or stream which flows into a larger river

**tricolor** adjective US spelling of tricolour

**tricolour** /'trɪkələr/ noun a flag consisting of three different blocks of colour (usually side by side). *The French national flag is a tricolour of blue, white and red.*

**trigger** /'trɪgər/ noun a moving lever which releases the firing mechanism of a gun

**trigger-happy** /'trɪgər 'heɪpi/ adjective lacking in judgement when using firearms, willing to shoot at random

**trig point** /'trɪg pɔɪnt/ noun same as triangulation point

**trinitrotoluene** /'trɪnɪtrətəljuːn/ noun same as TNT

**trip** /'trɪp/ verb to stumble or fall as a result of catching your legs in something. *He tripped over an ammunition box.*

**trip-flare** /'trɪp flɛə/ noun a flare which is activated by a trip-wire

**Triple-A** abbreviation anti-aircraft artillery

**triplicate** /'trɪplɪkət/ noun a third copy of a document. *in triplicate* in three copies

**tripod** /'trɪpəd/ noun a three-legged stand designed to support a weapon or other piece of equipment

**tripwire** /'trɪpwaiə/ noun a wire which is stretched horizontally close to the ground, in order to activate an explosive device, trip-flare or other device when someone trips over it

**trop** /'trɒp/ noun 1. a platoon-sized armoured grouping of three or more tanks. 2. a platoon-sized artillery grouping of two or more guns. 3. a platoon-sized grouping in certain supporting arms, such as engineers. 4. US a company-sized armoured cavalry grouping of three or more platoons. *abbr Tp*

**troop commander** /'trɒp 'kɔmən'dər/ noun the officer in command of a troop

**trooper** /'trɒpər/ noun a private soldier in an armoured regiment. *abbr Tpr (note: also used as a title: Trooper Williams)*

**Trooping the Colour** /'trɔpɪŋ ə 'kʌlə/ noun a ceremonial parade where a unit’s colours are displayed to the troops

**troops** /'trɔps/ noun soldiers in general. *Troops are being deployed in the region.* *The enemy fell back, their troops were tired and demoralized.* *British troops entered the capital on Friday morning.*

**troopship** /'trʊpʃip/ noun a ship designed or adapted to transport troops

**tropical** /'trɒpɪk(ə)/ adjective. 1. relating to the Tropics. *We had to get used to tropical conditions.* 2. designed for use in hot climates. *Tropical clothing will be issued for the operation.*

**Tropics** /'trɒpɪks/ noun all the region between latitudes 23° 28N (Tropic of Cancer) and 23° 28S (Tropic of Capricorn)
truce /truːs/ noun an agreement by both sides to stop fighting ○ Both sides agreed to sign a truce. ○ armistice, ceasefire

truck /trʌk/ noun a large wheeled vehicle designed to transport men, equipment or supplies (NOTE: British English also uses the word lorry.)

tssete fly /ˈtsɛtsi flaɪ, ˈsetsi flaɪ/ noun an African insect, whose bite can cause African trypanosomiasis or sleeping sickness ○ That region is infested with tssete flies.

TU-16 /ˈtiːdʒəʊ siˈstɪn/ noun a Soviet-designed medium bomber aircraft (NOTE: known to NATO as Badger)

TU-22 /ˈtiːdʒəʊ ˈtwɛntɪtjuː/ noun a Soviet-designed medium bomber aircraft (NOTE: known to NATO as Blinder; a strategic variant of this aircraft is known as Backfire)

TU-95 /ˈtiːdʒəʊ ˈnɛmətiˈfaɪə/ noun a Soviet-designed strategic bomber aircraft (NOTE: known to NATO as the Bear)

TU-160 /ˈtiːdʒəʊ ˈwʌnˈsɪksɪtl/ noun a Soviet-designed strategic bomber aircraft (NOTE: known to NATO as the Blackjack)

tube /ˈtjuːb/ noun a cylindrical container ○ a tube of cam-cream

tube-launched, optically-tracked, wire-guided missile noun full form of TOW

tumulus /ˈtjuːmjuːləs/ noun a small man-made mound, usually marking the site of an ancient grave (NOTE: The plural form is tumuli.)

tunic /ˈtjuːmɪk/ noun a close-fitting jacket, worn as part of a ceremonial uniform ○ The soldiers wore red tunics.

tunnel /ˈtjuːn(ə)l/ noun a man-made passage dug under the ground or through a hill ○ Terrorists have blown up the railway tunnel. ○ We found a system of tunnels under the enemy position. ○ verb to dig a tunnel ○ They managed to escape by tunnelling under the prison wall.

turf /ˈtɜːrf/ noun a layer of grass and the soil surrounding its roots, which can be removed from the ground intact or in sections ○ The turf is used to camouflage the parapet and parados.

turning movement /ˈtɜːrnɪŋ ˈmjuːvment/ noun a manoeuvre designed to force an enemy to change his positions to meet a new threat, usually achieved by advancing on him from an unexpected direction (e.g. from a flank)

turret /ˈtɜːrɪt/ noun a revolving gun compartment on an aircraft or armoured fighting vehicle (AFV) or warship

turret-mounted /ˈtɜːrɪt ˈmaʊntɪd/ adjective referring to a gun which is fitted inside a turret

twenty-four hour clock /ˈtwɛntɪ ˈfɔːr ˌkloʊk/ noun a timing

twin /twɪn/ adjective fitted as a pair

twin-barrelled /twɪn ˈbærəld/ adjective with two barrels

twin-mounted machine-guns /twɪn ˈmaʊntɪd məˈʃɪn ˈģʌnz/ plural noun two machine-guns mounted coaxially

2IC /ˈtjuː at ˈsiː/ abbreviation second in command

2Lt abbreviation second lieutenant

two-pronged attack /tuː prɒŋd əˈtæk/ noun an attack mounted on two different parts of the enemy’s line at the same time

two-star general /ˈtuː ˈstɑː/ noun a major general

two-up /ˈtjuː wʌp/ adverb in a tactical formation in which two sub-units are leading abreast of each other, and the third sub-unit is following ○ We’re on assaulting two-up. Compare one-up

COMMENT: This formation is suitable for an assault.

typhoid fever /ˈtaɪfɔɪd ˈfiːvər/ noun an infection of the intestine, caused by Salmonella typhi in food and water

typhus /ˈtaɪfəs/ noun an infectious fever caused by the Rickettsia bacterium, which is transmitted by lice

COMMENT: Epidemics of typhus are very common in wartime due to a breakdown in hygiene and sanitation.

tyre /ˈtaɪər/ noun a circular rubber cover containing an air-filled inner tube, which is fitted to a vehicle wheel
UNIFORM - Uu

UAV /juː 'vɪə/ noun another name for a drone. Full form unmanned aerial vehicle. Also called remotely piloted vehicle (RPV)

UCAV noun an attack aircraft which is controlled remotely from the ground or the air. Full form unmanned combat aerial vehicle

UCMJ noun the laws that govern the conduct of the members of the US armed forces. Full form Uniform Code of Military Justice

UFO /juː 'fɔʊ/ noun any unexplained object which is seen flying through the air or detected on a radar screen. Full form unidentified flying object (NOTE: This term is usually applied to suspected alien spacecraft.)

UGS abbreviation unattended ground sensor

UH-1 /juː 'hɛn/ noun Huey

UH-60 /juː 'stɪku/ noun Blackhawk

UHF abbreviation ultra high frequency

UK abbreviation United Kingdom

UKLFO abbreviation United Kingdom Land Forces

UKLO abbreviation United Kingdom liaison officer

ULC /juː 'lɑːtʃ/ noun a large metal container pre-packed with artillery rounds, designed to be transported onto the battlefield

ultimatum /aʊl'tɪmətəm/ noun a demand accompanied by a threat to take action if the demand is not met

ultra high frequency /ˌʌltə hæt frɛkˈwɛnsi/ noun the range of radio frequencies from 300 – 3,000 megahertz (MHz). Abbr UHF

umpire /ˈʌmpaɪər/ noun a person assigned to observe a military training exercise and to assess the performance of those taking part • He was acting as umpire. • verb to act as an umpire • He is umpiring the exercise.

