

# Glossary

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AA	Antiaircraft
AAF	Army Air Forces
AAM	Air-to-air missile
ABDA	American/British/Dutch/Australian Command that fought the Japanese in the South Pacific at the start of WWII.
Acoustic torpedo	A surface-launched or air-dropped torpedo that homes in on the sound of an underwater target.
Actg.	Acting
ACDUTRA	Active duty for training, also ADT
ACV	Designation for escort carriers or auxiliary aircraft carrier
ADM	Admiral
ADSM	American Defense Service Medal
ADT	Active duty for training, also ACDUTRA
AEC	Atomic Energy Commission
A.E.F.	American Expeditionary Force (WWI)
AEW	Airborne early warning
AFB	Air Force Base
AFEM	Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
Air-cooled	The use of air-driven convection currents to cool an engine or machine gun barrel.
Airframe	A term referring to the basic framework of an aircraft on which engine, ordnance and electronic upgrades are attached over the lifetime of the series.
ALF	Auxiliary Landing Field
AMM3C	Aviation Machinist Mate Third Class
Amphibron	Amphibian squadron, in WWII the PBV-5A Catalinas
AMRAAM	Advanced medium range air-to-air missile
ANTAC	Air navigation and tactical air control
AOM	All officers meeting
AOR	Area of operations
a.p. or A.P.	Armor piercing
AsDevLant	Antisubmarine Development Detachment, Atlantic Fleet
ASDIC	Allied Detection and Investigation Committee, British term for airborne sonar
ASM	Air-to-surface missile, or Antarctica Service Medal
ASP	Antishipping patrol
ASV	Air-to-Surface Vessel, the designation for British designed ASW radar in WWII. The ASV designation avoided confusion with the AI (airborne interception) designation for night fighters. The Mark II was detectable by U-boats, but the Mark III operated in a range that was undetectable.
ASW	Antisubmarine warfare
AV	Designation for large seaplane tender
AVB	Designation for advance aviation base ship
AVG	Designation for escort carriers
AVP	Designation for small seaplane tender, converted from minesweepers and destroyers
AXAN	Aviation Antisubmarine Warfare Technician Airman
Baseline	An early production run model of an aircraft, essentially unmodified or updated.
B.C.	British Columbia

Betty	Imperial Japanese Navy Mitsubishi G4M1/G4M3 Attack Bomber
BIOT	British Indian Ocean Territory
Black Cat	Black Cat operations of WWII were flown by U.S. Navy Catalina squadrons against Japanese shipping and shore installations at night. Although originally a tactic designed to afford some measure of protection for the highly vulnerable, slow-moving seaplanes, Black Cat operations proved so successful that several squadrons were assigned the role. Flat-black painted surfaces and the use of radar made the outdated aircraft into a formidable weapon of the night.
BuAer	Bureau of Aeronautics
BuNav	Bureau of Navigation
BuNo	Bureau number
BuPers	Bureau of Personnel
BuWeaps	Bureau of Naval Weapons
B.W.I.	British West Indies
CAFAC	Commander All Forces, Aruba-Curacao (1943)
CAG	Acronym used for the person who was the commander of a carrier air group and/or carrier air wing
CAP	Combat air patrol, or Civil Air Patrol
CAPT	Captain
Carib	Caribbean
CASU	Carrier aircraft service unit
CDR	Commander
CGAS	Coast Guard Air Station
CINC	Commander in chief
CINCLANTFLT	Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet
CINCPACFLT	Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet
CNO	Chief of Naval Operations
C.O.	Commanding officer
COMAIRBATFOR	Commander Airforces Battle Force (1930)
COMAIRLANT	Commander, Air Atlantic
COMAIRONSLANTFLT	Commander Aircraft Squadrons, Atlantic Fleet (1921)
COMAIRONSPACFLT	Commander Aircraft Squadrons, Pacific Fleet (1921)
ComAirPac	Commander Air Force Pacific Fleet
COMAIRSCOFOR	Commander Airforces Scouting Force (1923 & 1937)
ComAirSols	Commander, Aircraft Squadrons, Solomons (1943)
COMBATFOR	Commander Battle Force (1930)
COMEASTSEAFRON	Commander Eastern Sea Frontier
COMFAIRHAWAII	Commander Fleet Airforces, Hawaii (1950)
COMFAIRWING	Commander Fleet Air Wing (1942)
COMNAVAIRLANT	Commander Naval Air Forces, Atlantic
COMNAVAIRPAC	Commander Naval Air Forces, Pacific
ComNavEastLantMed	Commander, Naval Forces Eastern Atlantic, Mediterranean
COMPATWINGSLANT	Commander Patrol Wings Atlantic (1973)
COMPATWINGSPAC	Commander Patrol Wings Pacific (1973)
COMSCOFOR	Commander Scouting Force (1930)
CONUS	Continental United States
CNO	Chief of Naval Operations
CTF	Carrier task force
CTG	Carrier task group
CV	Designation for an aircraft carrier
CVA	Designation for an attack aircraft carrier
CVAN	Designation for an attack aircraft carrier, nuclear
CVE	Designation for an escort aircraft carrier

