



Navy Speak

Navy Acronyms

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 >](#)

BMT

Basic Military Training

Initial instruction given to new military personnel.

[Learn more >](#)

BS

Battle Stations

The final test at Boot Camp that determines the passage to becoming a U.S. Navy Sailor. On board ship, a location and conditions to respond to when under attack or experiencing an emergency such as a fire.

BUD/S

Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL

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

[Learn more >](#)

BUPERS

Bureau of Navy Personnel

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

CB

Construction Battalion (Seabees)

The Navy community of construction workers.

[Learn more >](#)

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 >](#)

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.

CTI

Cryptologic Technicians Interpretive

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

[Learn more >](#)

DEP

Delayed Entry Program

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

[Learn more >](#)

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.

DT

Dental Technician

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

[Learn more >](#)

EAOS

End of Active Obligated Service

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

ENL

Enlisted

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

[Learn more >](#)

EOD

Explosive Ordnance Disposal

Technicians tasked to safely dispose of explosive materials.

[Learn more >](#)

FAC

Forward Air Controller

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

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 >](#)

IT

Information Technology

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

[Learn more >](#)

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.

LSO

Landing Signal Officer

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

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 >](#)

MSC

Medical Service Corps

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

[Learn more >](#)

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.

NRC

Navy Recruiting Command

Main headquarters for Navy recruiting, located in Millington, Tennessee.

NROTC

Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps

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

[Learn more >](#)

NSAWC

Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center

Center that provides training and service to aircrews and squadrons.

OCS

Officer Candidate School

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

OIC

Officer in Charge

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

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 >](#)

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!

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.

RDC

Recruit Drill/Division Commander

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

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 >](#)

SEAL

Sea-Air-Land (Team)

Members of the Navy 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.

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.

SWCC

Special Warfare Combatant-Craft Crewman (pronounced: swick)

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

[Learn more >](#)

SWO

Surface Warfare Officer

Navy Officer corps who pilot, operate and manage a surface ship such as destroyers and cruisers.

[Learn more >](#)

TAD

Temporary Additional Duty

A temporary assignment of additional duty.

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.

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.

WSO

Weapons System Officer
Specific to the F/A-18F and F/A-18D aircrafts, an Officer who specializes in airborne weapons and sensor systems.
[Learn more >](#)

XO

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

Navy Terms

ADRIFT

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

AFT

Towards the stern (tail) of a ship.

ALL HANDS

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

ALLOTMENT

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

AYE, AYE

Response acknowledging the understanding of a command/statement.

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 NOSE

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

BOW

The forward part of a ship or boat.

BRIGHTWORK

Brass or shiny metal kept polished rather than painted.

BROWNSHOE

Aviation rate Enlisted personnel.

BULKHEAD

The wall.

BUNK

A bed.

BUOY

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

CARRY ON

An order to resume work or duties.

CAST OFF

To throw off, to let go, to unfurl.

CHAIN LOCKER

Compartment in which anchor chain is stowed.

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.

COLORS

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

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.

DECK

The floor.

DEEP SIX

To dispose of or throw away.

ENSIGN

The rank of an Officer between Chief Warrant Officer and Lieutenant Junior Grade.

FAST

Snugly secured.

FATHOM

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

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 0–7 or above.

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.

GEEDUNK

Candy, gum or cafeteria, sometimes called pogy bait.

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.

HATCH

The door.

HEAD

The restroom.

JACK BOX

Access box to sound-powered phone circuitry.

LADDER

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

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.

MARLINSPIKE

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

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.

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 >](#)

OMBUDSMAN

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

OVERHEAD

The ceiling.

P-DAYS

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

PASSAGEWAY

A hallway.

PORT

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

PORT SIDE

The left side of a nautical vessel.

QUARTERS

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

RACK

A bed.

RATING

A job specialty title.

REVEILLE

A signal signifying the start of a work day.

RICKY

A recruit.

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.

SECURE

To stop or quit work.

SICK BAY

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

SNIPE

Anyone who works in the Engineering department.

STARBOARD

The right side of a nautical vessel.

STERN

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

SWEEPERS

Cleaning ritual that involves sweeping assigned areas.

SWAB

A mop.

TAPS

Lights out, time for sleep.

TURN TO

Begin work.

WORKING ALOFT

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