

MILITARY IS GOOD FOR BUSINESS

# Military Jargon Buster



#MilitaryIsGoodForBusiness

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## Join the conversation

As part of its Military Is Good for Business campaign, the Officers' Association (OA) have teamed up with Business in the Community (BITC) to launch the Military Jargon Buster; An open project aimed at helping employers cut through the acronyms and cryptic terminology used by the military.

We've found that 'military jargon' can be a barrier for employers looking to engage with or recruit military personnel, often meaning Service Leavers are overlooked for civilian career opportunities and employers miss out on exceptional talent.

To kick start this business community project, the OA have created a working document, the Military Jargon Buster, to be shared with employers through its social networks and BITC's network. We want to hear from employers on what terminology they have come across so that we can create a practical tool and reference point for employers engaging with military personnel.

Join the conversation by telling us the Military Jargon you've come across and share on our Military Is Good For Business page:

[www.linkedin.com/company/military-is-good-for-business](http://www.linkedin.com/company/military-is-good-for-business)



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Terminology	Service	Comments
1 Star	All	Commodore, Brigadier or Air Commodore
2 Star	All	Rear Admiral, Major General or Air Vice Marshal
Adjutant	Army	A role undertaken by a senior Captain in an Army Regiment. Carefully selected they have a very close relationship with the Commanding Officer monitoring the performance of the Regiment and providing candid evaluation of his management team. They assist in the business planning aspects and act as a personal aide to the Commanding Officer
Artillery	Army	Regiments that have large guns
Branch and Specialisation	All	Branch – normally refers to the career stream of activity i.e Logistics Specialisation – within the Branch. E.g Logistics may have Bulk Fuel, Transport, Catering. Engineering may have weapons engineers, vehicle engineers and aircraft engineers, amongst other
Brigade	Royal Marines/ Army	The grouping of several Regiments or Commandos under one leader, the Brigade Commander
C4ISR	All	An increasingly common term in modern warfare as many officers will have been employed in some way within it, whether technological, planning, procuring or using. Stands for Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance. As well as an abbreviation it also stands for complexity and cutting-edge technology and could be considered the eyes, ears, brain and central nervous system of military capability – the ships, tanks and aircraft being the bones and muscles.

Terminology	Service	Comments
Cavalry	Army	Regiments that have tanks
Chief of Staff	Army	Normally an officer carefully selected for a highly influential role supporting the commanding officer of a large unit, normally Brigade or bigger, and is the focal point for the co-ordination of work.
Civvy	All	Civilian
Command	All	Being in charge, sole responsibility for an activity, area, group of people. Increases in scope and complexity with increase in rank. Often taken interchangeably with leadership but means more – includes accountability and responsibility.
Commando	Royal Marines	The expression used by the Royal Marines for a Regiment. About 800 personnel is common
Commanding Officer	All	Normally linked to roles that have sole responsibility for the delivery of operations. Eg. Ships, Brigades, Regiments, Air Squadrons, Air Stations. Roles can have considerably different profiles – a small ship may have a Lieutenant in Command with only 8 staff, a Brigadier may be commanding 10000 personnel with many regiments, a Station Commander may have responsibility for an airfield, it's aircraft, personnel and operations.
Company	Royal Marines /Army	Infantry related expression referring to a group of c120 soldiers.

Terminology	Service	Comments
Corporate Covenant	All	Sub-set of the Armed Forces Covenant which is a government initiative to ensure those who have served in the UK Armed Forces are not disadvantaged by their Service. Companies and organisations sign-up to the corporate covenant with certain pledges of support across a number of different areas.
CTP	All	Career Transition Partnership. The partnership between the MoD and a commercial outplacement specialist (Right Management) to provide resettlement services to Armed Forces personnel.
CTW	All	Career Transition Workshop. The 3 day training course given to those undergoing transition to give them core” job ready” skills and knowledge.
Defence relationship Management (DRM)	All	Defence Relationship Management. The part of the MoD which co-ordinates engagement with corporates across the range of HR interests.
Deployment/ Operations/ Exercises	All	Often refers to work away from the normal home work base.
Division	Army	The largest grouping of soldiers and equipment in the Army. Might relate to over 50000 staff made up of several Brigades.
DLOD	All	Defence Lines of Development. Refers to the different strands that need to be considered (such as equipment, personnel, logistics) to ensure an integrated capability. Officers using this term will have been employed in disciplines such as planning, requirement setting and procurement.

Terminology	Service	Comments
Employer Engagement		See DRM
Enhanced Learning Credits (ELCs)	All	Military personnel get personal development credits linked to time served. These credits can be used not only whilst in the Services but also for a limited time after leaving.
Expeditionary	All	A deployed operation overseas.
First Lieutenant	Royal Navy	The second in command of a ship.
FTRS	All	Full Time Reserve Service. The MoD has roles where it prefers to use the Service knowledge of retired officers and other ranks
GRT	All	Graduated Resettlement Time. The period of time dependent on length of service granted during transition in which to undertake formally recognised resettlement activities.
Infantry	Army	Soldiers who specialise in field craft and use of smaller weapons – rifles, machine guns, mortars. But more senior infantry officers commonly move into more project or technical related roles.
Intelligence Corps	Army	The people who manage and analyse intelligence activities. Intelligence Officers do specific training with higher level of analytics and risk management development.
Land	Army	Where soldiers operate. Terms such as ‘Land Systems’ mean Army equipment.

