**Center for Deployment Psychology**

**Common Military Acronyms and Terminology**

* ADSEP – Administrative Separation
* ABU – Airman Battle Uniform
* ACU – Army Combat Uniform
* AFSC – Air Force Specialty Code
* AOR – Area of Responsibility
* APO – Army Post Office (overseas address)
* AWOL – Absent Without Leave (Army and Air Force)
* Base – Air Force or Navy Installation
* Battle Rattle – Body armor/battle gear
* BIAP – Baghdad International Airport
* Boots on the ground – Once deployed personnel touch ground in theater
* BX – Base Exchange
* Camp – Marine Corps installation
* CHU – Containerized Housing Unit
* CO – Commanding Officer
* CONUS/OCONUS – Continental United States, Outside the Continental United States
* COSC – Combat and Operational Stress Control
* COSR – Combat and Operational Stress Reactions
* DADT – “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”
* DD 214 – Certificate of release or discharge from active duty service
* DFAC – Dining facility/mess hall
* Down range – Deployed
* EOD – Explosive Ordinance Disposal
* FOB – Forward Operating Base; Forward Operations Base
* Garrison – A body of troops; the place where such troops are stationed; any military post, especially a permanent one
* GWOT – Global War on Terrorism
* HBCT – Heavy Brigade Combat Team
* HEMTT – Heavy Expanded Mobile Tactical Truck
* HMMWV – High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle (Humvee)
* IBCT – Infantry Brigade Combat Team
* IED/VBED – Improvised Explosive Device/Vehicle Borne Explosive Device
* Inside the wire – On base down range
* IRR – Individual Ready Reserve
* JAG – Judge Advocate General (military lawyers)
* Kevlar – Typically the helmet made of the material Kevlar
* Leave – Off duty (usually vacation)
* LIMDU – Limited Duty
* MEB/PEB – Medical Evaluation Board/Physical Evaluation Board
* MEDEVAC – Medical Evacuation
* MEU – Marine Expeditionary Unit
* MOB/DEMOB – Mobilization/Demobilization
* MOB – Main Operating Base; Main Operations Base
* MOPP – Mission Oriented Protective Postures
* MOS – Military Occupational Specialty (Army and Marine Corps)
* MP – Military Police (Air Force is SF – Security Forces)
* MRAP – **Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected** Vehicles
* MRE – Meal, Ready to Eat
* NBC – Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical
* NCO – Non-Commissioned Officer
* NEC – Naval Enlisted Classification
* NJP – Non-Judicial Punishment
* OCP – Operation Enduring Freedom Camouflage Pattern (“multi-cams”)
* OCS – Officer Candidate School
* OEF – Operation Enduring Freedom
* OIF – Operation Iraqi Freedom
* OND – Operation New Dawn
* OPSEC – Operations Security
* OPTEMPO – Operating Tempo/Operations Tempo
* Outside the wire – Off base down range
* PCS – Permanent change of station (relocating)
* PDA – Post Deployment Assessment
* PDHA – Post Deployment Health Assessment
* PDHRA – Post Deployment Health Re-Assessment
* Post – Army installation
* PX – Post Exchange
* RCT – Regimental Combat Team
* Sandbox/Sandpit – Iraq
* SBCT – Stryker Brigade Combat Team
* Sick Call – Time allotted to see medical provider
* SNCO – Senior Non-Commissioned Officer; Staff Non-Commissioned Officer
* SNCOIC – Senior Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge
* TAD – Temporary Area of Duty (Navy and Marine Corps)
* TDY– Temporary Duty (Army and Air Force)
* Theater – The geographical area for which a commander of a geographic combatant

command has been assigned responsibility

* UA – Unauthorized Absence (AWOL for Marine Corps and Navy)
* UCMJ – Uniformed Code of Military Justice (the foundation of military law)
* Utes – Utilities (“Boots in Utes” - the Marine Corps utility uniform without the blouse)
* UXO – Unexploded Ordinance (explosive weapons that did not explode when they were employed and still pose a risk of detonation)
* XO – Executive Officer

\* Note: This is not a comprehensive list of military acronyms and terminology, but rather a small sampling that can be helpful when engaging with service members/veterans. For a more comprehensive list please refer to the Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms at: http://www.dtic.mil/doctrine/dod\_dictionary/