

VERSION 1.0



**MILITARY PILOT
TERMS AND SLANG**

CARRIED TOGETHER BY LINO_GERMANY

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AT SOME FUTURE UPDATES I WILL REGARD YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS. THANKS FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE.

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**SPECIAL THANKS TO STEVE BRIDGES AND PAULRKIII
(476TH VIRTUAL FIGHTER GROUP)**

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A

AAA	Anti-Aircraft Artillery. Rapid-firing cannon or machine guns, often aimed by computers and radar. Pronounced "Triple A."
ABORT	Directive call to cease action, attack, event, or mission.
ACA	(Airspace Coordination Area) A 3-dimensional box in the sky defined by grid and/or land references and an altitude block (AGL). The intent of an ACA is to allow simultaneous attack of targets near each other by multiple fire support means, one of which is air.
ACBT	(Air Combat Training) A general term which includes dissimilar basic fighter manoeuvres. ([D]BFM), dissimilar air combat manoeuvres ([D]ACM), and dissimilar air combat training ([D]ACT).
Acceleration Manoeuvre	An offensive or defensive manoeuvre, flown in the vertical plane, if possible, designed to increase or reduce distance from an object.
ACM	(Air Combat Manoeuvring) Training designed to achieve proficiency in element formation manoeuvring and the coordinated application of BFM to achieve a kill or effectively defend against one or more aircraft from a planned starting position. Also used for dogfighting.
ACT	(Air Combat Tactics) Training in the application of BFM, ACM, and intercept skills to achieve a tactical A/A objective.
ACTION	Directive call to initiate a briefed attack sequence or manoeuvre.
(System) ACTIVE (location/direction)	Referenced emitter is radiating at the stated location or along the stated bearing.
Admiral's Doorbell	The yellow button in an F/A-18 cockpit that jettisons all the external stores in an emergency. If you hit it, you'll be "ringing the admiral's doorbell" to explain why.
AGL	Above Ground Level. An airplane's altimeter reads height above Mean Sea Level (MSL), the more realistic measurement over land is height Above Ground Level. Most military aircraft have a radar-altimeter, which reads aircraft height above ground level.
AHC	(Advanced or Aircraft Handling Characteristics) Training designed to gain proficiency in and to exploit the flight envelope of the aircraft, consistent with operational and safety constraints.
Air Boss	Head of the Air Department on board a carrier; he rules the flight deck.
Air refuelling time	Planned lapsed time from air refuelling contact time (ARCT) to drop off.
Air Wing	The entire complement of aircraft fielded by the carrier in battle: fighters, attack jets, early-warning planes, tankers, helicopters, antisubmarine patrol craft, etc.

Alert 5	A manned aircraft can launch within five minutes. The Navy has time restrictions as to how long a crew can stand an Alert-5 watch. Similarly, Alert 15, Alert 30, Alert 60.
Aluminum Cloud	The F-14 is so large that it is sometimes referred to by this term.
ANCHOR(ED) (location)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Informative call to indicate a turning engagement at the specified location.2. Directive call to orbit about a specific point.3. Refuelling track flown by tanker.
Angels	Altitude, measured in thousands of feet ("angels fifteen" means 15,000 feet above sea level). Also, a term lovingly ascribed to the rescue helicopter by any aviator who has experienced an ejection and subsequent helicopter rescue.
Angles	Gaining angles on a dogfight opponent involves maneuvering for a shot from astern. The ultimate in an angles fight is an angle of zero — straight up the enemy's tailpipe.
Angle of Attack (AOA)	Angle of the wing relative to the forward flight path of the airplane. On any aircraft, too great an angle of attack will cause the wing to stop flying (stall), as airflow across the upper surface is disrupted.
Angle off	The angle formed by the extension of the longitudinal axes of two aircraft. Angle is measured from defender's 6 o'clock. Also known as track-crossing angle.
Anti-Smash	Aircraft strobe, or anti-collision lights.
AO	Area of Operations
AOM	All Officer's Meeting. A vehicle that Commanding Officers use to keep Junior Officers in a central location for a given amount of time to keep them from screwing up his (or her) command tour.
AOR	(Area of Responsibility) - Airspace radar search responsibility of an individual fighter.
A-Pole	The distance from the launching aircraft to the target when a missile begins active guidance.
Arcing	Flying a circular flight path which allows another aircraft the use of cut-off to gain closure.
ARCP	(Air Refuelling Control Point) - The planned geographic point over which the receivers arrive in the observation or pre-contact position with respect to the assigned tanker.
ARCT	(Air Refuelling Control Time) - The planned time that the receiver and tanker will arrive over the ARCP.
ARIP	(Air Refuelling Initial Point) - The planned point to enter the refuelling track.
Armament safety check	Action taken by an aircrew to review armament selection switches to preclude the inadvertent launch or release of armament (switches safe).

ARIZONA	No anti-radiation missile ordnance remaining.
AS FRAGGED	Unit or element will be performing exactly as stated by the air tasking order.
Aspect angle	Angle between defender's longitudinal axis and the line of sight (LOS) to the attacker. The angle is measured from defender's 6 o'clock. Attacker heading is irrelevant.
ASW	Anti-submarine warfare.
ATO	(Air Tasking Order [frag]) - Assigns A/A and A/S targets, time on target (TOT), and mission support information.
Atoll, Apex, Acrid	NATO code names for Soviet-manufactured air-to-air missiles.
Attack axis	This is an imaginary line which extends from the bandits through the leading element and back to the trailing element. A Grinder is "on axis" if the lead element, trail element, and bandits are all on the same straight-line.
ATTACK COMPLETE	Mandatory call from the attack aircraft to the Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) during Type III control indicating completion of ordnance release. (See also CLEARED TO ENGAGE).
ATTACK(ING)	Attack or am commencing attacking run with weapon indicated. Direction/bearing from which the weapon will be coming may be given.
Attack restriction	Ingress, ordnance delivery, or egress restrictions, depending on situation (i.e., threats, weather, terrain, and ROE).
AUTHENTICATE	To request or provide a response for a coded challenge.
Autonomous	Aircrew is operating without command and control.
(Weapon) AWAY	Weapon indicated has been fired or released.
AZIMUTH	Two or more groups primarily separated in bearing.

B

“Back to the Taxpayers”	Where you send a wrecked aircraft.
Bag	Flight suit or anti-exposure suit (“Put on a bag”); as a verb — to collect or acquire: as in, “bag some traps.”
Bagger	An aviator who manages to obtain more traps or flight time than his squadron mates, usually through dubious means.
Bag Season	Cold weather or water conditions which require the wearing of anti-exposure gear; which is very restrictive, uncomfortable and unpopular
Ball	An amber visual landing aid that the pilot uses to adjust aircraft-relative position to a desired final approach glideslope. The primary optical landing device on the carrier.
Balls to the Wall	To go as fast as possible; max effort. Various internet sources claim the source of this phrase is actually benign. Supposedly, some vehicle's throttles were topped by a ball (going back before aviation even to the steam engine, in some stories). Thus, pushing the throttle forward as far as it would go--and thus asking for maximum power--was "balls to the wall."
BANDIT	An aircraft identified as enemy, in accordance with theatre identification (ID) criteria. The term does not necessarily imply direction or authority to engage.
BANZAI	Informative/directive call to execute launch and decide tactics.
BASE (+/- Number)	Reference number used to indicate such information as headings, altitude, fuels, etc.
Basement	Hangar deck of the aircraft carrier.
Base X	A phenomenon in the Air Force where members cannot help but tell everyone about how good it was at some other base at which they were assigned. For example, "At Base X, we used to do it this way...."
Bat Decoder	A sheet of paper carried on all flight operations that is the key to current airborne communication codes.
Bat-turn	A tight, high-G change of heading. A reference to the rapid 180-degree Batmobile maneuver in the old <i>Batman</i> television series.
Beaded Up	Worried or excited.
BEAD WINDOW	Your last transmission disclosed an essential element of friendly information.
BEAMING (direction)	Description of the bogey/bandit manoeuvring to put the reporting aircraft within 30 degrees of the bogey/bandit's wing line. In other words: the bogey/bandit manoeuvres to present itself within 60 to 120 degrees aspect to the reporting aircraft or bogey/bandit manoeuvres in such a way the reporting aircraft is positioned in the bogey/bandit's 2-4 or 8-10 o'clock.
Beans	Slang for the BDU-33, a 20lb training bomb.

