

# Glossary

Common terms from the Vietnam War. Please post a comment at the end of this page if you think we've missed anything.

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<b>1ALSG</b>	1st Australian Logistic Support Group, based at Vung Tau
<b>1ATF</b>	1st Australian Task Force; brigade sized formation based at Nui Dat
<b>161</b>	161 Battery RNZA (Royal New Zealand Artillery)
<b>2 (or 4 or 6)</b>	Anzac battalion in which NZ companies served
<b>RAR/NZ (ANZAC)</b>	Anzac battalion in which NZ companies served
<b>2IC</b>	Second in command
<b>2,4-D</b>	2,4 dichloro-phenoxyacetic acid; component of <a href="#">Agent Orange</a>
<b>2,4,5-T</b>	2,4,5 trichloro-phenoxyacetic acid; component of <a href="#">Agent Orange</a>
<b>ACPO</b>	Assistant Command Post Operator
<b>AD-4 Skyraider</b>	Single-seat carrier-based dive bomber and torpedo carrier flown by the <a href="#">USN</a> , <a href="#">USAF</a> , and <a href="#">VNAF</a> during the Vietnam War
<b>Adjutant</b>	An officer who assists a more senior officer with the organisation, administration, and discipline for a battalion or regiment
<b>Admin</b>	Administration; preparing for and maintaining personal and unit readiness for operations
<b>Agent Blue</b>	Water-based herbicide; a non-systematic desiccant used primarily against grasses, taking effect in 24 - 48 hours and killing leaves in 2 - 4 days
<b>Agent Orange</b>	Oil-based herbicide; a systematic defoliant effective against broadleaf vegetation, achieving maximum effect in 4 - 6 weeks, with a duration of approximately 12 months
<b>Agent White</b>	Water-based herbicide; a systematic defoliant effective against broadleaf vegetation, achieving maximum effect in 6 - 8 weeks, with a duration of approximately 12 months
<b>AK47</b>	North Vietnamese Army ( <a href="#">NVA</a> ) or Viet Cong ( <a href="#">VC</a> ) semi or fully automatic assault weapon using 7.62mm short ammo
<b>Albatross</b>	Call-sign of Royal Australian Airforce ( <a href="#">RAAF</a> ) Iroquois helicopter; also known as a 'Huey'
<b>Anti-personnel mines</b>	Mines designed for use against humans; to injure – as opposed to killing – as many enemies as possible in order to increase the logistical (mostly medical) support required by such an enemy force
<b>Ambush</b>	Attempt to kill from cover without warning, planned or done quickly
<b>Ammo</b>	Ammunition, usually bullets but including grenades and other carried munitions

<b>ANPRC-25</b>	Very high frequency ( <a href="#">VHF</a> ) portable radio used at the sharp end for most variety of communication – called '25 set'
<b>ANPRC-77</b>	Improved VHF man portable radio; gradually replaced the 25 set – called '77 set'
<b>ANZAC</b>	Australian and New Zealand Army Corps; designation created in First World War when both countries fought together for the first time (Gallipoli, 1915); also used to describe a 'common spirit of brotherhood' i.e. the Anzac spirit
<b>AO</b>	Area of operations; terrain ground forces patrolled and fought to dominate
<b>AP</b>	Anti-personnel mine, as in 'AP mine'
<b>APC</b>	Armoured personnel carrier: M113 for troops, M125 mortars, M548 cargo, M577 ACV, M579 fitters
<b>Arc</b>	Area a weapon or soldier was required to cover in an all-round protective posture
<b>Arc light operations</b>	Code name for the devastating aerial raids of <a href="#">B52 Stratofortresses</a> against enemy positions in South-East Asia
<b>Artillery forward observers</b>	Artillery men attached to rifle companies; acted as middle men between artillery and soldiers, giving co-ordinates to artillery at base
<b>Arty</b>	Artillery of any calibre, tracked or towed; most common included 105mm, 155mm, 8-inch howitzers, 40mm 'dusters'
<b>ASCO</b>	Services Canteens Organisation (Australian Canteen Service)
<b>ARVN</b>	Army of the Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnamese government forces)
<b>ATF</b>	Australian Task Force; see <a href="#">1ATF</a>
<b>Aussie</b>	Australian
<b>AWOL</b>	Absent without leave, unauthorised absence from duty or place
<b>Back pack</b>	Load carrying back pack for field equipment and spare stores, dumped whenever a contact occurred; typical weight around 65lb/30kg; also known as field pack; see <a href="#">belt order</a>
<b>Baggy (arse)</b>	Private soldier; derived from ill-fitting baggy trousers
<b>Bandolier</b>	Shoulder-carried ammunition pouch
<b>Base camp</b>	Semi-permanent field headquarters and centre for a unit usually within its tactical area responsibility; usually contains all or part of a unit's support elements
<b>BC</b>	Battery Commander
<b>Beehive</b>	Direct-fire artillery round which incorporated steel darts (flechettes), used as primary base defence munition against ground attack
<b>Belt order</b>	Personal load carrying belt and suspenders containing fighting equipment not otherwise carried in back pack, which remained on or close to the individual at all times; typical weight around 40lb/18kg; see <a href="#">back pack</a>
<b>Bird</b>	Any aircraft, usually helicopters