UN abbreviation United Nations

unarmed /ənˈɑːmd/ adjective without weapons

unarmed combat /ənˈɑːmd, kɒm 'bæt/ noun fighting using the hands, arms and feet, but not guns • Marines receive special training in unarmed combat.

unarmoured /ənˈɑːmd/ adjective (vehicle) which is not protected by armour (such as a jeep, lorry, truck, etc.). Also called soft-skinned

unattached /ənˈtætʃt/ adjective not attached

unattached personnel /ənˈtætʃt pɜːsənəl/ noun people who are not members of or attached to a specific unit

unauthorized /ənˈɔːrhəˌzd/ adjective (of documents or information) without a security classification (such as restricted, secret, etc.) • This is unclassified.

COMMENT: Unclassified information is information which may be passed to the media and the general public.

unconditional surrender /ənˈkəndəʃən səˈrendər noun surrender where the side which is surrendering is not permitted to dictate any of its own terms or conditions • They de-
unconscious
manded the unconditional surrender of the whole battalion.

unconscious /ənˈkɒnʃəs/ adjective not awake and unaware of your surroundings as a result of illness or injury ○ One of the casualties is unconscious.

undercarriage /ˌʌndəkɑːrɪdʒ/ noun a structure to which the wheels of an aircraft are attached ○ The pilot was unable to lower the undercarriage.

underground /ˈʌndəɡraʊnd/ adjective 1. constructed or designed to operate beneath the surface of the ground ○ an underground railway 2. relating to a group or movement which is working secretly against the established authority or an occupying power ○ I have been given the task of collecting information on underground organizations. ● noun 1. an underground railway 2. a group or movement which is working secretly against the established authority or an occupying power ○ The commandos were working with the local underground.

undergrowth /ˈʌndəɡrəʊθ/ noun bushes and plants growing beneath the trees of a wood or forest ○ Someone is moving through the undergrowth on our left.

underpass /ˌʌndəpɑːs/ noun a road which passes beneath another road (by means of a tunnel or bridge)

underslung load /ˈʌndəslʌŋ ləʊd/ noun a load of equipment or supplies which is carried suspended from a helicopter

unexploded /ˌʌnɪkˈsplɔʊd/ adjective referring to a bomb or other device which has failed to explode but is still capable of exploding

UNHCR abbreviation United Nations High Commission for Refugees

unidentified flying object /ˌʌnɪdɪˈfɪnd fəʊˈɪŋ əˈbɪdʒɪk/ noun full form of UFO

UNIFICYP abbreviation United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

unified command /ˌʌnɪfɪd kəˈmɑːnd/ noun the process of placing all your military assets under one overall commander (commander in chief) and his headquarters

uniform /juˈnɪfɔːm/ adjective (of pattern, shape, size, weight, etc.) exactly the same, identical ○ The armour is of uniform thickness all over the vehicle. ● noun standard military clothing worn by members of the same arm or grouping

Uniform Code of Military Justice /juˈnɪfɔːm kɑːd əv ˈmɪlti(ə)rɪˈdʒæstɪs/ noun full form of UCMJ

UNIMOG abbreviation United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group

uninhabited /ˌʌnɪnˈhæbɪtɪd/ adjective not lived in ○ The village is uninhabited.

Union flag /juːˈnɪʃən ˈfлæɡ/ noun the national flag of Great Britain. Also called Union Jack

Union Jack /juːˈnɪʃən ˈdʒæk/, Union flag /juːˈnɪʃən ˈfлæɡ/ noun the national flag of Great Britain (NOTE: The term Union flag is more correct, but Union Jack is more usual.)

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics /juˈnɪʃən əv ˈsəʊviət ˈsəʊjəˈɛlist rɪˈpʌblɪks/ noun full form of USSR

unit /ˈjuːnɪt/ noun 1. a military grouping with its own organization and command structure 2. a standard quantity ○ A kilometre is a unit of linear measure. ○ COMMENT: In the army, a unit normally refers to a battalion or equivalent-sized grouping.

United Kingdom / juː ˈkɪŋdəm/ noun a country formed of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Abbr UK

United Nations /juː ˈnɛʃən/ noun an international organization dedicated to the promotion of world peace, and able to call upon its member states to contribute military forces for international peacekeeping operations. Abbr UN

United States /juː ˈstɛtɪz/, United States of America noun a large country in North America, the world’s
single superpower o The United States were not involved in the peace talks. Abbr US

United States Air Force /ju:,nætɪd stɪts 'ɛə/ noun the American air force. Abbr USAF

United States Marine Corps /ju:,nætɪd stɪts 'mərɪn / noun American units of marines. Abbr USMC

unlawful combatant /ənˈlɔːfəl/ 'kɒmbətənt/ noun US someone such as a terrorist who undertakes military-style operations, but is not a member of a country’s regular armed forces or following the rules of war

unload /ənˈlɔːd/ verb 1. to remove ammunition from a weapon o They were ordered to unload. 2. to remove a load from an aircraft, ship or vehicle o The enemy attacked while we were unloading the ship.

unloading bay /ənˈlɔːdɪŋ bɛt/ noun a place where weapons may be loaded and unloaded safely

unmanned /ənˈmænd/ adjective 1. (of an aircraft) designed to fly without a pilot (that is, by remote control) 2. (of an installation) not needing people to man it o The rebroadcasting station is unmanned.

unmanned aerial vehicle /ənˈmænd, əˈɛəriəl ˈvɪrɪk(ə)/ noun full form of UAV

unmanned combat aerial vehicle /ənˈmænd ˈkɒmbət əˈɛəriəl ˈvɪrɪk(ə)/ noun full form of UCAV

unmetalled /ənˈmɛtəld/ adjective US spelling of unmetalled

unmetalled /ənˈmɛtəld/ adjective (of roads and tracks) without a surface of asphalt or tarmac or other strengthening materials (e.g. gravel or small stones).

dirt road

UNMO /ˈʌnməʊ/ abbreviation United Nations military observer

unobtainable /ˌʌnəˈteɪnəb(ə)l/ adjective not in radio contact (radio terminology) o B Company is unobtainable at the moment.

UNPA /ˈʌnpə/ abbreviation United Nations protected area

UNPF abbreviation United Nations peace forces

UNPROFOR /ˌʌnprəˈfɔːr/ abbreviation United Nations Protection Force

UNSC abbreviation United Nations Security Council

UNSCR abbreviation United Nations Security Council resolution

unserviceable /ənˈsɜːvɪsəb(ə)l/ adjective (of equipment) damaged or defective (so that it does not work properly) o The radio is unserviceable. Abbr u/s

untenable /ənˈteɪnəbl/ adjective impossible to defend o Our position is untenable.

update /ˈʌpdrət/ noun fresh information o Here is the latest intelligence update. o verb to give someone fresh information o I need to update you on the latest intelligence.

updraught /ˈʌpdraʊt/ noun a strong upward current of air

upgrade /ˈʌprɡriːd/ verb to improve the design or capability of something

upper case /ˈʌpər/ adjective as A, B, C, etc., is the opposite, i.e. small letters written as a, b, c, etc., is lower case.

upstream /ˈʌpstrɪm/ adverb in the opposite direction to that in which a river or stream is flowing o We moved upstream. o The enemy are crossing upstream of the town. Compare downstream

upwind /ˈʌpwind/ adverb in a position where the wind is blowing from your own location towards another location o Unfortunately, our position was upwind of the chemical attack. Compare downwind

urban /ˈɜːbən/ adjective relating to towns and cities. Compare rural

urgent /ˈɜːrʒnt/ adjective requiring immediate action or attention o We have received an urgent message from HQ.