Behind the Power Curve	Not keeping up with expectations. Technically, any airspeed less than that for the maximum lift-to-drag ratio, which is that portion of the power curve (a graphical plot of engine power vs. aircraft speed) at which the aircraft requires more power to go slower in steady level flight.
(System) BENT	Equipment indicated is inoperative (Cancelled by OKAY).
BFM	(Basic Fighter Manoeuvres) - Training designed to apply aircraft handling skills to gain proficiency in recognizing and solving range, closure, aspect, angle off, and turning room problems in relation to another aircraft to either attain a position from which weapons may be employed, deny the adversary a position from which weapons may be launched, or defeat weapons employed by an adversary.
BHM	(Basic Helicopter Manoeuvres) - Training designed to apply helicopter handling skills to gain proficiency in recognizing and solving range, closure, aspect, angle off, and turning room problems in relation to another aircraft to either attain a position from which weapons may be employed, deny the adversary a position from which weapons may be employed, or defeat weapons employed by an adversary.
Big Mother	That beautiful butt-ugly H-3 Navy Helo that fishes you out of the drink.
Bingo	Minimum fuel for a comfortable and safe return to base. Aircraft can fly and fight past bingo fuel in combat situations, but at considerable peril. It is the pre-briefed fuel state at which an aircraft needs to begin its return to base in order to land with the pre-planned fuel. Also used jokingly; ie, being "bingo TP" may mean someone is almost out of toilet paper.
Bingo Field	Land-based runway to which carrier aircraft can divert if necessary. Alternate airfield.
BIRD	Friendly surface to air missile.
Birds	Aircraft
Bitching Betty	The automated female voice that provides audible in-cockpit warnings in some fighter aircraft. "Bob" replaces "Betty" in a male voice in some aircraft. Also a derogatory term for a person who complains or talks too much.
BITTERSWEET	Notification of possible blue-on-blue (fratricide) situation relative to a designated track or friendly.
BLANK	A SEAD aircraft does not detect any emitters of interest.
BLIND	No visual contact with friendly aircraft/ground position; opposite of VISUAL.
B-LOC	"Boredom-induced Loss of Consciousness." Pronounced "Bee-Lock," the term is a play on G-LOC and may be briefed as a "threat" in terribly non-entertaining or repetitive situations.
Blower	Afterburner.
BLOW THROUGH	Directive or informative call that indicates aircraft will continue straight ahead at the merge and not become anchored with target/targets.

Blue-Water Ops	Carrier flight operations beyond the reach of land bases or bingo fields.
B/N	Bombardier-navigator; the specific term for the NFO in the A-6 aircraft.
Boards Out	Speed brakes extended
Boat	Any Navy ship regardless of size. The aircraft carrier is "THE Boat."
BOGEY	A radar or visual air contact whose identity is unknown.
BOGEY DOPE	Request for target information as requested or closest group in BRAA (with appropriate fill-ins).
Bohica	Bend over, here it comes again.
Bolt, Bolter	A carrier landing attempt in which the tailhook fails to engage any of the arresting wires, requiring a "go-around," and in which the aircraft landing gear contacts the deck. Otherwise it is a "low pass."
Boola-Boola	Radio call made when a pilot shoots down a drone.
BOOMERANG	Aircraft or flight is returning to base.
Booming	Loud, raucous partying ("we were booming last night"); or, fast, exciting flying ("we went booming through the mountains").
Boondoggle	A great deal, usually obtained at the expense of others. ("Shack is a bagger. That guy went on a coast-to-coast boondoggle cross-country with the skipper, even though we're almost out of OPTAR for this quarter.")
Boresight	Technically, to line up the axis of a gun with its sights, but pilots use the term to describe concentrating on a small detail to the point of causing some detriment to the "big picture."
BOREX	A dull, repetitive exercise (a busy, tense one might be a SWEATEX).
Bought the Farm	Died. Originated from the practice of the government reimbursing farmers for crops destroyed due to aviation accidents on their fields. The farmers, knowing a good thing when they see it, would inflate the value of lost crops to the point that, in effect, the mishap pilot "bought the farm." Student pilots regularly practice emergency landings to farmer's fields. (This one term must have a bazillion different origins judging from the amount of "corrections" I've received. I still like this one - ed.)
Bounce, Tap	Unexpected attack on another aircraft.
BOX	A picture label describing four distinct groups with two in front and two behind in a square or offset square orientation.
BRAA	Tactical control format providing target b earing, r ange, a ltitude, and a spect, relative to a friendly aircraft. Aspect is only required if other than HOT.
BRACKET (w/direction)	Directive call to manoeuvre to a position on opposing sides, either laterally or vertically from the targets.

Brain Housing Group	Mock-technical term for the skull.
Bravo Zulu	Praise for a good job.
BREAK (w/direction)	Directive call to perform an immediate maximum performance 180-degree turn (or as directed) in the indicated direction. Assumes a defensive situation requiring infrared missile defence (IRMD).
BREAK AWAY	Tanker or receiver call indicating immediate vertical and nose/tail separation between tanker and receiver is required.
BREVITY	Radio frequency is becoming saturated/degraded or jammed and briefer transmissions must follow.
BROKE LOCK	Advisory call regarding loss of radar/IR lock-on.
BRUISER	Friendly air launched anti-ship missile.
Bubbas	Fellow squadron members; anyone who flies the same aircraft as you do.
BUDDY (LASE/GUIDE)	Request or informative communications to have guidance of a weapon from a source other than delivering aircraft.
BUDDY LOCK	Locked to a known friendly aircraft. Normally a response to a SPIKE or BUDDY SPIKE call.
BUDDY SPIKE (position/altitude/heading)	Friendly aircraft air-to-air (A/A) radar track indication on radar warning receiver (RWR).
BUG OUT (w/direction)	Separation from that particular engagement/attack/operation; no intent to reengage/return.
BULLSEYE	An established reference point from which the position of an object can be referenced (the brevity term BULLSEYE is NOT to be truncated to "bull" or "bulls").
BUMP/BUMP-UP	A climb to acquire line of sight (LOS) to the target or laser designation.
Bumping	ACM (Air Combat Maneuvering), also called "bumping heads."
BuNo	Bureau number, the permanent serial number that the Navy assigns to an aircraft when it is built.
Burner	Afterburner; a system that feeds raw fuel into a jet's hot exhaust, thus greatly increasing both thrust and fuel consumption.
Buster	Controller term for full military power: to hurry up, go as fast as possible. Directive call to fly at max continuous speed (Mil power).
BVR	"Beyond Visual Range." The ability to engage an enemy aircraft prior to being able to see him.
B-Word	What an F-15C pilot calls a "bomb," since talking about Air-to-Ground is taboo in the Eagle community.

BZ (buffer zone)

Airspace of defined dimension and adjacent to or near borders which may have special restrictions.