<b>Birddog</b>	Small fixed-wing reconnaissance aircraft used to spot for ground-attack aircraft, especially Cessna L-19/O-1
<b>Bn</b>	Battalion; military unit of around 500 - 1500 men usually consisting of between 2 and 6 companies and typically commanded by a lieutenant colonel
<b>BOD</b>	Base Ordnance Depot
<b>Bodycount</b>	Term borrowed from US forces to describe the success or ferocity of engagements, i.e. 'there was a high bodycount of enemy killed'
<b>Booby trap</b>	Improvised trap designed to maim or severely injure an individual
<b>Bookoo</b>	Much; derived from the French word 'beaucoup'
<b>Boom boom</b>	Sex; 'bookoo boom boom' meant 'much sex'
<b>Boom boom house</b>	Slang for brothel
<b>Boonies</b>	Term borrowed from US forces; see <a href="#">bush</a>
<b>Boss</b>	Informal bush title for an officer; alternative address to 'sir'
<b>Boundary</b>	Edge of AO; to be close to or to cross a boundary required permission, called a 'mousetrap'
<b>BQMS</b>	Battery Quarter Master
<b>Brass up</b>	Concentrated fire into an area
<b>Brew</b>	Hot drink, as in 'want a brew?'; coffee, milk and two sugar was called 'NATO standard'
<b>BRIAM</b>	British Advisory Mission Vietnam; advised government of South Vietnam ( <a href="#">GVN</a> ) on hamlet programs and counter insurgency generally; 'Malaya experts'
<b>Brigade</b>	Basic military organisational unit; during the Vietnam War, a division was organised into three brigades each commanded by a colonel; a division consists of approximately 20,000 people
<b>Bristol 170 Freighter</b>	Utility transport aircraft; used by RNZAF for supply missions to South Vietnam 1968-1975
<b>Bronco</b>	US OV-10 twin-engine aircraft armed with rockets and <a href="#">miniguns</a> ; used by the <a href="#">USAF</a> and <a href="#">USMC</a> for forward air control and scouting missions
<b>Brownie film</b>	Toilet paper
<b>BSM</b>	Battery Sergeant Major
<b>Bunds</b>	Royal Australian Artillery ( <a href="#">RAA</a> ) and Royal New Zealand Artillery ( <a href="#">RNZA</a> ) name for sandbag defensive artillery positions created by small bulldozers
<b>Burst</b>	Controlled firing of five or more rounds of automatic fire, more depending on urgency
<b>Bush</b>	Jungle; area outside the base perimeter where fighting took place
<b>Bushranger</b>	Australian <a href="#">Iroquois</a> helicopter gunship
<b>B52 Stratofortress</b>	Long-range, subsonic, jet-powered, strategic bomber operated by the United States Air Force ( <a href="#">USAF</a> ) since 1955

