



## Navy Terms and Acronyms

### — A —

#### **A-SCHOOL**

Vocational school that Sailors attend to train for their respective ratings.

#### **AD**

##### **Active Duty**

Full-time Navy members.

#### **ADRIFT**

Loose from moorings and out of control. Applied to anything lost or out of hand.

#### **AE**

Aviation Electrician's Mate.

#### **AEDO**

Aerospace Engineering Duty Officer.

#### **AEF**

Advanced Electronics Field Program.

#### **AFT**

Toward the stern (tail) of a ship.

#### **AIRR**

##### **Aviation Rescue Swimmer**

Executes demanding rescues in all operational environments.

## **ALL HANDS**

The entire ship's company, both Officer and Enlisted.

## **ALLOTMENT**

An amount of money a Sailor has coming out of regular pay.

## **AMDO**

### **Aviation Maintenance Duty Officer**

An Officer who performs clerical, administrative and managerial duties necessary to keep aircraft maintenance activities running smoothly.

## **AO**

### **Aviation Ordnanceman**

Aircraft armament specialists responsible for the storage, service, inspection and handling of weapons and ammunition carried on Navy aircraft.

## **APG**

### **Advanced Pay Grade**

Opportunity to advance to a higher pay grade based on previously obtained experience.

## **ASVAB**

### **Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery**

Test administered by the military to determine qualification for enlistment in the armed forces.

[Learn more >](#)

## **AT**

### **Annual Training**

Two weeks of training per year that a Reservist is required to fulfill.

## **AYE, AYE**

Response acknowledging the understanding of a command/statement.

## **— B —**

## **BARRACKS**

A building where Sailors live when ashore.

## **BELOW**

Downstairs, like the next deck below.

## **BLACKSHOE**

Non-aviation rate for Enlisted personnel as well as Officers. A “shoe” is a ship driver/Surface Warfare Officer.

## **BLUE ANGELS**

The U.S. Navy and Marine Corps flight demonstration team.

## **BLUE NOSE**

A Sailor who has crossed either the Arctic or Antarctic Circle. Also applies to Officers.

## **BMT**

### **Basic Military Training**

Initial instruction given to new military personnel.

[Learn more >](#)

## **BOW**

The forward part of a ship or boat.

## **BRIGHTWORK**

Brass or shiny metal kept polished rather than painted.

## **BROWNSHOE**

Aviation rate Enlisted personnel.

## **BUD/S**

### **Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL**

A SEAL training course that develops mental and physical stamina as well as leadership skills.

[Learn more >](#)

## **BULKHEAD**

The wall.

## **BUNK**

A bed.

## **BUOY**

An anchored float used as an aid to navigation or to mark the location of an object.

## **BUPERS**

### **Bureau of Navy Personnel**

Organization served to provide administrative leadership, policy planning and general oversight of the Navy.

## **C-SCHOOL**

Navy advanced training schools.

## **CAPT**

Captain. The fifth highest Officer ranking. It is just above Commander and just below Real Admiral (O-6).

## **CARRY ON**

An order to resume work or duties.

## **CAST OFF**

To throw off, to let go, to unfurl.

## **CB**

### **Construction Battalion (Seabees)**

The Navy community of construction workers.

[Learn more >](#)

## **CCPO**

### **Chaplain Candidate Program**

A program for college students who wish to join the Chaplain Corps (CHC). Also known as the Seminary Corps. Each member is a Chaplain and Officer.

## **CDR**

### **Commander**

Navy Senior Officer rank (O-5).

## **CEC**

### **Civil Engineer Corps**

Officer corps that oversees the construction, renovation, maintenance and building of Navy projects all over the world.

[Learn more >](#)

## **CHAIN LOCKER**

Compartment in which anchor chain is stowed.

## **CHC**

### **Chaplain Corps**

Officers in CHC are ordained ministers of various religions and denominations; they conduct religious services and promote the spiritual and moral welfare of the Navy.

## **CHIT**

Forms used to request taking leave, a day off, etc.

## **CHIT BOOK**

Coupon or receipt booklet.