CVG	Carrier air group
CVN	Designation for an aircraft carrier, nuclear
Cyclical rate	In machine guns, the number of rounds fired in one minute.
DCNO	Deputy Chief of Naval Operations
DDT	Dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane, a powerful insecticide effective upon contact.
DELTIC	Delayed time compression, an ASW improvement to the Jezebel tracking systems.
Depth bomb	Antisubmarine ordnance dropped from ships or aircraft, exploding at set depths based on hydrostatic pressure.
DesDiv	Destroyer Divisions
DesRon	Destroyer Squadrons
Det	Detachment
DEW Line	Distant early warning
DIFAR	Directional low frequency analysis and recording, used in ASW for passive acoustic signal processing.
Disest.	Disestablished
DMZ	Demilitarized zone
DoD	Department of Defense
Double Eagle	Amphibious operations conducted near Quang Ngai City, South Vietnam, from 28 January to 1 March 1966.
DUKW	WWII amphibious truck
Dumbo	From the Disney cartoon character, Dumbo the Flying Elephant. Air and sea rescue missions mounted by seaplane patrol squadrons during WWII in the South Pacific, frequently conducted in coordination with fast surface warships or submarines posted along routes flown by aircraft returning from strike missions. The aircraft located the downed aircrews then guided the ship or submarine to them. If surface conditions permitted, the sea planes would land and rescue the crews.
ECM	Electronic Countermeasures
Emily	Imperial Japanese Navy Kawanishi H8K, Type 2 Flying Boat.
ENS	Ensign
eph	Estimated horsepower
Equal Turning Point	A point determined by the "how goes it curve" beyond which it would not be possible for an aircraft to return to the point of origin.
ERCO	Engineering and Research Company, the firm that built the model 250 SH-1 nose ball turret retrofitted on Navy PB4Y-1 Liberator bombers at Litchfield Park, Ariz., during WWII. Tail turrets of the same design were mounted as standard equipment on the PB2Y Coronado. Army versions of the Liberator were equipped with the Emerson nose ball turret.
eshp	Estimated shaft horsepower
ESM	Electronic Support Measures
Est.	Established
EW	Electronic Warfare
FAA	Federal Aviation Agency
FAB	Fleet Air Base
Far East	Orient (Japan)
FASRON	Fleet Aircraft Service Squadron, a redesignation of PATSU on 12 August 1946.
FAW	Fleet Air Wing, derived from the redesignation of Patrol Wings on 1 November 1942. Fleet Air Wings were stationary commands providing operational and administrative support to the Patrol Squadrons. FAWs were redesignated back to Patrol Wings on 30 June 1973.
Fps.	Feet per second