<b>C&amp;C</b>	Command and control; title applied to helicopter (usually with extra radios) with <a href="#">sunray</a> on board flying above AO directing ground operations, or a person doing 'C & C' for a task
<b>Cadres</b>	Small groups of covert political organisers in villages; members helped recruit, train and support Viet Cong military wing; always competed with the South Vietnamese government structure and services
<b>Call-sign</b>	Radio code-word to identify or summon particular organisations or people for a radio conversation
<b>Canister</b>	Anti-personnel artillery or tank round containing <a href="#">flechette</a>
<b>Cans</b>	Usually beer; 'in the can' meant arrested and locked up; see <a href="#">goffers</a>
<b>Caribou</b>	de Havilland Canada DHC-4 Caribou; a twin-engine light transport aircraft operated by the US Army, <a href="#">USAF</a> and <a href="#">RAAF</a> in Vietnam.
<b>Carpet-bombing</b>	Heavy, indiscriminate bombing of an area by plane, usually causing widespread destruction
<b>CASEVAC</b>	Casualty evacuation of injured soldiers from the field; see <a href="#">dustoff</a> and <a href="#">MEDEVAC</a>
<b>CCRSFF</b>	Commander Central Region SEATO (South East Asia Treaty Organisation) Field Force
<b>Centurion</b>	Australian battle tank
<b>Chalk</b>	Group of personnel grouped together for travel
<b>Charlie</b>	Slang for Viet Cong (VC); from radio designation 'victor charlie'
<b>Cheyenne</b>	Medium-sized high-speed observation helicopter
<b>Chieu Hoi (Chew Hoy)</b>	'Open arms', programme that allowed VC to defect and receive money for surrendered weapons
<b>Chinook</b>	Large twin-rotor helicopter; see <a href="#">Geronimo</a>
<b>Chopper</b>	Any model of helicopter, usually US model Iroquois UH-1D troop lift and utility helicopter flown by allied forces Army Aviation or air force units
<b>Choges</b>	Vietnamese people
<b>Civvies</b>	Civilians; clothes when out of uniform
<b>Clacker</b>	Electrical firing device used to detonate claymore mine; from sound made on use
<b>Claymore</b>	US model directional anti-personnel mine with 900 ball-bearings, electrically fired singly or in a bank
<b>Click</b>	Kilometre, as in 'travel 6-clicks south'
<b>Commando Vault</b>	BLU-82 15,000 pound bomb dropped from a <a href="#">C130</a>
<b>Comms</b>	Communications, verbal or electronic, as in 'get comms with'[call-sign]'
<b>Conex</b>	Container Export (used as platform for claymore mine control posts); see <a href="#">claymore</a>
<b>Contact</b>	Engagement, often sudden, with enemy; cry/radio message used to warn that enemy is engaged, as in 'contact front'

<b>Coord</b>	Co-ordination; bringing together different agencies to achieve a common task; artillery support for infantry attack with FAC available to direct air strikes; engineer support to clear mines
<b>Coy</b>	Company; organisation of soldiers for administrative and tactical reasons; usually commanded by a major
<b>Coyote</b>	Small high-speed reconnaissance helicopter
<b>CP</b>	Command post
<b>CPO</b>	Command Post Operator
<b>CQMS</b>	Company Quartermaster Sergeant; senior non-commissioned officer (NCO) responsible for stores and resupply
<b>Crunchie</b>	Australian slang for infantry, from the sound made by walking on gravel
<b>CSM</b>	Company Sergeant Major, senior other rank (OR) in company; 'right hand man' for officer commanding (OC)
<b>C130</b>	US model tactical troop and cargo aircraft used extensively by USAF and RNZAF; known as 'Hercules'
<b>C4</b>	Type of plastic explosive, commonly found inside claymore AP mine
<b>Dacrons</b>	New Zealand dress uniform in the tropics, complete with regimental belt, beret and black rank; Australian lanyard designating the ANZAC battalion the soldier belonged to was also worn
<b>Dapsone</b>	Drug used by Australians and New Zealanders as a malaria suppressant, taken in combination with <a href="#">Paludrine</a>
<b>DAQMG</b>	Deputy Assistant Quartermaster General
<b>Defoliant</b>	Chemical sprayed or dusted on trees or plants to make leaves fall off
<b>Dhobi</b>	Laundry
<b>DF</b>	Defensive fire; usually refers to artillery fire called to land close to the allied perimeter; can be fired and recorded in anticipation of VC attack; a 'silent' DF target was calculated from a map (i.e. without using ranging shots) and recorded on a register for use in an emergency
<b>Digger</b>	Slang for Australian soldier
<b>Div Loc Bty</b>	Divisional Locating Battery
<b>Div Postal</b>	Divisional Postal Unit
<b>Div Pro Coy</b>	Divisional Provost Company
<b>Div Sal Coy</b>	Divisional Salvage Company
<b>DMZ</b>	Demilitarised Zone
<b>Dong</b>	Vietnamese unit of currency
<b>Double-tap</b>	Snap shooting technique where two rounds are quickly fired at the centre of a target before the firer changes position
<b>DOW</b>	Died of wounds some time after being wounded
<b>Drill</b>	see <a href="#">IA</a>
<b>DTA</b>	Division tactical area; an Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) DTA comprised two or more provinces; the DTA commander was also