## **CHOW HALL**

(MESS DECK) A place to eat.

## **CNO**

### **Chief of Naval Operations**

The highest ranking Officer in the U.S. Navy.

## **CO**

### **Commanding Officer**

A commissioned Navy Officer in charge of a designated Navy command.

## **COLORS**

Raising and lowering of the National Ensign, the American flag and organization flags.

## **CRYPTOLOGY**

Code breaking. An Enlisted rating that includes control of access to classified materials; language translations; and installing, servicing and repairing special electronic and electromechanical equipment.

## **CS**

### **Culinary Specialist**

## **CTI**

### **Cryptologic Technician–Interpretive**

Navy linguists tasked to gather highly classified intelligence information for the Navy's top-level decision makers using foreign language skills.

[Learn more >](#)

## **CTM**

### **Cryptologic Technician–Maintenance**

Performs preventive and corrective maintenance on electrical and electronic cryptologic and ancillary systems used for communications, analysis, monitoring, tracking, recognition and identification, electronic attack and physical security.

## **CTN**

### **Cryptologic Technician–Networks**

Monitors, identifies, collects and analyzes information; provides data for digital network products; and conducts computer network operations worldwide to support Navy and Department of Defense national- and theater-level missions.

## **CTR**

### **Cryptologic Technician–Collect**

Analyzes and exploits signals of interest to identify, locate and report worldwide threats.

## **CTT**

### **Cryptologic Technician–Technical**

Operates and maintains electronic sensors and computer systems, and collects, analyzes, exploits, and disseminates Electronic Intelligence (ELINT), all in accordance with fleet and national tasking.

## **CUP OF JOE**

A cup of coffee. Named after Josephus Daniels, Secretary of the Navy 1913–1921, who under General Order 99 in June 1914 prohibited the use of alcohol on board U.S. Navy ships.

## — D —

## **DANTES**

### **Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Educational Support**

A program that allows Navy recruits to take high school, undergrad and graduate courses while in service.

## **DC**

### **Dental Corps**

An Officer position in the Navy. Members are dentists who provide dental services and run dispensaries.

## **DECK**

The floor.

## **DEEP SIX**

To dispose of or throw away.

## **DEP**

### **Delayed Entry Program**

Program that allows recruits to join the Navy but postpone reporting for duty for up to a year.

[Learn more >](#)

## **DIVER**

Performs a number of essential tasks, including underwater reconnaissance, demolition, explosive ordnance disposal, construction, ship maintenance, search and rescue, and salvage operations.

## **DLA**

### **Dislocation Allowance**

Money provided to Sailors to aid in moves from one duty station to another.

## **DMI**

### **Departmental Material Inspection**

An inspection of bed-making, folding and stowing of gear.

## **DOD**

### **Department of Defense**

Federal department in charge of organizing and supervising all agencies related directly to national defense, specifically the Armed Forces.

## **DON**

### **Department of the Navy**

Department established by Congress to provide support and leadership to the U.S. Navy.

## **DRILL WEEKEND**

One weekend per month that a Reservist is required to perform Navy duties.

## **DT**

### **Dental Technician**

Enlisted Sailor tasked with assisting Navy Dentists in providing dental care to Navy personnel and their families.

[Learn more >](#)

— E —

## **EAOS**

### **End of Active Obligated Service**

Date at which one's Naval service has been officially completed.

## **EDO**

### **Engineering Duty Officer**

Ensures that our Naval and Joint Forces operate and fight with the most capable platforms possible. Involved with the design, acquisition, construction, repair, maintenance, conversion, overhaul, and disposal of ships, submarines, aircraft carriers, and the systems on those platforms (weapons, command and control, communications, computers, etc.).

## **ENL**

### **Enlisted**

Rank achieved by Sailors who have completed the minimum educational requirement of a high school diploma.

[Learn more >](#)

## **ENSIGN**

The rank of an Officer between Chief Warrant Officer and Lieutenant Junior Grade (O-1).

