

U.S. Air Force 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 accurate.

10 FSS: 10th Force Support Squadron. Outdoor Recreation (skiing, bicycle rentals & fun trips), bowling alley, golf course, horseback riding, Arts & Crafts Center, etc.

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

AAFES: Army Air Force Exchange Store.

AAOCA: Associate Air Officer Commanding for Academics. An officer assigned to each squadron who helps cadets who have not chosen a major and with other academic issues.

Abort: Premature termination of a flight, a mission, or an action or procedure relating to a flight.

ACC: Air Combat Command. The Air Force command is responsible for combat delivery, refueling, rescue, and reconnaissance. It combines the former Strategic Air Command and Tactical Air Command.

Acceptance: When freshmen are accepted into the Cadet Wing as full-fledged fourth-class cadets. This occurs after BCT at the Acceptance Day Parade.

Ac only: Academics only. A medical restriction that excuses 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 p.m. to 11 p.m. is set aside each night before an academic day. Military duties involving more than one cadet are not authorized.

Admissions portal: Online access that possible appointees use to process their paperwork, upload documents, and find out the status of their application.

Aero: Aeronautics. Refers to the aeronautics department, or a specific course, such as Aero 251. Usually used to describe the core aero class.

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

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

AFOSI: Air Force Office of Special Investigations.

AFSPC: Air Force Space Command. Responsible for space and cyberspace 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: A Program 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 until noon during the school week and on training Saturdays until completion of training.

AMC: Air Mobility Command. Provides strategic airlift services.

AMT: Academy Military Training NCO. A non-commissioned officer who serves in a leadership role, performing administrative and developmental duties.

AOC: Air Officer Commanding. The officer, usually a captain or a major, 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 them, 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 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-class cadets and occasionally a few upperclassmen. There is a snack bar and movies. It is 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. It is earned by achieving a Physical Education Average (PEA) of 3.0 or higher. The PEA is based on the Physical Fitness Test (PFT), PE class grades from the previous semester, and the AFT score. It is signified by a lightning bolt worn on the left breast pocket.

AWOL: Absent without leave.

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 perpendicular to the runway.

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

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

Basic cadet: Those who transform from civilian to military academy cadets during Basic Cadet Training.

BCGs: Basic cadet's glasses. Ugly, plastic, square-rimmed glasses that will not break.

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

Bearing: Military behavior or manner.

Beat the Dean: Perform well on a final exam.

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

Black box: Refers to the cockpit voice recorder and flight data recorder devices on an aircraft.

Blast: Shock effect of nuclear. Also, upper-class get-togethers characterized by their informality.

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

Blue magnet: The 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 the Holaday Athletic Center 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 to begin their 47-month journey.

BP: Business pass. Issued so a cadet may take care of personal matters 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 a firstie.

C2C: Cadet Second Class. A junior.

C3C: Cadet Third Class. A sophomore.

C4C: Cadet Fourth Class. A freshman.

Cadet Candidate (C/C): A student attending the U.S. Preparatory School. This 10-month program helps students improve in core classes so that they can hopefully attend the Academy the following year.

Cadet Outdoor Rec: The Outdoor Recreation Office is in Vandenberg Hall. It plans adventures like ski trips and whitewater rafting and provides equipment rentals. It also schedules buses round-trip to Denver and Colorado Springs airports during the major holiday breaks at a cost. The phone number is (719) 333-4602. Note: They must have the airline travel information to make reservations. There are 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: Upper-class cadets holding leadership positions.

Candidate kit: Contains 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 that forms a suburb of the capital of Maryland, with a campus partly on land and partly in the Severn River. The U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis.

Carry On: A military command that means to resume regular duties.

CC: Commander/ Cadet Commander/ Command Center.

CC: Colorado College in Colorado Springs.

CCAR: Cadet chaplains' 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. A measure of accuracy for a weapon.

CG: Cadet Group.

Checkpoints: A daily list of “must-know” knowledge for fourth-class cadets, meal menus, days until graduation for each of the three upper classes, and the 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. They support the class through each Academy milestone, like purchasing coins for special events.