	the ARVN division commander, and the DTA was his permanent tactical area of responsibility (TAOR)
<b>Duffel bag</b>	Ground based personnel sensing devices
<b>Duster</b>	M42 40mm self-propelled anti-aircraft gun; see <a href="#">M42</a>
<b>Dustoff</b>	Radio code-word for removal of battle casualties from a contact, usually by helicopter
<b>Ebony</b>	Call-sign for switchboard at 1 Australian Task Force (1ATF); could indicate specific officers/office, e.g. 'Ebony 12' as reference in correspondence
<b>Engr</b>	Engineer; support troops used for construction, demolition or battlefield mine/booby trap clearance
<b>EOD</b>	Explosive Ordnance Disposal
<b>Extraction</b>	Withdrawal by air of troops from area of operation via helicopter; see <a href="#">AO</a>
<b>F4 Phantom II</b>	Two-seat, twin-engined, long-range supersonic interceptor jet fighter/fighter-bomber flown in Vietnam by the <a href="#">USN</a> and <a href="#">USAF</a>
<b>FAC</b>	Forward air controller, usually airborne, who could call for and direct air strikes
<b>FDC</b>	Fire-Direction Control Centre; place where requests for fire support were interpreted into specific information for ground artillery. Also co-ordinated artillery and mortar fire
<b>FFI</b>	Free from infections; routine medical inspection to check for skin and other medical problems
<b>Field dressing</b>	Large cotton pad with strapping soldiers carried for emergency first aid to stop bleeding, usually taped to equipment such as rifle butts
<b>Firebase</b>	Semi-permanent defended location in an AO from which a unit supports operations with artillery and logistics
<b>Firetrail</b>	Land clearing of bush to provide better observation of likely VC routes
<b>Flechette</b>	Individual dart from either flechette artillery or tank round; each round contains several thousand individual flechettes designed to break up massed infantry assaults
<b>FOO</b>	Artillery forward observation officer, usually a captain, who travelled with infantry to co-ordinate artillery support
<b>FOO(A)</b>	Artillery forward observation officer assistant; a NCO or gunner (gnr) who travelled with infantry as fire support co-ordinator in place of mortar fire controller (MFC)
<b>Forward scout</b>	Soldier in front of platoon, seeking out likely enemy ambush sites and booby traps
<b>Frag</b>	Fragmentation hand grenade
<b>Fragging</b>	Assassination of unpopular officers by allied soldiers, often by means of fragmentation grenade; there are no recorded incidents of NZ troops fragging officers during the Vietnam War
<b>Friendlys</b>	Australian troops, allies, or anyone not on the other side

<b>Friendly fire</b>	Air, artillery, or small arms fire from own forces mistakenly directed at own positions
<b>FSCC</b>	Fire Support Co-ordination Centre; artillery command post to manage fire from all deployed guns
<b>FSPB</b>	Fire support patrol base followed by a particular name, usually of a woman; see <a href="#">firebase</a>
<b>FWMAF</b>	Free World Military Assistance Forces (US, NZ, Australian, South Vietnamese and other allied forces)
<b>Gat</b>	Rifle
<b>Geronimo</b>	Nickname for US CH-47 Chinook helicopter; based on aircraft call-signs
<b>GI</b>	Nickname for American soldiers; from the term 'Government Issue' which was stamped on all equipment used by the soldiers
<b>Goffer</b>	Can of soft drink
<b>Gollock</b>	Issue machete, rarely used except in <a href="#">FSPB</a> as the noise attracted enemy attention; see <a href="#">secateurs</a>
<b>Gook</b>	Slang for Viet Cong; see <a href="#">VC</a>
<b>GPMG</b>	General purpose machine gun, used at section level for fire support; see <a href="#">M60</a>
<b>GPO</b>	Gun Position Officer; a lieutenant or captain responsible for a battery's technical tasks and for operating the battery command post
<b>Greens</b>	Green uniform designed for field wear
<b>Ground clearance</b>	Permission given by land force commander for air or artillery clearance to fire/fly into or over his area of operations
<b>Grunt</b>	US slang for infantry soldier, as in 'the only answer you get from a foot soldier is a grunt'
<b>GSW</b>	Gun shot wound
<b>Guns</b>	Artillery; see <a href="#">arty</a>
<b>GVN</b>	Government of [South] Vietnam
<b>Happy pills</b>	Anti-malarial tablets
<b>Harbour</b>	Bush location where field troops rest and protect themselves
<b>H&amp;I</b>	Harassment and interdiction; unobserved artillery, mortar or air bombardment on locations which might be used by enemy forces, usually fired at night
<b>HE</b>	High explosive; destructive force in artillery shells, mortar bombs, aerial bombs
<b>Hepatitis roll</b>	Bread roll baked locally
<b>Hercules</b>	Transport aircraft; see <a href="#">C130</a>
<b>Hexie</b>	Hexamine or solid kerosene; British-made cooking tablet used mainly in Malaysia

