

## GLOSSARY OF OIF/OEF SLANG & JARGON *from John MUNDT, Ph.D.*

airhead	base used for supply and evacuation by air
angel	used by some US medical personnel to refer to a US soldier killed in combat
ass & trash	hauling people and materials, usually by air ( <i>term originated during Vietnam War</i> )
battle rattle	Standard equipment for OIF soldier, close to 50 pounds worth of gear, including a flak vest, Kevlar helmet, gas mask, ammunition, weapons, and other basic military equipment.
BOHICA	Acronym for "Bend Over, Here It Comes Again", a means of expressing dissatisfied resignation
Bombaconda	nickname for LSA Anaconda, , a major base near Balad, reflecting the frequent mortar attacks
bug out	to make a hasty retreat
camel spider	Not actually spiders, but large arthropods in Iraq that hide in sleeping bags or boots, and can give a painful bite
CASH	Pronounced "cash", refers to a Combat Surgical Hospital
chewers	Iraqi insurgents who record the license plates and movements of Iraqi civilians working with US forces to target them for killing
CHU	Containerized Housing Unit (pronounced "choo"). Movable living space made from a shipping container. More roomy and comfortable than a tent.
CHUvilles	A cluster of CHU's (see)
Collateral damage	Military euphemism for civilian deaths
commo blackout	communication blackout for a dead soldier's unit until the family can be informed
crocket	insurgent vehicle carrying rockets or artillery rounds, also known as "cattillery"
crunchies	Tank-driver term for infantry
dead check	to shoot bullets into a lifeless body to ensure that it's dead
death blossom	The tendency of Iraqi security forces, in response to receiving a little fire from the enemy, to either run away or do the "death blossom" spraying fire indiscriminately in all directions
DFAC	DFAC (pronounced "dee-fak"). Dining facilities in which soldiers eat. Old soldiers date themselves by calling it a "chow hall" or "mess hall". DFACs are modern looking cafeterias
dirt sailor	A member of the Navy's Construction Battalions (Seabees). In Iraq, a sailor playing a part that is not a normal Navy role
EFP	Explosive Forming Projectile, a particularly deadly innovation in use by insurgents against US vehicles

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Embed	Embedded reporter: journalist traveling with the troops and reporting from the battlefield
FST	Pronounced "fast", refers to Forward Surgical Team, new version of a MASH unit, usually with about twenty persons, including four surgeons
Fedayeen	An Iraqi paramilitary group used by Saddam Hussein against domestic enemies, which put up unexpected resistance against US troops in the 2003 invasion
FOB	Forward operating base, offering relative safety and security
fobbit	American soldier who never leaves a forward operating base ( see FOB)
frankenstein	A Marine Corps monster truck, bulging and rippling with spot-welded seams of add-on or "hillbilly armor" (see)
freedom bird	airplane that flies American soldiers out of Iraq (term originated during Vietnam War)
friendly fire	American troops mistakenly firing upon their own troops
FUBAR	Acronym with a rich military history, for "F***ed Up Beyond All Recognition/Repair"
Green Zone	Heavily guarded area in central Baghdad where US, coalition and Iraqi authorities live and work
Groundhog Day	Another day on duty in Iraq, ie, repetitive and unchanging (from the film by the same name)
GWOT	Global War on Terrorism
haji	Arabic word for someone who has made the pilgrimage to Mecca, but now used derogatorily by US troops for an Iraqi, anyone of arab decent, or even of a brownish skin tone, be they afghanis, or even Bangladeshis
haji mart	any small store operated by Iraqis to sell small items to Americans
hillbilly armor	improvised vehicle armor made from scrounged parts and scrap metal
hollow army	to fill out the ranks with unqualified or untrained soldiers
IED	improvised explosive device, frequently a roadside bome detonated remotely
ITGA	Interim Transitional Government of Afghanistan
jingle trucks	In Afghanistan, transport trucks with a narrow wheel base that are usually adorned with colorful stickers and jingly chimes
KAF	Kandahar Air Field, the main base of operations for the Southern part of Afghanistan

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KMAG YO-YO	"Kiss My Ass, Guys, You're On Your Own!" (translation: Goodbye, Iraq!)
Mortaritaville	another nickname for LSA Anaconda, a major base near Balad, reflecting the frequent mortar attacks
Muj	Pronounced "mooj", short for Mujahadeen. Formally a person who wages jihad, informally used to describe Iraqi insurgents
OEF	Operation Enduring Freedom: the war in Afghanistan
OGA	"other government agency", referring to the CIA
OIF outside the wire	Operation Iraqi Freedom: the war in Iraq outside the security perimeter surrounding the FOB (see), where combat missions and patrols occur
Patriot missiles	Rockets that intercept other missiles before they reach their targets
Peshmerga	Kurdish fighters who fought with Coalition troops in the 2003 Iraqi war, and who have long fought against the Iraqi regime
POG	People Other than Grunts, pronounced "pogue". Similar to "fobbit" (see), referring to rear-echelon support troops
PSD	Personal Security Detail, referring to private security contractors
red-on-red	enemy-on-enemy fire, as when rival Iraqi factions battle each other
Regime change	Overthrow of a government
Republican Guard	Saddam Hussein's most elite troops
Rhino	37-ton armored bus that shuttles VIPs from the Baghdad airport to the Green Zone
road apples	defecation left by soldiers who relieve themselves from the back of vehicles
Route Tampa	Main military supply line into Iraq from Kuwait, and a main route out of the country
sandbox	Iraq ("Sandpit" is also used)
"Shut up and color!"	Admonition to a soldier who is expected to do his duty despite less-than-ideal circumstances
TCP	Traffic control point
thunder run	high-speed military convoy in the midst of battle

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Tiny Heart Syndrome	derogatory term for Iraqi units that shy away from combat
trunk monkeys	derogatory term for Iraqi troops in a pickup truck mounted with a machine gun
VBIED	Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device. i.e.. Car Bomb
WMD	Weapons of Mass Destruction (chemical, biological, nuclear).

For a far more detailed glossary, check out: [www.rivervet.com/oif\\_glossary.htm](http://www.rivervet.com/oif_glossary.htm)