

USAF Academy Acronym/Term List

Parents can get very confused when their cadets call home and talk in Acronyms. The following terms are examples of those you may hear your cadet use. They are here as guidelines only and more are made up occasionally, but this will help parents understand their cadet when they call home. If you hear of any Acronyms please email USAFA.ParentLiaison@usafa.edu so this list remains as accurate.

10 FSS: 10th Force Support Squadron. Outdoor Recreation (think skiing, bicycle rentals & fun trips), Bowling Alley, Golf Course, Horseback riding, Arts & Crafts center etc...)

100s Night: 100's night celebrates the C1Cs' last 100 days at the Academy. On 100's night, the firsties receive their first assignments after graduation. On the weekend, the firsties leave campus and the C4Cs "decorate" the firsties' rooms. It is quite the festive occasion.

AAFES: Army Air Force Exchange Store

AAOCA: Associate Air Officer Commanding for Academics. Officer assigned to each squadron to help cadets who have not chosen a major or other academic issues.

ABORT: To discontinue or abandon; an abandoned takeoff (ground abort) or mission.

ABU: Airman Battle Uniform, the camouflage uniform worn by the Air Force

ACC: Air Combat Command. The command in the Air Force responsible for combat delivery, refueling, rescue, and reconnaissance. It is a combination of the old SAC and TAC.

Acceptance: The time when Freshman are accepted into the Cadet Wing as full-fledged Fourth Class Cadets. Occurs at the Acceptance Parade after summer BCT is completed.

Ac Only: Academics Only. A medical restriction excusing cadets from physical and military activities.

Ac Pro: Academic Probation. A grade average lower than 2.0 or flunking a subject. Ac Pro entails loss of privileges.

Ac Pro Ranger: Someone consistently on Academic Probation.

ACQ: Academic Call to Quarters. Study time from 7:30 PM to 11:00 PM is set aside each night before an academic day. Military duties involving more than one cadet are not authorized.

Admissions Liaison Officer (ALO): Active Duty, retired Air Force, Air Force Reserve, or parent volunteer who helps recruit for the Academy and helps students with the Academy application process.

Admissions Portal: Online access possible appointees to process their paperwork, upload documents and find out status on their application.

Aero: Aeronautics. Refers to the Aeronautics department, or a specific course, such as Aero351. Usually used to describe the core aero class.

AETC: Air Education and Training Command. In charge of all flight training.

AFA: Air Force Academy.

AFIT: Air Force Institute of Technology. An organization that helps cadets after graduation to gain advanced degrees.

AFOSI: Air Force Office of Special Investigations

AFSC: Air Force Space Command. Responsible for all space operations.

AFSOC: Air Force Special Operations Command. Responsible for special operations.

AFT: Aerobic Fitness Test. A 1.5-mile run which is part of the athletic grade and given every semester.

A-Hall: Arnold Hall. A cadet recreation center.

AHSD: Arnold Hall Security Detail

Airmanship 490: Jump School where cadets make five parachute jumps and earn jump wings.

Air Gardens: The walking area on the Terrazzo between the flagpole and Mitchell Hall. Each tree stands for a graduate who died in combat in Vietnam. Forbidden for Fourth Class Cadets.

ALO: Admissions Liaison Officer. An Air Force Reserve officer who counsels Academy and ROTC applicants regarding admissions programs.

AMI: Pronounced “Ammy,” it means Morning Inspection. Rooms must be maintained in inspection order each morning during the week until noon and on training Saturdays until completion of training.

AMC: Air Mobility Command. Provides strategic all airlift services.

AMT: Academy Military Training Non-Commissioned Officer

AOC: Air Officer Commanding. The officer, usually a captain or a major, who is directly in charge of your son’s/daughter’s squadron. The AOC is the one to talk to when you or your cadets have problems. Avoid calling the AOC except in emergencies.

AOG: Association of Graduates. It is the Academy’s alumni association and is a private, tax-exempt corporation in Colorado. Its primary goals are to provide services to the USAFA graduates, support the mission of the Academy, and promote fellowship, pride, and spirit among graduates, their families and the Academy community.

APECS: All-Purpose Environmental Clothing System

Appointee – a qualified candidate who has been offered an appointment to the Academy.

Appointment – an offer of admission to a candidate.

Apt Pro: Aptitude probation.

ARC: Academic Review Committee.