## **EOD**

### **Explosive Ordnance Disposal**

Technicians tasked to safely dispose of explosive materials.

[Learn more >](#)

## **ET**

### **Electronics Technician**

Responsible for electronic equipment used to send and receive messages, detect enemies and determine target distance.

## **FAC**

### **Forward Air Controller**

An individual who directs the action of military aircraft engaged in close air support of land forces.

## **FAP**

### **Financial Assistance Program**

Navy financial assistance program that helps medical and dental residents with expenses. Includes an annual grant and a monthly stipend to help defray the costs of medical/dental school and living expenses.

## **FAST**

Snugly secured.

## **FATHOM**

A unit of length equal to 6 feet used for measuring the depth of water.

## **FC**

### **Fire Controlman**

Trained in the maintenance, operation and employment of weapons.

## **FIELD DAY**

Full-blown cleaning, sort of like spring cleaning in overdrive.

## **FIRST LIEUTENANT**

The Officer responsible to the XO for the deck department/division aboard ship.

## **FLAG OFFICER**

Any commissioned Officer in pay grade O-7 or above.

## **FRS**

Fleet Replacement Squadron.

## **FSH**

### **Family Separation Housing**

Formerly known as Family Separation Allowance (FSA). Payable when a Sailor is forced to be away from his/her dependents for longer than 30 days.

## **FT**

Fire Control Technician (Submarine).

## **FTS**

Full-Time Support.

## — G —

### **GALLEY**

The kitchen.

### **GANGWAY**

An opening in the bulwark or lifeline that provides access to a brow or accommodation ladder; when shouted, means to get out of the way.

### **GEAR LOCKER**

A storage room.

### **GEDUNK**

A machine or store aboard ship where Sailors can get snacks and soft drinks; or any snack or soft drink.

### **GENERAL QUARTERS**

Battle Stations.

### **GRAD AND GO**

A Boot Camp graduate who leaves for the next duty station three hours after graduation.

### **GROUND TACKLE**

The equipment used in mooring or anchoring a ship.

### **GTEP**

#### **GENDET (General Detail) Targeted Enlisted Program**

Program designed to enhance GENDET manning in the fleet while guaranteeing assignment to A-School after serving approximately twelve months at a permanent duty station.

## — H —

### **HATCH**

The door.

### **HCA**

#### **Health Care Administration**

A medical specialty under the MSC (Medical Service Corps). Offers the ability to specialize in a number of training areas such as operations research, patient administration and medical logistics management.

## **HCS**

### **Health Care Services**

An area under the MSC (Medical Service Corps) offering the ability to specialize in a variety of areas such as physiology or biochemistry.

## **HEAD**

The restroom.

## **HM**

### **Hospital Corpsman**

Enlisted Sailor tasked with assisting Navy Medical Officers in providing medical care to Navy and Marine Corps personnel and their families.

[Learn more >](#)

## **HPSP**

### **Health Profession Scholarship Program**

Scholarship program that pays for medical and dental students' college tuition. Officially known as the Armed Forces Health Profession Scholarship Program.

## **HSCP**

### **Health Service Collegiate Program**

A financial assistance program that provides students in dental school with a salary and housing allowance to help defray the costs of school and living expenses.



## **IA**

### **Individual Augmentation**

IA is when a member of the Navy is assigned to a unit as a TAD/TDY status. It is intended to fill shortages and used when an individual with specialized knowledge or a specific skill set is required. Members can fill in for any other branch of service in an effort to aid specific efforts.

## **IC**

### **Interior Communications Electrician**

Installs, maintains and repairs the equipment needed for interior communications within ships and shore facilities.

## **IDC**

### **Information Dominance Corps**

Holistic network of people and platforms that strives to achieve prominence and dominance across the information domain by moving beyond the limitations of current programs and capabilities.

## **INTEL**

### **Intelligence**

Military information, especially secret information about enemies or potential enemies.

## **IO**

### **Investigative Officer**

IO is a challenging and fulfilling career charged with the investigation process within the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS).

