

AMONG THE NEW WORDS

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Double-Tongue Dictionary

HERE WE CONTINUE our look at military terms—all with currency in the present-day conflicts in the Middle East, but some with histories that go back to earlier conflicts in the last century. The citations supporting the entries are often very colorful but also very illustrative of the difficulties of life as a soldier confronted daily with danger and death and deprived of the comforts that most of us take for granted. We know that some of the citations will make you laugh; we also know that some of them will make you uncomfortable and uneasy.

Cross-referenced headwords that fall before *MEU* alphabetically can be found in the first half of the word list, which appeared in the preceding installment of “Among the New Words” in the Winter 2007 issue of *American Speech*.

MEU /mju:/ *n* [*Marine Expeditionary Unit*] Infantry battalion of the US Marine Corps **1988** June 6 Bernard E Trainor & Warren Weaver Jr *New York Times* A16 (LexisNexis) The Marine Corps has restored the term “expeditionary” to designate their combat formations. [¶] The term was dropped in 1965 after the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade landed in Vietnam. Maxwell D. Taylor, the United States Ambassador to South Vietnam, said the term “sounded too French” and had a colonial connotation. The Marines substituted the word “amphibious” and that term stuck until now. [¶] A spokesman said the Marine Corps restored the old designation because the term amphibious is misleading. For one thing, he said, Marine units are much more than amphibious. In addition, the original term more accurately reflects the versatility of the Marine Corps and is no longer considered offensive, the spokesman said. [¶] There are three levels of Marine air-ground task forces, and they are based on sizes. The smallest, built around an infantry battalion, is known as a Marine Expeditionary Unit, or more commonly a MEU. **1999** Apr 18 John Kifner *New York Times* on the Web <http://partners.nytimes.com/library/world/europe/041899kosovo-albania.html> Both of the Marine expeditionary units, known in military terms by their acronym of MEU (pronounced mew), that do

six-month rotations with the 6th Fleet—the 24 MEU and the 22 MEU—are also qualified for special operations, meaning that they are trained in unconventional small-unit tactics like fighting terrorists or rescuing hostages. June 21 Marco R della Cava *USA Today* 10A (LexisNexis) Of the 1,000 Marines who came to Kosovo, those assigned to town duty are packed into the classrooms of an abandoned school in central Gnjilane. They will remain there until the Army replaces the entire 26th MEU in about one month. 2001 Nov 27 M V Trindale on Defend America <http://www.defendamerica.mil/articles/a112701a.html> Marines are, first and foremost, a maritime force, expeditionary in nature. Marines are trained and able to come from the sea to fight land battles. No other unit in the Marine Corps epitomizes this quality more fully than a MEU. ¶ A MEU is based on Naval vessels and is normally built around a reinforced battalion, a composite aircraft squadron, and by a MEU Service Support group totaling about 2,000 personnel in all. 2005 CNN.com <http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2003/iraq/forces/coalition/deployment/marines/15th.meu.html> The roughly 2,000 Marines of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) returned to Iraq in March 2005. 2007 June 26 Sergio Jimenez on Marine Corp News <http://192.156.19.109/marinelink/mcn2000.nsf/main5/497528E88C859A3A852572F40009A6E2?opendocument> Marines from the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit's aviation and ground combat elements are conducting training to enhance the MEU's ability to strike its enemies with rapid, precise and lethal force during the Heliborne Raid Course at Fire Base Gloria here June 26–29.

Mortaritaville, mortaritaville *n* [*mortar* + “Margaritaville,” a song by American musician Jimmy Buffet] 1: Nickname for Balad US Air Base (aka Camp Anaconda) 2004 Oct 13 Tom Bowman *Seattle (Wash) Times* A1 (LexisNexis) LOGISTICAL SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, Iraq—This sprawling supply base on a dusty stretch about 50 miles northwest of Baghdad is officially known as a “logistical support area.” But some of the thousands of soldiers and contractors who suffer daily mortar and rocket attacks have another name for it: Mortaritaville. 2005 Feb 1 Michelle Bardford *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* np (LexisNexis) The Springdale psychiatrist and Arkansas National Guard colonel returned from Iraq last week, having served since October to help fellow soldiers keep their cool under fire. He was stationed at Camp Anaconda, near Balad, which is nicknamed “Mortaritaville” because of its frequent attacks. 2006 Aug 10 C David Kotok *Omaha (Neb) World-Herald* 1B (LexisNexis) Nebraska National Guard soldiers at Camp Anaconda are serving at the relative “luxury hotel” of Iraq military bases—but the wake-up calls come from mortar shells and rockets. ¶ Although the base is known to soldiers for its amenities, it's also known by an ominous nickname, “Mortaritaville.” 2007 Jan 24 Marshall White *St Joseph (Mo) News-Press* (Newspaper Source) The joint Army/Air Force base [Balad Air Base], located about 68 miles north of Baghdad sits in the volatile Sunni Triangle where it has earned the nickname “Mortaritaville” (pronounced like Jimmy Buffet's “Margaritaville”) because it sustained numerous

mortar and rocket attacks. May Mark Bowden *Atlantic Monthly* 56 It [Balad Air Base] is one of the largest and busiest bases in Iraq, complete with a Green Bean coffee shop, Pizza Hut, and Burger King open around the clock. It is also known as Camp Anaconda, or, informally, as “Mortaritaville,” for the frequency of mortar attacks on the 25,000 personnel stationed there. **2:** Dangerous battleground **2006** Dec 4 Emily Ngo *Chicago Daily Herald* 11 (Factive) Soldiers and young veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom use “P-O-I” for a pissed-off Iraqi, “hillbilly armor” to describe scavenged materials used to protect military vehicles and “mortaritaville” for particularly dangerous battlegrounds.