FIDO	A form of parachute stabilized acoustic homing torpedo developed during WWII and used for the first time on 25 April 1945, by VPB-110 in the sinking of U-1107 in the Bay of Biscay.
Flak	From the German Flieger-Abwehr-Kanone, or antiaircraft gun.
FLIR	Forward looking infrared radar
FRAMP	Fleet replacement aviation maintenance program
Fregkpt.	Frigate Kapitän (German)
Frequent Wind	The evacuation of Saigon, South Vietnam, 18-30 April 1975.
FY	Fiscal year
GCA	Ground controlled approach
GCT	Greenwich civil time
Glomb	Guided glider bomb
G.P.	General purpose
HACOPS	Haitian Assistance Group Operations (1993)
HALOS	Harpoon air launch over-the-horizon targeting system
HARM	High speed antiradiation missile
Hat Trick	A coordinated operation of U.S. Navy patrol squadrons with the U.S. Coast Guard in the war against illegal drug traffic in the Caribbean in the 1980s. The operation involved general area surveillance and location of suspect vessels.
HBX	A form of high explosive developed during WWII that replaced the more shock-sensitive TORPEX used in depth bombs and torpedoes.
Hedgehog	Developed during WWII, small rocket-propelled depth bombs fired from a surface ship in volleys against a submarine target.
HEDRON	Headquarters squadron, located under each Patrol Wing after 1942, which pooled ground personnel and handled most of the administrative and support tasks for the operating squadrons. Each HEDRON had detachments called PATSUs to support squadrons at outlying bases.
“How goes it” curve	Statistical plots that were developed on an aircraft during shakedown that enabled an aircrew to determine each individual aircraft’s capabilities for long distance flying over water. The curve was a plot of speed, distance, engine settings, remaining fuel, etc., that assisted the crews in determining the crucial “point of no return.”
Hp	Horsepower
HSM	Humanitarian Service Medal
HVAR	High velocity aircraft rocket.
IACS	Integrated Acoustic Communication System, introduced in the P-3C Update I line of aircraft in 1978.
ICBM	Intercontinental ballistic missile
IFF	Identification friend or foe
IFR	Instrument flight rules
IJN	Imperial Japanese Navy, 1920 – 1945
Interpron	Photo interpretation squadron (WWII)
IO	Indian Ocean
IR	Infrared
IRBM	Intermediate range ballistic missile
IRDS/HACLS	A modification to the P-3B Orion that added infrared detection and Harpoon missile launch capability to the aircraft.
Is.	Island

ISAR	Inverse synthetic aperture radar
JATO	Jet assisted takeoff
JCS	Joint Chiefs of Staff
Jezebel	Acoustic signal processors used to track submerged targets
JMSDF	Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force, 1948 – present
JMUA	Joint Meritorious Unit Award
JULIE	Electronic system for active detection and tracking of submarines by patrol aircraft introduced in 1963, using sonobuoys and sound underwater signals.
Kapltl.	Kapitänleutnant, or Lieutenant Commander (German)
Kg	Kilograms
KIA	Killed in action
KIAS	Knots indicated air speed
KLM	Kuwait Liberation Medal
Kommandant	Commander (German)
Korvkpt.	Korvettenkapitän, or Captain (German)
KPUC	Korean Presidential Unit Citation
Kriegsmarine	The German Navy between 1935–1945
KSM	Korean Service Medal
Lant	Atlantic
LCDR	Lieutenant Commander
LORAN	Long-Range electronic Navigation, a system of electronic navigational fixed beacons that constantly transmitted repetitive signals. An aircraft could determine its relative position between two beacons based on the strength and direction of the signals. Each beacon had an identifying signal prefix that matched its location on a map.
LRAACA	Long-range air antisubmarine warfare capable aircraft, intended to be the next generation of ASW patrol aircraft for the U.S. Navy in the twenty-first century, also called the P-7A. The contract was cancelled in 1990 and no further development on the concept was pursued by the Navy.
LT	Lieutenant
LTA	Lighter-than-air
LT(jg)	Lieutenant Junior Grade
Lt. z. S	Leutnant zur See, or senior Lieutenant (German)
Luftwaffe	German Air Force 1933–1945
LWF	Lowe, Williard and Fowler Aircraft Company
MAD	Magnetic anomaly detector
Magnetic influence	A type of underwater mine developed by the Germans early in WWII and copied by the Allies that detected the gauss effect produced by the metal hull of a ship passing through the water.
Market Time	Coastal patrol operations off the coast of South Vietnam, 1968-71.
MATS	Military Air Transport Service
MCAF	Marine Corps Air Facility
MCAS	Marine Corps Air Station
MCOLF	Marine Corps outlying field
Med	Mediterranean
MEDIVAC	Medical evacuation
MIA	Missing in action
Middle East	The area from Libya to Afghanistan, including Egypt, Sudan, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Iraq, Iran and the countries of the Arabian Peninsula.