## **IP**

### **Information Professional**

IPs are a small group of Officers charged with harnessing technology and ensuring mission success by planning, maintaining and operating Navy business operations and processes. They have vast working knowledge of information, command and control, and space systems.

## **IRR**

### **Individual Ready Reserve**

Consists of personnel who must fulfill their Military Service Obligation (MSO). These members may be fulfilling a service obligation incurred via contract, or those who have fulfilled their MSO but voluntarily remain in the IRR.

## **IS**

### **Intelligence Specialist**

An Enlisted rating that involves collecting and interpreting intelligence data in support of a special operation or special warfare.

## **IT**

### **Information Technology**

Naval community made up of communications experts who process, transmit and analyze a wide variety of data.

[Learn more >](#)

## **IW**

### **Information Warfare**

Disguising communications for protective purposes, or deciphering the coded communications of others.

## **JACK BOX**

Access box to sound-powered phone circuitry.

## **JAG**

### **Judge Advocate General**

Corps that provides legal services and advice in all legal matters involving the Navy or the command.

[Learn more >](#)

## **JTF**

### **Joint Task Force**

The combination of more than one military service.

— L —

## **LADDER**

A device to move personnel from one level to another. Stairs.

## **LDO**

### **Limited Duty Officer**

## **LEAVE**

Authorized absence, like vacation.

## **LIBERTY**

Permission to leave the base, usually for not more than 48 hours.

## **LIFELINE**

Lines erected around the weather decks of a ship to prevent personnel from falling or being washed over the side.

## **LSO**

### **Landing Signal Officer**

Naval Aviators specifically trained to facilitate the safe recovery of aircraft aboard aircraft carriers.

## **LT**

### **Lieutenant**

The eighth highest officer ranking. It is just above Lieutenant Junior Grade and just below Lieutenant Commander (O-3).

— M —

## **MAA**

### **Master-at-Arms**

An Enlisted rating consisting of law enforcement that keeps order aboard ship and at shore locations.

## **MARLINSPIKE**

A life-size model ship where recruits practice mooring, line handling, putting out to sea and other aspects of basic seamanship.

## **MARS**

### **The Military Affiliate Radio System**

A U.S. Department of Defense sponsored program, established as a separately managed and operated program by the U.S. Navy, Army and Air Force.

## **MC**

### **Medical Corps**

Doctors (physicians with an MD) and Medical Officers in the Navy who provide medical services and administer hospitals, dispensaries, sick bays and other medical units to serve the needs of the Navy and Marine Corps.

## **MCPON**

### **Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy**

The senior most Enlisted member of the U.S. Navy.

## **MEPS**

### **Military Entrance Processing Station**

Station where recruits take the ASVAB, physical exam, select a rating and take the Oath of Enlistment.

[Learn more >](#)

## **MESS DECK**

The crew's dining area.

## **MESS DUTY**

A 90-day obligated duty working on the mess decks when first reporting aboard. (aka MESS-CRANK'N)

## **MID-WATCH**

The midnight watch – the most dreaded watch because one loses the most sleep out of the rotation.

## **MSC**

### **Medical Service Corps**

Navy Officer corps consisting of health-care administrators, optometrists, pharmacists, scientists and other specialized practitioners.

[Learn more >](#)

## **NAVY RESERVE**

Reserve component of the U.S. Navy in which part-time Sailors and Officers are called into Active Duty or mobilized as needed.

[Learn more >](#)

**NC**  
**Nurse Corps**  
Navy Nurses who are commissioned Officers in the grades of Ensign through Admiral. They may work at teaching hospitals, fleet hospitals or clinics.

**NCF**  
**Navy College Fund**  
Special college fund available to new enlistees who sign up under the Montgomery G.I. Bill.

**NCP**  
**Nurse Candidate Program**  
A scholarship program to help nursing students with expenses.

**NEX**  
**The Navy Exchange**  
A department store for military personnel and their families.

**NFO**  
**Naval Flight Officer**  
Officer who specializes in aircraft weapons and sensor systems (2nd seat in the cockpit).  
[Learn more >](#)

**NPS**  
**Non-Prior Service**  
Someone without any previous military experience.

**NPSB**  
**Non-Prior Service Basic**  
Refers to the portion of the Navy Reserve composed of members who have had no prior military service.