<b>Hoi Chanh</b>	Viet Cong or North Vietnamese soldier who defects and joins the government of South Vietnam forces or ceases fighting against them; <i>see Chieu Hoi</i>
<b>Hoochie</b>	House, tent or other living space; from US slang; also known as hutchie
<b>Hook into</b>	To attack aggressively
<b>Hot Extraction</b>	Withdrawal of troops from area of operation via helicopter while under enemy fire
<b>Hot LZ</b>	Landing zone under hostile fire
<b>HQ</b>	Headquarters, at any level describes the command staff structure
<b>HueyCobra</b>	AH-1 Cobra - two-bladed, single engine attack helicopter; also known as <a href="#">Snake</a>
<b>Hutchie</b>	Small nylon sheets rigged up to branches to provide shelter
<b>IA</b>	Immediate action; instinctive drill such as ambush or contact
<b>In country</b>	In Vietnam
<b>Inf</b>	Infantry
<b>INTREP</b>	Intelligence report on enemy locations, movement and intentions
<b>Iroquois</b>	Model of US helicopter operated in Phouc Tuy province by 9 Squadron RAAF; <i>see</i> <a href="#">UH-1D</a>
<b>J [jay]</b>	Jungle; <i>see</i> <a href="#">bush</a>
<b>Jumping jack</b>	Anti-personnel mine; known by Americans as a 'bouncing betty'
<b>Jungle penetrator</b>	Heavy bulb device with fold away seats, lowered from a helicopter by winch to extract people where a landing is not feasible
<b>KFS</b>	Knife, fork, spoon, used with mess tins, preferably plastic to reduce noise in the bush
<b>KIA</b>	Killed in action during a contact; <i>see</i> <a href="#">WIA</a>
<b>'Kit Carson'</b>	Viet Cong defector who then served with allied forces as a scout or interpreter; Australians called them 'bushman scouts'; <i>see</i> <a href="#">Chieu Hoi</a>
<b>Kiwi</b>	New Zealander; nickname used internationally and within New Zealand to describe people from New Zealand; derived from flightless bird native to New Zealand
<b>L5</b>	105mm L5 pack howitzer gun used by 161 Battery in Vietnam, 1965-1967
<b>LAD</b>	Light aid detachment
<b>LFT</b>	Light fire team; comprised two UH-1D helicopters armed with forward firing mini-guns and 2.75-inch Zuni rocket pods with twin M60 in each door; RAAF call-sign 'bushranger'
<b>Lilo</b>	Australian model air mattress with inner air tubes
<b>LOB</b>	Left out of battle; personnel routinely rested from operations; <i>see</i> <a href="#">pogue</a>
<b>LOCSTAT</b>	Statement of location of a force or activity, typically a coded grid reference



<b>LP</b>	Landing point, single helicopter pad or area in bush capable of allowing one helicopter to land
<b>LZ</b>	Landing zone, capable of multiple helicopter landings and movements
<b>MAINTDEM</b>	Routine supply to field troops of essential items like food and water; see <a href="#">OPDEM</a>
<b>MEDCAP</b>	Medical Civic Action Program; normally conducted in a secure area and could involve psychological operations to display humanitarian treatment and improve the image of occupying forces
<b>MEDEVAC</b>	Medical evacuation
<b>Medic</b>	Medical orderly or trained soldier who would provide medical support
<b>Mess</b>	Dining hall; barbeque area
<b>Mess tins</b>	Metal dishes used to cook and eat meals; container for shaving water, etc
<b>MFC</b>	Mortar fire controller attached to infantry; mortar sections often accompanied companies in the bush; MFC directed artillery fire in absence of forward observation officer
<b>MG</b>	Machine gun
<b>MID</b>	Mentioned in despatches; lowest form of decoration
<b>Minigun</b>	Electric Gatling gun; 7.62mm machine gun comprising 6-10 rotating barrels firing up to 6000 rounds per minute. They were usually mounted on airplanes and helicopters to be used on ground targets
<b>Mohawk</b>	Grumman OV-1 Mohawk observation aircraft; designed for battlefield surveillance and light strike capabilities
<b>Mortar</b>	Infantry support weapon which fires bombs in a high trajectory that plummet onto target
<b>Mossie</b>	Mosquito
<b>MPC</b>	Military payment certificates with face value of US currency but only valid for use by service personnel at Allied facilities; issued to control the local black market
<b>MPO</b>	Medical Petty Officer
<b>Mug</b>	Field cup used to heat food and drink
<b>M2A2</b>	105mm howitzer gun used by <a href="#">161 Battery</a> in Vietnam, 1967-1971; also designated M101A1
<b>M16</b>	US designed anti-personnel jumping mine; also known as a <a href="#">Jumping Jack</a>
<b>M16-A1</b>	US model 5.56mm lightweight personal rifle; see <a href="#">SLR</a>
<b>M18</b>	US model smoke grenade used for signalling; available in four colours – violet, green, yellow, and red
<b>M18-A1</b>	Designation for <a href="#">claymore</a> anti-personnel mine
<b>M26</b>	US model fragmentation grenade
<b>M42</b>	40mm self-propelled anti-aircraft gun, often used for point security, convoy escort or perimeter defence in Vietnam; also known as the <a href="#">Duster</a>
<b>M60</b>	US model general purpose machine gun