Article 15: The most frequent type of military discipline available under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). Formally referred to as nonjudicial punishment. No formal criminal proceeding is required and it does not create a criminal record.

Arnie’s: Arnold Hall. Common haunt of Fourth Classmen and occasionally a few upperclassmen. There is a snack bar and movies. Also the location for most formal dances.

ASAP: As soon as possible.

Astro: Astronautics. Courses pertaining to Astronautics.

Athletic Director's List: A List of Athletic Performance. Earned through achieving a Physical Education Average (PEA) of 3.0 or higher. The PEA is based on the PFT, PE class grades from previous semester, and the AFT score. Signified by a "Lightning Bolt" worn on the left breast pocket.

Bandit: Target identified as unfriendly.

Base: Installation owned and/or operated by the Air Force.

Base Leg: next to last leg of traffic patterns flown perpendicularly to runway.

Base Wing: Swept-back wing; having bent wings, as in a bent wing aircraft.

Basic: The first 6 weeks of life at the Air Force Academy.

BCGs: Basic Cadet's glasses or birth control glasses. Ugly, plastic, square-rimmed "issue" glasses that will not break.

BCT: Basic Cadet Training. Also referred as the "Beast."

Bearing: Military behavior or manner.

Beat the Dean: Perform well on a final exam.

Bird ("The Bird"): The USAFA mascot (falcon). A gift (statue) given to visitors or guest speakers. Also in the Air Force it is a flying machine, usually an aircraft, but sometimes a missile.

Black Box: An electronic gadget that has no obvious function but without which an aircraft couldn't function.

Blast: Shock effect of nuclear, also upper-class get together characterized by its informality.

Blue Weekend: Weekends when cadets should have free time with no official training.

Blue Magnet: The USAFA comforter on the bed made especially for cadets that emits a magnetic pull.

Bogey: An unidentified flying object or radar blip.

Bomb – Do extremely poorly, as to “bomb a GR.”

Boom: That part of a gas-passer that provides fuel.

BOR: Base of the Ramp. The famous meeting place where your cadet begins his or her Academy life. After leaving In-processing at the AOG building on the bus, your cadet will be delivered to the footprint pad at the Base of the Ramp, where they come to attention before going up the ramp and into their USAFA experience.

BP: Business Pass. Issued so that cadet may take care of personal business during the day.

Brain Bucket: Crash helmet.

Brat: Son or daughter of a military family.

Break: Steep turn either from a formation or in a traffic pattern.

BS: Bachelor of Science/Behavioral Science

Buy the Farm: To crash

BX: Base Exchange

C1C: Cadet First Class (a senior). Also known as Firstie or First Degree.

C2C: Cadet Second Class (a junior). Also known as Second Degree.

C3C: Cadet Third Class (a sophomore). Also known as Third Degree.

C4C: Cadet Fourth Class (a freshman). Also known as Fourth Degree and Doolie.

Cadet Candidate: C/C. A student attending the U.S. Preparatory School. This school helps students improve in core classes to hopefully attend USAFA the following year.

Cadet Outdoor Rec: The Cadet Outdoor Recreation office (10th Force Support Squadron). This office has all the funs stuff to do such as equipment rental, ski trips, white water rafting etc... Also schedules buses round trip to Denver and Colorado Springs airports during the major

holiday breaks for a cost. Their phone number is (719) 333-4602. Note: They must have the airline travel information to make reservations. No buses during the Summer breaks.

Cadet Wing: Military organization of all cadets, consisting of 4 groups and 40 squadrons, totaling approximately 4,000 cadets.

Cadre: Upperclass cadets holding leadership positions.

CAMIS: Cadet Administrative Management Information System. Computer system in which cadets can get schedules, grades and other administrative information.

Candidate Kit: Kit containing forms and information for students whose Pre-candidate Questionnaires have been received, screened and approved, including complete information about Medical Eligibility, the Physical Aptitude Exam and other necessary steps in the admissions process.

Canoe U: A small school which forms a suburb of the capital of Maryland with a campus partly on land and partly in the Severn River. The Naval Academy at Annapolis.

Carry On: Military command, when given, means to resume your normal duties.

CC: Commander/ Cadet Commander/ Command Center

CC: Colorado College in Colorado Springs.

CCAR: Cadet Chaplain's activity room.

CCLD: Center for Character and Leadership Development

CCQ: The cadet in charge of quarters. The squadron representative who answers the phones, takes messages etc.