**NR-ENG**  
**Nuclear Reactor Engineer**  
An Enlisted rating in the Navy that involves working on nuclear reactors.

**NR-INST**  
**Nuclear Reactor Instructor**  
A rating in the Navy. Those bearing the NR-INST rating instruct those with other NR ratings.

**NRC**  
**Navy Recruiting Command**  
Main headquarters for Navy recruiting, located in Millington, Tennessee.

## **NRD**

### **Navy Recruiting District**

The Navy maintains 26 recruiting districts throughout the U.S.

## **NROTC**

### **Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps**

A college scholarship program used to recruit future commissioned Officers for the Navy and Marine Corps.

[Learn more >](#)

## **NRS**

### **Navy Recruiting Station**

A station in a Navy Recruiting District that serves as a recruitment base of operations for the district.

## **NSAWC**

### **Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center**

Center that provides training and service to aircrews and squadrons.

## **NSO**

**Naval Special Operations** (AIRR, Diver, EOD).

## **NSW**

**Naval Special Warfare** (SEAL and SWCC).

## **NUPOC**

### **Nuclear Propulsion Officer Candidate Program**

A financial assistance and training program that provides income plus bonuses for college students interested in becoming a Nuclear Officer in the Navy.

— 0 —

## **OCS**

### **Officer Candidate School**

A 12-week training program designed to give Officers a working knowledge of the Navy. It is like Boot Camp for Officers.

## **ODS**

### **Officer Development School**

ODS is a five-week course tailored to train already commissioned Officers to become Staff Corps Officers.

## **OFFICER**

Rank achieved by Sailors who have completed the minimum educational requirement of a four-year college degree.

## **OIC**

### **Officer in Charge**

A commissioned Navy Officer in charge of an organization, facility or function and responsible for a group of Officers and Sailors in the organization.

## **OMBUDSMAN**

Volunteer who is the well-trained link between Sailors and their families.

## **OS**

### **Operations Specialist**

An OS has a thorough knowledge of doctrine and procedures applicable to CIC (Combat Information Center) operations and functions as plotters, radio/telephone and command and control sound-powered telephone talkers. He/she maintains CIC displays of strategic and tactical information and operates surveillance and altitude radars, Identification Friend or Foe (IFF), and associated equipment.

## **OVERHEAD**

The ceiling.

— P —

## **P-DAYS**

“Processing days.” When recruits first arrive at Boot Camp, they are issued initial equipment, uniforms and supplies.

## **PAO**

### **Public Affairs Officer**

Officer responsible for preparing and disseminating information relative to military operations through news releases, photographs, radio and television, and other informational material.

[Learn more >](#)

## **PASSAGEWAY**

A hallway.

## **PCS**

### **Permanent Change of Station**

## **PFA**

### **Physical Fitness Assessment**

A required basic physical test conducted to determine the physical fitness of Navy personnel.

## **PI**

### **Personal Inspections**

An inspection of a recruit’s personal appearance and uniform.

## **PIR**

### **Pass In Review**

Boot Camp graduation. Bring tissues!

## **PORT**

A place on a waterway with facilities for loading and unloading ships.

## **PORT SIDE**

The left side of a nautical vessel.

## **PRD**

### **Projected Rotation Date**

Date on which a Navy Officer or Sailor's next duty station is established based on their pay grade and community.

## **PRT**

### **Physical Readiness Test**

A required basic physical test conducted to determine the physical fitness of Navy personnel.

## **PS**

### **Prior Service**

Refers to the portion of the Reserve force that is obtained from Sailors who had prior Navy experience on a full-time basis.

## **— Q —**

## **QUARTERS**

Assembling all hands for muster. Also refers to a home on base, a residence.

## **— R —**

## **RACK**

A bed.

## **RATING**

A job specialty title.

## **RDC**

### **Recruit Drill/Division Commander**

Sailor responsible for training recruits at the Navy Recruit Training Command (RTC).