MiG	Russian aircraft designed by Artem I. Mikoyan and Mikhail I. Gurevich.
Milchkuh	A nickname for the German type XIV supply U-boat (Milk Cow) in WWII.
Mini-det	A program for reserve patrol squadrons begun in 1975 where two or three aircraft detachments would be sent to a detachment site over a period of one or two months, rather than deploying the entire squadron at once.
MIZ	Marginal Ice Zone
MUC	Meritorious Unit Commendation
Muzzle velocity	The speed at which a projectile leaves the muzzle of a weapon, generally measured in feet per second.
NAAF	Naval Auxiliary Air Facility
NAAS	Naval Air Auxiliary Station
NAB	Naval Air Base
NAC	Naval aircrewman, or Naval Avionics Center
NAF	Naval Air Facility
NAMU	Naval Aircraft Modification Unit, Johnsville, Pa. (1948)
NAP	Naval Aviation Pilot
NARC	Naval Air Reserve Center
NARF	Naval Air Rework Facility
NARTC	Naval Air Reserve Training Command (1970)
NARTU	Naval Air Reserve Training Unit
NARU	Naval Air Reserve Unit
NAS	Naval Air Station
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NATC	Naval Air Test Center or Naval Air Training Command
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NATOPS	Naval Aviation Training and Operating Procedures Standardization
NATS	Naval Air Transport Service
NAVAIRSYSCOM	Naval Air Systems Command
NAVE	Navy Battle E Ribbon
NAVRES/NR	Naval Reserve
NDSM	National Defense Service Medal
Near East	The countries of southwest Asia, Egypt and the Balkans
N.E.I.	Netherlands East Indies
NEM	Navy Expeditionary Medal
NFO	Naval Flight Officer
NOB	Naval Operating Base
NORAD	North American Air Defense Command
NorLant	Northern Atlantic
NorPac	Northern Pacific
NOSM	Navy Occupation Service Medal
NRAB	Naval Reserve Aviation Base
NRAS	Naval Reserve Air Station (1946)
NRFC	Naval Reserve Flying Corps
NS	Naval Station
NUC	Navy Unit Commendation
N.W.I.	Netherlands West Indies
OAS	Organization of American States
Oblt.	Oberleutenant, or Lieutenant (German)
Oblt. z. S.	Oberleutnant zur See, or junior Lieutenant (German)
OLF	Outlying field
OPNAV	Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
Ops	Operations

ORE	Operational readiness evaluation
ORI	Operational readiness inspection
OSAP	Ocean surveillance air patrol
Oscar	Imperial Japanese Nakajima Ki-43, Army Type 1 Fighter Hayabusa.
OSD	Office of the Secretary of Defense
OUT	Operational Training Unit
P/A	Pilotless aircraft
Pac	Pacific
PATRON	Patrol squadron
PARPRO	Peacetime aerial reconnaissance program, Cold War monitoring of Soviet military vessels in transit to patrol areas.
PATSU	Patrol Aircraft Service Unit, after the 1942 Patrol Wings reorganization, assigned to an airfield or seaplane tender to provide administrative maintenance services to aircraft being supported (see also HEDRON). Redesignated FASRON in 1946.
PATWING	Patrol Wings were organized in 1935 under the fleet Scouting Force with two to five patrol squadrons of flying boats. In the 1941 fleet reorganization, Patrol Wings became Patrol Wings, Atlantic Fleet (PatWingsLant), and Patrol Wings, Pacific Fleet (PatWingsPac). In early 1942 Patrol Wings became stationary commands assigned to a specific geographic location. On 1 November 1942, Patrol Wings were redesignated Fleet Air Wings (FAW). In June 1973, Fleet Air Wings were again redesignated Patrol Wings.
Pdr.	Pounder, a measure of projectile size based on weight rather than bore diameter, used in early ordnance when most shot was round, rather than long and pointed.
POW	Prisoner of war
PPC	Patrol plane commander, or first pilot
PP2C	Patrol plane second commander, or copilot
P.R.	Puerto Rico
Pressure wave	Damage inflicted by ordnance dropped into the water next to a ship or submarine. Transmission of explosive force is conducted through hydraulic effect to crush the hull of the target.
Pt.	Point
PT Boat	U.S. Navy WWII Motor Torpedo Boat, 43-48 ton displacement, 4 torpedo tubes, speed 40-45 knots, with a crew of 12 to 14.
PUC	Presidential Unit Citation
RAAF	Royal Australian Air Force
Radar	Radio detection and ranging equipment
RADM	Rear Admiral
RAF	Royal Air Force (British)
RAFB	Royal Air Force Base (British)
RCAF	Royal Canadian Air Force
Recoilless	Most rifled ordnance produces recoil upon discharge of the propellant charge and the projectile from the barrel of a weapon and requires heavy dampening buffers to absorb the energy. Recoilless weapons discharge a projectile from one end and a mass (usually buckshot) of equal weight from the other end to balance the recoil.
Redesig.	Redesignated
Retrobomb	Developed from the surface ship Hedgehog antisubmarine depth bomb for use by aircraft. The retrobomb was fired backward from the aircraft as the aircraft came directly over the target submarine, overcoming forward inertia and dropping directly on the target.

