

1960 to 1970 Military Terms

GLOSSARY

This Glossary is intended to cover both the Air Force Sweetheart Series and the L. J. Steven Series. The absolute need for this Glossary was quietly pointed out to us by Red MacDonald who provided many of the abbreviations, words, phrases or TLAs (Three Letter Acronyms / or sometimes four letter) which are shown below.

This Glossary is not all inclusive and if there are other confusing usages in those two story series that any of you would like to see defined, please let us know and we will (attempt) to provide appropriate (1960 to 1970) definitions for them.

Renaud Dumas

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| AF | Usually means Air Force, but in the Case of Army combat training it means Aggressor Force. A group of personnel, usually more advanced in training, used to ambush trainees in an effort to teach them to be more aware of everything around them. |
| AIT | Originally “Advanced Infantry Training”, later used as a TLA for “Advanced Individual Training”. |
| ARVN | Army of the Republic of Vietnam - South Vietnamese army. |
| AutoDin | Automatic Digital Network. This network allowed digital traffic (messages and logistics) to be routed automatically rather than painstakingly by hand from center to center. The system was replaced by a more robust ARPANET and MILNET. |
| AN-PRXC-25 | Specialized Successor to the AN-PRC-25. This unit was entirely transistorized at a time when fully transistorized military radios were only just coming |

into high service. This model had a built in and selectable encryption system that not only encrypted the voice signal which was impressed on the carrier but it caused the carrier to “slide” around much like present day Spread Spectrum systems. The PRXC-25 was backward compatible in that when the encryption was shut off, it could communicate with standard radio equipment. When in encrypted mode the range at which the signal could be detected and decrypted was nearly three to five times that of a standard PRC-25. The signal was resistant to jamming, eavesdropping, and fading. Early models had a propensity toward self-destruction if jarred too heavily. The developers of the charge which would burn out the piece of equipment to prevent it’s capture finally came up with a working solution after dropping two of their units off a second story roof onto concrete to prove they would not accidentally self-destruct.

Autovon	Automatic Voice Network. The military’s answer to touch tone telephone dialing in a system designed to survive nuclear attack. It had four additional push-buttons which allowed a Precedence level to be selected for the call. The system was replaced in the 1990's.
Av-Gas	Aviation Gasoline, a term coined when aircraft were piston rather than turbine and “Av-Gas” was far higher in octane than civilian fuels. Av-gas generally is for use in high performance engines.
BOQ	Bachelor Officers Quarters - usually on base and somewhat like some of today’s higher class motels with separate rooms for each officer rather than a barrack situation.
CCN	Command and Control North (MACV-SOG)
Klik (s) / Klick (s) / Kilometers	See Kilometers

Commo	Communication devices
CO / CO's	Commanding Officer(s)
CONUS	C ontinental U nited S tates
DI / DI's	Drill Instructors - generally taken to mean any who are training instructors usually in Basic or some form of advanced training schools. Hold-over from older times when training was referred to as "Drills" referencing the use of the teaching of combat skills through repetitive drill.
DOR	Date of Rank. When two or more officers (or enlisted men) with equal ranks are vying for command the one with the earliest Date that the rank was given to him was considered to be the most senior.
Dustoff	The process during which a helicopter takes off, usually in a hurry. The dust kicked up by the rotor wash helped coin the name.
E&E	Escape and Evasion. Usually applied to the action taken by someone who has been captured or is likely to be captured and who is attempting to evade such capture.
EWOT	Exotic Weapons Or Tactics
First Shirt	First Sergeant/ Top / the highest ranking NCO in a company. Usually an E-8.
FTE / FTX	Field Training Exercise. An exercise in combat operations. Usually due to ambush when applied in Basic Training.
GRADE	A pay rate, not a command authority. (See Rank)

Groundpounder (s)	Infantry. Originally used as a derogatory term but eventually it came to mean any ground based personnel regardless of training or specialty.
JCS	Joint Chiefs of Staff
Kilometers/ Klick (s) / Clik (s)	A measure of distance used heavily world-wide; equivalent to about .621 mile.
Klick (s) / Clik (s) / Kilometers	See Kilometers
LRRP (s) / LURP (s)	Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol - or the associated personnel. Small groups of personnel who go out on reconnaissance or special missions without support from other military agencies, usually deep into enemy held territory.
LZ	Landing Zone - usually taken to mean an unprepared field or location which could accommodate the aircraft in question while somewhere behind enemy lines.
MACV	Military Assistance Command Vietnam - unified command for US personnel in Vietnam. US support group for ARVN during our initial involvement in the Vietnamese War.
Mags (magazines)	Spring loaded Container for bullets usually for semi- or fully automatic hand carried weapons. Used to deliver bullets to the breach of a weapon during the automatic eject/ load cycle.
MedFac	Medical Facility - usually a field or small two to four bed facility used to hold non-critical injured or sick personnel. Could in some cases also contain a small operating theater for emergency cases. Sometimes the name was also applied to larger hospitals.
MOS	Military Occupational Specialty (a persons job based upon their own specialized training)