<b>M72</b>	US model shoulder fired 72mm light shaped charge rocket used to attack bunkers
<b>M79</b>	US model 40mm grenade launcher
<b>M113</b>	Armoured personnel carrier designed to carry and position troops and supplies; used to transport the L5 pack howitzer guns of <a href="#">161 Battery</a> 1965-67
<b>M125</b>	M113 variant; self-propelled armoured personnel carrier with 81mm mortar firing through large, circular roof hatch in hull rear
<b>M548</b>	M113 variant; unarmoured cargo carrier
<b>M577 ACV</b>	M113 variant; command vehicle used as a tactical operations centre; includes command and control equipment and long-range communications through hand-cranked extendible antenna system
<b>M579 fitter</b>	M113 variant; repair and recovery vehicle fitted with crane attachment
<b>Napalm</b>	Mixture of gasoline and detergent, which, when it exploded, sucks oxygen from the air, either killing people through asphyxiation or burning them alive; often used during firefights
<b>Nasho</b>	Australian national serviceman or two-year conscript
<b>NCO</b>	Non-commissioned officer; section commander; platoon sergeant type ranks
<b>NDP</b>	Night defensive position; a small temporary base for supporting arms like tanks
<b>Neptune</b>	P-2 US Navy aircraft
<b>NEWZAD</b>	The New Zealand Army Detachment Vietnam; engineer detachment which served in Vietnam, June 1964 - July 1965
<b>Night hunter</b>	Co-ordinated radar, artillery and air cavalry
<b>Night raid</b>	Planned operation against an intelligence target
<b>Nitecap</b>	Integrated civic action programme during darkness with particular emphasis on psychological operations
<b>Nog/Noggie</b>	NZ/Australian slang for Vietnamese
<b>NVA</b>	North Vietnamese Army; regular army of North Vietnam
<b>NZ</b>	New Zealand or New Zealander; see <a href="#">Kiwi</a>
<b>NZATTV</b>	New Zealand Army Training Team Vietnam
<b>NZV Force</b>	New Zealand Army Force (Vietnam)
<b>OC</b>	Officer commanding; also known as the company commander or sunray
<b>OCTU</b>	Officer Cadet Training Unit
<b>O Group</b>	Orders group; meeting of personnel to be tasked for future operations
<b>OPDEM</b>	Urgent supply to field troops of ammunition and weapons; see <a href="#">MAINTDEM</a>
<b>Op(s)</b>	Operation (usually followed by a name); see <a href="#">AO</a>
<b>OR</b>	Other ranks; soldiers who are not commissioned officers

<b>Orion</b>	P-3 US Navy aircraft
<b>Oscar Deuce</b>	Cessna 0-2 Forward Air Control (FAC) aircraft
<b>OTLP</b>	One Time Letter Pad; a code book system used by patrols in the field; each page would be used only once
<b>OUMC</b>	Otago University Medical Company
<b>Pad</b>	See <a href="#">LP</a>
<b>Paludrine</b>	Drug used by Australians and New Zealanders in Vietnam as a malaria suppressant, taken in combination with <a href="#">Dapsone</a>
<b>Patrol</b>	Activity; selection of soldiers from three to company size on task in the bush
<b>PC</b>	Slang for APC, as in 'mount that PC'
<b>PE</b>	Plastic explosive such as C4
<b>People sniffer</b>	Electro-chemical device to detect humans
<b>Pepper-pot</b>	Advance to contact in an unpredictable manner using small groups who cover movement with observation and aimed fire; in appearance like shaking pepper from a pot
<b>Pit</b>	Hole dug or scraped in the ground as protection from incoming fire
<b>Pl</b>	Platoon; military unit typically composed of two to four sections or squads and containing 30 - 50 soldiers
<b>Pl comd</b>	Platoon commander; usually an officer of lieutenant rank
<b>Pl sgt</b>	Platoon sergeant, responsible for platoon administration and deputising for commander
<b>Picket duty</b>	Sentry duty
<b>Pogue</b>	Derisory slang for someone permanently left out of battle; see <a href="#">LOB</a>
<b>POO</b>	Point of Origin; map referencing system in which prearranged grid references on a map were used as a point of origin by jungle patrols
<b>Pop smoke</b>	To throw a coloured (red, yellow, or green) smoke grenade to assist helicopters identify correct landing place
<b>Possum</b>	Call-sign for aircraft or helicopter of 161 Reconnaissance Flight
<b>POW</b>	Prisoner of war
<b>Pte</b>	Private; lowest grade of trained soldier; also Gnr (gunner – artillery), Sig (signaller – Corps of Signals), Spr (sapper – engineers), Tpr (trooper – armoured corps)
<b>Puff the magic dragon</b>	C-47 aircraft equipped with three mini-guns; see <a href="#">spooky</a>
<b>Punji</b>	Sharpened stick; see <a href="#">booby trap</a>
<b>PX</b>	Post Exchange; retail stores operating on United States military installations worldwide. Known as Base Exchange (BX) on Air Force bases, and Navy Exchange (NEX) on Navy bases
<b>Q store</b>	Quartermaster store; reserve stores in base area
<b>RAA</b>	Royal Australian Artillery