C

CAG	Commander of the air group (coined in the pre-1962 days when they were called air groups — now they're called air wings) — the carrier's chief pilot.
Callsign	Flight: An airborne aircraft uses a "callsign" as an identifier when talking to the controllers. This is generally a word and number combination. For example, "Killer 01." If Killer was a flight of four aircraft, the flight members would be numbered in succession; ie, 01, 02, 03, 04. Pilot: A pilot's "tactical nickname." In the Air Force, these names are "given" during a Naming.
CAP (location)	Directive call to establish a combat air patrol at a specified point.
CAPPING (location)	Descriptive term for aircraft in a CAP.
CAPTURED	Aircrew has acquired and is able to track a specified air-to-ground (A/G) target with an on-board sensor.
Carqual, or CQ	Carrier qualification; a set number of carrier takeoffs and landings required in training and at periodic intervals of all carrier flight crews.
Cat Shot	A carrier takeoff assisted by a steam-powered catapult. A "cold cat," one in which insufficient launch pressure has been set into the device, can place the hapless aircraft in the water. A "hot cat" — too much pressure — is less perilous, but can rip out the nose wheel assembly or the launching bridle. Once a pair of common problems, but practically unheard of today.
CAV-OK	Cloud and Visibility Okay (pronounced kav-okay). ICAO term meaning no significant clouds below 5,000 feet, visibility at least six miles, no precipitation or storms.
CAVU	Ceiling And Visibility Unlimited: the best possible flying weather.
CCR	(cursor coordination range) - A pre-briefed or standard range where acquisition symbols are initially placed to establish fighter radar altitude coverage.
CEASE ENGAGEMENT	In air defence, break the engagement on the target specified. Missiles in flight will continue to intercept.
CEASE FIRE	Discontinue firing/do not open fire. Complete intercept if weapons are in flight. Continue to track.
CEASE LASER	Aircraft-to-aircraft directive to stop firing laser. Opposite of LASER ON.
Cell	Two or more tankers flying in formation.
Centurion	An aviator who has made 100 shipboard landings on one carrier, typically a centurion patch is then issued and proudly worn on the flight jacket.
CEP	Circular Error Probable. The average "miss" distance of ordnance hits from a given aim point, such as a target bulls-eye.

Chaff	A defensive device (essentially a bundle of shredded foil) that is dispensed from a fighter that desires to confuse an enemy radar. As a verb, to "chaff" something off means to try to deflect it (to someone else), particularly when it comes to undesirable duties. Often used in concert with flares.
CHAMPAGNE	A picture label describing three distinct groups with two in front and one behind.
Charlie	The planned landing time aboard a carrier.
Charlie Foxtrot	Phonetics for "cluster-f%*k"
CHEAP SHOT	AIM-120 missile data link terminated between high pulse repetition frequency (HPRF) and medium pulse repetition frequency (MPRF).
Checking for Light Leaks	Taking a nap, referring to the eyelids
CHECK LEFT/RIGHT	Turn () degrees left/right and maintain new heading.
CHECK POINT	Directive/descriptive call to check SPI Broadcast setting.
Checkride	An evaluation sortie. A flight that is graded by an evaluator. In training, these rides determine the ability to progress to further stages of training. In an operational Air Force unit, checkrides are given approximately every 18 months to grade a pilot's ability to safely fly the aircraft and accomplish the mission.
Check Six	Visual observation of the rear quadrant, from which most air-to-air attacks can be expected. Refers to the clock system of scanning the envelope around the aircraft; 12 o'clock is straight ahead, 6 o'clock is directly astern. Also a common salutation and greeting among tactical pilots. Keep an eye on your behind, be careful.
CHECK TIDS/TAD	Directive call to reference data link display.
Cherubs	Altitude under 1,000 feet, measured in hundreds of feet ("cherubs two" means 200 feet).
Chick	An air refueling receiver. A tanker that is giving gas to receivers is said to have "chicks in tow."
CHICKS	Friendly aircraft. The term's application to females has fallen out of favor due to political correctness. In order to fight that politically correct perception, female pilots often refer to <i>themselves</i> as "chicks."
CHRISTMAS TREE	Directive to briefly turn on exterior lights to enable visual acquisition.
CLEAN	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. No sensor information on non-friendly aircraft of interest.2. No visible battle damage.3. Aircraft not carrying external stores.
CLEARED	Flight lead response. Requested action is authorized. Mutual support may be detached to fulfil briefed contracts (e.g., split criteria, shot doctrine). Wingmen will ensure deconfliction from flight lead.
CLEARED HOT	Ordnance release is authorized.

CLOAK	Directive/informative call to switch from normal/overt external lighting to covert night vision device (NVD) only compatible lighting.
Clock position	Description of position using the aircraft as a reference: the nose is 12 o'clock and the tail is 6 o'clock.
Close control	A mode of control varying from providing vectors to providing complete assistance including altitude, speed, and heading.
CLOSING	Decreasing in separation.
Closure	Relative velocity of one aircraft in relation to another.
COD	Carrier On-Board Delivery aircraft, used to transfer personnel and cargo to and from the carrier.
Code 3	An aircraft condition. If a jet is "Code 3," it requires maintenance action before it is safe or useful for another flight. A "Code 2" jet needs maintenance but can continue to fly. A "Code 1" jet is in perfect working order. These codes are often applied to more than just jets. That is, a pilot that is so sick he's on bed rest might facetiously call himself "Code 3."
COLD	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A descriptive/directive call to initiate a turn in the CAP away from the anticipated threats. 2. Groups heading away from friendly aircraft. 3. Attack geometry will result in a pass or roll out behind the target. 4. Defined area is not expected to receive fire (enemy or friendly).
Cold Nose	Radar turned off, also known as "Lights out," (Navy pilots transmit "My nose is cold" before refueling from Air Force tankers).
Collision course	A flight path which directs an aircraft towards a point where it will collide with another aircraft.
COLOR (system, w/position)	Request for information on a (type) system at stated location; implies a request for ambiguity resolution. May be used with improved data modem (IDM) data message - COLOR DATA.
Colorful Actions	Flathatting, showing off, or otherwise ignoring safe procedures while flying.
Combat Dump	A bowel movement before flying; also called "sending an Marine to sea"
Combat identification	(CID) The process of identifying a contact as friendly, bandit, or neutral. A contact that remains unidentified is a bogey (unknown).
Combat identification system	(CIDS) - Identification systems that exploit physical or electronic characteristics of a contact using cooperative and non-cooperative methods such as signals intelligence (SIGINT) and electronic support measures (ESM).
COMEBACK (w/direction)	Directive call to reverse course.
COME OFF (w/direction)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. (Air-to-Air) Directive call to manoeuvre as indicated to either regain mutual support or to de-conflict flight paths. Implies both VISUAL and TALLY. 2. (Air-to-Ground) Directive call to manoeuvre or execute a specific instruction (e.g., COME OFF DRY).

COMMIT	Directive call to intercept a group of interest.
Composite force	Formations of dissimilar aircraft working in concert to accomplish the same mission.
Composite force training	Scenarios employing multiple flights of aircraft, each under the direction of its own flight leader. Requires a minimum of three different types of aircraft in three different mission roles.
COMPOSITION	Request for number of contacts within a group.
Cones	Students, short for coneheads: also called nurkin heads, or studs.
Conning	Making contrails.
CONS/CONNING	Threat/bogey aircraft leaving contrails.
CONTACT	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Sensor contact at the stated position.2. Acknowledges sighting of a specified reference point.3. Individual radar return within a group or arm.
CONTACT POD	Acknowledges sighting of a specified reference point with EO/IR sensor.
CONTACT POINT	Implies visual contact with the J12.6 Target Report (Donor SPI) on the TAD/HSD.
CONTAINER	Inner group formation with four contacts oriented in a square or offset square.
CONTINUE	Continue present manoeuvre; does not imply a change in clearance to engage or expend ordnance.
CONTINUE DRY	Ordnance release not authorized.
Contract	Agreements and ground rules, some minor and some life-threatening, between two-man fighter crews or between wingmen.
COPY	Directive call to use the Copy function of the TAD to input hooked symbol coordinates in next available mission waypoint.
Corner velocity	The minimum airspeed at which the maximum allowable aircraft G can be generated.
COVER	Directive/informative call to assume a supporting position that will allow engagement of a specified track or threat to the flight if required.
CRANK (w/direction)	F-Pole manoeuvre; implies illuminating target at radar gimbal limits.
Crossdeck Pendant	An arresting wire on an aircraft carrier; or the attaching cord between a VertRep helicopter to its externally slung cargo.
CUTOFF	Request for, or directive to, intercept using cut-off geometry.
CYCLOPS	Any unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV).