US /juː/ ‘es/ adjective referring to the United States of America o US troops landed last night.
u/s  abbreviation unserviceable
USA  abbreviation 1. United States Army 2. United States of America
USAF  abbreviation United States Air Force
USAFE  abbreviation United States Air Force in Europe
USAREUR  abbreviation United States Army in Europe
USEUCOM  abbreviation United States European Command
USMC  abbreviation United States Marine Corps
USN  abbreviation United States Navy
USS  /ju: es/ abbreviation prefix given to all ships of the United States Navy. I served on board the USS Saratoga. Full form United States Ship
USSR  /ju: es 'es/ noun the full official title of the former Soviet Union. Full form Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

utility  /ju:'tɪltɪ/ adjective designed for general use
utility helicopter  /ju:'tɪltɪ 'helɪkɒptə/ noun US a helicopter designed to transport men, equipment or supplies
U-turn  /'tɜːrn/ noun an act of turning a vehicle sharply around, so that it is facing in the direction from which it has just come. The tank did a U-turn and disappeared behind the church.
UXB  abbreviation unexploded bomb
UXO  noun any bomb, missile, explosive projectile or other explosive device which has been dropped or fired or initiated and has failed to explode, either partly or completely. There is a lot of UXO lying about. They're doing UXO disposal in the village. Full form unexploded bomb. UXB
Uzi  /ˈuːzi/ noun an Israeli-designed 9mm sub-machine-gun
VICTOR - Vv

**vaccinate** /vəˈksɪneɪt/ verb to give someone a vaccine which prevents him or her from contracting a disease. We were vaccinated against anthrax.

**vaccination** /vəˈkænʃən/ noun an act of vaccinating someone.

**vaccine** /vəˈsɪn/ noun a substance, containing the germs of a disease, which provides a person with immunity to that disease.

**V-agent** /vɪˈeɪdʒənt/ noun a persistent nerve agent.

**valley** /ˈvæli/ noun an area of low ground flanked by hills, usually with a river running through it.

**van** /væn/ noun 1. a light motor vehicle designed for carrying goods. The bomb was hidden in a small white van. 2. a vanguard: The general was moving in the van of the advancing force.

**vanguard** /ˈvæŋɡərd/ noun leading elements of the main body of an advancing force.

**vantage point** /ˈvæntidʒ ˈpɔɪnt/ noun a place from which one can observe a thing or area. That hill is an excellent vantage point.

**vapor** /ˈveɪpər/ noun US spelling of vapour.

**vapour** /ˈveɪpər/ noun particles of liquid or other substance suspended in air.

**variable-time fuse** /ˈvɛərɪəbl-ˈtɪm ˈfjuːs/ noun a fuse fitted to an artillery shell, which causes it to explode at a specified height above the ground.

**variant** /ˈvɛərɪənt/ noun a model which is different from the original design.

**VD** abbreviation venereal disease.

**vector** /ˈvektər/ noun a course taken by a machine which moves ahead of the main body.

**vegetation** /vɛdʒɪˈteɪʃən/ noun plants in general. There is very little vegetation on the island.

**vehicle** /ˈvɪəkl/ noun a machine which moves on land.

**vehicle check-point** /ˈvɪəkl ˈtʃɛk ˈpɔɪnt/ noun full form of VCP.

**vehicle state** /ˈvɪəkl ˈsteɪt/ noun the condition of vehicles held by a unit or sub-unit.

**vehicular first-aid kit** /ˈvɛhɪkl fɜːrst ˈɛd ,kɪt/ noun a first aid kit kept in a vehicle.

**veiled speech** /ˈvɛld ˈspɪrtʃ/ noun an act of speaking on a telephone or radio, in such a way as to conceal the true meaning of the conversation, without actually using a code.

**veld** /ˈvɛlt/, /ˈvɛlt/ noun in South Africa, an uncultivated grassland.
velocity noun the speed at which an object travels
venereal disease noun a disease which is passed by sexual contact (e.g. gonorrhoea, syphilis, etc.). Abbr VD
venomous adjective (of snakes, insects and some other creatures) having a poisonous bite or sting ○ I don’t think this snake is venomous.

vertical take-off and landing noun technology which enables a fixed-wing aircraft to take off and land from a stationary position (i.e. without the need for a runway). ○ The Harrier has a vertical take-off and landing capability. Abbr VTOL

vertical take-off/very high frequency

very high frequency has the range of radio frequencies from 30 – 300 megahertz (MHz). Abbr VHF

Very light noun an illuminating flare which is fired from a Very pistol

very high frequency
troops looted the town. ○ The victorious army conquered one state after another.

victory /ˈvɪktəri/ noun the defeat of an enemy in battle or war ○ It was a decisive victory which changed the outcome of the war. ○ Marlborough won a series of victories in Northern Europe.

view /vjuː/ noun an area which is visible from a particular location

Viggen /ˌvɪɡən/ noun Saab-37

vigilance /ˈvɪdʒələns/ noun an act of guarding against a possible danger or threat ○ We need to show extra vigilance tonight.

vigilant /ˈvɪdʒələnt/ adjective alert to a possible danger or threat

vigor /ˈvɪgər/ noun US spelling of vigour

vigorous /ˈvɪgərəs/ adjective showing or demanding strong physical effort ○ Paratroops undergo a vigorous training course.

vigour /ˈvɪgər/ noun a strong physical effort ○ The attack was not pressed home with sufficient vigour.

Viking /ˈvɪskɪŋ/ noun see ○ S-3

village /ˈvɪldʒ/ noun a small rural settlement

virus /ˈvɜːrəs/ noun a germ cell which infects the cells of living organisms, thus causing disease

visibility /ˈvɪzəbəlɪtɪ/ noun the amount of what is visible ○ Visibility was poor because of the fog. ○ Visibility is down to two hundred metres.

visible /ˈvɪzəbəl/ adjective able to be seen ○ The tanks were clearly visible.

vision /ˈvɪʒən/ noun the ability to see ○ He suffered a temporary loss of vision.

visor /ˈvɜːzər/ noun a movable shield attached to a helmet, which is designed to protect the face while allowing the wearer to see

visual /ˈvɪʒuəl/ adjective relating to sight ○ to have a person on visual to be able to see a person

visual contact /ˌvɪʒuəl ˈkɑntəkt/ noun a situation where two or more people or groupings can see each other

visual display unit /ˌvɪʒuəl dɪˈspleɪ juːn/ noun an apparatus similar to a television, attached to a computer, which shows data on a screen. Abbr VDU

vital /ˈvɪtəl/ adjective 1. of the greatest importance ○ It is vital that you capture that position. 2. essential to the outcome of a matter

vital ground /ˈvɪtəl ˈɡraʊnd/ noun an area of ground which, if captured by the enemy, will make it impossible for a unit or sub-unit to fulfil its mission

COMMENT: The vital ground of a sub-unit (such as a platoon) will often constitute the ground of tactical importance of its higher formation (i.e. the company). If a unit’s vital ground is captured, then that unit has effectively lost its part of the battle.

voice procedure /ˈvɔɪs prəˈsɪdʒəl/ noun the standard words and expressions which are used when talking on a radio ○ ‘Hello 22, this is 2, use correct voice procedure, out!’

volatile /ˈvɒlətəl/ adjective likely to change suddenly, or likely to become violent and dangerous without warning ○ The situation in the capital is still extremely volatile.

volley /ˈvɒli/ noun an act of firing several weapons at the same time, in order to produce a concentration of fire ○ They fired several volleys into the crowd. ■ verb to fire several guns together

volume /ˈvɒljuːm/ noun a quantity of sound given out by a radio or other apparatus

volunteer /ˌvɒləˈtɜːr/ noun 1. a person who offers to do a task ○ I need a volunteer to take a message back to headquarters. 2. a person who joins the armed forces because he wishes to, rather than because he is conscripted ○ Most of the men in the battalion are volunteers. ○ conscript ■ verb to offer to carry out a task (usually one which is dangerous or unpleasant) ○ He volunteered to take the message back to HQ.

vomit /ˈvɒmɪt/ verb to bring up food from one’s stomach ○ The gas made him vomit.
vomiting agent 258

**vomiting agent** /ˈvɒmɪtɪŋ ɛrdʒənt/  
*noun* a chemical agent designed to make a person feel ill and vomit

**voyage** /ˈvoʊidʒ/  
*noun* a journey made by a ship

**VR55** /ˈvɜːrˌsəˌfɜːr/  
*noun* a NATO name for Soviet-produced nerve agent

**VSI** *abbreviation* very seriously injured

**V/STOL** *abbreviation* vertical or short take-off and landing

**VT** *abbreviation* variable-time fuse

**VTOL** *abbreviation* vertical take-off and landing

**Vulcan** /ˈvʌlkən/  
*1. noun* a nickname for the American-designed M-61A1 20mm anti-aircraft cannon  
*2. noun* an obsolete British-designed strategic bomber aircraft