## **REVEILLE**

A signal signifying the start of a workday.

## **RICKY**

A recruit.

## **RL**

### **Restricted Line**

A Line Officer is a commissioned Officer who is not eligible for sea command.

## **RTC**

### **Recruit Training Command**

Campus located in Great Lakes, Illinois, where Navy recruits train to become Sailors. Also known as Boot Camp.

[Learn more >](#)

## **— S —**

## **SA**

### **Seaman Apprentice**

SA is the title assigned to general-duty deck and administrative Sailors who wear a double white-striped insignia.

## **SC**

### **Supply Corps**

The business branch of the Navy. The SC receives and disburses funds and handles the acquisition and distribution of spare parts and consumables.

## **SCULLERY**

A place to wash dishes.

## **SCUTTLEBUTT**

Originally meant to describe a water fountain. Quickly became a place Sailors would gather and talk. Term now used primarily for rumors and rumor control.

## **SEAL**

### **Sea-Air-Land (Team)**

Members of the Naval Special Operations Force who specialize in direct action and special reconnaissance missions.

[Learn more >](#)

## **SECNAV**

### **Secretary of the Navy**

Civilian head of the Department of the Navy, responsible for conducting all affairs related to the department.

## **SECURE**

To stop or quit work.

## **SELRES**

### **Selected Reserve**

Navy Reservists who are required and paid to participate in Active Duty training period and annual training.

## **SICK BAY**

Medical facility located in a hospital, aid station or on board ship.

## **SIQ**

### **Sick In Quarters**

Term used when a medical condition or injury is such that in-hospital care is not required to return the patient to a full- or limited-duty status.

## **SNIPE**

Anyone who works in the engineering department.

## **STARBOARD**

The right side of a nautical vessel.

## **STEM**

**Science, Technology, Engineering and Math**

## **STERN**

The aft part (rear) of a ship or boat.

## **STG**

**Sonar Technician, Surface**

## **STS**

**Sonar Technician, Submarine**

## **SWAB**

A mop.

## **SWCC**

**Special Warfare Combatant-Craft Crewman** (pronounced swick)

Navy Special Warfare Force member who operates the inventory of boats used for mission support.

[Learn more >](#)

## **SWEEPERS**

Cleaning ritual that involves sweeping assigned areas.

## **SWO**

### **Surface Warfare Officer**

Navy Officer Corps who pilot, operate and manage a surface ships such as destroyers and cruisers.

[Learn more >](#)

— T —

## **TAD**

### **Temporary Additional Duty**

A temporary assignment of additional duty.

## **TAPS**

Lights out, time for sleep.

## **TDY**

### **Temporary Duty**

## **TURN TO**

Begin work.

— U —

## **UCMJ**

### **Uniform Code of Military Justice**

The foundation of all military law in the United States, applicable to all members of uniformed services of the United States.

## **URL**

### **Unrestricted Line Officer**

Officer of the line in the U.S. Navy who is qualified to command ships, subs and aviation units and can rise to high Navy leadership positions such as CNO.

## **USMAP**

### **United States Military Apprenticeship Program**

A formal military training program that provides Active Duty Navy members the opportunity to improve their job skills and to complete their civilian apprenticeship requirements while they are on Active Duty.

## **USN**

### **United States Navy**

The sea branch of the U.S. Armed Forces.

[Learn more >](#)

## **USNA**

### **United States Naval Academy**

The undergraduate college in Annapolis, Maryland, that educates and commissions Navy Officers and Marine Corps Officers.

## **USNR**

### **United States Navy Reserve**

— W —

## **WORKING ALOFT**

Working above the highest deck, generally performing maintenance on the ship's mast.

## **WSO**

### **Weapons Systems Officer**

Specific to the F/A-18F and F/A-18D aircraft, an Officer who specializes in airborne weapons and sensor systems.

[Learn more >](#)

— X —

## **XO**

### **Executive Officer**

Naval Officer who is second in command, reporting to the Commanding Officer (CO).