CDS: Cadet Discipline System

CE or Cmsng ED: Commissioning Education

CEAB: Cadet Extracurricular Activities Board

Ceiling: The altitude where the sky becomes more than one-half obscured by clouds as seen by an observer on the ground.

CEP: Circular error probability. Measure of accuracy of a weapon.

CG: Cadet Group.

Checkpoints: A daily list of “must-know” knowledge for 4th Class cadets – meal menus, days until graduation for each of the three upper classes and Senior Officer of the Day.

CIC: Cadet in charge.

CINC: Commander in Chief. Pronounced “sink”.

Class Spirit Committee: Each class has a Parent Spirit Committee. This committee does things for the class as a whole. For example purchasing coins for class for special events.

COB: Close of Business

COIN: Counter-Insurgency. A type of warfare.

COMM: Commandant of Cadets. In charge of the military training at USAFA.

COMM’s List: Commandant’s List for cadet military performance. Earned through achieving a Military Performance Average (MPA) of 3.00 or above for the previous semester, and signified by a “Wreath” worn on the left breast pocket.

COMM’s Shop: That organization coming under the control and direction of the Commandant and consisting of those departments directly affecting the Cadet Wing. Offices located on the north side of Fairchild Hall.

Command Post: Cadet Wing Operations Center. The organization in charge of day-to-day operations for the Cadet Wing.

Community Center: Location of the BX, Commissary, Military Clothing Sales, Package Store, Burger King, etc. Also the Personnel Office and Academy Preparatory School.

Comms Time: Commandant's time, the fifth period of each day during which various types of military training are conducted by the AOC, AAOC, AMT, or Military Training Instructors

Comp Sci: Computer Science. Academic requirement usually taken in the Fourth Class year.

Conduct/Aptitude Pro: Commandant's probation. More commonly referred to as Conduct or Aptitude Probation

Contrails: The handbook of Fourth Class knowledge which contains USAF heritage notes, quotes, and various items details which have to be committed to memory. Also the white lines in the sky left by jets.

CONUS: Continental United States.

Converter: The T-37, since it converts JP-4 fuel directly to noise.

Copilot: Fourth Class cadet responsible for passing out the drinks to upper classmen during meals.

Coraframs: Patent leather shoes worn with blues.

Corps: A term used to refer to the USAFA Cadet Wing by people who don't know that cadets don't like to be called the Corps.

COS: Colorado Springs. Sometimes referred to as C-Springs.

Cover: Military headgear.

CPRII: Cadet Personnel Record

CQ or CCQ: Cadet in Charge of Quarters. Usually a Third Class cadet. The job involves answering phones, providing squadron security and disseminating important information.

CQ Desk: The desk where the squadron telephone is located and where the CQ is posted.

Crash: A landing in which the vertical velocity is so great and the time spent reducing it to zero is so brief that the acceleration and hence the forces acting become so great as to result in structural failure.

Cretin: That person ill-disposed at doing acts of nominal coordination or acts requiring minimal thought.

Crew Chief: Enlisted person or Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) in charge of maintenance of a certain aircraft.

CS: Cadet Squadron, usually followed by a number.

C-Store: Cadet Store located in Vandenberg Hall.

CSU: Colorado State University in Fort Collins.

CU: Colorado University in Boulder.

CUI: Combined Unit Inspection.

CW: The Cadet Wing.

CWOC: Cadet Wing Operations Center

Dark Ages: That period of after daylight savings time until Spring Break. This period of time is said to drag on for millenniums. The daylight hours are very short.

D&B: Cadet Drum and Bugle Corps.

DCID: Dress, Cover, Interval, Distance

DDT: Directed Development Time

Dead Week: The week between spring finals and graduation.

Dean's List: Dean's List for academic achievement. Earned by achieving a GPA of 3.0 or higher during the previous semester and signified by a "Star" worn on left breast pocket.

Demerit: Normally points that may add up to a punishment for military infractions.

DF: The Dean of Faculty.

DI: Dormitory Inspector. A First Class cadet who makes sure that all cadets are in their rooms by taps.

Dining In: A formal dinner for officers and cadets, an Air Force tradition.

Dining Out: An informal dinner with all squadron members at a restaurant.

DIS: Discretionary Pass

DoD: Department of Defense

DODO/EDODO: The cadet underground humor magazine and web site, usually for cadet eyes only.