**vulnerable** /ˈvʌlnərəbl/  
*adjective*  
1. *(of people)* easy to injure or kill  
2. *(of things)* easy to damage or destroy  
3. *(of groupings)* easy to outmanoeuvre or overrun

**COMMENT:** The chemical composition of **VX** is still secret.
WHISKY - Ww

WAC /wæk/ abbreviation weapons-aiming computer
wade /wəd/ verb to walk through water ○ The company had to wade the river.
wadi /wədə/ noun in Arabic countries, a dry river-bed or gully (in desert regions) ○ The mortar line was sited in a wadi.
wage /wɛdʒ/ verb □ to wage war on someone to fight a war against someone
wait out /wət 'aut/ phrase I am too busy to give you further information at the moment, but I will call you as soon as I am able to ○ 'Hello 2, this is 22, contact, grid 021944, wait out!' ○ 'Hello 3, this is 33d, am being shelled, wait out!'

war /wɔr/ noun 1. an armed conflict between nations ○ War broke out in the Middle East. ○ to declare war on someone to state officially that you are in a state of war with someone ○ to be on a war footing to be at full strength and fully equipped and prepared to fight a war ○ The battalion is now on a war footing. 2. used in names of particular wars ○ the Crimean War ○ the First World War

war correspondent /wɔr kərəsəmpənənt/ noun a journalist or reporter who is attached to a military force, in order to report on a war
war crime /wɔr k्रəm/ noun an act which violates international rules of war
wardroom /wɔrdrəm/ noun an officers' mess on a warship
warehouse /wɔr'heus/ noun a large building used for storing goods

warfare /wɔrˈfɛr/ noun a war (in general) ○ arctic warfare ○ nuclear warfare
warfighter /wɔrˈfɪtnər/ noun someone engaged in fighting in a war or armed conflict
warfighting /wɔrˈfɪtnɪŋ/ noun active engagement in armed conflict
wargame /wɔrˈgæmi/ verb to test the viability of an operational plan, by playing it out on a map and calculating likely enemy responses ○ We wargamed several different scenarios.
wargames /wɔrˈgæmz/ plural noun a military training exercise. ○ exercises, manoeuvres
War Graves Commission /ˈwɔr griːvəz ,kærɪmʃən/ noun an official British organization responsible for setting up and maintaining cemeteries for servicemen who die or are killed in wartime
warhead /ˈwɔrheɪd/ noun an explosive head of a missile or other projectile

War in Iraq /ˈwɔr ɪn 'ɪrək/ noun same as Gulf War II
warn /wɔrn/ verb 1. to inform another person of a danger or threat ○ We warned him of the increased chemical threat. 2. to inform another person that his actions or conduct are unacceptable and that he will be punished if it happens again ○ He was warned about his behaviour.
warning /ˈwɔrnɪŋ/ noun 1. an act of warning someone ○ We have received a warning of a probable nuclear strike. 2. an official record that a person has been warned about his actions or conduct ○ He was given a warning.
warning order /ˈwɔrɪŋ ,wɔrd/ noun a message which warns a unit or sub-
warning signal

unit of a future operation or task, and provides sufficient information for the unit to start making its preparations.

COMMENT: Apart from the task itself, the most important piece of information in a warning order is the timing ‘no move before …’.

warning signal /ˈwɔːrɪŋ ˈsɛnərɪ/ noun a signal such as a red light, which warns that something has gone wrong

warrant /ˈwɔrənt/ noun a document which authorizes a person to do something

warrant officer /ˈwɔrənt ˈɒfɪsər/ noun 1, a senior non-commissioned officer in the army or air force who holds his or her rank by Royal Warrant. 2, US a senior non-commissioned officer who holds a special rank because his or her job requires a greater level of responsibility than that which is normally expected of senior enlisted personnel. Abbr WO

warrant officer first class /ˈwɔrənt ˈɑːstʃ klas/ noun a regimental sergeant major or someone of equivalent seniority. Abbr WO1

warrant officer second class /ˈwɔrənt ˈsɛkənd klas/ noun a company sergeant major or regimental quartermaster sergeant or someone of equivalent seniority. Abbr WO2

war reserves /ˈwɔːr riˈzɜrz/ plural noun stocks of equipment and supplies kept to be available immediately in case of war

warring /ˈwɔrɪŋ/ adjective actively involved in armed conflict. - Negotiations between the warring factions have collapsed.

Warrior /ˈwɔrɪər/ noun a British-designed 1980s-era infantry fighting vehicle (IFV)

Warsaw Pact /ˈwɔrəst/ noun a military alliance, consisting of the Soviet Union and other communist countries of Eastern Europe (e.g. Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, etc.), which disintegrated following the collapse of communism at the end of the 1980s
watchkeeper /ˈwɑːt,kiːpər/ noun 1. a naval duty officer on a warship who, in the event of an unforeseen incident, is qualified to make command decisions until a more senior officer takes over. 2. an operational appointment in the army, in which an officer or non-commissioned officer has limited control over a headquarters department while the normal staff officer is resting or engaged in other tasks. I acted as a G4 watchkeeper in Bosnia.

water bottle /ˈwaːtbɔtəl/ noun a storage bottle for carrying a personal supply of drinking water. 2. a water container for storing water

water bowser /ˈwaːtbəʊsər/ noun a water storage tank mounted on the back of a vehicle

watercourse /ˈwaːtkɔːrs/ noun a canal, river, stream or dry river-bed

waterfall /ˈwaːtəfɔːl/ noun a place where a river or stream flows over a cliff or rocks

water point /ˈwaːtpɔint/ noun a location where water may be replenished.

waterproof /ˈwaːtəprəft/ adjective of clothing, footwear, etc. designed to prevent the passage of water. I’ve got a waterproof sleeping-bag cover. 2. verb to make something waterproof. He is waterproofing his boots.

water tank /ˈwaːttæŋk/ noun a large container for storing water

watertight /ˈwaːtarˌtaɪt/ adjective (of compartments, doors, joints, etc.) designed to prevent the passage of water. All the compartments in the boat are watertight.

water trailer /ˈwaːtətrəl/ noun US a water tank on a wheeled frame, suitable for being towed behind a vehicle.

waterway /ˈwaːtwɔərι/ noun a canal or navigable river

wave /wɔːv/ noun 1. a moving ridge of water. A huge wave broke over the ship. 2. one of several tactical groupings which are advancing or attacking, one behind the other. 3. Waves of bombers attacked the town. 4. verb 1. to raise your hand and move it about as a greeting. The girls waved at the soldiers as they marched past. 2. to raise your arm and move it as a signal. He waved the men away. 3. to display something by raising it and moving it about. The enemy were waving white flags.

way /weɪ/ noun 1. a road, path, track or any other natural or man-made feature which allows movement. 2. method. That’s not the way to do it. 3. a direction. B Company HQ is that way.

waypoint /ˈweɪpɔɪnt/ noun a place or feature on the ground which is used as a navigational reference point (especially with satellite navigation systems). Our next waypoint is the church at grid 637921.

