

MARINE CORPS JARGON

782 Gear - Also "Deuce" gear; includes pack, canteen, poncho, ammo pouch, etc. used when in the field. 782 refers to the DD Form signed when gear is issued

As You Were: -Resume former activity

Below - Downstairs

Bird - Any aircraft

Black Cadillacs - Combat Boots

Blouse - Cammie Shirt

Brass - Officers

Brig - Military Jail

Brown Bagger - Married Marine

Boot Lewy - 2nd Lieutenant

Bulkhead - Wall

Bunker - A protective shelter

Butt can - Ashtray

Butter Bar - 2nd Lieutenant

BX - Base Exchange

Cammies - Camouflage uniform

Canon Cocker - aka gun bunny personnel in an artillery battery

Click - One kilometer or one notch of a rifle sight

Chopper - Helicopter

Chow Hall - Where a Marine eats, like a cafeteria

Cover - Marine Corps Hat

Deck - Floor

Deuce and a half - 2.5 Ton Truck

Devildog - Another name for a Marine

Dinky Dau - Crazy (Viet Nam era term)

Doggie - U.S. Army Soldier

Field Day - Barracks or Office cleanup

Float - Deployment by ship

Geedunk - Junk food, snacks

Go-Fasters - Running shoes

Good to go - Ready to move, agree with, situation ok

Gouge - Any information or instructions, written or verbal.

Grunt - A Marine infantryman

Gung Ho - Very enthusiastic and committed

Hat - Drill Instructor
Hatch - Door/doorway
Head - Bathroom
High and Tight - Standard Marine haircut
Horn - Radio
Hump - Field March

Jarhead - Another name for a Marine

John Wayne - A grandstander, or descriptive of a bold act, or any act which is typical in the movies but not sound Marine procedure, such as firing a machine gun from the hip. Also, a simple can opener that can be carried on the dog tag chain.

Ink Stick - Black Pen

K-BAR - Marine fighting knife

Klick - A kilometer

LPC's - Leather personnel carriers ... boots

Ladderwell - Stairwell

Leave - Vacation time

Liberty - Rest and relaxation - Authorized absence up to 96 hours

Lifer - Career Marine

Light Up - To fire on the enemy

Lipstick Lieutenant - Chief Warrant Officer 5

Lock and Load - Put ammunition in a weapon and prepare to fire

Maggie's Drawers - A red flag on the range connoting a miss

Maggot - DI's affectionate name for a recruit

Mess Hall - Cafeteria where a Marine eats

MOS - Military occupational specialty (job)

Moon Beam - Flashlight

Moon Floss - Toilet paper

Most Ricky Tick - In a hurry; with a purpose; move fast

NCO - Non-Commissioned Officer

Nonhacker - A man who can't perform under pressure

O-Dark Thirty - After midnight, but before working hours

Office Hours - Appearing before the Commanding Officer for discipline

OOH RAH - Motivational call. Also spelled OO RAH

PCS - Permanent change of station

PFT - Physical Fitness Test

PT - Physical Training

Piece - Rifle

Pogey bait: Candy or any non-issued food or drink item. The term possibly derives from the term “pogue,” used to describe anyone working in an administrative capacity. One would use “pogey bait” to bribe a “pogue” into doing a Marine a favor.

Portholes - Thick-framed – and particularly ugly – glasses. Also known as “BCGs” – an abbreviation for “birth-control glasses.”

Pogue - Anyone not in the infantry (especially administrative personnel). Derives from the acronym POG - Personnel Other than Grunt

Rack - Bed

Ruck - Backpack

SNAFU - Situation Normal, All Fouled Up

Scuttlebutt - Rumor; Gossip / water fountain

Secure - lock up, close, take care of, finish for the day

SOS - Creamed beef on toast, a Marine delicacy

Skivvies - Underwear

Slop Chute - Bar

Smedly - An enlisted man who caters to officers and staff noncommissioned officers in the mess hall. Coined in reference to Marine legend Smedly Butler's last name

Smoking Lamp - A shipboard tradition which indicates permission to smoke (lit) or not to smoke (out)

Sparks - A Marine whose MOS is radioman or field communications

Squad bay - The long open room that houses a squad, platoon or other unit.

Squid - Sailor

Swab - Mop

TARFU - Things Are Really Fouled Up

Ten (10) Percenter - One of the small number of nonhackers in any unit

Topside - Upstairs

UA - Unauthorized absence

Water Buffalo - A large water tank on wheels

Whitewall - Standard Marine haircut

Zoomie - Anyone in the U.S. Air Force