COB: Close of business.

COIN: Counterinsurgency. A type of warfare.

COMM: Commandant of Cadets, in charge of military training.

COMM’s List: A 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 comes under the control and direction of the commandant and consists of those departments directly affecting the Cadet Wing. Offices are located on the north side of Fairchild Hall.

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

Community Center: This is where the BX, Commissary, Military Clothing Sales, Package Store, and the Personnel Office and U.S. Academy Preparatory School are located.

Comp Sci: Computer Science. An 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 contains Air Force heritage notes, quotes, and details that must be committed to memory. They are 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 drinks to upperclassmen during meals.

Corframs: Patent leather shoes worn with blues.

Corps: A term used to refer to the 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 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: A 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 the maintenance of a specific 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: University of Colorado Boulder.

CUI: Combined Unit Inspection.

CW: Cadet Wing.

CWOC: Cadet Wing Operations Center.

Dark Ages: The period after daylight saving time until spring break. It is said to drag on for millennia. 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: A list for academic achievement. It is earned by achieving a GPA of 3.0 or higher during the previous semester and is signified by a star worn on the left breast pocket.

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

DF: The Dean of Faculty.

DI: Dormitory inspector. A first-class cadet who ensures 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/E-dodo: The cadet underground humor magazine and website, usually for cadet eyes only.

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

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

DR: Dead reckoning. A method of navigation.

DV: Distinguished visitor. Normally, a general officer or politician.

ECP: Entry control point (gate typically).

Edge Dressing: Shiny black fluid used to shine the 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 an object needs to overcome the pull of gravity.

ESET: Expeditionary Evasion Survival Training, which combines survival and evasion, is taught during the second summer at the Academy.

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

FAA: Federal Aviation Agency. They make and enforce aviation rules.

FAC: Forward air controller. A 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 cadets subscribe to for texts relating to weather, base exercises, or emergency notifications. Cadets can sign up their parents' 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 for an 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: To verbally spot correct a fourth-class cadet.

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

Flight: Consists of three elements, about 36 cadets.

Flight suit: A green coverall primarily worn by aircrew and those involved in flight-related duties 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 specific 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. Implementing measures in this THREATCON for more than a short period will probably 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. Typically, this THREATCON is declared as a localized condition.

Form 10: A form to report cadet actions, positive or negative.

FOUO: For official use only.

FPAS: Force Protection Accountability System.

Frat: Fraternization. Unprofessional relationship.

Freefall: Also called skydiving. A jump in which opening the parachute is deliberately delayed.

Full bore: Throttle full open.

Fuzzy: A cadet majoring in liberal arts.

Gs: The force of gravity applied to an aircraft or the pilot.

GAOC: Group Air Officer Commander.

Garbage: Hardware on an aircraft that 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 a point system from 0 to 4.0.

GR: Graded review. An exam.

Grassroots: A program that uses cadets to speak at hometown high schools and/or answer questions about the Academy.

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.

Hardcore: Description for someone very enthusiastic about the military.

Harmon Hall: Houses most of the administrative offices at the Academy, including the Superintendent. 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://www.dvidshub.net/hometownheroes> and submit a Hometown News Release for their achievements.

Honor Guard: The Cadet Rifle Drill Team. Also, active-duty members who show honor to 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: This condition is brought about by high altitude, nervousness, and physical stress. It is not serious, but it's typical for the first summer.

Hypoxia: Deprived of an adequate oxygen supply.

I-Day: Freshman in-processing. Normally last Wednesday of June.

IC or ICA: Intercollegiate or intercollegiate athlete.

IFR: Instrument flight rules.

IFT: Initial flight training.

IG: Inspector General.

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 points on the enemy's supply route.

Intramurder: Athletic competition between squadrons.

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

IP Points: Instructor prerogative points. Typically, 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.

Jacks hack: A cough developed in Second BCT at Jacks Valley from constant exposure to dust. It disappears with rain or end of BCT.