muj, Muj /mu:ɟ/ [from Arabic مجاهدين *mujahideen*; *OED3 mujahidin* 1887]
1a: *n* Islamic resistance force or forces **1989** Sept 28 Sheila Tefft *Christian Science Monitor* 3 (LexisNexis) But it also could worsen, Western and Pakistani officials concede, especially if the factional infighting among the Afghan rebels known as the mujahideen continues. Also Afghan refugees, some of whom have developed international drug know-how and connections, could turn to drugs as they return to the devastated country. [¶] “The ‘muj’ fears the cutoff of arms from the West,” says a Pakistani official. “They may turn more to drugs for the money to buy arms on the international market.” [¶] “There’s no doubt that the ‘muj’ and the Afghans are heavily involved,” says a foreign drug enforcement official. **1995** Dec Paul Burka *Texas Monthly* 122 (LexisNexis) He [Rep Charles Wilson] read that “the Muj,” as he calls them, were fighting with rocks and knives during the early days of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. “I decided on the spot that if these people were brave enough to fight, then I was going to help them,” he recalled. “They wanted to kill Russians, and I wanted to kill Russians, as painfully as possible.” No one else on the Appropriations Committee seemed very interested, but Wilson had an advantage: “I didn’t have any military bases or contracts in my district. Everybody else did. They were worried about their planes and tanks. I voted for anything—anything—if they would vote for the Muj.” At first Wilson arranged for medical aid, then military. He doubled the amount of money the CIA requested. He supplied the Muj with Stinger missiles to shoot down helicopters. He even stopped drinking for a year and a half as the tide began to turn against the Soviets. **2001** Dec 30 Peter Beaumont *Observer* (London) 19 (LexisNexis) There are the Ministry of the Interior police in olive drabs and Chinese-fur-lined parkas and soldiers of the Northern Alliance in their distinctive camouflage. And the ‘muj’—still not quite incorporated into anything—with their trainers and their guns and their scarves tied around their heads. **2002** Oct 28 Paul Wolfowitz speech transcript on US Department of Defense <http://www.defenselink.mil/speeches/speech.aspx?speechid=300> The Muj [Mujahideen] [brackets in text] have done that every day we’ve been on the ground. . . . But the Muj are doing very well with what they have. . . . Everywhere I go, the civilians and Muj soldiers are always telling me they are glad the USA has come. **2005** Apr 19 Brad Knickerbocker *Christian Science Monitor* 1 (LexisNexis) The sergeant stationed just west of Baghdad was once again recounting the dangers of being on the

front line—sometimes with dark humor. He referred to how the “muj” (mujahideen or insurgents) were the gang that couldn’t shoot straight, but still represented a considerable threat. **2006** July 21 Quot sv ALI BABA 3 Dec 10 Bill Roggio on The Long War Journal http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2006/12/muj_tv.php The [Iraqi] soldiers were angry at the images before them. “They destroyed my country,” said Staff Sergeant Riad, “The muj are ruthless, brutal, but I’m not scared of them.” **1b: attrib** Of Islamic resistance force or forces **2002** Oct 28 Quot sv MUJ 1a **2004** Nov 11 Jeff Sharlet on The Revealer http://www.therevealer.org/archives/today_001195.php (head & text) Muj vs. Muj Killer / ... Meanwhile, jihadis and our secular troops duel over who’re the toughest holy warriors with graffiti, “Long live the mujahideen” painted over by Marines with “Long live the muj killers.” **2: n pl muj** Islamic resistance fighter **1986** Nov 17 John Gray *Globe and Mail* (Canada) A11 (LexisNexis) There are the clusters of Arabs from the Gulf states in their flowing white robes. Since the war began, they have become heavily involved in financing both relief projects and the Mujahideen resistance in Afghanistan. [¶] A man ambles quietly down a side street with two metal rods and a crossbar sticking out of a bandaged arm. He is one of the patients out for a walk in the sun, not far from the Red Cross Hospital for the Afghan War Wounded. [¶] A Canadian film-maker’s neatly pressed grey flannels and tweed jacket contrast with his week’s rough growth of beard. “I’m going in a few days,” he says, rubbing the beard. “Do you think I look like a Muj?” **1987** Feb 15 Rob Schultheis *Washington Post Magazine* W26 (LexisNexis) There were always muj at the AfghanAid parties, and they never got tired of seeing the Salang Highway ambush. It was a kind of icon to them, a mystical talisman. Looking at the dead enemies and wrecked equipment, they could believe in themselves. **2001** July 2 Pankaj Mishra *New Statesman* np (LexisNexis) Many American journalists now appear to have been very eager to help out with the CIA-led jihad against Soviet communism. Almost every journalist visiting from the west had his favourite ‘muj’, who was generally described in the same cliched terms that British imperialists had originally used about their brave, perspicacious and loyal Afghans. **2005** June 23 Squirell on Urban Dictionary <http://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=muj> A slang term, popular amongst US troops like myself, referring to Iraqi or Afghani insurgents. Derived from the overused Arabic word, mujahideen, which means “one or a group of holy fighter(s).” Insurgents refer to themselves as a mujahideen, when really they are just a bunch of fucking terrorists. [¶] *The muj in Fallujah ran down the street, spraying their AK’s with no accuracy, and got blown to haji jerkey by us. HOOAH!* **2006** Jun 26 Gary Younge *Guardian* (London) (LexisNexis) Unable to distinguish between insurgent and civilian, occupiers will regard all civilians as potential insurgents and all territory as enemy territory. “Saying who’s a civilian or a ‘muj’ [mujahideen] [brackets in text] in Iraq, you really can’t,” one marine under investigation told the New York Times recently. “This town did not want us there at all.”

