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PREPARING FOR MILITARY
BASIC TRAINING
REFERENCE AND JOURNAL
AND
YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE

Extract Glossary

This is a copy of the Glossary from
Preparing for Military Basic
Training: Your Complete Guide and
Preparing for Military Basic
Training: Reference and Journal

Preparing for Military Basic Training



Reference and Guide

Information,
Checklists, Journal

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Preparing for Military Basic Training



Your Complete Guide

To Get Ready for
Boot Camp

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Glossary

This is a combination of official terminology with slang terms. What you encounter may vary by your branch and by those you encounter. The slang terms are fluid, and you need to pay attention to how people use them.

A

“A” and “C” Schools	Advanced Training schools in the Navy and Coast Guard.
AAR (After-Action Review)	A debriefing session after a mission or exercise to review what happened, what went well, what did not, and how to improve.
ACU	Army Combat Uniform. The standard uniform worn by U.S. Army soldiers, consisting of a camouflage pattern designed for various environments.
AIT	Advanced Individual Training. The training period following Basic Combat Training (BCT) where recruits learn the specific skills for their chosen Military Occupational Specialty (MOS).
Attention on Deck	The first person who sees an officer enter a room will call out “attention on deck” and everyone stands up. They do not salute.
ASMO	Assignment Memorandum Order. An internal administrative code used to track the movement and assignment of personnel at the Navy Recruit Training Command.
ASVAB	Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery. An aptitude test developed by the Department of Defense measuring a young adult’s strengths and potential military success.

AWOL

Absent Without Leave. Leaving a post or duty without permission.

B

Battle Buddy

A fellow soldier assigned for mutual safety, support, and accountability, particularly during training.

BCT

Basic Combat Training. The initial training phase for Army recruits, focusing on physical fitness, basic soldiering skills, and discipline.

BDU

Battle Dress Uniform. The older camouflage uniform replaced by the ACU, still referred to in some contexts.

Blue Falcon

Slang for a "buddy f*er," someone who betrays their comrades.

Boot

A recruit or someone fresh out of boot camp.

Bravo Zulu (BZ)

Well done; a term of praise.

C

Cammie

Camouflage uniforms.

Chow

Food.

Chow Hall

The dining facility on a military base.

Civvies

Civilian clothes, as opposed to military uniforms.

CO

Commanding Officer. The officer in charge of a unit, responsible for its overall operations, discipline, and well-being.

CQ –

Charge of Quarters. A duty in which a soldier is assigned to monitor the entrance of a barracks, typically for 24 hours.

CONUS –	Continental United States. Refers to the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia, excluding Alaska and Hawaii.
Cover	Refers to anything offering protection from enemy fire; also refers to a military hat.
Commander in Chief	The president of the United States. Often asked of the recruit to try to confuse them.
Commissary	The grocery store operator on base. Only military and dependents may shop here.
CPO	Chief Petty Officer. An enlisted rank in the Navy and Coast Guard for E-7 to E-9. They wear the same uniform as officers with different insignias.

D

Day watch	The watch during normal work hours.
Deck	The floor, particularly in a ship or barracks.
Detail	An assignment or task usually involves a group of people.
Dependent	People who are taken care of by a military member as spouse or children.
DFAC	Dining Facility. The cafeteria or mess hall where soldiers eat.
DOD	Department of Defense.
Dog Tags	Metal identification tags worn by military personnel include essential information as name, blood type, and religious preference.
Drill Sergeant	A non-commissioned officer responsible for training new recruits during Basic Combat Training.
Duty Station	The location where a soldier is assigned to work after training.

E

Enlistment	The act of joining the military and committing to a specific term of service.
Eve watch	The watch starting at the end of the workday lasting until midwatch starts.
Exchange	A general store operated on base. Only military and dependents may shop here.

F

Falcon 123	You Obviously Have Me Confused With Someone Who Gives A Shit
Firewatch	A duty where a soldier is responsible for watching over an area or equipment, especially at night.
Formation	A structured arrangement of soldiers for drills, marches, or ceremonies.

G

Garrison	A military post or the soldiers stationed at such a post, typically in a non-combat environment.
Gear Adrift	Equipment that is not secured or properly stored.
Geardo	Someone who is overly enthusiastic about their gear and equipment.
Gedunk	A snack.
Go-Faster	Slang for running shoes or sneakers.
Grunt	Infantry soldier, someone who serves on the front lines.
Guide On	The flag carried by someone in front of the formation for alignment, a visual marker for the unit. Also known as a “guidon”.

H

Head	Military term for a bathroom or restroom, especially on ships or in field environments.
Hooah/Hooyah/ Oorah	A motivational term used to acknowledge a command or express enthusiasm and determination.
HMMWV (Humvee)	High-Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle, a versatile military vehicle used for various purposes.
High Speed	A term for someone who is highly motivated or performing well.

I

Infantry	The branch of the Army engaging in ground combat operations.
In-Processing	The procedure new recruits undergo when arriving at a new duty station, involving paperwork, medical exams, and orientation.

J

JAG	Judge Advocate General, the name of the legal branch in military. They act as prosecutors and defense attorneys.
Jarhead	Slang for a U.S. Marine.
Jody	A term to describe a civilian male who is (stereotypically) back home with a soldier's significant other while the soldier is deployed.