W/Cdr abbreviation wing commander

WCP /ˈwɪpərkjuːpl/ noun weapon collection point

weak /wɛik/ adjective 1. not strong. He was very weak through loss of blood. 2. (of groupings) not at full strength. We have a weak brigade in front of us.

weapon /ˈweɪpən/ noun 1. any object which is designed to kill or injure (such as a bayonet, grenade, rifle, etc.). 2. He has lost his weapon. 3. any object which is used to kill or injure (such as a broken bottle, knife, piece of wood, etc.). A wide variety of weapons were taken from the rioters. 3. any object which is designed to cause damage (such as a bomb, missile, rocket, etc.). The enemy are threatening to use nuclear weapons.

weapon collection point /ˈweɪpən kəˈlekʃən ˈpɔɪnt/ noun full form of WCP

weaponize, weaponise verb to process chemical, nuclear, or biological material so that it can be deployed as a
weapon of mass destruction 262

weapon of mass destruction /ˌweɪpɒn ɒv ˈmeɪ ɪŋ ˌstrækˈfɔn/ noun a weapon, usually nuclear, biological, or chemical, which can cause huge devastation and loss of life

weapon pit /ˈweɪpən ˈpɪt/ noun a pit dug as a fire-position for a large weapon, which offers concealment and protection from enemy fire

weaponry /ˈweɪpənri/ noun weapons in general

weapons-grade uranium /ˌweɪpənz ˌgreɪd juˈreɪmən/ noun same as depleted uranium

weapon state /ˈweɪpən stɛt/ noun the condition in which a weapon is carried (i.e. unloaded, made safe or made ready)

weapons training /ˌweɪpənz ˈtrɛnɪŋ/ noun training for soldiers in the use of their weapons

weapon system /ˌweɪpən ˌsɪstəm/ noun a weapon which utilizes sophisticated technology (such as a guided missile)

weapon systems officer /ˌweɪpən ˌsɪstəmz ˌɒfʃər/ noun a US Army officer training establishment

weather /ˈweðər/ noun the daily changes in the condition of the earth’s atmosphere (such as rain, sunshine, wind, etc.)

webbing /ˈwebɪŋ/ noun 1. a strong fabric used to make belts, equipment pouches, rifle slings, etc. 2. a set of equipment pouches attached to a belt or harness ○ He has lost his webbing.

web gear /ˈweb ɡɪər/ noun same as webbing

wedge /weʤ/ noun a tactical formation in the shape of a triangle (e.g. one sub-unit leading as point, with the other two sub-units following abreast of each other)

weight /weɪt/ noun the heaviness of an object

well /wel/ noun a man-made hole in the ground from which water is obtained

wellington boot /ˌwelɪŋtən ˈbʌst/ noun 1. a waterproof rubber boot which reaches up to the knee 2. an elegant leather boot, which reaches up to the knee but is worn covered by the trouser leg, as part of a ceremonial uniform or mess kit

Wessex /ˈwestɪks/ noun a British-made utility helicopter

west /west/ noun 1. one of the four main points of the compass, corresponding to a bearing of 270 degrees or 4800 mils 2. an area to the west of your location ○ The enemy are approaching from the west. 3. a the West Europe and North America 4. the western part of a country ○ adjective relating to the west ○ the West Gate ○ west wind wind blowing from the west ○ adverb towards the west ○ The enemy is moving west

westbound /westˈbænd/ adjective moving or leading towards the west ○ a westbound convoy

westerly /ˈwestərli/ adjective 1. towards the west ○ They pushed forward in a westerly direction. 2. (of wind) from the west

western /ˈwestən/ adjective relating to the west ○ The western part of the country

Western Bloc /ˈwestən ˈbloks/ noun a term sometimes applied to NATO

Western European Union /ˌwestən ˌjʊərəˈpiːən ˌjuːɹəˈmən/ noun a group of European countries linked together for mutual protection; the Union is now seen as the European Union’s future defence arm, and it now includes several Eastern European countries as associate members. Abbr WEU

West Point /west ˈpɔɪnt/ noun a US Army officer training establishment ○ He is a graduate of West Point.

westward /westˈwɔːrd/ adjective towards the west ○ a westward direction ○ adverb US towards the west ○ They are moving westward.

westwards /westˈwɔːrdz/ adverb towards the west ○ They are moving westwards.
wind-chill factor

Royal Navy (it is white, with a red cross and the Union Jack in one corner)

white phosphorus /wát ˈfɪzərəs/ noun 1 a chemical substance which burns on contact with oxygen, producing dense clouds of white smoke 2 a smoke-producing projectile, or grenade containing white phosphorus • abbr WP

COMMENT: Projectiles and grenades containing white phosphorus are usually painted light green, with red lettering and markings.


WIA abbreviation wounded in action

wilco /ˈwɪlkəʊ/ verb I will carry out your instructions (radio terminology) • 'Hello22, this is 2, move now, over.' – '22 wilco, out.' Full form will comply

Wildcat /ˈwɪldkæt/ noun a German-designed wheeled self-propelled anti-aircraft gun (SPAAG)

wilderness /ˈwɪldənəs/ noun an uninhabited and uncultivated area or region

Wild Weasel /ˈwɪld wɛzəl/ noun US an air-force role, involving the use of radar-detecting equipment and anti-radar missiles (ARM) to suppress enemy surface-to-air missile sites

winch /ˈwɪntʃ/ verb to lift or drop from a helicopter using a rope • The injured man was winched to safety • Two crew members were winched down to the forward position

wind /wɪnd/ noun a strong movement of air • The high winds brought down two aerials.

windage /ˈwɪndʒɪdʒ/ noun 1. an effect of wind on a projectile in flight 2. an allowance made for wind when aiming a weapon

wind-chill /ˈwɪnd tʃɪl/ noun an effect of cold wind on a person when the air temperature is low, making him even colder

wind-chill factor /ˈwɪnd tʃɪl ˈfæktoʊr/ noun a method of calculating the risk of hypothermia by adding the speed of the wind to the number of degrees of tem-
windscreen /'wɪndskrɪn/ noun the glass window in the front of a vehicle (NOTE: The American English term is windshield.)

windshield /'wɪndʃiːld/ noun US same as windscreen

wing /wɪŋ/ noun 1. a thin horizontal structure extending from either side of an aircraft, in order to support it in flight 2. an air-force grouping of several squadrons

wing commander /'wɪŋ kə'mɑːndər/ noun a senior officer in the air force, above a squadron leader (usually in command of a wing). Abbr W/Cdr

wingman /'wɪŋmən/ noun the pilot of the other aircraft, when you are flying as a pair. My wingman was hit by a surface-to-air missile.

wipe out /wip 'aʊt/ verb to kill all the members of a grouping. B Company has been almost wiped out. (NOTE: This verb is normally used in the passive.)

wire /'waiə/ noun a cord-like material made of metal

wire-cutters /'waiə kə'təz/ plural noun a special type of scissors used for cutting through barbed wire. He dropped his wire-cutters. Remember to bring a pair of wire-cutters. (NOTE: Wire-cutters, like scissors, are always plural and come in pairs or sets.)

wire-guided missile /'waiə 'ɡaɪrdid 'mɪsɪl/ noun a missile, which remains connected to its firing post by a length of wire, through which signals are transmitted in order to control its flight onto the target

wireless /'waiələs/ noun an obsolete term for a radio

wiring party /'waiərɪŋ 'pɑrtri/ noun a detachment of soldiers sent out to construct or repair a barbed-wire obstacle

withdraw /wɪð'drɔːz/ verb 1. to move away from the enemy. B Company is withdrawing. 2. to move back towards your own forces or territory. The enemy withdrew across the border.

recede, retire, withdraw (NOTE: withdrawing – have withdrawn)

COMMENT: The word retreat is normally used when one is forced to move back (for example, because one has been defeated or your position has become untenable), whereas retire or withdraw imply a more deliberate movement as part of a planned manoeuvre or in order to occupy a better position. Consequently, retire or withdraw are sometimes used instead of retreat because they sound more positive.

withdrawal /wɪð'draːzl/ noun an act of withdrawing

within visual range /wɪnɪn 'vɪʒər ɡeɪn/ adverb, adjective, adverb full form of WVR

without delay /wɪðˈdaːl drəˈleɪ/ verb immediately

WMD abbreviation weapon(s) of mass destruction

WO1 abbreviation warrant officer first class

WO2 abbreviation warrant officer second class

wood /wʊd/ noun 1. an area of ground covered by trees. We spent the night in a wood. 2. a material obtained from trees. The handguard is made of wood.

wooden /wʊdn(ə)n/ adjective made of wood

woodland /wʊdlænd/ noun terrain consisting mainly of woods or forest

working parts /wɜːkɪŋ 'pɑrts/ plural noun the internal mechanism (usually consisting of several different parts) of an automatic or semi-automatic weapon, which moves backwards and forwards to cock the weapon, feed a round into the breech, fire the round and extract the empty cartridge case. On the command ‘Unload!’ remove the magazine, pull the working-parts to the rear several times and then look inside.