MWR [*Morale Welfare and Recreation*] **1:** *n* Recreation center for armed services personnel **2004** May 21 Quot sv DFAC **2007** Feb 14 Thomas Castriota *Tampa (Fla) Tribune* 4 (LexisNexis) For relaxation we have the MWR, another military acronym that stands for Morale, Welfare and Recreation. [¶] This is a place where the troops can relax and get away from the outside conflicts. Most of the MWRs have large-screen televisions with satellite hookup, Internet access and a phone for the troops to call home. You may find pool tables or pingpong tables and, of course, water. [¶] Many of the larger bases have a gym with your normal weights and cardio machines. It's not only about staying physically fit but also mentally fit. **2:** *attrib* Of a recreation center for armed services personnel Apr 23 Roy Batty on The Sandbox http://gocomics.typepad.com/the_sandbox/2007/04/the_termite_mou.html The larger FOBs, like Anaconda, or Liberty, or the IZ, have MWR centers with Internet cafes, game rooms, libraries, phone centers, etc. They have coffee shops, and hookah shops, sometimes restaurants, the occasional movie theater.

POG /po:g/ *n* [*People Other than Grunts, Personnel Other than Grunts; cf* POG 'psychological operations group' in "ATNW" *AS* 66 (1991): 397] Military personnel with duties considered less onerous or dangerous than those of the user of the term; especially personnel who work on base performing logistical tasks (used derisively; see also FOBBIT and REMF) **2003** Nov KBAR on The Drag Rag <http://the-drag-rag.com/blog/2006/03/> I joined the Washington Army National Guard in 1998. I'd already done six years active duty in the Marine Corps as a High Velocity Projectile Intercepting 0341 Mortarman between 1987 and 1993, followed up by two years in the Preserves as a POG in a Marine tank unit (not sure which is worse, being a clerk or being a tanker, the jury's still out on that). Dec 26 BadMojo on everything2 <http://www.everything2.com/index.pl?node=POG> Also, there are varying degrees of POG. For example, someone in a straight-leg, or line unit, would consider us, in LAR (Light Armored Reconnaissance), POGs. Infantry Riflemen, or 0311s, consider, Infantry Mortarmen (0341s) and Infantry TOWgunners (0352s) POGs. I imagine Force Recon considers everyone else POGs. **2005** Dec 21 Sixty-six.org <http://www.sixty-six.org/index.php?show=0,12,2005> Ahh, great, the POGs (personnel other than grunt) next door are at it again—y'know, the cavalry pukes that have formation six inches from our barracks. **2006** Bruning Quot sv FOBBIT May 28 GlobalSecurity.org <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/ops/iraq-slang.htm> POG : People Other than Grunts [pronounced "pogue"] [brackets in text] rear-echelon support troops. Arose in 2005 as a synonym for Fobbit, it seems.

POI, P-O-I *n* [*Pissed Off Iraqi*] **2005** Dec 2 Robert Dreyfuss on The Dreyfuss Report http://robertdreyfuss.com/blog/2005/12/bush_v_the_evil_caliphate.html In fact, our real opponents in Iraq are not Al Qaeda, but the Iraqi resistance led by secular Baathists, former Iraqi military and intelligence officials, and a vast underground army of unhappy Sunnis, what U.S. intelligence calls POI's ("pissed off Iraqis"). **2006** June 26 Wayne White transcript of testimony

to ad hoc Senate hearing on Pre-War Iraq Intelligence on Middle East Institute <http://www.mideasti.org/articles/doc535.html> I argued that the insurgency had deep roots in generic opposition to foreign occupation among a very proud people, broad-based Sunni Arab anger over being disenfranchised, joblessness, lack of public services, and, what I termed “Pissed Off Iraqis,” or POI’s, for lack of a better term. [¶] POI’s are people who lost relatives in the war, whose relatives were arrested and taken away to Abu Gharayb and other military holding areas, those imprisoned and released (many of whom were innocent), those whose property had been destroyed or damaged by Coalition action during the war or in the course of anti-insurgency operations, etc., etc. Dec 4 Quot sv MORTARITAVILLE 2 2007 May 19 Shirin on No Quarter http://noquarter.typepad.com/my_weblog/2007/05/it_was_not_an_a.html Even your own military commanders have admitted that the number of non-Iraqis among those fighting them is miniscule, and that the overwhelming majority of those who have successfully defeated the occupation are what they call POI’s (pissed off Iraqis).