K

KIA	Killed In Action.
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L

Leave	Authorized time off duty, often used for vacation or personal matters.
Liberty	Free time granted to service members, usually on weekends or holidays.
Lifer	A service member who intends to serve in the military for their entire career. Often used as pejorative or disapproval. Do not use this term.
LZ	Landing Zone. A designated area where helicopters or other aircraft land.

M

Mess Hall	The building where recruits eat.
Mess Call	An announcement that it is time to go eat.
MEPS	Military Entrance Processing Station. The facility where recruits undergo medical examinations, take the ASVAB, and sworn into service
Midwatch	The watch that is overnight typically starting at 11 PM or 2300.
MOS	Military Occupational Specialty. The specific job or career field a soldier is trained for in the Army.
MRE	Meal, Ready-to-Eat. Pre-packaged meals used by soldiers in the field.

N

NCO	Non-Commissioned Officer. An enlisted member of the rank E-4 to E-9 in the Army, Air Force, or Marine Corp.
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NCOIC **Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge.** The senior NCO responsible for a specific task or unit.

No-Go A term used during training indicating a task was not performed to standard, requiring a retake or retry.

O

Officer Military members in the pay grades of O-1 to O-9. They are the managers and leaders with the most responsibility.

P

Pay Grade The pay level of a military member. It is E for enlisted and O for officer. It is followed by a number 1 to 9.

PCS **Permanent Change of Station.** The relocation of a service member and their family to a new duty station for an extended period.

Petty Officer A Navy enlisted member from E-4 to E-6.

Piece The rifle used when marching.

Pogey Bait Snacks or candy, often traded or bartered.

PT **Physical Training.** The daily exercise routine required of all soldiers to maintain physical fitness.

Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) A federal law that can forgive portions of student loan debt for veterans.

PX **Post Exchange.** A retail store on a military base where soldiers can purchase goods and services.

Q

Quartermaster	A military officer responsible for providing supplies, equipment, and logistics support.
Quarters	Housing provided to military personnel, either on base or in military-owned properties.
Quick Time	A standard marching pace of 120 steps per minute, used during drills.

R

R&R	Rest and Recuperation. Authorized leave granted to soldiers for rest and recovery, typically after a deployment.
Rack	A bed or sleeping area.
Report	To put someone on report is to charge them with a violation of the UCMJ.
Roving patrol	A watch assignment where they walk around a designated area as the barracks.
Ruck March	A march or hike carrying a loaded backpack, used to build endurance and simulate combat conditions.

S

SCRA	Servicemembers Civil Relief Act – Allows military service members to reduce interest rates on debts incurred before entering active duty. Mortgages, credit cards, car loans, business obligations and some student loans, to 6%. Lenders to be contacted in writing with copies of orders. Download act off internet. Free help thru Military One Source-800-342-9647 & militaryonesource.mil
Scuttlebutt	A rumor or gossip.
Sergeant	A rank in the Army, typically responsible for leading a squad or section.
Sick Call	The designated time to report a medical issue.
SITREP	Situation Report. A report providing updates on the status of an operation or mission.
Skivvies	Underwear.
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure. Established procedures that must be followed in specific situations.
Squad	A small military unit, typically consisting of 8-12 soldiers, led by a Sergeant.
Squared Away	A term used to describe someone or something that is in good order.
Stack Arms	To place rifles in a triangular formation, usually during a break in training or a ceremony.
Swab	Mop

T

Tango Uniform	Military slang for "Tits Up," meaning something is broken or non-functional.
TDY	Temporary Duty Assignment. A temporary assignment to a location other than a permanent duty station.
Top	A term for a Master Sergeant, often used as a sign of respect.
Tricare	The military health insurance plan.

U

UA	Unauthorized absence: this replaces AWOL
UCMJ	Uniform Code of Military Justice. The legal code governing the conduct of all U.S. military personnel.
Unit	A military organization made up of soldiers, ranging from small teams to large divisions.
USO	United Service Organizations. A nonprofit organization that provides support and entertainment to U.S. service members and their families.

V

Veteran	A person who has served in the armed forces, particularly one who has seen active duty.
Voluntold	Slang for being volunteered for a task without having a choice in the matter.
VX	Visual eXamination A process where soldiers are visually inspected for uniform compliance and other regulations.

W

Warrant Officer	A ranking system between enlisted and officer. It is usually used for skills that may be highly technical and allows the member to work in their specialty and still advance in pay.
Warrior Ethos	The creed by which soldiers live, emphasizing duty, honor, and commitment to the mission.
Watch	A duty shift, especially in the Navy or Coast Guard.
Weapons Qualification	The process of testing a soldier's proficiency with their assigned weapon, typically conducted during training.
Wingman	A term borrowed from the Air Force, referring to someone who supports and looks out for a fellow service member.
Write-up	To put someone on report for a violation of the UCMJ.

X

XO	Executive Officer. The second-in-command of a military unit, responsible for assisting the Commanding Officer.
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Y

Yellow Ribbon Program	A support program for service members and their families during deployments and homecomings.
Yield Point	In combat terms, the point at which a unit must retreat or surrender due to overwhelming force.

Z

Zero Dark Thirty	Military slang for an unspecified early morning hour, often before sunrise, usually when operations begin.
Zone Recon	A type of reconnaissance mission to gather information about a specific area or zone.
Zonk	To leave or disappear quickly, often without notice.
Zoomie	Slang for an Air Force pilot or a member of the Air Force in general.
ZULU Time	The military term for Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), used in communication across different time zones. This provides a time applying anywhere in the world without regards to time zone.