World Food Programme /,wɜːld 'fjuːd ,prɑrəɡrəm/ noun full form of WFP

World Health Organization /,wɜːld 'helθ ɔrganəˌzaʃən/ noun full form of WHO
wound /ˈwʌnd/ noun serious injury, usually involving a cut or other penetration of the skin and flesh. • He has a shrapnel wound to his leg. • He died of his wounds. • verb to inflict a wound. • He was wounded in the leg.

wounded /ˈwʌndid/ adjective suffering from a wound. • Wounded soldiers were removed to the field hospital. • noun the wounded people who have received a wound. • The wounded were removed from the battlefield.

WP abbreviation white phosphorus

wreck /rɛk/ noun 1. the accidental destruction of a ship (usually by running onto rocks). • Here is the report on the wreck of HMS Ardent. 2. the remains of a ship which has been wrecked. • Most of the cargo was removed from the wreck. 3. the remains of a destroyed or badly damaged aircraft or vehicle. • We took cover behind a tank wreck. • verb to destroy or badly damage an aircraft, ship or vehicle. • The ship has been wrecked. • We took cover behind a wrecked tank.

wreckage /rɛkˈdʒeɪ/ noun pieces of an aircraft, ship or vehicle which has been wrecked.

Wren /ren/ noun a female member of the Royal Navy (informal).

WSO abbreviation weapon systems officer.

WVR /wəˈvoʊ/ vi; ‘əv/ adjective, adverb close enough to an enemy aircraft to see it with the naked eye. • We’ll need WVR missiles. Full form within visual range. Compare BVR.
X-RAY - Xx

XO abbreviation US executive officer

X-ray¹ /ˈeksˌreɪ/ noun the twenty-fourth letter of the phonetic alphabet (Xx)

X-ray² /ˈeksˌreɪ/ noun 1. electromagnetic radiation of a very short wavelength, which is able to pass through the human body and can thus produce photographs of internal injuries 2. a X-ray photograph • You will need a chest X-ray. • verbs to produce an X-ray photograph • We will have to X-ray your leg.
YANKEE - Yy

YAK-38 /jaːk ˈθætət/ noun a Soviet-designed multirole fighter aircraft with a vertical take-off capability, designed to operate from aircraft carriers (NOTE: known to NATO as Forger)

YAK-41 /ˈθætət ˈwɔtər/ noun a Soviet-designed multirole fighter aircraft with a vertical take-off capability, designed to operate from aircraft carriers (NOTE: known to NATO as Freestyle)

Yank /jæŋk/ noun an American soldier (informal)

Yankee /ˈjæŋki/ noun the twenty-fifth letter of the phonetic alphabet (Yy)

Yard /jɑːrd/ noun 1. a unit of linear measure corresponding to 3 feet or 0.9144 metres 2. an area of enclosed ground attached to a building. The vehicles were parked in the yard next to HQ.

Yd abbreviation yard (NOTE: The plural form is yds.)

Yeoman /ˈjʊəmən/ noun 1. a petty officer in charge of signals 2. US a petty officer responsible for clerical duties

Yeomanry /ˈjʊəmənri/ noun a unit of volunteer cavalry (historical)

Y-junction /ˈwaɪˌdʒʌndʒən/ noun a place where a single road divides into two. fork

Yob /jɒb, jɒbəʊ/ noun an unsophisticated youth or young man, who behaves in a rude, inconsiderate and often aggressive manner (slang) The patrol was attacked by a crowd of yobs. The patrol was attacked by a crowd of youths. (NOTE: The plural form is youths /ˈjʊəθz/.)
zap /zap/ verb US to shoot dead (slang) • He zapped three of the enemy.
zariba /zaˈɾɪbə/ noun Arabic a defensive enclosure made from pieces of thorn bush • The guerrilla base was protected by a thick zariba.
zed bag /ˈzed bæg/ noun a sleeping bag
zero /ˈzɪərəʊ/ noun a figure 0 (nought or nil) • verb to ensure that a weapon is accurate, by firing a few rounds at a target and then adjusting the sights as required • 3 Section are zeroing their weapons.
Zeus-23 /ˈziːəs ˈtwentɪ ˈɔrɪz/ noun US an informal nickname for the Soviet-designed ZSU-23–4 self-propelled anti-aircraft gun
zilch /ˈzɪltʃ/ noun US nothing (slang) • We observed the bridge for six hours but saw zilch.
zone /ˈzoʊn/ noun an area or region which has some specific importance or purpose

ZSU noun a Soviet-designed series of self-propelled anti-aircraft guns
ZSU-23–4 noun a 1960s-era weapon, fitted with four radar-controlled 23mm cannon (NOTE: The Russian nickname for this is the Shilka.)
Zulu /ˈzuːluː/ noun the twenty-sixth letter of the phonetic alphabet (Zz)
zulu muster /ˈzuːluː ˈmʌstar/ noun the location in the field where vehicles are kept when not in use
Zulu time /ˈzuːluː ˈtɑːm/ noun Greenwich Mean Time (GMT); that is, the local time on the meridian at Greenwich, London, which is used to calculate international time • H-Hour at 0600Z
COMMENT: Greenwich Mean Time or Zulu time is used by NATO forces on operations.
Zuni /ˈzuːnɪ/ noun an American-designed unguided rocket, designed to be fired by an aircraft at a ground target
SUPPLEMENTS

The Phonetic Alphabet
Numbers
Timings
Military Rank Structure
Formal Orders
Example of Formal Orders
Military Grouping Symbols
The Phonetic Alphabet

Certain letters of the alphabet sound very similar, especially when a person is talking on the telephone or radio. The phonetic alphabet is designed to prevent confusion, by using a distinctive word to represent each letter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aa</td>
<td>Alpha*</td>
<td>/ˈælfə/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bb</td>
<td>Bravo</td>
<td>/ˈbraʊvəʊ/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cc</td>
<td>Charlie</td>
<td>/ˈʃaːli/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dd</td>
<td>Delta</td>
<td>/ˈdeltə/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ee</td>
<td>Echo</td>
<td>/ˈekəʊ/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ff</td>
<td>Fox trot</td>
<td>/ˈfɒkstrɒt/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gg</td>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>/gɔlf/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hh</td>
<td>Hotel</td>
<td>/ˈhɔtel/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ii</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>/ˈɪndiə/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jj</td>
<td>Juliet</td>
<td>/ˈdʒuːliət/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kk</td>
<td>Kilo</td>
<td>/ˈkiːloʊ/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ll</td>
<td>Lima</td>
<td>/ˈlɪma/</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mm</td>
<td>Mike</td>
<td>/maɪk/</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nn</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>/nəˈvɛmbər/</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oo</td>
<td>Oscar</td>
<td>/ˈɒskər/</td>
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<td>Pp</td>
<td>Papa</td>
<td>/ˈpæpə/</td>
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<td>Quebec</td>
<td>/kwɛˈbek/</td>
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<td>Rr</td>
<td>Romeo</td>
<td>/ˈrəʊmiəʊ/</td>
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<td>Sierra</td>
<td>/ˈsɪərə/</td>
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<td>Tt</td>
<td>Tango</td>
<td>/ˈtæŋɡəʊ/</td>
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<td>Uu</td>
<td>Uniform</td>
<td>/juːˈɪnɪfɔrn/</td>
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<td>Vv</td>
<td>Victor</td>
<td>/ˈvɪktər/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WW</td>
<td>Whisky**</td>
<td>/ˈwɪski/</td>
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<tr>
<td>Xx</td>
<td>X-Ray</td>
<td>/ˈɛksˌreɪ/</td>
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<td>Yy</td>
<td>Yankee</td>
<td>/ˈjæŋki/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zz</td>
<td>Zulu</td>
<td>/ˈzuːluː/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Alfa in US English
** Whiskey in US English
# Numbers