D

DASH (#)	Aircraft position within a flight. Use if specific call sign is unknown.
Dash-1	A reference to an aircraft's parent regulation. The Dash-1 contains all the normal operation and emergency procedures required to safely operate the aircraft and is the final authority as to the official limits of the aircraft.
Dash Two	The second plane in a two-or-more aircraft formation; the wingman.
DATA (object, w/position)	Standby for data link message concerning object at stated location.
DEAD (Denial of Enemy Air Defence)	Mission to eliminate hostile air defences by physical destruction of SAM/AAA positions.
DEADEYE	Informative call by an airborne laser designator indicating the laser/IR system is inoperative.
Dead reckoning	Navigation technique estimating position based on last known position, heading, speed, and time.
Deck Spotter	Derogatory term for a pilot who looks away from the ball to peek at the deck.
DECLARE	Inquiry as to the identification of specified tracks, targets, or correlated group.
DEEP	Descriptive term used to indicate separation between the nearest and farthest groups in range in a relative formation; used to describe a LADDER, VIC, CHAMPAGNE, or BOX.
DEFENDING (w/direction)	Aircraft is in a defensive position and manoeuvring with reference to a surface-to-air threat.
DEFENSIVE	Speaker is under attack, is manoeuvring defensively, and is unable to ensure deconfliction or mutual support.
Defensive manoeuvring	Manoeuvres designed to negate the attack or ordnance of a threat.
Defensive spiral	A descending, accelerating dive using high G and continuous roll to negate an attack and gain lateral separation.
DELOUSE	Directive call to detect, identify, and engage (if required) unknown aircraft trailing friendly aircraft.
Delta	When an aircraft arrives at a boat for recovery, this instruction tells the pilot to stay clear and save gas; refers to a holding pattern at the boat.
Delta Sierra	Phonetics for "dumb shit": describes a stupid action, and erases all previous Bravo Zulus and Sierra Hotels.
Departure	Literally departure from controlled flight, usually brought on in high-performance jets by excessive angle of attack coupled with partial power loss in one engine. All aircraft depart differently, but some anxious moments and some loss of altitude will result before control can be regained. Some jets, most notably the F-4 <i>Phantom</i> , are unrecoverable from certain departures.

DEPLOY	Directive call for the flight to manoeuvre to briefed positioning.
Dirty	Aircraft configured for landing with gear and flaps down.
DISCONNECT	Command by tanker or receiver that boom/drogue will be disconnected.
DIVERT	Proceed to alternate mission/base.
Dollar Ride	The first sortie of pilot training; sometimes applied to the first sortie of any formal flying training program in a new aircraft.
Doofer Book	<p>A running compilation of the missteps of the members of the squadron. They are most interesting when kept during deployments and often become a unique collection of history (and often humor) for a unit.</p> <p>Generally, there are few rules, either about content or language—the only criterion is that the story must be at least 10% true. Doofer books have largely fallen victim to political sensitivity. See the relevant section of this article.</p>
DOR (desired out range)/ MOR (minimum out range)	Range from the closest bandit where an aircraft's "out" will defeat any bandit's weapons in the air or still on the jet and preserve enough distance to make an "in" decision with sufficient time to reengage the same group with launch-and-decide tactics. This also gives trailing elements a "clean" picture, reducing identification problems when targeting.
Dos Gringos	A duo of F-16 pilots who revived the tradition of fighter pilot songs.
Dot	Refers to how a distant aircraft looks on the horizon, ("I'm a dot" means "I'm out of here").
Double Nuts	The CAG's bird usually numbered 100 or 00.
Double Ugly	Fond nickname for the enormously capable but less than beautiful F-4 <i>Phantom</i> . See also Rhino.
Down	Broken, not flying. A sick pilot is "down."
Downtown	From the 1960s song by Petula Clark, meaning any enemy target area where lots of anti-aircraft opposition can be expected. During the Vietnam War, flying missions into the Hanoi-Haiphong complex in North Vietnam, which was defended by multiple SAM and conventional AAA sites, was referred to as "Going Downtown."
DR (decision range)	Minimum range at which a flight member can execute the briefed Notch manoeuvre, assess spike status, and execute an abort manoeuvre remaining outside the threat's maximum stern weapons employment zone (WEZ) once the abort manoeuvre is completed. For the assumptions on Notch and out/abort manoeuvres.
DRAG (w/cardinal direction)	Target stabilized at 0 to 60 degrees angle from tail or 120- to 180-degree angle from nose.
Drift Factor	If you have a high one, you aren't reliable.
Driver	Pilot.

DROP	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Directive/informative call to stop monitoring a specific emitter/target and resume search responsibility.2. Remove the emitter/target from the tactical picture/track stores.3. Directive call to remove a specific system or EOB category from search responsibilities.
DROP KICK	Informative to the flight that an intentional deviation from any briefed action is being made.
DROPPING	Informative call that a fighter has discontinued targeting responsibility.
DROP POINT	Directive call to terminate J12.6 Target Report (Donor SPI) broadcast.
DUCK	Air launched decoy (e.g., TALD/MALD).

E

EA	(Electronic Attack) - Actions taken to prevent or reduce the effective use of the electromagnetic spectrum, primarily through jamming and deception.
ECHELON (w/cardinal direction)	A fill-in describing a RANGE or AZIMUTH presentation, with one group displaced behind and to the side of the other group.
Echo Range	A corner of the China Lake Naval Weapons Test Center outfitted with ground targets and electronic threat simulators. Many Top Gun training sessions are flown over Echo Range.
ECM	Electronic Countermeasures; systems for jamming or misleading enemy weapons, communications, and radar.
Electric Jet	The F-16 Fighting Falcon, so nicknamed because of its fly-by-wire controls.
Element	A flight of two aircraft.
ELINT	Electronic Intelligence; the gathering of electronic emissions related to communications, weapons control, or reconnaissance.
EM Diagram	Energy Manoeuvrability Diagram A chart depicting an aircraft's turn rate, radius, and excess power for a specific set of conditions.
ENGAGED	Informative call used to establish engaged and support roles in the visual arena.
Engagement	Manoeuvres by opposing aircraft attempting to achieve/prevent weapons firing positions.
Envelope	The maximum performance parameters of an aircraft; flying at the edge of the envelope can be both exciting and dangerous.
EMPTY	No emitters of interest detected.
E-Pole	The range from a threat aircraft that an abort manoeuvre must be accomplished to kinematically defeat any missile the bandit could have launched or is launching.
ESTIMATE	Provide estimate of the size, range, height, or other parameters of a specified contact; implies degradation.
Exposure Suit	Rubber suit worn during over water operations when the water temperature is dangerously low. Should a fighter pilot be required to eject, the suit is designed to increase his chances of survival in otherwise near-fatal water temperatures. Often called a "poopie suit," a reference to the fact that if you have to defecate, there isn't much you can do about it.
EXTEND (w/direction)	Short-term manoeuvre to gain energy, distance, or separation normally with the intent of reengaging.
EYEBALL	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Electro-optical (EO)/IR/night vision device (NVD) acquisition of an aircraft normally followed by number of aircraft observed.2. Fighter with primary visual identification responsibility.