Doolie: A Fourth Class cadet after being accepted into the Cadet Wing. In cadet terms “one whose potential for learning is unlimited; one whose days until graduation approaches infinity.”

Downwind: The leg in a traffic pattern which is parallel to the runway and with the wind.

Drag: A resistant force exerted in a direction opposite to the direction of motion.

DR: Dead Reckoning. A method of navigation.

DV: Distinguished Visitor. Normally General Officer or Politician.

ECP: Entry Control Point (Gate normally)

Edge Dressing: Shiny black fluid used to shine heels and soles of shoes.

EE: “Double E”. An electrical engineering course and academic major.

EI: Extra instruction. Tutoring in a specific subject.

Element: The basic unit of a squadron, consisting of about 12 cadets.

Escape Velocity: The initial velocity needed by an object to overcome the pull of gravity.

ESET: Expeditionary Evasion Survival Training consisting of survival and evasion, taught during second summer at AFA.

ETA – ETD: Estimated time of arrival; estimated time of departure.

FAA: Federal Aviation Agency. Makes and enforces flying rules.

FAC: Forward Air Controller. Pilot who flies an observation plane over a specific area and directs air attacks on the target.

Fairchild Hall: The cadet academic building.

Falcon Alerts: Program that cadets sign up for sign up for texts for weather, base exercises, or emergencies notifications. Cadets can sign up parent phone numbers as well.

Fall In: The command given to come to the position of attention.

Fall Out: The command given to release members from formation.

FDU: Flight Duty Uniform.

FIGMO: Forget it, got my orders. Demonstrating a “don’t care” attitude. Mathematically expressed by dividing the number of days spent at the academy by the number of days until graduation. In the Air Force it means: Finally I got my orders.

Final: The last leg of the traffic pattern, the aircraft approaching the runway in the direction of landing (correctly called Final Approach).

Firstie: A First Class cadet (senior) at the Academy. In cadet terms “that immortal being having superhuman powers and disposed to acts of great wonder and cunning.”

Flame: Too verbally spot correct a Doolie.

Flameout: Engine failure in a jet engine when combustion no longer takes place.

Flight: Consists of 3 elements, about 36 cadets.

Flight Suit: A green coverall worn by operators in the Air Force.

Force Protection Condition (FPCON): Standardized identification of and recommended responses to terrorist threats against U. S. personnel and facilities. There are four levels above normal, Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, and Delta.

FPCON ALPHA: This condition applies when there is a general threat of possible terrorist activity against personnel and facilities, the nature and extent of which are unpredictable, and circumstances do not justify full implementation of FPCON BRAVO measures. However, it may be necessary to implement certain measures from higher THREATCONS resulting from intelligence received or as a deterrent. The measures in this THREATCON must be capable of being maintained indefinitely.

FPCON BRAVO: This condition applies when an increased and more predictable threat of terrorist activity exists. The measures in this THREATCON must be capable of being maintained for weeks without causing undue hardship, affecting operational capability, and aggravating relations with local authorities.

FPCON CHARLIE: This condition applies when an incident occurs or intelligence is received indicating some form of terrorist action against personnel and facilities is imminent. Implementation of measures in this THREATCON for more than a short period probably will create hardship and affect the peacetime activities of the unit and its personnel.

FPCON DELTA: This condition applies in the immediate area where a terrorist attack has occurred or when intelligence has been received that terrorist action against a specific location or person is likely. Normally, this THREATCON is declared as a localized condition.

Form 10: A form to report a cadet actions (Positive or negative).

FOUO: For Official Use Only.

FPAS: Force Protection Accountability System.

Frat: Fraternalization. Unprofessional relationship.

Free Fall: Also called sky diving. A parachute jump in which opening the chute is deliberately delayed.

Full Bore: Throttle full open.

Fuzzy: A cadet majoring in Liberal Arts.

G's: In flying, it is the number of times the force of gravity is applied to an aircraft or the pilot.

GAOC: Group Air Officer Commander

Garbage: Hardware on an aircraft which can be retracted, usually including flaps, landing gear, and speed brakes.

GBL: gamma butyrolactone.

GE: Global Engagement.

GDO: Group Deputy Officer.

Glass Cages: Cadet in charge of quarters complex (Sijan and Vandenberg Halls)

Good for DI: Cadet Accountability System. The absence reporting system.

GPA: Grade point average. Based on point system from 0 to 4.0.