Terminology	Service	Comments
Medical Discharge	All	Someone no longer able to meet military medical standards for operational activities. It does not mean major restrictions on civilian work – a pilot may have impaired vision but be perfectly capable of working in other environments
MA Military Assistant	All	<p>Highly selective roles as the Aide to an Admiral, General or Air Marshal or Ministerial position. One of the rare roles that involves genuine ‘selection’ processes requiring approval from their new boss.</p> <p>Normally very astute, diplomatic with a good brain giving advice to their boss on performance of their staff, validity of reports being presented. At the heart of many discussions on performance and Strategy.</p> <p>Often highly valued by large organisations in London who understand the role.</p>
Mobilisation	All	Used in the context of those holding a Reserves liability being called upon for active military duty.
Non Commissioned Officer (NCO)	All	Officers gain a ‘commission’ from the Queen whilst other ranks such as Warrant Officers and Sergeants do not and are known as Non Commissioned Officers. They generally hold management responsibilities.
Officer	All	Person selected for management and technical training and who has attended the military colleges at Dartmouth, Sandhurst or Cranwell. Early training is akin to a Graduate Scheme within a large plc.

Terminology	Service	Comments
Officer, Senior	All	There is endless debate on this label but essentially, in practice, a Colonel or equivalent and above will fall into the Senior Officer category
OiC Officer in Charge	All	Normally the boss of a small unit of staff delivering specialist support to a much larger department
Ordnance	All	Not a local authority rule but rather bombs, bullets and generally things that go bang. Also 'EOD' is Explosive Ordnance Disposal, an area of employment for officers mostly with an engineering or logistics background and steely nerves.
Other Ranks	All	Those members of the Armed Forces who are not officers. Includes the most junior sailors, soldiers, airmen, through NCOs, SNCOs and up to Warrant Officers
PVR	All	Premature Voluntary Release. 'Resignation' in other words. Some officers may be able to leave within a few weeks for other it may be months depending on how easy they are to replace.
Regiment	Army/RAF	A very large team, often c800m with a specific focus on a particular type of work whether it be engineering, communications, infantry etc. The backbone teams of most large military operations.
Reservist	All	A Service person or volunteer who undertakes limited military activity each year to hold a level of currency that can be called upon during periods of hostility or high military activity



<b>Terminology</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Comments</b>
RE Royal Engineers	Army	Historically the construction teams for bridges, buildings etc. But the RE now have Bomb Disposal as part of their structure.
REME Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers	Army	The engineers of the Army that can cover normal vehicle, armoured fighting vehicles, aircraft, generators etc
Resettlement	All	The term given to cover the combination of activities, time and financial support given to assist transition from military service to civilian life.
RLC Royal Logistics Corps	Army	As the name implies, the teams that provide logistic support from mail to bulk fuel, food, ammunition etc.
RM Royal Marine	Royal Marines	The specialist marine ‘infantry’ that is part of the Royal Navy. Specialists in amphibious warfare and operating in extreme climates
Royal Corps of Signals	Army	The communications specialists – radios, satellite etc Some hold careers in Cyber
Sandhurst/ Dartmouth/Cranwell	All	All officers undergo management development at one of the military colleges Dartmouth for the Navy, Sandhurst for the Army and Cranwell for the RAF. A considerable focus is placed on people management and leadership
Security Clearance	All	Standard security check for all military personnel. Developed Vetting (DV) – an enhanced level of security check/clearance for those employed in roles with access to particularly sensitive information.

Terminology	Service	Comments
SO1, SO2, SO3	All	The military has ‘staff’ roles normally linked to strategy and policy roles. The staff officer level (1, 2 or 3) denotes the rank that normally delivers it eg. SO1 is at Lt Col level, SO2 at Major level and SO3 at Captain level of single service equivalents.
Squadron	All	Normally refers to a unit of several aircraft and perhaps 200 personnel. Also a small operational unit of ships in a Navy context or vehicles in an Army context.
Staff Course	All	To prepare officers for staff work the military runs management development programmes at differing stages of a career. ‘The Staff Course’ normally refers to carefully selected Majors who are seen as high potential for further career progression. There is also a junior staff course for Captain level officers and their single service equivalents.
TESRR	All	The MoD Department (Training Education Skills Recruiting and Resettlement) within which the strategic, policy and delivery assurance responsibility for how personnel transition from military to civilian life is vested.
Transition	All	In the MoD context, refers to the process in which personnel move from a military career to civilian life. Employment plays an important part in this but also includes education, housing, health and welfare.
UOR	All	Urgent Operational Requirement. Used in acquisition and procurement context and refers to the need to fast-track a new technology, equipment or process into service in response to warfighting experience.

Terminology	Service	Comments
Warfare Officer	RN	Specialists in maritime warfare and driving ships
WIS Wounded Injured & Sick	All	A relatively new expression reflecting the support put in place in response to operations in Iraq and Afghanistan where service personnel are now put under the 'Wounded, Injured, Sick' category. Many have the ability to return to a normal role in civilian life.

# About the OA

The Officers' Association is an independent charity founded in 1920, receiving its Royal Charter a year later.

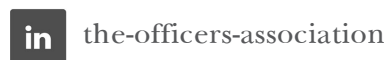
It's primary aim is to support former officers and their dependants in a variety of ways including extensive careers services to officers in transition from the Services, with the aim of achieving sustainable employment.

The OA has also developed comprehensive programmes designed to help Employers:

- Share best practice on how to optimise attraction – selection – transition – development of former military personnel within the civilian workplace.
- Gain real time insight and practical tips on how to implement initiatives.
- Understand how to develop and communicate the business case for employing Service leavers with a particular focus on identifying the benefits and value add they bring.
- Shape the agenda of working with Service personnel and create practical employer led solutions.
- Make connections with other employers

For more information on how to get involved in the campaign contact Sophia at the OA: [s.koniarska@officersassociation.org.uk](mailto:s.koniarska@officersassociation.org.uk)

[www.officersassociation.org.uk](http://www.officersassociation.org.uk)



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