Red Zone, red zone *n* Dangerous place where one is vulnerable to physical attack, harassment, or arrest 1985 Mar 21 Chris Norton *Christian Science Monitor* 1 (LexisNexis) [Colonel Sigifredo] Ochoa [Perez] says he has labeled 12 areas of guerrilla strength as “red zones,” but he denies charges that he has turned them into free fire areas. The commander remains vague about what has happened to civilians in these areas; he says the “red zones” are depopulated and that only guerrillas remain. Sometimes his troops remove civilians encountered during operations, he adds. 1989 May 30 Nomi Morris *Toronto Star* A2 (LexisNexis) While the government has suspended some civil rights in “red zones” of Sendero control, it has not yet followed the path of repression and mass military retaliation that other Latin American countries have known. [¶] And the people of Peru continue to smile and express their optimism in the face of a darkening future. 1990 Dec 14 James Brooke *New York Times* A16 (LexisNexis) In Bogota this week, diplomats and politicians debated the military and political effect of the offensive.... Entering a remote area that has been a guerrilla “red zone” since the 1950’s, Government troops began their offensive on Sunday. They have since knocked out a radio transmitter, a reception area for peace talks, a command center, a training camp and a dozen other military installations. 2001 Mar 24 Quot sv GREEN ZONE 1 Oct 22 Ron Scherer *Christian Science Monitor* 2 (LexisNexis) There is no question that the soldiers can use the diversion—even those who are walking the streets of Manhattan. That’s the case for Rager, whose National Guard unit has been in New York for two weeks. He says it’s been a very emotional time, “being in the red zone, seeing the things that go on there.” [¶] In fact, the outing is the first time many have had a night off. “It’s a nice change of pace from being out in the zone and working late nights,” says Capt. Steve Dunn of the same guard unit. 2003 Apr 2 Amanda Garrett *Cleveland (Ohio) Plain Dealer* A1 (LexisNexis) News of [Jessica] Lynch’s rescue developed just as U.S. Army and Marine

ground forces swept into the “Red Zone” around Baghdad under the new moon, allowing U.S. forces to exploit their night-vision devices against the ill-equipped Iraqis. **2005** June 29 Liza Porteus FoxNews.com <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,161170,00.html> But until Tuesday, he was afraid he would find himself in the area known as the “Red Zone”—areas outside the fortified Green Zone, also known as the “international zone, (IZ)” which houses many coalition and Iraqi government buildings—where the military cannot guarantee one’s safety. **2007** Apr 18 Michael J Totten on Middle East Journal <http://www.michaeltotten.com/archives/001417.html> (head & text) Where Kurdistan Meets the Red Zone / Just south of the Kurdish autonomous region in Iraq’s northernmost provinces lies the violence-stricken city of Kirkuk, the bleeding edge of Iraq’s “greater” Kurdistan, and the upper-most limit of the asymmetric battleground known as the Red Zone

REFRAD /ˈri:fræd/ [*release from active duty* (BDC file: 1919)] **1:** *n* Military discharge **2005** Jan 7 Christopher Lee Washington Post A17 (LexisNexis) A brevity code is an abridged form, normally in uppercase letters, of commonly used phrases (for example, “REFRAD means release from active duty”). **2:** *attrib* Of military discharge **1998** Summer *Army Reserve Magazine* 9 (ProQuest) USAR warrant officers no longer have to request an extension beyond age 60. USAR warrant officers serving on an approved extension beyond age 60 are automatically extended until age 62. [¶] The Army Reserve Personnel Command will recompute REFRAD dates and MRDs for age for USAR AGR warrant officers. **2004** May 21 Quot sv DFAC

REMF, remf, Remf /remf/ *n* [*Rear Echelon Motherfucker*; see Paul Dickson *War Slang* 2nd ed (New York: Pocket Books 2004) 286: 1978 (*sic* 1979); John R Elting, Dan J Cragg, & Ernest L Deal *A Dictionary of Soldier Talk* (New York: Scribner’s 1984); “ATNW” AS 66 (1991): 399] Military personnel not assigned to dangerous combat positions (used derisively) **1982** John M Del Vecchio *The 13th Valley* (New York: St Martin’s 1999) 2, 285 (Google Books) “Hey. Dude.” A harsh voice erupted behind Chelini, “Just say fuck it, Dude. Don’t mean nothin.” A red-haired man in civilian clothes had entered the office without being noticed. He addressed the clerk. “Hey REMF,” he said in a voiced of complete authority, “you seen Murphy?” [¶] “Murphy’s gettin ice cream,” the clerk answered. [¶] “You REMF fuckin candyasses sure got it dicked,” the red-haired man laughed harshly. . . . He bent over and splashed cool water on his face and drank from his hands. The water was sweet and clear and had neither the chlorine odor of REMF water or the musky stale taste of the gorge water. **1988** David A Willson *REMF Diary* (Seattle, Wash: Black Heron) 1 (Google Books) This is how it was to be a REMF in Vietnam—the ice cream, the Coca Cola, the air conditioning, the clean starched jungle fatigues, and yes, the parades and whores. **1989** Tom Clancy *Clear and Present Danger* (New York: Berkeley 1994) 626 (Google Books) “One less REMF to worry about. Make that two,” Clark observed. He started flipping through the faxes. **1997** Aug 16 Paul Koring *Globe and Mail* (Canada) D4 (LexisNexis) “Your