F

FAC	"Forward Air Controller." In general, an Army or Marine on the ground who directs an airborne aircraft's attack runs in support of front line units. A "FAC-A," or airborne FAC, is a pilot in another aircraft conducting the same mission.
FADED	Radar contact (temporally) is lost on a non-friendly aircraft/surface contact and any positional information given is estimated.
FAG	Fighter Attack Guy; derogatory term for F/A-18 <i>Hornet</i> drivers.
Fag-bag	A cloth bag that some pilots use to carry classified media to the aircraft. So called because it resembles a "handbag," and any man that carries a purse...
Fangs Out	When a pilot is really hot for a dogfight.
Fangs Sunk in Floorboard	When a fighter pilot boresights on a kill but ends up getting shot himself.
FARP	Fleet ACM Readiness Program; a periodic training program presented in the context of the Fleet Air Wing; dogfighting practice with an adversary squadron.
FASO	Flight Physiology Training: recurrent safety training for aircrews directed at emphasizing physiological stressors, conditions, or episodes which might be encountered in flight.
FAST	Fleet Air Superiority Training or Target speed is estimated to be 600 to 900 knots ground speed/Mach 1 to 1.5.
Father	Slang term for shipboard TACAN station. There is a Father on most Mothers.
FBR	(Factor Bandit Range)/Factor Range - FBR is the minimum range between threat groups that allows the fighter to achieve F-Pole on the closest group and still maintain first launch opportunity (FLO) on all groups outside this range. All groups within this range must be targeted. Groups outside FBR can be subsequently engaged or avoided. Groups outside FBR should not be included in initial targeting in order to maximize firepower; FBR is driven by threat weapons capability, fighter weapons capability, closure, and proficiency.
FEBA	(Forward Edge Of The Battle Area) - The foremost limits of an area where ground combat units are deployed. Designated to coordinate fire support, position forces, or manoeuvre of units.
Feet Wet/Dry	The former means "over-water," the latter "over-land."
Fence-In/Out	The procedure by which a fighter pilot sets his cockpit switches in order to prepare for combat. When he "crosses the fence," he "fences in" and sets his switches to the appropriate mode. He "fences out" when leaving.
Fishbed, Flogger	Also <i>Fitter</i> , <i>Flanker</i> , <i>Fresco Fulcrum</i> , etc. NATO code names for Russian fighter aircraft.
FLANK (w/cardinal direction)	Contact aspect stabilized at 120- to 150-degree angle from the tail or 30- to 60-degree angle from nose.

Flathatting	Unauthorized low-level flying and stunting-thrilling, sometimes fatal, usually career-ending if caught.
Flare	A defensive device expended by an aircraft in order to decoy heat-seeking missiles. Often used in concert with chaff.
Flare maneuver	The nose-up landing posture normal for most land-based aircraft. Carrier jets eliminate flare in favor of a slamming contact with the deck. Also the terminal portion of a helicopter autorotation in which rotor speed can be accelerated while reducing rate-of-descent and forward groundspeed.
FLASH (system)	Temporarily activate specified system for identification purposes (e.g., IFF, afterburner, flare, or chaff).
Flight	A four-ship formation.
Flight Lead	The first aircraft in a formation; the experienced pilot in the formation primarily responsible for accomplishing the mission and leading his wingman.
FLOAT	Directive or informative call to expand the formation laterally within visual limits to maintain radar contact or prepare for a defensive response.
FLOT	(Forward Line of own Troops) - A line indicating the most forward position of friendly forces.
FLOW	Directive call to fly stated heading.
Fly-by-wire	Electronic, computer-controlled operation of aircraft control surfaces. Supplants mechanical/hydraulic actuation common in earlier jets. The F-16 Falcon, F/A-18 <i>Hornet</i> , and the French <i>Mirage 2000</i> use these systems.
FM	Abbreviation for "f*cking magic": very high-tech; used to describe how something you don't understand actually works. The ASQ-8 1 Magnetic Anomaly System works by "FM."
FOD	Foreign Object Damage. A constant concern on airfields and carrier decks where jet engines operate. Jet intakes can ingest loose objects, and even the smallest item — a rock, a bolt — can seriously damage jet turbine blades.
FOX	A/A weapons employment. Occasionally fighter pilots will simply say "Fox."
FOX ONE	Simulated or actual launch of semi-active radar-guided missile.
FOX MIKE	VHF/FM radio.
FOX TWO	Simulated or actual launch of IR-guided missile.
FOX THREE/ SECOND FOX THREE	Simulated or actual launch of active radar-guided missiles on the same target.
FOX THREE CLOSE	Simulated or actual launch of active radar-guided missiles upon a target within 10 Nautical Miles.
FOX THREE MEDIUM	Simulated or actual launch of active radar-guided missiles upon a target between 10 and 20 Nautical Miles.

FOX THREE LONG	Simulated or actual launch of active radar-guided missiles upon a target outside 20 Nautical Miles.
FOX THREE (X) SHIP (formation description)	Valid missile shot against (x) separate targets (assumes 1 missile per target).
FOX FOUR	Facetious reference to missile shot; for example, if someone claimed to shoot a missile in an impossible situation, he might be accused of shooting a non-existent "top secret" missile requiring a "Fox 4" call. Also jokingly used when an aircraft is brought down by something other than a missile; for example, a midair collision.
F-Pole	F-Pole is the separation between the launch aircraft and the target at missile endgame/impact.
Frag	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Fragmentary order (ATO).2. Fragmentation pattern of a weapon.
FratFlight	Short for <i>fratricide</i> , which is the killing of a friendly by a friendly (blue on blue) whether on the ground or in the air.
Fratricide	Destruction of friendly forces when destruction of enemy forces is intended. Military: Short for <i>fraternization</i> , which is an inappropriate relationship between military members of unequal ranks. Generally refers to unprofessional officer / enlisted relationships.
FRIENDLY	A positively identified friendly aircraft or ground position.
Fur ball	A confused aerial engagement with many combatants. Several aircraft in tight ACM. Response to a DECLARE request indicating known bandits and friendlies in close proximity.

G

Gaff Off	Ignore.
GATE	Directive/informative call to fly as quickly as possible, using MAX power.
G. G-loading, G-rating	High-performance aircraft subject airframes and occupants to centrifugal forces far beyond simple gravity. One-G equals normal gravity; a pilot and plane pulling 4-Gs in a turn will feel forces equal to four times the weight of gravity.
Gigahertz and Nanosec.	Highly technical, detailed, and hard to understand ("It's getting down to gigahertz and nanoseconds.")
GIMBAL (w/BRAA)	Call indicating radar target is approaching azimuth or elevation limits, speaker is approaching formation limits, and SPLIT criteria are not met. Implies a request to flight lead to modify intercept geometry, or direct PRESS/SPLIT/DROP.
Gizmo	A piece of technical gear (also doodad, thingamabob, or hog-ha)
G-LOC	"G-induced Loss of Consciousness," pronounced "gee lock." A black out caused by the loss of blood flow to the brain experienced by fighter pilots when under high-G conditions. See centrifuge. See also B-LOC.
Glove	The huge wing root of the F-14 <i>Tomcat</i> , housing the mechanism for moving the variable-geometry wings. Also, Tom Cruise notwithstanding, fireproof gloves are always worn by military pilots regardless of the outside temperature.
God	The authority, boss, or person with full responsibility; also descriptive of a pilot's prowess ("He's an ACM god")
Goes Away	What something does when you hit it with a missile.
GOGGLE/DEGOGGLE	Directive call to put on/take off NVDs.
GOGGLES ON/ GOGGLES OFF	Informative call that NVDs are on/off.
Go Juice	Jet fuel or coffee.
Gomer	Slang for a dogfight adversary, the usage stemming from the old Gomer Pyle television show.
Gonk	Currency of the foreign country in which a fighter pilot is deployed. Doesn't matter which one; they all use gonk.
Goo	Bad weather that makes it impossible to see; in the clouds.
Goon Up	Screw up.