RFC	Royal Flying Corps (Canadian)
RHAF	Royal Hellenic Air Force (Greece and Cyprus)
RIO	Radar intercept officer
RITS	Remote Imaging Transmission System
Ritterkreuz	Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross (German)
RN	Royal Navy
RNAS	Royal Naval Air Station, or Royal Naval Air Service (WWI only)
RNZAF	Royal New Zealand Air Force
ROK	Republic of Korea
RON	Remain over night
Rpm.	Revolutions per minute (engines), or rounds per minute (machine guns).
RPPUC	Republic of Philippines Presidential Unit Citation
R & R	Rest and recreation
RTNAF	Royal Thai Naval Air Facility
RTNB	Royal Thai Naval Base
RVAH	Reconnaissance attack squadron
RVN	Republic of (South) Vietnam
RVNGC	Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation
SAM	Surface to air missile
SAR	Search and rescue
SASM	Southwest Asia Service Medal (includes Desert Storm)
Schnorkel	A breathing apparatus for submarines developed by the Dutch Navy in 1938 and taken into service for German U-boats in response to the Allied use of radar after 1942. The schnorkel allowed the U-boat to remain submerged while operating its diesel engines.
SCOFORPACFLT	Scouting Force Pacific Fleet (1937)
SCORON	Scouting Squadron
SEATO	Southeast Asia Treaty Organization
SECDEF	Secretary of Defense
SECNAV	Secretary of the Navy
Sel Crews	Select Crews
shp	Shaft horsepower
SLBM	Submarine launched ballistic missile
SLEP	Service life extension program
SLOC	Secretary of the Navy Letter of Commendation
SoLant	South Atlantic
Sonobuoy	An underwater acoustical listening device dropped over a target by a patrol aircraft that transmits target location data back to the aircraft.
SoPac	South Pacific
SS	Submarine, attack, diesel-electric
SSBN	Submarine (ballistic missile), nuclear
SSM	Surface-to-surface missile
SSN	Submarine (attack), nuclear
Strafe	Firing machine guns from aircraft at ground targets
Super Bee	Nickname for the Orion P-3B TACNAVMOD
SWOD	Special weapons ordnance device
Synchronized fire	A method of firing through the propeller arc of an airplane that coupled the machine gun gear mechanism with a cam on the engine crank shaft. Shots were timed to miss the propeller blades.
TACAIR	Tactical air
TACAN	Tactical air navigation system
TACCO	Tactical coordinator