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>zero</th>
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<th>ten</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>one</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>eleven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>two</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>twelve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>three</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>thirteen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>four</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>fourteen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>five</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>fifteen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>six</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>sixteen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>seven</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>seventeen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>eight</td>
<td>18</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>nine</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>nineteen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: when speaking on the radio, 9 is often pronounced [‘naɪnə]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10</th>
<th>twenty</th>
<th>30</th>
<th>thirty</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>twenty-one</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>thirty-one</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>twenty-two</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>thirty-two</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>twenty-three</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>forty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>twenty-four</td>
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<td>fifty</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>twenty-five</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>sixty</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>twenty-six</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>seventy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>twenty-seven</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>eighty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>twenty-eight</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>ninety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>twenty-nine</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>one hundred</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 100 | one hundred and one | 200 | two hundred |
| 101 | one hundred and ten  | 700 | seven hundred|
| 110 | one hundred and fifteen| 850| eight hundred and fifty|
| 115 | one hundred and twenty-five| 900| nine hundred|

| 1,000 | one thousand | [‘wʌn ˈθaʊz(ə)nd] |
| 1,001 | one thousand and one | 10,250 | ten thousand, two hundred and fifty |
| 1,025 | one thousand and twenty-five| 15,000| fifteen thousand |
| 1,100 | one thousand, one hundred | 20,000| twenty thousand |
| or eleven hundred | 25,000| twenty-five thousand |
| 1,155 | one thousand, one hundred and fifty-five| 100,000| one hundred thousand |
| or fifteen hundred | 250,000| two hundred and fifty thousand |
| 2,000 | two thousand | 255,000| two hundred and fifty-five thousand |
| 10,000 | ten thousand |  | |

| 1,000,000 | one million | [‘wʌn ˈmɪljən] |
Timings

To avoid confusion, the twenty-four-hour clock is used in military timings:

1am = 0100
2pm = 1400
8:15am = 0815
8:45pm = 2045

Verbal timings are given as follows:

1400 = fourteen hundred
1515 = fifteen fifteen
1435 = fourteen thirty-five
1528 = fifteen twenty-eight
1500 = fifteen hundred

A single 0 in the timing is normally pronounced as ‘zero’:

0800 = zero eight hundred
0805 = zero eight zero five

Note: This does not apply to a single 0 at the end:

1110 = eleven ten
1620 = sixteen twenty

Note: A single 0 at the beginning of a timing is sometimes pronounced like the letter O:

0500 = O five hundred
0830 = O eight thirty
0605 = O six zero five
0955 = O nine thirty-five

Midnight is usually avoided as a timing. When it is used, it may be given in several different ways:

2400 = twenty-four hundred
2359 = twenty-three fifty-nine
0001 = zero zero zero one

Note: Timings between midnight and 0100 are given as follows:

0005 = zero zero zero five
0015 = zero zero fifteen
0035 = zero zero thirty-five

In order to indicate timing, the word ‘hours’ is usually added to the end. In written timings, this is abbreviated to ‘hrs’:

0300hrs = zero three hundred hours
1210hrs = twelve ten hours

On Operations, NATO forces normally use Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), which is also known as Zulu time, regardless of the time of the country in which they are operating:

1010Z = ten ten hours Zulu time

Note: Other time zones around the world are identified by different letters of the alphabet. The time of the country in which one is operating is also known as ‘local time’, for example: ‘The general will be arriving at 1430 hrs local time.’
### Military Ranks of the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Army</th>
<th>Marines</th>
<th>Navy</th>
<th>Air Force</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Field Marshal</td>
<td>²</td>
<td>Admiral of the Fleet</td>
<td>Marshal of the Royal Air Force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>General</td>
<td>Admiral</td>
<td>Air Chief Marshal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lieutenant-Gen</td>
<td>Lieutenant-General</td>
<td>Vice-Admiral</td>
<td>Air Marshal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major-General</td>
<td>Major-Admiral</td>
<td>Rear-Admiral</td>
<td>Air Vice Marshal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brigadier</td>
<td>Brigadier</td>
<td>Commodore</td>
<td>Air Commodore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colonel</td>
<td>Colonel</td>
<td>Captain</td>
<td>Group Captain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lieutenant-Colonel</td>
<td>Lieutenant-Colonel</td>
<td>Commander</td>
<td>Wing Commander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major</td>
<td>Major</td>
<td>Lieutenant-Commander</td>
<td>Squadron Leader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captain</td>
<td>Captain</td>
<td>Lieutenant</td>
<td>Flight Lieutenant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lieutenant</td>
<td>Lieutenant</td>
<td>Sub-Lieutenant</td>
<td>Flying Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Lieutenant</td>
<td>Second Lieutenant</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pilot Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warrant Officer (1st, 2nd Class)</td>
<td>Warrant Officer (1st, 2nd Class)</td>
<td>Warrant Officer</td>
<td>Warrant Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colour/Staff Sergeant</td>
<td>Colour Sergeant</td>
<td>Chief Petty Officer</td>
<td>Flight Sergeant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sergeant</td>
<td>Sergeant</td>
<td>Petty Officer</td>
<td>Sergeant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporal</td>
<td>Corporal</td>
<td>Leading Rate²</td>
<td>Corporal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lance-Corporal</td>
<td>Lance-Corporal</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Marine 1st Class</td>
<td>Able Rate³</td>
<td>Junior Technician/ Senior Aircraftman</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marine 2nd Class</td>
<td></td>
<td>Leading Aircraftman/ Aircraftman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Indicates the end of officer rank

1. Marine Service is not applicable for Australia and New Zealand.
2. Leading Rate: also called ‘Leading Seaman’ in some forces.
3. Able Rate: also called ‘Able Seaman’ in some forces.
# Military Ranks of the United States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Army</th>
<th>Marines</th>
<th>Navy</th>
<th>Air Force</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General of the Army</td>
<td>Lieutenant General</td>
<td>Fleet Admiral</td>
<td>General of the Air Force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(wartime)</td>
<td>(wartime)</td>
<td>(wartime)</td>
<td>(wartime)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>General</td>
<td>Admiral</td>
<td>General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lieutenant General</td>
<td>Lieutenant General</td>
<td>Vice Admiral</td>
<td>Lieutenant General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major General</td>
<td>Major General</td>
<td>Rear Admiral</td>
<td>Major General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Upper Half</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brigadier General</td>
<td>Brigadier General</td>
<td>Rear Admiral</td>
<td>Brigadier General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lower Half</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Colonel</td>
<td>Captain</td>
<td>Captain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lieutenant Colonel</td>
<td>Lieutenant Colonel</td>
<td>Commander</td>
<td>Lieutenant Colonel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major</td>
<td>Major</td>
<td>Lieutenant</td>
<td>Major</td>
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<td>Commander</td>
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<tr>
<td>Captain</td>
<td>Captain</td>
<td>Lieutenant</td>
<td>Captain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Lieutenant</td>
<td>First Lieutenant</td>
<td>Lieutenant Junior</td>
<td>First Lieutenant</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td>Chief Warrant Officer 2-5</td>
<td>Chief Warrant Officer 2-5</td>
<td>Chief Warrant Sergeant</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Chief Warrant Officer 1</td>
<td>Chief Warrant Officer 1 (no</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>longer in use)</td>
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<td>Sergeant Major of the Army</td>
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<td>Master Chief Petty</td>
<td>Chief Master Sergeant of the Air</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Force</td>
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<tr>
<td>Command</td>
<td>Sergeant Major &amp; Master</td>
<td>Fleet/Command</td>
<td>Command Chief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sergeant Major &amp; Master</td>
<td>Gunnery Sergeant</td>
<td>Master Chief Petty</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
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<td>First Sergeant &amp; Master</td>
<td>Senior Chief Petty</td>
<td>Senior Master Sergeant &amp; First</td>
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<td>Officer</td>
<td>Sergeant</td>
</tr>
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<td>Master Sergeant</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>&amp; First Sergeant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Seaman Recruit</td>
<td>Airman Basic</td>
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</table>

* Indicates the end of officer rank
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Army and Air Force</th>
<th>Navy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>Admiral</td>
</tr>
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<td>Vice Admiral</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major General</td>
<td>Rear Admiral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brigadier General</td>
<td>Commodore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colonel</td>
<td>Captain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lieutenant Colonel</td>
<td>Commander</td>
</tr>
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<td>Lieutenant Commander</td>
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<td>Captain</td>
<td>Lieutenant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lieutenant</td>
<td>Sub Lieutenant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Lieutenant</td>
<td>Acting Sub Lieutenant</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Warrant Officer</td>
<td>Chief Petty Officer (1st Class)</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Master Seaman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporal</td>
<td>Leading Seaman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Able Seaman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ordinary Seaman</td>
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</table>

* Indicates the end of officer rank
Formal Orders

The British Army and the US Army both use the same standard format for issuing orders. This can be applied to any type of operation or task and is designed to ensure that no important points are omitted. The following sequence is always used:

1. **GROUND:**
   A detailed description of the terrain over which the operation or task will be carried out.

