

The following was obtained from Alison Lighthall, RN, MS.

Quick Overview of Some Basic Military Terms

AKO:	Army Knowledge Online (the Army's email system)
AO:	Area of Operation
AOC:	Area of Concentration (professional job description)
ACU:	All Climate Uniform (digital combat and work uniform)
OIC:	Officer in Charge
AWOL:	Absence Without Leave
AT:	Annual Training
APFT:	Army Physical Fitness Test (mandatory level of fitness to remain in the service)
Bird Colonel:	O6
Boots on the ground:	Time served overseas on deployment, starts upon arrival
Briefing:	Factual update on current situation
Butterbars:	Second Lieutenant
CSH (pronounced CASH):	Combat Support Hospital
Charlie Foxtrot:	C.F, which indicates that something went massively wrong
Coasties:	Nickname for Coast Guard service members
CONUS:	Continental US
Debriefing:	Discussion post-incident that focuses on fact
Deployment:	Being sent on orders to serve on active duty
Devil Dogs:	Nickname for Marines
Dustoff:	Nickname for Medevac helicopter
FOB:	Forward Operating Base
Fox Alpha:	F.A., short for "you better believe it."
Fraternizing:	Forbidden socialization between enlisted and officers or anyone who is under someone else's command
FRGs:	Family Readiness Group, support group for all military families
Groundhogs Day:	From the movie, meaning the days all seem to be exactly the same
FST (pronounced FAST):	Forward Surgical Team, small unit of about 15 doctors, nurses, and medics who deploy into the areas of fighting to do emergency patch-ups and stabilizations, so that the injured troop can be transported to a higher level of care. They mobilize fast and work fast, so the name suits them.
Grunts:	Nickname for low level, front line guys or new recruits
Hooah:	Shout of recognition (thought to be from the acronym HUA—Heard, Understood, Acknowledged)
IED:	Improvised Explosive Device (homemade bomb getting bigger every day)
In country:	Being in the location of OCONUS deployment
In theater:	Being in the location of OCONUS war deployment
Jarheads:	Nickname for Marines
Leathernecks:	Nickname for Marines
Light Colonel:	Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) O5
L.T.:	Nickname for Lieutenant
MWR:	Morale, Welfare, and Recreation department
MP:	Military Police
MOS:	Military Occupational Specialty (job title)
MRE:	Meals Ready to Eat
Medevac:	Medical Evacuation Helicopter
NBC:	Nuclear Biological Chemical

NCO: Non-Commissioned Officer
OBC: Officer Basic Course
OCS: Officer Candidate School
O dark thirty: Early in the morning
OCONUS: Outside Continental US
POTUS: President of the United States
PMCS: Preventative Maintenance Checks and Service
PCS: Permanent Change of Station (transfer to another base)
PT: Physical Training (physical fitness)
Redeployment: Returning home from deployment
Sandbox: Iraq and sometimes Afghanistan
Troops: Soldiers, Marines
Weapon: Word used for gun, knife, rifle
RPG: Rocket Propelled Grenade (usually a shoulder-held launcher)
Wiskey Tango Foxtrot: WTF, as in, "What in the world...?"

ARMY RANK OF INSIGNIA

ENLISTED:

E1: Private (PVT)
E2: Private E-2 (PV2)
E3: Private First Class (PFC)
E4: Corporal (CPL) or Specialist (SPC)
E5: Sergeant (SGT)
E6: Staff Sergeant (SSG)
E7: Sergeant First Class (SFC)
E8: Master Sergeant (MSG) or First Sergeant (1SG, nickname "Top")
E9: Sergeant Major (SGM) or Command Sergeant Major (CSM) or
Sergeant Major of the Army (SMA) --1 person holds this position

OFFICERS:

W1: Warrant Officer; W2, W3, W4, W5, Chief Warrant Officers: direct representatives of the President, technical specialists
O1: 2LT
O2: 1LT ("L.T.")
O3: Captain
O4: Major
O5: Lieutenant Colonel ("Light Colonel")
O6: Colonel ("Bird Colonel" or "Full Bird")
O7: Brigadier General (1 Star)
O8: Major General (2 Stars)
O9: Lieutenant General (3 Stars)
O10: General (4 Stars, Army Chief of Staff), General of the Army (none current)