Jacks 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: An 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: An event where fourth-class cadets can 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 fourth-class cadet.

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. It is used for cadet athletic clubs so that cadets don't have to do intramurals while they are playing in their club sport.

LOX: Liquid oxygen. A widely used 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.

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

Mach: Pronounced "mock." The ratio of your speed to the speed of sound. At the speed of sound, the Mach is 1; 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.

MAS: Military art and science.

Max: To do something exceptionally 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: A fourth-class cadet's duty of calling out the number of minutes until a mandatory formation. Upper-class alarm clocks.

Mitch's: Mitchell Hall, the cadet dining facility.

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, has never been off academic probation and has never taken a privilege. He is a perpetual turnback and dear to all cadets.

NLT: Not later than.

NMF: Noon meal formation (an abbreviated parade before lunch).

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

OCP: Operational Camouflage Pattern uniform, worn by the Air Force and Space Force.

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, it generally occurs between the cadet's freshman and sophomore years.

OPR: Officer Performance Report. The 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 the operations of all Air Force units located in the Pacific region.

Pass & Registration Office (PRO): This is the Security Forces office to visit with your cadet for base passes.

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

PCS: Permanent change of station. Transferring to another base.

PDP: Professional development program.

PDT: Personal development time.

PFT: Physical Fitness Test. Consists of pull-ups, push-ups, 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.

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 yearbook.

Pop Off: An untruth uttered during a stressful time.

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

Post: An order 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 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 U.S. Air Force Academy Preparatory School, located next to the Community Center.

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 afterward, fourth-class cadets are allowed to wear civilian clothes. Normally mid-March.

RECONDO: (physical) reconditioning program.

Restriction: A disciplinary status imposed on cadets that 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 the restriction can vary from one weekend to six months.

Reveille: Bugle call that serves to wake up cadets.

Ring Dance: A Social event held on the night when the second-class cadets get their class rings.

Roll: Rotation about the horizontal axis of an aircraft.

ROTC: Reserve Officers' 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 Academy.

SCA: Scheduling Committee Action.

Scramble: Get ready in the shortest possible time.

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

SDO: Squadron duty officer. A firstie who stays in the cadet area during his duty to handle emergencies that may arise.

Service dress: Consists of a light blue shirt and tie, 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 on the south side of the terrazzo.

Silver Weekend: Generally, two weekends per month are devoted to military training. 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.

SIS: Student Information System. A computer system in which cadets can get schedules, grades and other administrative information.

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. It is used to visit the sponsor's family. It also means Security Police (old school SF).

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

Spirit Hill: The big hill on the lawn of the terrazzo.

Spirit Mission: Fourth-class activities used to demonstrate support for athletics and for individual squadrons.

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

Squadron shuffle: Squadron change for cadets. The time frame has changed in the past, but currently, the policy is switching squadrons right before the cadet's sophomore year.

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

Squid: Nickname for someone in 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 visiting dignitaries eat.

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

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

Stellar: Outstanding.

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

Stract: Super military to excess. Real gung-ho, sharp, and unyielding on strong duty-conscious views. When excessive, a geek.

Superintendent: The most senior officer at the Academy. This officer is responsible for all elements of a cadet's 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 a 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, enclosed by Fairchild, Vandenberg, Sijan, and Harmon Halls, is covered with concrete and marble strips.

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

Tour: 60 minutes of marching with a rifle 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 eat (usually Staff Tower).

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

TRICARE: A 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: A command relating to the subordinate to return to whatever they were occupied with before being interrupted. [see also Post]

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 third, second, and first classes.

UPT: Undergraduate Pilot Training.

USAFE: United States Air Forces in Europe. Responsible for the 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 vator!”

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 Officers' Quarters.

VTOL: Vertical takeoff or landing.

Yaw: Rotation about the vertical axis of an aircraft.

WG: Wing.

WKL: Weekend Leave.

Zilch: Opposite of max; nothing.

Zoo: Nickname for the Academy. The Blue Zoo.

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