GOPHER	A bogey that has not conformed to safe passage routing, airspeed, or altitude procedures. Will only be used when safe passage or minimum risk routing procedures are part of an ID matrix.
Go Pills	An amphetamine pill prescribed by a flight surgeon for a pilot. The pill is intended to provide the benefits of caffeine without the side effects (diuretic, jitters). Because of the pill's similarity to illegal drugs, they are highly controlled and sometimes politically controversial.
GORILLA	Large force of indeterminable numbers and formation.
Gouge	The latest inside information. Also the poop, the skinny. A summary of important information.
GRAND SLAM	All hostile aircraft of a designated track (or against which a mission was tasked) are shot down.
GREEN (w/cardinal direction)	Direction determined to be clearest of enemy A/A activity
Green Apple	The control knob for the cockpit's emergency oxygen supply.
Greenie Board	Prominently displayed squadron scoreboard where the landing signal officers rate the pilots' carrier landings (any color other than green is bad). Also called the "weenie board."
GREYHOUND	Friendly ground attack cruise missile.
Ground-Pounder	Slang for Army troops; when used to refer to Air Force members, it is a derogatory term for non-aviators.
GROUP	Aircraft within 3 NM in azimuth or range.
G-suit	Nylon trousers that wrap around the legs and abdomen. Filled automatically with compressed air in high-G maneuvers, the G-suit helps prevent the pooling of blood in the lower extremities, thus retarding the tendency to lose consciousness. Also known as "speedjeans."
GUNS	An air-to-air or air-to-surface gunshot.
Gut Bomb	Any of the (limited) variety of single-handed culinary delights found in the wardrooms or mess decks on the boat.

H

Hamburger Helper	The bombardier-navigator (B/N) or radar intercept officer (RIO).
Hangar Queen	An aircraft that suffers chronic “downs”; hangar queens are often pirated for spares for the squadron’s other aircraft, so when the aircraft leave the carrier at the end of the cruise, the maintenance officer normally flies the hangar queen because he knows which parts have been taken (the “queen’s” ejection seats are especially well preflighted).
HARD (w/direction)	High-G, energy sustaining 180-degree turn (or as directed) in the indicated direction.
HARDBALL	Paved road surface.
Hard Deck	An established minimum altitude for training engagements. Early <i>Topgun</i> hops honor a 10,000-foot AGL hard deck.
Hawk Circle	The orbiting stack of aircraft waiting to land on the carrier.
HCA	(Heading Crossing Angle) - The angle formed by the intersection of the fighter's present heading and the target's present heading.
Head on a Swivel	Keeping an eye peeled for an ACM adversary; also called “doing the Linda Blair,” for the 360-degree head rotation in the movie <i>The Exorcist</i> .
HEADS UP	Alert of an activity of interest.
Heater	<i>Sidewinder</i> missile which homes in on heat sources.
Heavy entities.	A non-fighter aircraft, also a group or package known to contain three or more entities.
Helo	Universal Navy/Marine term for helicopter. Don’t say “chopper” unless you’re hanging out with the Army.
HIGH	Target is between 25,000 and 40,000 feet MSL.
High angle (snap) shot	A gunshot made with a high track-crossing angle, normally attempted because a tracking shot was not possible or desired.
High PRF	Extremely excitable (PRF is a radar term: pulse repetition frequency).
High Warble	Unduly agitated.
Hinge Head	Slang term for O-4s (LCDR). Legend has it that whenever a lieutenant makes lieutenant commander, he is given a lobotomy and half his brain is removed. A hinge is then installed so the brain half may be reinstalled later (or, in some cases, the other half is also removed).
HITS	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. (Air-to-Air) Momentary radar returns in search.2. Indicates approximate target altitude (e.g., "GROUP BULLSEYE 360/10, HITS 15 THOUSAND").3. (Air-to-Ground) Weapons impact within lethal distance.

HOLD DOWN	Directive call to key transmitter for direction finder (DF) steer.
HOLD FIRE	An emergency fire control order to stop firing on a designated target to include destruction of any missiles in flight.
HOLDING HANDS	Aircraft in visual formation. Two fighters that are in a close formation are said to be "holding hands." Often used to let Air Traffic Control know that the formation has rejoined and can be treated as a single entity.
HOLD POINT	Directive call to continue J12.6 Target Report (Donor SPI) broadcast.
HOLLOW	Any data link message not received.
HOMEPLATE	Home airfield or carrier.
HOOK (w/direction)	Directive call to perform an in-place 180-degree turn.
HOOK (Reference Point)	Link-16 directive call to cue sensors to A/G point (point of interest, SAM, mark point, etc.)
Hook Slap	When the tailhook of an aircraft landing on a carrier strikes the rounddown.
Hop	A mission, or flight
Hostile	A targeted aircraft that has been positively identified as belonging to the adversary, and most often meaning friendlies are authorized to engage with force. See Bandit, Bogey. A contact identified as an enemy upon which clearance to fire is authorized IAW the theatre rules of engagement (ROE).
HOT	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A descriptive/directive call to initiate a turn in the CAP toward the anticipated threats.2. Groups heading towards friendly aircraft. Opposite of COLD.3. Ordnance employment intended or completed.4. Defined area is expected to receive fire (enemy or friendly).5. Contact aspect stabilized at 160- to 180-degree angle from tail or 0- to 20-degree angle from nose.6. Intercept geometry will result in passing in front of the target.
HOTAS	Hands On Throttle And Stick. Modern fighters have every imaginable control function mounted on either the stick (right hand) or the throttle quadrant (left hand), so that the pilot need not fumble around in the cockpit.
HOTDOG	Informative/directive call that an aircraft is approaching or at a specified standoff distance from the sovereign airspace of a nation (as defined by national boundaries or territorial sea and airspace). (Colour may indicate additional standoff distance.) Follow briefed procedures.
HUD	Heads Up Display. A transparent screen mounted on the dashboard on which pertinent data from flight instruments and weapons systems are projected. The HUD eliminates the need to look down into the cockpit to read instruments.
Hummer	Any ingenious machine — plane, car, or weapon — whose actual name can't be recalled. Also "puppy," "bad boy." The E-2 <i>Hawkeye</i> early-warning aircraft is also nicknamed "Hummer," in reference to the sound of its turboprop engines.
HUSKY	Informative call that the AIM-120 is at HPRF active range.

I

ID	Directive call to identify the target; also aircrew identification accomplished, followed by type aircraft or "FRIENDLY/HOSTILE".
IFF	Avionics: "Identification Friend or Foe." An electronic means of identifying aircraft. Flying training: "Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals." Flown in the AT-38B, this is the last flying course a fighter pilot attends before going on to the B-Course for his operational Major Weapons System.
IFR	Instrument Flight Rules, permitting safe flight in conditions of limited visibility
IN	1. Informative call indicating a turn toward a known threat. Implies a request for information. 2. Entering terminal phase of an air-to-ground attack. Opposite of OFF.
Indian Night Noises	The ominous creaks, pops, and shudders of an aircraft in flight.
In-Flight Engagement	Snagging the arresting wire before the wheels touch the deck. This can result in damage to the aircraft.
IN PLACE (w/direction)	Perform indicated manoeuvre simultaneously.
INS	Inertial Navigation System. A device that, when properly loaded and aligned, permits the pilot to determine his location anywhere on earth within a few hundred feet.
Intercept	A phase of an A/A mission between the commit and engagement.
In the Spaghetti	Where you catch the wires.
IP	"Instructor Pilot." A pilot with the qualifications to teach another.

J

JAAT	(Joint Air Attack Team) - Coordinated employment of attack helicopters and fighters employed against enemy ground vehicles and personnel.
Jink	Aircraft manoeuvres designed to change the flight path of the aircraft in all planes at random intervals (usually to negate a gun attack). To maneuver violently to avoid a threat. Directive call to perform an unpredictable manoeuvre to negate a gun tracking solution.
JO	Junior officer, usually with all the answers.
JO Bunkroom	The JO stateroom, where all the good parties are aboard The Boat
Joint	Activities, operations, or organizations in which elements of more than one service of the same nation participate.
Joker	Pre-briefed fuel state above bingo at which maneuvering should be terminated or separation/bug-out begun. Joker may be understood as a 'pad' above bingo that allows for a certain amount of maneuvering before finally reaching bingo. Fuel state above BINGO at which separation/bug out/event termination should begin.
JOPA	Junior Officer Protective Association. The O-3s (lieutenants) and below in a unit that band together for mutual protection. Sometimes called JORC (Junior Officer Retaliation Corps).
JORP	Junior Officer Rest Period. What they do best.
Jock, Driver	Pilot, as in "helo driver," or "fighter jock."
JP-4, JP-5	Types of jet fuel: the aroma of which makes former aviators nostalgic for flight operations. Usually seen floating on top of a cup of "go-juice."
Judy	Radio call signaling that your quarry is in sight and you are taking control of the intercept. Aircrew has radar or visual contact on the correct target, has taken control of the intercept, and requires only situation awareness (SA) information; weapon director (WD) will minimize radio transmissions.