job is to watch this guy's back," said Sgt. [George] Dumont to Private Daniel Dodier before we got started. "If he gets a hole in him," the sergeant said, waving vaguely at me, "you'd better have three or four in you." The sergeant was half-kidding, but mainly, I think, he was testing to see if he was being saddled with another REMF with a weak stomach. A REMF is one of those unofficial military acronyms, the first three words of which are Rear Echelon Mother. . . . [ellipsis in text] **1999** Joe P Dunn *Desk Warrior: Memoirs of a Combat Remf* (Needham Heights, Mass: Pearson Custom) **2000** David Maraniss *The Prince of Tennessee* (New York: Simon & Schuster) 130 (Google Books) "You will be pleased to learn that our location is generally regarded as a safe area." Bien Hoa [Vietnam] was in the country's south, near Saigon, far from most of the combat, and the troops had a name for soldiers posted in such safe havens: REMF, or Rear Echelon Motherfuckers. **2003** Rick Smith *Remf: A Collection of Short Stories about Serving in the Rear in Vietnam* (Bloomington, Ind: AuthorHouse) **2004** Nov 5 John Patterson *Guardian* (London) 3 (LexisNexis) Rafael was a clerk and cook, what Vietnam combat vets call a REMF ("rear-echelon-mother-fucker") except in Iraq there seems to be no such thing as a rear echelon. **2006** Bruning Quot sv FOBBIT **2007** May 1 Declan Walsh *Guardian* (London) 10 (LexisNexis) Sitting outside the beerless bar in the searing heat, sucking on a can of warm Pepsi, is a good time to learn the military lingo. "Scoff" is food, "brew" is tea and "remf" can be used to disparage any soldier not involved in fighting: it stands for "rear echelon motherfucker".

RPG [for ety see quotes] **1: n** Hand-held anti-tank grenade launcher **1983** Apr-Jun *New Scientist* 98: 701 (Google Books) On the evidence of several rounds brought out of Afghanistan, the RPG-16 is a much more powerful version of the famous RPG-7 rocket-propelled grenade launcher. **2004** May 21 Quot sv DFAC June 6 Oscar R Estrada *Washington Post* B1 (LexisNexis) And here we are, in Iraq, trying to help the Iraqi people as death threats frighten our Iraqi interpreters into quitting to protect their families, and as attacks from mortars, rocket-propelled grenades (RPG's) and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) become daily and nightly occurrences. . . . I flash back to an incident a month earlier when we were returning to our compound by way of "RPG Alley," a route of frequent attacks. . . . I stay up that night thinking of the old man and the young soldiers who fired into the darkness in response to bullets and mortars and RPGs hurled at them from somewhere "out there." **2005** June 20 Ann Scott Tyson *Washington Post* C1 (LexisNexis) Soldiers and Marines give roads here unofficial names like RPG (rocket-propelled grenade), Easy Street and Death Row—routes so littered by bombs they're too dangerous to drive down. June 25 Jeremy Kelly *Herald Sun* (Melbourne, Australia) 27 (LexisNexis) [US Capt Dirk] Ringgenberg yells down his radio, "I have got RPGs coming out of my ass up here." July 31 Robert Fox *Independent* (London) 22 (LexisNexis) But they are concerned by recent discoveries of good-quality munitions, including RPGs, land mines, triggering mechanisms and explosives, being brought across the border from Iran. **2007** Feb 22 Quot sv AIF May 6

Tina Susman *Los Angeles Times* A3 (LexisNexis) A rocket-propelled grenade blasted the station's front door, killing the guard behind it. More gunmen, firing automatic weapons and RPGs, took aim from rooftops surrounding the villa. June 2 Terri Judd *Independent* (London) np (LexisNexis) It was actually just used to halt the traffic and 200 metres on, we were ambushed by small arms and RPGs [rocket propelled grenades]. June 11 Laura Blumenfeld *Washington Post* A1 (LexisNexis) Their fuel was dwindling as morning light seeped into the sky, making them targets for RPGs and small-arms fire. The helicopters turned back... "That was the most nervous I'd been," [petty officer first class Marcus] Luttrell said. "I was waiting for an RPG to blast the helicopter." July 17 (accessed) Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rocket_propelled_grenade RPG, or Rocket propelled grenade is a loose term describing hand-held, shoulder-launched anti-tank weapons capable of firing an unguided rocket equipped with an explosive warhead. RPG is a transliteration of РПГ, the Russian abbreviation of *Реактивный/Ручной Противотанковый Гранатомёт* (реактивный/ручной противотанковый гранатомёт), "hand held anti-tank grenade launcher". The English name "rocket-propelled grenade" is a backronym from RPG (РПГ), and does not follow the correct naming conventions used by English-speaking militaries to describe these weapons.^[verification needed] [*sic*] American and British soldiers consistently call these weapons 'RPGs'; only journalists call them 'rocket-propelled grenades.' ... The most widely distributed and used RPG in the world is the Soviet Union-developed RPG-7. The design was suggested to the Soviet Union by Jacques Williams, a French weapon developer. The Soviets developed the basic design of the RPG during WW II, combining important design features of the US Bazooka and the German Panzerfaust. Today, advanced militaries such as that of the United States military, have implanted armor on their tanks that are invulnerable to grenades. Because of this, the RPG has become much less effective for guerrilla and insurgent fighters that have no accessibility or money to buy better weapons.