<b>RAAF</b>	Royal Australian Air Force; helicopters and transports supporting 1st Australian Task Force (1ATF)
<b>Ranch hand</b>	Tactical military project for aerial spraying of herbicides in South Vietnam
<b>Rank</b>	Designation of experience and authority; see <a href="#">Pte</a> , <a href="#">NCO</a> , <a href="#">CQMS</a> , <a href="#">CSM</a> , <a href="#">OC</a>
<b>RAP</b>	Regimental aid post; first level medical facility
<b>RAR</b>	Royal Australian Regiment; Australian infantry structure of nine battalions, three of which were designated ANZAC and had New Zealand companies
<b>Rats</b>	Rations
<b>Raven</b>	US UH-23 observation helicopter
<b>Recce</b>	Reconnaissance; US abbreviation was 'recon'
<b>resup</b>	Resupply; see <a href="#">MAINTDEM</a>
<b>RF/PF</b>	Regional force or popular force militia; part of ARVN; also known as ruff puffs
<b>Rolling thunder</b>	US air campaign against North Vietnam
<b>Rounds</b>	Ammunition
<b>RPG</b>	Soviet or Chinese model shoulder-fired rocket propelled grenade; used as local firepower by VC
<b>RNZA</b>	Royal New Zealand Artillery
<b>RNZAF</b>	Royal New Zealand Air Force
<b>RNZIR</b>	Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment
<b>RNZN</b>	Royal New Zealand Navy
<b>RNZNVR</b>	Royal New Zealand Naval Volunteer Reserve
<b>RSVN</b>	Republic of South Vietnam
<b>RTNZ</b>	'Return to New Zealand' from overseas posting
<b>R in C</b>	Rest-in-country; a 48-hour recreational break at Peter Badcoe Club Vung Tau
<b>R&amp;C</b>	Rest and convalescence; 5-day leave for NZers outside South Vietnam
<b>R&amp;R</b>	Rest and recreation sponsored by US Forces; 5-days off outside South Vietnam
<b>Sapper</b>	Lowest grade of field engineer; special force VC or NVA soldiers who penetrated bases to destroy infrastructure
<b>SAS</b>	Special Air Service, either Australian or New Zealand; lived on 'SAS Hill', the highest point in Nui Dat
<b>Scout</b>	First and second soldier in patrol; role to give early warning of danger
<b>SEATO</b>	South East Asia Treaty Organisation
<b>Secateurs</b>	Hand-held pruning shears used to remove bush during movement; see <a href="#">gollock</a>