K**Kick the Tires and
Light the Fires**

Formerly, to bypass or severely shorten the required routine of physically inspecting the aircraft prior to flight. Currently meaning "Let's get this aircraft preflighted and outta here pronto!"

KILL

1. Directive call to fire on designated target.
2. In training, a fighter call to indicate kill criteria have been fulfilled.

Killer Scout

Aircraft that locates and controls attack of targets in a specific operating area. Usually performed beyond the FSCL and not operating in the FAC(A) role.

KIO

"Knock It Off." A radio transmission that tells all aircraft to cease tactical maneuvering because a dangerous situation has developed. In flags and LFEs, this "stops the war." Sometimes used in non-flying scenarios to direct another pilot to stop messing around. Directive call to cease air combat manoeuvres/attacks/activities in training.

**Knife Fight in
a Phone Booth**

Close-in, slow-speed aerial dogfight with a nimble adversary. Often just called a "knife- fight."

L

LABEL	Directive call to rename a waypoint with the assigned name.
LADDER	A picture label describing three or more groups separated in range from a god's eye view.
Lag pursuit	An attack geometry where the attacker's nose points behind the target.
Landing Fee	Based on the practice of charging pilots for landing an aircraft at an airport, a "landing fee" is charged to a pilot arriving at a new assignment. The fee most often ostensibly covers the costs of things like squadron T-shirts, unit-colored name tags, and plaques or lithos that the pilot will receive when he leaves. The fee can be nominal and logical, but in many cases is simply based on the unit's number (i.e., a \$137 landing fee for becoming a member of the 37th Fighter Squadron).
LASER ON	Directive call to start laser designation.
LASING	Informative call indicating that the speaker is firing the laser.
LEAD-TRAIL	Inner-group formation of two or more contacts separated in range.
Lead pursuit	An attack geometry where the attacker's nose points ahead of the target.
LEAKERS	Airborne threat has passed through a defensive layer. Call should include amplifying information.
LEAN (direction)	Directive/informative call to manoeuvre in a direction to avoid the threat.
LEAPEX	A jump-through-your-ass project, exercise, or drill. Something silly that needs to be done NOW!
Lethal Cone, Cone of Vulnerability	Area to the rear of the jet's tailpipe, into which most infra-red missile and gun attacks are ideally launched.
Lethal envelope	The envelope within which the parameters can be met for successful employment of munitions by a particular weapons system.
LIGHTS ON/OFF	Directive to turn on/off exterior lights.
LIGHTBULB	Directive call for flight to set all position lights to bright.
Lights Out	Radar off.
LINE ABREAST	Inner group formation of two or more contacts separated in azimuth.
Line of sight (LOS)	A line from a sensor to an object (usually target) being viewed.
Line-of-sight rate (LOSR)	The rate of change in an object's line of sight, usually expressed in degrees per second.
Line up	Fighter briefing to FAC.
Loading/Unloading	Increasing or decreasing angle of attack and G's

LOCKED	1. (w/position) - Radar lock-on; correct targeting is not assumed. 2. (w/group name) - Radar lock-on; sort is not assumed.
Lost the Bubble	Got confused or forgot what was happening.
Loud Handle	Lever or grip that fires ejection seat.
LOW	Target altitude is below 10,000 feet MSL.
LOWDOWN	A request to provide tactical ground information pertinent to the mission in a digital bull's-eye format.
LR (lock range)	The radar LR gives the fighter enough time to lock, identify, make an engagement decision, and still maintain FLO.
LSO	Landing Signal Officer. Squadron member with considerable experience in carrier landings, responsible for assisting others onto the deck and for grading their efforts. Also known as "paddles."
Lufberry	A circular, stagnated fight with no participant having an advantage.

M

Mach	A unit of speed relative to the Speed of Sound. A Mach number of 1.0 is equal to the speed of sound. Most modern fighters maximum speeds are in the vicinity of 2.0 M. Because the speed of sound depends on multiple variables, it does not translate directly into a fixed "mile per hour" value.
MAD DOG	Visual AIM-120 launch.
Magnum	Code word (slang term) indicating an AGM-88 HARM (air-to-ground missile) has been fired. Code word (slang term) indicating an AGM-88 HARM has been fired.
MANEUVER (AZIMUTH/ RANGE/ALTITUDE)	Informative call that said group is manoeuvring in azimuth, range, and/or altitude.
MAPPING	Multi-function radar in an A/G mode.
MARK	1. Used when aircraft passes over pick up zone (PZ)/landing zone (LZ)/team. 2. Directive term to record the location of a ground point of interest.
MARKING	Friendly aircraft leaving contrails.
MARSHAL(ING)	Establish(ed) at a specific point.
Martin-Baker Fan Club	If you eject, you're a member (a reference to the Martin-Baker company, manufacturer of ejection seats). An official list of members is maintained.
MATCH POINT	Directive call to hook a J12.6 Target Report (Donor SPI) and ZAP POINT back for confirmation.
Maximum performance	The best possible performance without exceeding aircraft limitations.
Meatball	The glideslope indication light that pilots watch when they're trapping.
MEDIUM	Target altitude between 10,000 and 25,000 feet MSL.
Meld	The pre-briefed range where radars come out of their primary search responsibilities to find their primary target/sort responsibility, the next highest threat, and the whole picture if able.
Merge, Merged Plot	The point at which aircraft come into contact, after having been vectored toward each other by radar control.
MERGE(D)	Informative call that friendlies and targets have arrived in the same visual arena. Call indicating radar returns have come together.
MIDNIGHT	Informative call advising that C2 radar functions are unavailable due to degradation. Advisory information is still available. Opposite of SUNRISE.
MiGCAP	Combat Air Patrol over ground-attack aircraft to protect against an air-to-air threat.
Military crest	A position along a ridge or hill two-thirds the distance from the base to the summit.

Military Power	Maximum jet engine power without engaging afterburner.
MILLER TIME	1. Informative call indicating completion of air-to-ground ordnance delivery. Generally used by the last striker in conjunction with a pre-coordinated egress plan 2. Indicates survivors are aboard recovery vehicle (combat search and rescue [CSAR])
Mini-Boss	The Assistant Air Boss.
Minimum abort range (MAR)/E-Pole	The range at which an aircraft can execute a maximum performance out/abort manoeuvre and kinematically defeat any missiles and remain outside an adversary's WEZ.
Mixed force	Multiple type aircraft operating in the same formation under the direction of the same flight lead.
MONITOR(ING)	Maintain radar awareness on specified group.
MOR (minimum out range)/DOR (desired out range)	Range from the closest bandit where an aircraft's "out" will defeat any bandit's weapons in the air or still on the jet and preserve enough distance to make an "in" decision with sufficient time to reengage the same bandit group with launch-and-decide tactics. This also gives
Mort	Killed. Synonym for dead, die, kill. A pilot who is killed during a dogfight is a "mort." When going into a dangerous situation, a pilot may be told "don't mort yourself."
Mother, or Mom	The boat on which you are deployed, and where you launched from.
MOVER(S)	Unidentified surface vehicles in motion.
MUD (type w/direction)	Indicates radar warning receiver (RWR) ground threat displayed with no launch identification.
Mud-mover, Ground-pounder	Low-level attack aircraft such as the A-6 <i>Intruder</i> . The F/A-18 doubles as a fighter and a mud-mover (small amounts only).
Music	Electronic jamming intended to deceive radar. Electronic radar jamming (on air intercept [AI] radar, electronic deception jamming).
Mutual Support	The ability of a pilot and his wingman to provide support for each other. Visual mutual support indicates that two fighters can see each other and is the most desirable. Detached mutual support indicates the fighters are separated but have awareness as to the other's location. See the Mutual Support section of the article on fighter pilot spiritual requisites. Mutual support - The coordinated efforts of two or more aircraft to provide combined firepower and survivability.
My Fun Meter is Pegged	Sarcastic comment for, "I am not enjoying this any more."