2: *attrib* Of a hand-held anti-tank grenade launcher **1972** Dec 10 *New York Times* 16 (LexisNexis; abstract) Guerrillas on Dec 9 attack police station in Belfast with rockets and rifle fire in their latest foray with Soviet-made weapons; 2 rockets, believed fired from RPG-7 launchers, strike small post at Crossmaglen near frontier with Irish Repub; no casualties reftd; militant Provisional wing of IRA began using rockets 1 wk ago; Brit troops, searching guerrilla hide-out zones for rockets, captured 1 in Roman Cath New Lodge area of Belfast; illus of rocket launcher **1987** Steven J Zaloga *Inside the Soviet Army Today* (London: Osprey) 24 (Google Books) The RPG-7 grenadier can be allotted either a pistol or an AK, the latter apparently being more common. Usually one squad rifleman is the RPG assistant, and carries a special rucksack with four additional rocket grenade rounds.

shithook, shit-hook *n* [*shit* + CH-47 Chinook helicopter; attributed to Vietnam War slang] **1:** Chinook cargo helicopter **1982** John M Del Vecchio *The 13th Valley* (New York: St Martin's 1999) 597 (Google Books) shit-hook: A CH-47

1984 John Robert Elting, Ernest L Deal, & Dan Cragg *A Dictionary of Soldier Talk* (New York: Scribner's) Shithook (Modern) *s.* The CH-47 Chinook helicopter. Possibly a play on Chinook, combined with *shithook*, a common slang term for the hand, from the resemblance between the CH-47 and the hand. **1985** John Ketwig *And a Hard Rain Fell* (Naperville, Ill: Sourcebooks 2002) 261 (Google Books) It was a Chinook, or "shithook," a giant olive-drab banana with oversize rotors at each end. **1988** James S Olson ed *Dictionary of the Vietnam War* (New York: Greenwood) 506 (Google Books) Chinook: the CH-47 cargo helicopter; also called "Shithook" or "Hook" **1994** Paul Dickson *War Slang* 2nd ed (New York: Pocket Books 2004) 288 (Google Books) shithook. The CH-47 Chinook helicopter; a play on "Chinook" and a critique of the helicopter's slowness. **1998** Spencer C Tucker *Encyclopedia of the Vietnam War* (Santa Barbara, Calif: ABC-CLIO) (Google Books) Boeing-Vertol CH-47 Chinook Irreverently referred to as the "Shithook" by troops, the Chinook was the US Army's primary medium-lift helicopter in Vietnam.... [ellipsis in Google Books search result] **2006** Feb 20 Dave Earney on Dave's Not Here <http://www.daves-not-here.net/military/iraq/> I had to show for the manifest call almost 15 hours before my actual show time, and to top that off, it'll be another two hours before I'm even asked to step across the tarmac to board the "Shithook" (Boeing CH-47 Chinook) for the flight down to Baghdad. **2:** Stupid person (cf *Urban Dictionary* <http://www.urbandictionary.com>) **2004** Winter Donald Hays *Southern Review* 40: 137 (ProQuest) And that's what I did. But that shithook Trachsel was pitching for the Mets. You can lose your hold on life in between his pitches. A full inning hadn't gone by with him jerking and scratching and shaking off signs and starting it all over again before I got to thinking about Vanessa Viper. But damned if I hadn't left *The Gardens of Gomorrah* at the house, and then, before I knew it, Cindy took over my mind and I decided to drive home and have another talk with her.

snivel gear *n* Soldier's equipment or clothing perceived as providing comfort beyond that which is strictly necessary, such as a poncho, sweater, gloves, sleeping bag, etc. [**1994** July 23 Keith Smith on comp.dcom.servers <http://groups.google.com/group/comp.dcom.modems/msg/dde3098b69d06b99> If money is no object, I would use rack mount MultiTech modems with all the monitor snivel gear, [*sic*] Otherwise I would buy 2834's or 1432's and just stack them to the ceiling, with wall bar outlets for the transformers.] **1998** Sept 26 Steve Snyder on alt.toys.gi-joe <http://groups.google.com/group/alt.toys.gi-joe/msg/1b1544a1863431e7> As for a modern day joe, this is what I carry; couple pairs of socks, T-shirts, MRE's, shaving kit, sleeping [*sic*] bag, "snivel" gear (polypro), GPS, NVG's [night vision goggles], ponchos, and radio w/ extra batteries. Also have a polypad for laying on the ground. Almost forgot the most important thing! My WOOBIE!! You might call it poncho liner. It's a lifesaver on those cold nights in the patrol base. **2000** June 21 BMoorehrny on rec.guns <http://groups.google.com/group/rec.guns/msg/ogacafefc20cc597> What is 'snivel gear'? [1] Army slang for stuff you take to the field with you to make you

more comfortable. Sweat rag, poncho liner, extra gloves etc. **2001** May 15 Jim Garamone US Dept of Defense <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=45846> Not having to carry extra gear, such as field jackets or rain gear, lightens the load. “Backpacks will no longer be needed except for food, extra ammo and water,” he [Army Sgt Joseph Patterson] said. “We’re actually going to carry just mission-specific items and none of what we call “snivel gear.” So we don’t have our cold weather gear, our wet weather suits, our chemical-biological protection—it’s all integrated into one suit.” **2002** Dec 19 Martha Brant *Newsweek Web Exclusive* (LexisNexis) I’ve carried my LCE (load-carrying equipment) on a five-mile march along a muddy red-clay trail. I’ve awoken at 4 a.m. to do PRT (physical readiness training) alongside real recruits. I’ve slept in the woods (though in a heated tent on a cot rather than under a “poncho hooch”). I’ve clearly learned to decode a few acronyms and even use some lingo: I now put on my “snivel gear”—cold-weather clothing that makes you stop “sniveling” about the chilly Georgia mornings. **2003** Feb 18 Joe Katzman on Winds of Change.Net <http://www.windsofchange.net/archives/003064.php> *SNIVEL GEAR*= comfort items. May Quot sv DFAC **2004** Evan Wright *Generation Kill* (New York: Putnam’s) 21 (Amazon.com) Few virtues are celebrated more than being hard—having stronger muscles, being a better fighter, being more able to withstand pain and privation. They refer to extra comforts—foam sleeping pads, sweaters, even cold medicine—as “snivel gear” and relentlessly mock those who bring it as pussies. **2005** Dec John Whyte *Company Command* 64 http://www.ousa.org/pdffdocs/ArmyMag/Company_CommandDec05.pdf I learned that snivel gear is for when you stop moving and Soldiers sneaking snivel gear will become heat casualties in the winter.