GR: Graded Review. An exam.

Grassroots: A program which uses Cadets to speak at hometown high schools and/or answering questions about the USAFA.

Ground Pounder: A non-flying military member, usually refers to a non-rated Air Force member, or the Army or Marines.

Group: Consists of 10 squadrons, totaling 1,000 to 1,100 cadets. There are four groups in the Cadet Wing at the Academy.

Grunt: Someone who is in the U.S. Army.

Hack: An accurate time fix.

Hard Core: Description for someone very enthusiastic about the military.

Harmon Hall: Houses most of the administrative offices at the Academy, including the Superintendent's office. Located next to Arnold Hall.

Head Shed: Those organizations and departments falling under the jurisdiction of the Superintendent and their staff.

HHQ: Higher Headquarters Inspection.

Hometown News Release: For local Newspapers. Your cadet can go to the following link <https://jhns.release.dma.mil/public> and put in a Hometown News Release for their achievements here at USAFA.

Honor Guard: The Cadet Rifle drill Team. Also active duty members who show honor active duty and veterans at funerals and other ceremonies.

HR: Human Relations

Hudson High: A little school on the Hudson River having over 200 years of tradition unhampered by progress. The United States Military Academy at West Point.

Hypersonic: More than five times the speed of sound.

Hyperventilation: Condition brought about by high altitude, nervousness and physical stress. Not serious but common the first summer.

Hypoxia: Oxygen lack.

I-Day: Freshman In-Processing. Normally last Thursday of June.

IC or ICA: Intercollegiate Athlete

IFR: Instrument Flight Rules.

IFT: Initial Flight Training.

IG: Inspector General.

IC: Inter-collegiate.

Initial: The first leg of a traffic pattern or the first inspection after/during a confinement period.

Interdiction: Type of warfare designed to deprive the enemy of supplies by bombing of points on the enemy's supply route.

Intramurder: Athletic competition between squadrons.

IP: Instructor Pilot. The pilot who teaches others how to fly.

IP Points: Instructor Prerogative Points. Normally part of a grade in an academic class based on student participation.

IRI: In Ranks Inspection. The squadron forms up for inspection in their best uniforms.

Jack's Hack: A cough developed in Second BCT at Jack's Valley from constant exposure to dust. Disappears with rain or end of BCT.

Jack's Valley: Site of encampment and field training during BCT.

JCS: Joint Chiefs of Staff. Those who make top-level military decisions.

Jet Stream: High altitude winds.

Jock: That individual performing superhuman feats of physical dexterity. An athlete or one who flies fighter aircraft.

Jodies: Songs sung while running or marching in formation.

JPPSO: Joint Personal Property Shipping Office. For shipping household goods.

Knowledge Bowl: Event where Doolies are given an opportunity to compete against another squadron to display their grasp of military knowledge.

LAN: Local Area Network; refers to the area computer network or common television channel viewed in the cadet dormitories.

Lift: The force upon an aircraft that acts in an upward direction opposing the pull of gravity.

Light Up: To verbally correct a Doolie.

LMD: Last military duty.

LOA: Letter of Admonishment.

LOC: Letter of Correction.

LOP: Line of position. Term used in navigation.

LOR: Letter of Reprimand.

LOS: Limited On Season (Varsity) Status. Used for Cadet Athletic Clubs so cadets don't have to do intermurals while they are playing in their Club Sport.

LOX: Liquid oxygen. A widely used oxidizing agent in missile and rocket fuels, also used in some aircraft oxygen systems.

LZ: Landing zone.

M-Days/T-Days: Alternating days of the academic week during the academic year. For example, Monday is an M-day; Tuesday is a T-Day, Wednesday is an M-Day, etc. Each M-Day includes an M-5 period. Similar to what high schools do.

M-1: First Day of Class or first period of M-Day.

M-5: The fifth period of each M-Day during which various types of military training are conducted.

MACH: Pronounced "mock." The ratio of your speed to the local speed of sound. At the speed of sound, the Mach is 1, at twice the speed of sound it is Mach 2, and so on.

MAJCOM: Major Command

March on: A formation marching onto the parade field or into the football stadium.

MAS: Military Art and Science.

Max: To do something extremely well. To achieve the maximum, as in to “max a quiz.”

MCQ: Military Call to Quarters

Mess Dress: The most formal uniform worn by cadets. It looks like a dark blue tuxedo with a short jacket.