<b>Shell scrape</b>	Military earthwork used as a sleeping space for soldiers in the field
<b>Short</b>	Time still remaining to serve in a tour of duty
<b>Sig</b>	Signaller or radio operator; see <a href="#">Pte</a>
<b>SITREP</b>	Situation report, usually a coded radio message using a standard format
<b>Sky crane</b>	See <a href="#">superhook</a>
<b>SLR</b>	British model 7.62mm semi-automatic self-loading personal rifle; see <a href="#">M16-A1</a>
<b>Slick</b>	Single helicopter movement; slang for an individual troop carrying helicopter
<b>Sioux</b>	US OH-13 observation helicopter
<b>Snake</b>	AH-1 Cobra - two-bladed, single engine attack helicopter; also known as <a href="#">HueyCobra</a>
<b>Snakepit</b>	Revetments at Vung Tau airfield where AH-1 Cobra gunship helicopters were based
<b>Snatch</b>	Rapidly planned and executed operation to exploit information obtained from enemy
<b>Snoopy</b>	US aircraft tasked to scan jungle with a range of human detecting sensors
<b>SOP</b>	Standard operating procedure; agreed way to do certain actions or reports
<b>Spider holes</b>	Shoulder-deep hole, often covered by a camouflaged lid and linked to a tunnel system; the VC stood and fired a weapon, then closed the lid to disguise the hole
<b>Splinter team</b>	Small group of field engineers attached to rifle units for mine, booby trap or obstacle clearing tasks
<b>Splintex</b>	Term for round filled with flechettes
<b>Spooky</b>	Call sign for C-47 gunship; see <a href="#">puff the magic dragon</a>
<b>Sqn</b>	Squadron, military subunit of company equivalent; air force unit
<b>Stag</b>	Rostered sentry duty
<b>Stand-to</b>	Period at dusk and dawn when all activity ceases; change from day to night routine or vice versa
<b>Stick</b>	Group of men ready to board helicopters
<b>Stokes litter</b>	Rigid stretcher with straps to immobilise a casualty before winching aboard a dustoff helicopter
<b>Sunray</b>	Radio term for officer commanding; see <a href="#">OC</a>
<b>Superhook</b>	CH-54 cargo helicopter; also known as sky crane
<b>SVN</b>	South Vietnam
<b>Sweep</b>	Tactical move through an area to check for bodies, wounded, equipment etc
<b>Tail-end Charlie</b>	Last person in a patrol, responsible for covering tracks backwards observation
<b>Tan Tay Lan</b>	Vietnamese for 'New Zealander'

<b>TAOR</b>	Tactical area of responsibility; unit's operating area; area around Nui Dat and other firebases
<b>TCDD</b>	2,3,7,8 tetrachloro-dibenzodioxin
<b>The Dat</b>	Nui Dat, base of 1 Australian Task Force (1ATF) combat units, as in 'heading back to the Dat'
<b>TOD</b>	Tour of duty (usually one year); period of time for a task or posting
<b>Tracer bullets</b>	Special bullets containing a phosphorous that burns brightly while in motion to show where they are going
<b>Triangle</b>	Easily understood shape of a harbour position; adapted as a drill for ambushes and halts
<b>Troopie</b>	Slang for ANZAC soldier
<b>Uc Dai Loy</b>	Vietnamese for 'Australian'
<b>UH-1D</b>	Model of US helicopter operated in Phouc Tuy province by 9 Squadron RAAF; see <a href="#">Iroquois</a>
<b>Uncle Ho</b>	Nickname for Ho Chi Minh used by his supporters during the war and still widely used in Vietnam
<b>USAF</b>	United States Air Force
<b>USMC</b>	United States Marine Corps
<b>USN</b>	United States Navy
<b>VCI</b>	Viet Cong infrastructure; the covert cadres in villages
<b>VHF</b>	Very high frequency; radio frequency between 30-300 MHz
<b>Victor</b>	V Company RNZIR; there were successive company replacement drafts, each with a numeral to indicate order - V5 Coy was the fifth V Coy to arrive in Vietnam
<b>Viet Cong (VC)</b>	Armed forces of the communist National Liberation Front, more formally known as the People's Liberation Armed Forces
<b>Viet Minh</b>	National liberation movement formed by Hồ Chí Minh in 1941 to seek independence for Vietnam from France as well as to oppose the Japanese occupation
<b>VIS</b>	Vietnamese Information Service, responsible for interpretation and dissemination of South Vietnamese government programme and information
<b>VNAF</b>	(South) Vietnam Air Force; now defunct
<b>VTSZ</b>	Vung Tau special zone
<b>Vung Tau Airlines</b>	No. 35 Squadron <a href="#">RAAF</a> , which flew <a href="#">Caribou</a> aircraft
<b>Vungers</b>	Slang for Vung Tau
<b>Wakey</b>	Final day of service in Vietnam; from 'wake up and go home'
<b>Webbing</b>	See <a href="#">belt order</a>
<b>Whisky/Whiskey</b>	W Coy RNZIR; there were successive company replacement drafts, each with a numeral to indicate order - W3 Coy was the third W Coy to arrive in Vietnam

<b>White mice</b>	Derogatory name for South Vietnamese police; derived from their uniform of white helmets and gloves
<b>White phosphorous</b>	Explosive round fired from artillery, mortar, or rockets, which dispersed thick smoke and caused serious burns; also known as <a href="#">willie peter</a>
<b>WIA</b>	Wounded in action; see <a href="#">GSW</a>
<b>Willie peter</b>	Nickname for <a href="#">white phosphorous</a> explosives
<b>WO</b>	Warrant Officer Class 1; New Zealand Army rank; see <a href="#">NCO</a>
<b>WO2</b>	Warrant Officer Class 2; New Zealand Army rank; see <a href="#">NCO</a>
<b>Zippo</b>	Cigarette lighter