TAC/NAV MOD	Tactical Navigation Modernization, which included a very low-frequency navigation system and general purpose computer that enabled older P-3A and P-3B model Orions to stabilize a sonobuoy pattern more effectively.
TAD/TEMADD	Temporary additional duty
TAR	Training and administration of reserves
TDY/TEMDU	Temporary duty
TF	Task Force
TG	Task Group
TNT	Trinitrotoluene, a yellow, high-explosive unaffected by ordinary friction or shock, used in explosive devices and ordnance early in WWII.
Torpedo	A form of self-propelled ordnance used against shipping by either submarines or aircraft. Invented by Whitehead in 1880.
TORPEX	An explosive based on trinitrotoluene (TNT) that gave a greater blast than TNT, but was more sensitive. It was replaced by HBX or HBX-1 later in WWII.
Transpac	Transpacific, the flight from the coast of California to Hawaii.
TU	Task Unit
Turret	On ships, a rotatable armored enclosure protecting heavy rifled ordnance. In aircraft, the rotatable Plexiglas enclosure mounting one or more defensive machine guns.
U-boat	German submarine
UF	Designation for former French submarines used by the German Navy (WWII).
UHF	Ultra-high frequency
UIT	Designation for former Italian submarines used by the German Navy (WWII).
U.K.	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNITAS	Annual exercises held with South American military forces.
UNSM	United Nations Service Medal
U.S.	United States
USA	U.S. Army
USAF	U.S. Air Force
USAAF	U.S. Army Air Force
USCG	U.S. Coast Guard
USMC	U.S. Marine Corps
USN	U.S. Navy
USNR	U.S. Navy Reserve (WWII – present)
USNRF	U.S. Navy Reserve Force (WWI and postwar years)
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (1917 – 1991)
VA	Attack squadron
VADM	Vice Admiral
VAH	Heavy attack squadron
VA(HM)	Attack mining squadron
VAQ	Tactical electronic warfare squadron
VB	Bombing squadron
VC	Composite squadron
VCNO	Vice Chief of Naval Operations
VCP	Composite photographic reconnaissance squadron
VD	Photographic squadron
VE Day	Victory in Europe Day, 8 May 1945
Very	The name of the inventor of an extensive production series of bright flares for illumination at night, either dropped from the air or fired from a hand-held pistol.

VF	Fighting plane squadron or fighter squadron
VFR	Visual flight rules
VHF	Very high frequency
V-J Day	Victory over Japan Day, 2 September 1945
VLAD	Vertical line array DIFAR
VNSM	Vietnam Service Medal
VOR	Visual omni range
VP	Patrol squadron
VP(AM)	Amphibious patrol squadron (1946-48)
VP(HL)	Heavy patrol squadron (1946-48)
VP(HS)	Heavy seaplane squadron (1946-48)
VP(ML)	Medium patrol squadron (1946-48)
VP(MS)	Medium seaplane squadron (1946-48)
VPP	Photographic squadron (1946-48)
VPU	Patrol special projects squadron (1946-48), Patrol Squadron Special Projects Unit (1982-98) and Special Projects Patrol Squadron (1998-present)
VQ	Fleet air reconnaissance squadron
VR	Aircraft logistics support squadron
VS	Scouting squadron, or carrier antisubmarine squadron
V/STOL	Vertical/Short Takeoff and Landing
VT	Torpedo squadron
VU	Utility squadron
VW	Airborne early warning squadron/weather reconnaissance squadron
VX	Experimental development squadron/air development squadron/air test and evaluation squadron
Water-cooled	Water circulating within a jacket surrounding an engine cylinder or a machine gun barrel that transfers heat away from the surface of the metal.
WestPac	Western Pacific
Wintergarten	Nickname for WWII German U-boat's gun platform.
WWI	World War One, the Great War of 1914 to 1918 (U.S. participation from 1917 to 1918)
WWII	World War Two, 1939 to 1945 (U.S. participation 1941 to 1945)
XO	Executive officer
Yankee Station	The operational staging area at 16N-110E in the South China Sea off the coast of Vietnam.
Yankee Team	Joint U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy operations inaugurated on 21 May 1963, that provided low-level aerial reconnaissance of suspected Communist infiltration routes in eastern and southern Laos.
Zero	Imperial Japanese Navy, Mitsubishi A5M/A6M Type O carrier fighter.
Zombie	A codename for the Mark 24 homing torpedo (see also Fido).