MFR: Memorandum for Record

MIG: Soviet fighter aircraft.

Minutes: Fourth Class cadet duty of calling out the number of minutes until a mandatory formation. Upperclass “alarm clocks.”

Mitch’s: Mitchell Hall, the cadet dining hall.

MPA: Military Performance Average. Military evaluation accomplished each semester based on a 0 to 4.0 scale.

MRC: Military Review Committee. A panel convened to examine the facts and circumstances concerning an alleged serious offense or continuing misconduct. The MRC will recommend suitable demerits, punishments, and appropriate corrective action to the Commandant for approval.

MSS: Military Strategic Studies.

MWH: Morale, Wellness and Health Inspection.

MWR: Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

NASA: National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

NAV: Pertaining to navigation.

NCAA: National Collegiate Athletic Association.

NCO: Non-Commissioned Officer.

NCOIC: Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge.

NCQ: Night Call to Quarters.

Nino Baldacci: That individual having entered with the class of '59 and remaining until the present time never having been off academic probation and never having taken a privilege. He is a perpetual Turn-back and dear to all cadets.

NLT: Not later than.

NMF: Noon Meal Formation (an abbreviated parade before lunch)

Nob: Yet another term of endearment for 4th class cadets.

Nuke: Literally means a nuclear weapon. Figuratively, to cadets, it means to spill or mess up; "I nuked my shirt with ketchup." Messing up an upperclass cadet's room or dumping condiments over an upperclassman.

OD: Office of the Day.

ODL: One Day Leave, or a Day Pass.

ODS: Officer Development System

OIC: Officer in Charge.

ONL: Overnight Leave, or a Night Pass.

On Quarters: Restricted to Quarters because the cadet is sick.

OPA: Overall Performance Average. The weighted combination of Academic Performance Average (APA), Military Performance Average (MPA), and Athletic Performance. The Graduation Class standing is based on cadet cumulative OPA.

Operation Air Force: Cadet Summer Military Training Program at operational Air Force bases. Also known as Summer Ops normally in the summer between the cadet's Freshman and Sophomore year.

OPR: Officer Performance Report. Method by which officers are rated and promoted.

OPS: Abbreviation for "operations," as in Base Ops (Base Operations).

Orbit: To circle.

ORI: Open Ranks Inspections

ORI: Operational Readiness Inspection – simulated wartime mission efficiency rating.

OTF: Over the fence. Off base without privileges; AWOL.

OTS: Officer Training School

PACAF: Pacific Air Forces. Responsible for operations of all Air Force units located in the Pacific region.

Pass & Registration: Security Forces by the South Gate. This is the office to go with your cadet to get base passes. This is not needed normally for Parents Weekend or Graduations as the North Gate's visiting hours are extended during these times.

PCA: Permanent change of assignment. Normally on the same base.

PCS: Permanent change of station; being transferred.

PDP: Professional Development Program.

PDT: Personal Development Time

PFT: Physical Fitness Test. Consists of pull-ups, pushups, sit-ups, standing long jump and a 600 yard run. Part of the athletic grade which is given every semester.

Parade Dress: The uniform worn for outdoor parades, and that Firsties wear to graduation. It consists of white pants, a short, double-breasted blue jacket and a white cap. A gold sash is worn by Firsties only.

Pimp: To act without consideration of others; for example, taking the last donut while others watch.

Pitch: Rotation about the lateral axis of an aircraft.

PKR: Professional Knowledge Reviews.

POC: Point of Contact.

Polaris: The North Star. The symbol and name of the Cadet Year Book.

Pop Off: An untruth uttered during a stressful time.

Port: To the left of the front, or bow, of a ship.

Post: An order signifying to a subordinate that their presence is no longer desired. To be quiet.

POV: Privately Owned Vehicle

POW: Prisoner of War.

PQ: Pilot Qualified. A cadet who is qualified to attend pilot training.

Pre-Candidate: A student interested in attending the Air Force Academy who has returned a completed application/pre-candidate questionnaire.

Pre-Candidate Questionnaire: The first step in the application process, interchangeable with the term “application.”

Pre-flights: Pre-class assignments

Prep School: The USAFA Preparatory School-located next to the Community Center at the Academy.

Press On: Continue.

Principal Nominee: A nominee whom a member of Congress ranks as first choice for an authorized vacancy.

Pro: Short for probation.

