AFFILIATE-EXCLUSIVE BONUS #9

Military Slang & Acronym

Glossary Starter -- 50 common terms families can look up while listening

A quick-reference glossary for a spouse, child, or grandchild encountering unfamiliar terms while listening to a veteran's story. Not exhaustive -- just the most common ones.

AAR	After-Action Review
AWOL	Absent Without Leave
BAH	Basic Allowance for Housing
Berthing	Sleeping quarters aboard a ship
Bird	Slang for a helicopter or aircraft
Blue Falcon	Slang for someone who lets their team
Boot Camp	Initial basic training
Brass	Slang for senior officers
CO	Commanding Officer
Chow	Slang for food/a meal
CONUS	Continental United States
DD-214	Certificate of military discharge
Deployment	Being sent to serve in another location,
FOB	Forward Operating Base
Fire Team	A small unit, typically 4 service members
Fireguard	Overnight watch duty in barracks
Formation	Service members lined up for roll call or
Furlough	Approved leave/time off
Grunt	Slang for an infantry service member
Gunny	Slang for a Gunnery Sergeant (Marines)
Hooah / Oorah / Hooyah	Branch-specific expressions of enthusiasm
KIA	Killed in Action
Klick	Slang for one kilometer
Latrine	Restroom facility
Liberty	Authorized time off (Navy/Marines)
MIA	Missing in Action
MOS	Military Occupational Specialty (job
MRE	Meal, Ready-to-Eat
NCO	Non-Commissioned Officer
OCONUS	Outside the Continental United States
Op	Short for "operation" or mission
Ops Tempo	Pace/intensity of ongoing operations
PCS	Permanent Change of Station -- a
PT	Physical Training
Rack	Slang for a bed or bunk
Recon	Reconnaissance
ROE	Rules of Engagement
Rotation	A scheduled deployment or duty cycle
Sitrep	Situation Report
Squared away	Slang for well-organized or prepared
Squad	A small tactical unit
TDY	Temporary Duty (a short-term assignment)
Terminal leave	Final leave before separation/retirement
Top	Slang for a First Sergeant
Tour	A period of deployment or assignment
VA	Department of Veterans Affairs
WIA	Wounded in Action
Wilco	"Will comply"
XO	Executive Officer
Zero Dark Thirty	Slang for very early morning hours
Zulu Time	Military term for Greenwich Mean Time