'Nam	Vietnam - usually referring to South Vietnam at the time of the war, while "the North" or "North Vietnam" was used to describe the Northern half of the country.
Non-coms	Non-commissioned officers. Enlisted personnel. Usually above E-5 in rank.
NVA	North Vietnamese Army
OCS	Officer Candidate School - Multi-step school designed to produce officers upon certification by Congress.... hence the phrase "Congress made him a gentleman."
OIC	Officer in Charge
OSUT	One station Unit Training. The ability to go through Basic and your more advanced specialty all at one military base. Usually with little intervening time.
P.D.	Police Department(s)
PFC	Private First Class E-3. Most personnel who entered Basic were immediately E-1. Upon graduation they became E-2. A few were granted E-3 status. With extraordinary capabilities it was possible for an Enlisted person to achieve E-4 in as few as 18 weeks including time spent in Basic.
PX	Post eXchange. Also called Base Exchange. Essentially a small Walmart of items offered for sale to personnel and ranging from toothpaste to soap to smaller luxury items (such as transistor radios, stereos, cameras, etc.), candy, and depending upon the size of the Exchange - non-perishable food items such as potato chips up to perishable item such as sides of beef which might be found at the larger locations.

RANK	The authority of command. A person could be earning pay at a lower grade but be in a slot where they were acting in command authority at a higher rank. Thus an E-4 (pay grade) could be utilized in a position usually reserved for an E-5 or E-6 (command rank). That individual would have the authority and responsibility of the higher position but receive pay at their lower grade.
REMF	Rear Echelon Mother Fucker - very derogatory remark and usually aimed at those who had no combat experience but who were responsible for sending others into combat situations which were poorly thought out. These persons usually viewed other personnel as totally expendable assets rather than as people.
R&R	Rest and Relaxation / Recuperation. Also used to mean Refit and Recruitment (or replacement of injured / killed personnel)
SAM(s)	Surface to Air Missiles usually the SA-2 (Soviet S-75 Divna).
Sitrep	Situation Report
SFG	Special Forces Group (1961-1971 Vietnam). The SFG still exists and has participated in many other actions especially in the Middle East.
SMA	Sergeant Major of the Army. The highest ranking Non-commissioned officer in the Army. Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chief of staff of the U. S. Army. The position is equivalent to that of a lieutenant general. (See below listing of ranks)
SOG	Special Operations Group - special forces.
Spec Op Camos	Special Operations Camouflage uniforms

Specialist	Person (enlisted) with a technical training specialty. During the 1960's these persons received the same pay grade as their "hard" grade compatriots. The Ranks SP-4 to SP-7 matched pay to those E-4 to E-7 but they held rank (command authority) equal to a Corporal (E-4) unless there was an emergency in their specialty at which time they could command higher ranking enlisted personnel for the duration of the emergency. As there was a great deal of confusion concerning this, sometime later their command authority was limited to that of a Corporal regardless of pay grade.
Spooky's miniguns	Revolving 7.62 cannon (Gatling gun) a multi-barreled high rate of fire .30 caliber weapon capable of firing up to 100 rounds per second (6000 rounds per minute).
'strac	Spit and Polish. Usually someone who is very by the numbers and who has little combat experience. Someone who is well dressed vs someone who is on the line and working.
Vinh	City well into North Vietnam when accessed from the South. Much of the way from the border between the two countries (in 1967) toward Hanoi.
Wheezer	No, not Geezer. A Wheezer is one who wheezes or has great difficulty breathing when exercising or during physical exertion usually due to not knowing how to breath when involved in heavy exertion.
Zoomies	Originally a derogatory term for Army Air Corps and later Air Force personnel usually used by "groundpounders". The term now tends to mean anyone who flies and since the Vietnam conflict has become more a term of endearment of those who provide air support for the ground troops.

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Ranks in the U. S. Army (1962-1969)

E-1 Private ('buck' or recruit)

E-2 Private

E-3 PFC

E-4 Corporal SP-4 Specialist, Spec., or Specialist Four

E-5 Sergeant SP-5 Specialist Five a technical rank and grade

E-6 Staff Sergeant SP-6 Specialist Six a supervisory as well as working rank and grade

E-7 Sergeant 1st class (Technical Sergeant) SP-7 Specialist 7 in late 1960's this position was combined into E-7 (Tech Sgt.)

E-8 Master Sergeant or First Sergeant

E-9 Sergeant Major. Command Sergeant, Sergeant Major of the Army

WO-1 Warrant officers. This category was reported to have been

WO-2 created due to the high rate of casualties among helicopter

WO-3 pilots. This allowed former enlisted personnel to achieve

WO-4 an officer's rating and thus qualified them to fly. The Warrant officers program later expanded into other areas as well. Many higher ranking enlisted personnel took a pay 'hit' (loss) when they tested into the Warrant Officer program. Warrant Officers are specialists in their area of expertise while Regular officers (below) are generalists.

O-1 Lieutenant, Second Class (butterbars)

O-2 Lieutenant, First Class

O-3 Captain

O-4 Major

O-5 Lieutenant Colonel

O-6 Colonel

O-7 Brigadier General

O-8 Major General

O-9 Lieutenant General

O-10 General

O-11 (?)General of the Armies (wartime only)