terp *n* [interpreter] Translator (see also GATOR) **2003** Feb 27 David Buchbinder *Christian Science Monitor* 11 (LexisNexis) American MPs at Checkpoint 5, a labyrinth of barbed wire and concrete barricades that is the main entrance to Bagram Air Base, have interpreters to help them talk with Afghan nationals. When “terps” are unavailable, the soldiers fall back on cheat sheets in Dari, with helpful phrases such as “stop,” “keep moving,” and “the dog will bite you.” **2005** Bob Mayer *Hunting Al Qaeda* (St Paul, Minn: Zenith) 221 (Google Books) Akram told him through an interpreter that he had to go and get the source in the next village, and that it will take him about 45 minutes. [¶] After six maddening months of operations, the captain had lost his patience with these last-minute surprises. “His guy was supposed to be ready and waiting,” he told the terp. **2007** May Mark Bowden *Atlantic Monthly* 57 (ProQuest) During the hunt for Zarqawi, interrogations took place in two shifts, morning and night, with interpreters, or “terps,” providing translation.

up-armor, up-armour, Up-Armor, up armor **1:** *v* Increase the armor or improve the safety features of vehicle (see HILLBILLY ARMOR “ATNW” AS 80 [2005]: 311–12) **2003** Sept 28 Richard Sisk *New York Daily News* 22 (LexisNexis) In his congressional testimony last week, Gen. John Keane, the Army’s vice chief of staff, said the \$177 million in Humvee funding would allow the military to

“up-armor” the vehicles, which have become prime targets of “improvised explosive devices” or remote-control roadside bombs in Iraq. [¶] The money for the Humvees would provide armor plating for the soft sides and undercarriages that would protect the driver and three crew members from shrapnel and small-arms fire. **2004** Jan 15 Michael Smith *Daily Telegraph* (London) 03 (LexisNexis) We are now back into one of the camps to up-armor, which is a bit of a joke because they are running out of frontal armour. It will be interesting to see what armour I actually get. Oct 20 editorial *Oregonian* D10 (LexisNexis) The unit’s engineers and private contractors have been hurrying to “up-armor” the trucks, but those assigned to the disputed convoy were among the last left unprotected. Dec 20 Michael Hirsh, John Barry, & Babak Dehghanpisheh *Newsweek* MSNBC.com <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/6700920/site/newsweek/> During a Q&A while the Defense secretary was stopping off in Kuwait, [National Guard Spc Thomas] Wilson asked [Secretary of Defense Donald] Rumsfeld: “Why do we soldiers have to dig through local landfills for pieces of scrap metal and compromised ballistic glass to up-armor our vehicles?” **2006** Feb 3 Karla Jackson *Tampa Tribune* 1 (LexisNexis) The best way to avoid that, he figured, was to use the safety equipment found in race cars to “up-armor” Ryan’s 2001 Dodge Stratus, much the way soldiers in Iraq fortify their Humvees against roadside bombers. [¶] Little did he know that the idea would catch on with other parents. Cook has up-armored four other cars for South Tampa teens, and he’s considering turning his hobby into a business. [¶] “If there’s one extra safety feature that keeps a kid from getting injured, that’s a good thing. And there are parents like me who are willing to pay for it,” says Dan Martinez, who paid Cook to up-armor a 2001 Toyota Solara for his son Daniel, 17. **2007** Feb 3 Bassem Mroue *Newark (NJ) Star-Ledger* 5 (LexisNexis) Helicopters are always vulnerable to ground fire, said Stephen Trimble, Americas bureau chief for Jane’s Defence Weekly. “A well-placed bullet can pretty much take down any helicopter,” he said. [¶] Protecting helicopters from attack is significantly more complicated than defending against roadside bombs, Trimble said. [¶] “What you would do with a Humvee is up armor it,” he said. **2a: n** Additional protection added to a vehicle **2004** July 18 Zachary A Bathon <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/news/2004/07/mil-040718-usmco1.htm> The gunner’s shield is part of the new up-armor being placed on the MEU’s vehicles. Up-armor offers the Marines in the vehicle 360 degrees of protection by covering the gunner’s turret, undercarriage and side of the vehicle. **2b: attrib** Of additional protection added to a vehicle **2004** July 9 Michael Sangiacomo *Cleveland (Ohio) Plain Dealer* A6 (LexisNexis) Meanwhile, the family of Sgt. Michael Barkey, 22, of Canal Fulton, learned that he was killed Wednesday when a tire on his military vehicle blew out and he lost control of the truck, according to the adjutant general’s office. The vehicle was part of a convoy hauling Up-Armor kits. Oct 21 Hal Bernton *Seattle Times* A1 (LexisNexis) As of Sept. 17, just 385 of the “up-armor” kits had been produced and shipped to Iraq, according to the House Armed Services