2. **SITUATION:**
   a. **Enemy Forces:** i.e. locations, strengths, organization, current activity and future intentions
   b. **Friendly Forces:** i.e. overall plan of the higher formation and locations and tasks of neighbouring groupings
   c. **Attachments and Detachments:** i.e. any sub-units which are attached to the grouping for this operation, and any of the grouping’s own sub-units which have been detached for other tasks.

3. **MISSION:**
   A simple and concise statement, which explains exactly what the grouping is trying to achieve, for example: ‘our mission is to capture the bridge at grid 324599’.

4. **EXECUTION:**
   a. **Concept of Operations:** i.e. a general outline of how the operation is intended to proceed
   b. **Detailed Tasks:** i.e. specific tasks allocated to each sub-unit of the grouping
   c. **Coordinating Instructions:** e.g. timings, orders for opening fire, indirect-fire support, actions to be carried out in the event of something going wrong etc.

5. **ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS:**
   General administrative details such as: ammunition, equipment, food and water, medical facilities etc.

6. **COMMAND AND SIGNAL:**
   a. **Command:** i.e. command structure of the grouping and nomination of alternative commanders in the event of casualties
   b. **Signal:** e.g. radio frequencies, codes and codewords, report lines, passwords etc.
Example of Formal Orders

6 Platoon, which is part of B Company, is about to take part in a battalion attack. The platoon commander has prepared the following orders:

1. GROUND:
The feature we are attacking is Ladna Hill, which runs from north to south along the 44 easting, from the 07 northing to the 04 northing. The company objective is the northern end of the feature. The northern slope is quite steep and consists of grass, with scattered gorse bushes. 500 metres to the north of Ladna Hill is a road, which will form our line of departure. To the north of the road is an area of dead ground, which will be used as our FUP.

2. SITUATION:
   a. Enemy Forces:
      Ladna Hill is occupied by a company of the 7th Infantry Regiment. They are well dug in and are expected to stand and fight. There is a platoon position on the southern end of the feature, facing south-west, and a second platoon on the centre of the hill facing west. The third platoon is on the northern end facing north and their position is our company objective. The platoon has two sections forward and one in reserve. The forward right section (as we look at it) is in the area of grid 433064. The reserve section is in the area of grid 437063. The forward left section (as we look at it) is in the area of grid 437067. There are four trenches in this position, two of which are on the forward edge of a patch of gorse, while the other two are on a grass slope approximately 50 metres to the rear. The forward left section is our platoon objective.
   b. Friendly Forces:
      The battalion has been ordered to capture Ladna Hill by 1200hrs tomorrow. The attack will be in two phases. In phase 1, B Company will capture the platoon position on the northern end of the hill. This must be accomplished by first light. In phase 2, A and C Companies will assault the other two enemy Platoons in the centre and south, while B Company provides fire support from the northern end. B Company’s attack will be carried out in darkness. 5 Platoon will assault the forward right section, while we assault the forward left. Once both section positions have been captured, 7 platoon will move through us, in order to assault the rear section. There are no friendly units to our left. When the entire position is secure, 5 and 7 Platoons will prepare to provide fire support for phase 2 of the battalion attack, while we remain on the northern slope in order to cover the rear.
   c. Attachments and Detachments:
      41 Field Battery will be on call to B Company during phase 1 and an FOO will be attached to Company HQ. We will have L/Cpl. Smedhurst from the Mortar Platoon to act as MFC.

3. MISSION:
6 Platoon’s mission is to capture the enemy section position at grid 437067.
Example of Formal Orders continued

4. EXECUTION:
   a. General Outline:
      The company will leave this location at 2000hrs and move to the FUP at grid 433074. Once there, the platoon will deploy into assault formation, with 1 Section forward left, 3 Section forward right and 2 Section in reserve. Platoon HQ will be between 1 and 3 Sections. 5 Platoon will be on our right and 7 Platoon to the rear.

      At 2130hrs, the company will move forward to the road which forms our line of departure. H-Hour is at 2200hrs. We will then advance directly towards our objective. Once we come under effective enemy fire, the platoon will skirmish by sections up to the forward edge of the enemy position.

      Then the sections will break down into fireteams in order to assault the individual trenches. As soon as the rear trenches have been taken, the platoon will go firm. Once both our objective and 5 Platoon’s objective are secure, 7 Platoon will move forward to assault the depth enemy section. When the entire company objective is secure, the platoon will reorganize and occupy the enemy trenches in order to cover the northern approaches to the hill. Meanwhile, 5 and 7 Platoons will move forward to take up their fire positions for phase 2.

   b. Detailed Tasks:
      1 Section will be forward left in the assault. Your objectives are the two left-hand trenches. On reorganization, you will occupy all the trenches on our objective.

      3 Section will be forward right in the assault. Your objectives are the two right-hand trenches. You are also to keep the platoon commander informed of 5 Platoon’s progress. On reorganization, you will occupy the trenches on 5 Platoon’s objective.

      2 Section will be in reserve. You will move to the rear of 1 Section and will also cover our left flank. Remember, there are no friendly units to our left. You must be prepared to support either of the two forward sections as required. On reorganization, you will occupy the trenches on 7 Platoon’s objective. L/Cpl. Smedhurst will move with platoon headquarters.

   c. Coordinating Instructions:
      (1) Timings:
         1700 - meal
         1800 - last light
         1930 - ready to move
         2000 - move to FUP
         2130 - move to line of departure
         2200 - H-Hour
         0615 - first light (company objective must be taken by then)

      (2) Indirect Fire Support: sections may request mortar fire on the platoon net. We have also been allocated twenty illuminating rounds.
Example of Formal Orders continued

5. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS:
   a. **Ammunition**: in addition to his magazines, each man will carry 2 bandoliers, 4 anti-personnel grenades and 2 WP grenades.
   b. **Equipment**: bergens are to be left at this location.
   c. **Rations**: a hot meal will be provided at 1700hrs. Each man will carry two ration packs. Water will be resupplied at 1700hrs.
   d. **Medical**: the RAP will be at grid 401079

6. COMMAND AND SIGNAL:
   a. **Command**: in the event of the platoon commander and platoon sergeant becoming casualties, the order of seniority is Cpl. Smith, Cpl. Hobbs, Cpl. Rigby.
   b. **Frequencies**: as shown in the company signals instructions.
   c. **Call signs**: L/Cpl. Smedhurst’s call sign is 42D
   d. **Codewords**: Peter Ross – 5 Platoon’s objective secure
      Jock Scott – 6 Platoon’s objective secure
      Willy Gunn – 7 platoon’s objective secure
   e. **Password**: Brick – Church
**Military Grouping Symbols**

### Grouping Size

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grouping Size</th>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Section/Squad</th>
<th>Platoon</th>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Battalion</th>
<th>Regiment</th>
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<td>Brigade</td>
<td>Division</td>
<td>Corps</td>
<td>Army</td>
<td>Regiment</td>
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### Arms

- Armour (i.e. tanks)
- Armoured reconnaissance
- Armoured or mechanized infantry
- Infantry
- Artillery
- Air defence
- Engineer
- Signals
- Vehicle repair and recovery
- Medical
- Ordnance
- Transport

### Examples

- Infantry section
- Infantry platoon
- Infantry company
- Infantry battalion

### Notes:

1. In the British Army:
   a. A platoon-sized grouping of tanks and certain supporting arms is known as a troop
   b. A company-sized grouping of tanks and certain supporting arms is known as a squadron
   c. A battalion-sized grouping of tanks and certain supporting arms is known as a regiment

2. In the US Army:
   a. A company-sized armoured cavalry grouping is known as a troop
   b. A battalion-sized armoured cavalry grouping is known as a squadron

3. In most armies, a company-sized grouping of artillery is known as a battery