Prog: A progress report. Issued during mid-semester to report grades.

Prop & Wings: The pin worn on the cap by all upperclassmen and by Fourth Class cadets after their traditional Run to the Rock in the spring.

PT: Physical Training.

Qualified Alternate: A qualified candidate not chosen to fill any specific nomination category but placed in a nationwide pool from which additional appointments are made to fill the entering class.

PW: Parents Weekend. Always Labor Day Weekend.

Qualified Candidate: A candidate who has met all admissions requirements.

Rack: Cadet’s bed.

Ramp: The paved surface that looks like a driveway from the officer’s parking lot up to the terrazzo level. Also a parking area for airplanes.

Ramps: Special dining tables for athletes – no RAMPS currently

Rated: An officer qualified to fly, navigate, or control military airplanes.

Recognition: Mini BCT, and afterwards 4 degrees are allowed to wear civilian clothes. Normally mid-March.

RECONDO: (physical) reconditioning program

Restriction: A disciplinary status imposed on cadets which limits their movements within the cadet area. Restricted cadets are permitted to attend on-base religious services, a daily two-hour period of workout/athletic activities, and a daily two-hour period at the cadet library. The length of restriction can vary from one weekend up to six months.

Reveille: Bugle call that serves to wake up cadets.

Ring Dance: Social event held the night the Second Class cadets get their class rings.

Roll: Rotation about the horizontal axis of an aircraft.

ROTC: Reserve Officer's Training Corps

Run to the Rock: A traditional formation run by First and Fourth Class cadets signifying the unity of the oldest and newest classes at the Academy. It occurs toward the end of Recognition

SAMI: Saturday A.M. Inspection. Pronounced "Sammy." The big room inspection of the week.

Sandbag: To Participate in a flight without performing the duties of a crew member; to go along for the ride.

SAR: Squadron Assembly Room.

SARC: Sexual Assault Response Coordinator for the Air Force Academy.

SCA: Scheduling Committee Action.

Scramble: Get ready in the shortest possible time.

SCRB: Squadron Commander's Review Board. A fact-finding and evaluation prior to a Military Review Committee.

SDO: Squadron Duty Officer. A Firstie who stays in the cadet area during his time of duty to handle emergencies that may arise.

Service Dress: Consists of a light blue shirt and tie, a blue jacket, and pants. Worn with either the flight cap or the wheel cap.

SF: Security Forces, the Air Force law enforcement agency.

SGLI: Serviceman's Group Life Insurance. Your cadet will automatically be signed up for \$400,000 unless your cadet wishes to lower the coverage by going to Cadet Personnel in Vandenberg Hall.

Sick-Call: Time available to walk-in without an appointment to the Cadet Clinic when sick.

Sick-Call Commando: A cadet who knows the dispensary personnel by their first names.

Sijan Hall: The newest dorm to the south of the terrazzo.

Silver Weekend: Generally two weekends per month are devoted to military training (Silver Weekends). Training is from Friday afternoon through early Saturday afternoon. Activities during this time include room and uniform inspections, parades, marching practice, military briefings, guest speakers, and professional military education and training.

Slug: A lesser form of life who attempts to refuse to accept full responsibility for his or her own action, usually leaving a trail of slime for others to clean up, thus earning the utter disgust of all forthright cadets. There are no slugs on the tour pads. Someone who doesn't measure up.

Smack: Soldier Minus Ability, Coordination, and Knowledge. A frequent reference to fourth class cadets.

SOD: Senior Officer of the Day. A Firstie in charge of the Operations Center

SOP: Standard Operating Procedure. Equivalent of "It's always been done like this."

Sound Off: To speak out loudly and clearly.

SP: Sponsor Pass. Pass used to visit sponsor family. Also means Security Police, old school SF.

Spirit Cheese: Cheese slices thrown in Falcon Stadium to celebrate during football game.

Spirit Hill: The big hill area in the middle of the terrazzo.

Spirit Mission: 4th Class activities used to demonstrate support for athletics and for individual squadrons.

Squadron (SQ): Consists of 4 flights, about 110 cadets. There are 40 squadrons at the Academy.

Squadron Shuffle: Squadron change for cadets. The timeframe has changed in the past, but currently the policy is switching squadrons right before cadet's junior year.

Square Corners: One of the duties of every fourth class cadet or "Doolie". They must always "square" corners when walking.