Committee. **2006** Feb 23 Mitch Potter *Toronto Star* A10 (LexisNexis) Casting back to the immediate aftermath of the war in Iraq, as the Americans took Baghdad and the British took Basra, we saw U.S. forces claim the streets with the rumble of almost continuous up-armour convoys. **3: n** Act of up-armoring **2006** Apr 12 Alon Ben-David *Jane's Defence Weekly* sec 1/13 (LexisNexis; head) PORTUGAL COMPLETES URGENT UP-ARMOUR OF HUMVEES FOR PEACEKEEPING FORCES —**up-armored** *part adj* With improved armor **2004** Oct 20 Iraqistan <http://iraq.otspecial.org/index.php?p=94> As a note: an up-armored truck can take out a bongo truck pretty easily, particularly at fast speeds.

wire *n* Fence establishing the perimeter of a military base **1979** Sept 9 Walter Pincus & George C Wilson *Washington Post* A19 (LexisNexis) Partly through imposed reforms and partly through lack of money and people, officers said, intelligence from places like Cuba is gathered almost exclusively by mechanical means—primarily satellite photography and electronic ferreting by ships and planes flying around, but not over, Cuba. [¶] “There’s just no substitute for having a guy who can walk along a fence and tell you whether the troops inside the wire were speaking Spanish or Russian,” said one U.S. official. **1985** June 12 *Guardian* (London) np (LexisNexis) An anti-nuclear campaigner was cleared yesterday of entering a prohibited area because part of the security fence around Molesworth Air Base was put up in the wrong place.... Coils of razor wire were erected up to 10ft out of line by soldiers after the night-time eviction of peace protestors from the Cambridgeshire base in February.... Mr Riddiford, aged 24, of the Old School House, Clopton, Northamptonshire, was arrested inside the wire at the proposed cruise missile base and charged under new military bylaws. **2002** May 28 Mary Beth Sheridan *Washington Post* A11 (LexisNexis) Clutching hymn books, they listened solemnly as the chaplain, Maj. Richard Koyama, spoke about the cost of freedom. [¶] “Not far from here, Americans engaged the enemy,” Koyama said. “Some of our boys did not come home. We should be cognizant of those who gave their lives for those of us who remain.” [¶] He gazed at the silent soldiers and added: “There are still enemies outside the wire.” **2006** Dec 11 Doug Beazley *Toronto Sun* 8 (LexisNexis) “Nobody gets worried or excited about anything that falls inside the wire,” Cpl. Fraser Adams, 28, said. He, along with Cpl. Stephen Thomas, 24, and Cpl. Steven Jimenez—all from Toronto—had just returned from a supply run to Kandahar City. —**inside the wire** *prep phr* On base (sometimes implying relative safety) **1996** Jan 10 Ron Martz *Atlanta Journal & Constitution* 04A (LexisNexis) By 2:17 p.m., the patrol was back inside the wire. There had been no incidents, no injuries and no shots fired in anger. **2004** July 19 Mike Francis *Oregonian* A01 (LexisNexis) [Army National Guard Spc Jason] LaCarney and his buddies in one Humvee—Sgt. John Douglas of Beaverton, Spc. Ryan Thackeray of Corvallis and Spc. Justin Cary of Keizer—talked about a range of subjects, from the Hooters girls back in Beaverton to their affection for loved ones at home to the uselessness of some of their stateside training. [¶] They,

like other soldiers in other wars, complained about high-ranking officers who stayed safely inside the wire, yet issued directives about such things as keeping uniforms pressed. **2006** Bruning Quot sv FOBBIT —**outside (of) the wire**
1: *prep phr* Off base, in the area surrounding a military base (sometimes implying danger) **1985** Aug 30 Paul Brown *Guardian* (London) np (LexisNexis) The American public affairs office at Greenham Common said that the cruise convoys were deployed after consultation with the Ministry of Defence and the civilian police. [¶] “They consider the situation outside the wire and tell us whether we can go and where we can go. They decide on the policing and the place where the missiles are deployed.” [¶] **1986** Apr 28 E J Dionne Jr *New York Times* A1 (LexisNexis) A midnight-to-5 A.M. curfew is still in effect at most United States sites, and business is down at bars that are accustomed to the patronage of Americans. In West Germany, military recreational facilities that are off the base—“outside the wire,” in local parlance—have been shut down. **1999** Oct 3 Katherine M Skiba *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* 1 (LexisNexis) He’s lucky, though, because he gets “outside the wire,” periodically taking leave of the heavily fortified 800-acre base, ringed by concertina wire. **2005** Nov 29 Michael G Johnson *Air Force Print News Today* <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/news/2005/11/mil-051129-afpno3.htm> Air Force security forces are usually associated with base defense, but with the increased needs of the Army, deployed Airmen here are finding themselves outside the wire performing area security and winning hearts and minds. **2006** Apr 12 Stephen Holt on US Dept of Defense <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=15478> Whether on foot patrol or conducting a supply convoy while riding in an armored truck, everyone is at risk to such injuries [disfiguring burns] while outside the wire. May 28 GlobalSecurity.org <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/ops/iraq-slang.htm> Outside the wire—outside the security perimeter surrounding the FOB. **2007** Mar 6 C Todd Lopez *Air Force Print News Today* <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/news/2007/03/mil-070306-afpno4.htm> “We’ve got over 23,000 Airmen today, some 4,500 of those are in non-traditional roles outside of the wire, doing battlefield airman tasks in support of ground forces,” he [Lt Gen Gary L North] said. **2:** *attrib* **2006** Nov 21 Nick Plante on Air Force Link <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123032635> (head & text) Army trains Airmen for ‘outside the wire’ mission / “This is an extremely dangerous mission for the Air Force, because it is totally outside the wire and on the streets,” said Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Salvaggio, Headquarters Air Force Security Center security forces manager.