Squid: Nickname for someone with the U.S. Navy.

SSS: Staff Summary Sheet (Triple S). A standard routing sheet for packages. Mainly used to request permission for passes for special occasions.

Staff Tower: A raised portion of the cadet dining hall where Wing Staff and any visiting dignitaries eat.

Starboard: To the right of the front, or bow, of a ship.

Stealth Cadet: Cadet who "flies under the radar" to minimize notice from upperclassmen.

Stellar: Outstanding.

STOL: Short takeoff and landing. Refers to a part of an aircraft's performance.

Stract: Super military to excess. Real gungho, sharp, and unyielding on strong duty conscious views. When excessive, a GEEK.

Super Doolie: One of those who are given authority without the responsibility to fulfill their mission.

Superintendent: The most senior officer at the Academy. This officer is responsible for all elements of a cadets training and education.

SUP'S List: Superintendent's List. The award for academic, military, and athletic performance. Must be on the Dean's List, the Commandant's List and the Athletic List. Signified by a "Star inside a Wreath with two Lightning Bolts below" worn on the left breast pocket. Often referred to as the "God's Pin."

Supersonic: Faster than the speed of sound.

Table Comm: A First or Second Class cadet who sits at the head of the dining table in Mitchell Hall and maintains proper decorum during the meals.

TACAN: Tactical Air Navigation.

Taps: The mournful tune that signifies the end of the day for some cadets and the time to start studying for others.

TDY: Temporary Duty. Leaving one's home base and going to another for some temporary assignment.

Tentative Candidate: A pre-candidate who appears to have the potential to be a qualified candidate, based upon self-reported information.

Terrazzo (T-Zo): The upper parade area which is enclosed by Fairchild, Vandenberg, Sijan, and Harmon halls, covered with concrete and marble strips.

Thrust: A propelling force exerted on an aircraft or missile.

Tour: 60-minutes of marching with a rifle (is "awarded" for a variety of infractions, used for disciplinary purposes).

Touch and Go: Take out dinner from Mitchell Hall.

Tower: Control tower; the level in the dining hall where wing staff eats (usually Staff Tower).

Trash Hauler: Pilot of a non-fighter aircraft with more than one engine, a transport pilot.

TRICARE: Company that provides medical coverage for Cadets and active duty.

Triple Threat: A SAMI or IRI, parade and football game all in one day. Having three military formations or training sessions on a Saturday.

Truck Driver: Pilot of an aircraft with more than one engine.

TWO: [See also POST] A command relating to the subordinate to return to whatever they were occupied with before being interrupted.

TWOC: Training Wing Operations Center. Located in Vandenberg Hall on the Terrazzo level near the top of the "Bring Me Men" ramp.

UC: Unarmed combat

UCCS: University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.

UCMJ: Uniform Code of Military Justice. The code of laws under which all military personnel live.

UHF-VHF: Ultra high frequency-Very high frequency. Radio transmission.

UIF: Unfavorable information file.

UNC: The University of Northern Colorado in Greeley.

Under Arms: Carrying a rifle.

UOD: Uniform of the Day.

Upperclass: Cadets in the 3rd, 2nd and 1st classes; sometimes referred to as 3 degrees, 2 degrees and Firsties.

UPT: Undergraduate Pilot Training

USAFA: Pronounced “You-Soffa.” The United States Air Force Academy.

USAFE: US Air Force in Europe. Responsible for operation of all Air Force units in Europe.

USC: University of Southern Colorado in Pueblo.

Vandenberg Hall: The older dormitory on the north side of the cadet area (also referred to as Vandy).

Vator: An ingenious device designed to fail when the wing returns from holidays or is in the process of moving rooms; as in “hold the ...”

Vertigo: A condition in which one has the false sensation of turning or falling, usually accompanied by a loss of spatial orientation; uncertainty of the altitude of the aircraft.

Visibility: The maximum distance at which objects can be clearly distinguished.

VOQ: Visiting Officer’s Quarters.

VTOL: Vertical takeoff or landing.

Yaw: Rotation about the vertical axis of an aircraft.

Water Haze: Derogatory term for the mandatory water survival course.

WG: Wing

WKL: Weekend Leave.

Zilch: Opposite of max, nothing.

Zoo: Nickname for USAFA. The “Blue Zoo.”

Zoomie: That term by which a cadet is commonly known among jealous civilians. Also a USAFA graduate.