N

NAILS (w/direction)	RWR indication of Air Intercept radar in search.
NAKED	No RWR indications.
Naming	A traditional fighter pilot event at which young fighter pilots are assigned their callsigns.
NATOPS	The Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization program, responsible for rules and regulations governing safe and correct operation of all naval aircraft. Sometimes means in jest: "Not Applicable To Our Present Situation." NATOPS manuals are sometimes referred to as "the big blue sleeping pill" in reference to their blue plastic covers.
NEAR-FAR	Fighter term depicting a radar-apparent description of two or more contacts within a group separated in range.
NEGATIVE CONTACT	Sensor information on a friendly aircraft is lost. (Termination of contact plotting is not warranted.)
NEVADA	Informative call that aircraft is out of/unable to employ air to surface missiles (e.g. Maverick).
NEW PICTURE	Used by controller or aircrew when tactical picture has changed. Supersedes all previous calls and re-establishes picture for all players.
NFO	An aviator who is an officer but not a pilot; pilots say it stands for "No Future Occupation"; also called the "Non-Flying Object" and "walk-n'-talkin' navbag." Sometimes referred to as DAP for "Double-Anchor Puke" (a reference to the crossed anchors on the NFO wings).
NFOD	No Fear of Death.
NFWS	The Navy Fighter Weapons School, a graduate school for fighter pilots. Its universal nickname is Topgun.
"Nice Vapes"	Comment on an exciting fly-by when high speed at low altitude or high G causes dramatic vapor trails.
NO FACTOR	Not a threat.
No-Go Pills	Sleeping pills provided by a flight surgeon. They are often given to pilots to adjust their diurnal cycle after having deployed over several time zones or when they need to transition from day pilots to night pilots (or vice versa).
NO JOY	Aircrew does not have visual contact with the target/BANDIT/BOGEY/landmark; opposite of TALLY. Failure to make visual sighting; or inability to establish radio communications.
No-Load	An underachiever. Named after the process of warming up the catapults before a launch. "Stand clear of Cat 1 while firing no-loads."
NOTCH(ING) (w/direction)	Directive (informative) for an all-aspect missile defensive manoeuvre to place threat radar/missile near the beam.

Nugget	A first-tour aviator.
NVG	"Night Vision Goggles." Binocular type devices that attach to the helmet that allow a fighter pilot increased vision during night operations.
Nylon Letdown	Ejection and subsequent parachute ride.

O

OAST	Overland Air Superiority Training. A periodic training exercise conducted over land and integrating all the elements of the carrier's air wing.
OBSERVATION POSITION	Initial formation position of a receiver joining a tanker.
OCCUPIED	Ground equipment present at tasked target location. Opposite of VACANT.
OFF (w/direction)	Informative call indicating attack is terminated and manoeuvring to the indicated direction.
Offensive manoeuvring	Manoeuvres against an opponent to achieve weapons parameters.
OFFSET (w/direction)	Informative call indicating manoeuvre in a specified direction with reference to the target.
Off-station	Not in position.
(System) OKAY	Equipment indicated is operative (cancels BENT).
ON STATION	Informative call that unit/aircraft has reached assigned station.
On the Mouse	Talking on the flight-deck radio circuit that uses a headset resembling Mickey Mouse ears.
OPENING	Increasing in range.
Ops check	Periodic check of aircraft systems performed by the aircrew (including fuel) for safety of flight.
Ops Tempo	Operations Tempo. A means of describing the pace of operations at a particular base. I.e, a "high ops tempo" indicates that there are continuous mission demands that tend to keep everyone busy. See the impact of Ops Tempo in the article on Christian Fighter Pilot Priorities.
Opportunity to excel	A disagreeable job without the time or resources to properly complete.
OUT (w/direction)	Informative call indicating a turn to a cold aspect relative to the known threat.
OUTLAW	Informative call that a bogey has met point of origin criteria.
Oversweep	When the F-14, on the ground, sweeps its wings to seventy-two degrees aft making it easier to store.

P

PACKAGE	Geographically isolated collection of GROUPS.
Padlocked	To have a bogey firmly in your sights. Informative call indicating aircrew cannot take eyes off an aircraft or ground target without risk of losing tally/visual
Painted	Scanned by radar.
Pass	The point at which fighters, closing head-on, flash past each other. Also, an attempt at landing.
PASSING	Descriptive term for when two GROUPS initially separated in range decrease range and pass each other.
Passing Gas	What an aerial tanker does.
PATRIOT	"Phased Array Tracking Intercept of Target." A US air defense system designed to protect against enemy ballistic missiles and aircraft. It gained fame for its performance in the Gulf War in protecting Israel and Allied forces against Iraqi SCUDs. It gained notoriety for its ability to shoot down friendly aircraft in Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.
PCS	"Permanent Change of Station." A USAF move from one base to another.
Peeking	Used to describe moving a radar coverage out of the briefed AOR to see targets in other flight members' AOR.
Penalty Box	If you get a wave off or a bolter, that's where you go.
Pickle	A device held by the LSO that activates the "cut" light on the lens: as a verb, to drop a bomb or external fuel tank. To expend ordnance. To "pickle" a bomb or "hit the pickle button" means to fire a weapon. Whenever a pilot pickles missiles or rockets he generally transmits a code word to let others know a missile is in the air. See Fox, Rifle, Magnum.
PICTURE	A request to provide air information pertinent to the mission in a digital bulls-eye format.
Piddle Pack	A thick plastic bag with a small neck designed to be used as a urinal while in the cockpit of a fighter. The piddle pack has a powder chemical in it that turns the liquid into gel, minimizing (but not eliminating) the potential for leaks. No, we do not know how female fighter pilots relieve themselves in the jet.
PIGEONS	Magnetic bearing and range to HOMEPLATE.
PIGS	Friendly glide weapon (e.g., JSOW).
Pigs in Space	Description of the performance of a fighter aircraft that is heavily loaded with fuel and weapons and at high altitude. Its maneuverability and agility is seriously degraded, causing some fighter pilots to refer to that situation as being a "pig" (poor performance) in "space" (generally at high altitude)
PINCE	Threat manoeuvring for a bracket attack.

Pinging On	Paying close attention to; critical scrutinization. Also “bugging” as in, “Quit pinging on me.” From Sonar Pinging in helo ASW.
Pinkie	A landing made at twilight between the official time of sunset (or sunrise) and “real” darkness; it officially counts as a night landing, but is cheating; preferred type of “night” landing by 0-4’s and above.
Pit	Rear seat position of the F-14 <i>Tomcat</i> or F-4 <i>Phantom</i> . Also the refueling pit.
PITCH/PITCHBACK (LEFT/RIGHT)	Directive call for fighter or flight to execute a nose-high heading reversal.
PITBULL	Informative call that the AIM-120 is at MPRF active range.
PLAT	Pilot Landing Aid Television. a videotape camera that records all carrier launches and recoveries.
Playmate(s)	The pilots of other aircraft on the same mission as you. Co-operating aircraft.
PLAYTIME	Amount of time aircraft can remain on station.
PLOT (Reference Point) directed by flight contracts.	Directive call to plot the reference point on the TAD/HSD moving map as directed by flight contracts.
Plumber	An inept pilot.
POCKET (Reference Point), (Destination)	Directive call to input the coordinates/elevation into desired steer point.
(freq.) POGO (freq.)	Switch to communication channel number preceding POGO. If unable to establish communications, switch to channel number following POGO. If no channel number follows POGO, return to this channel.
POINT	Data link point/track of interest. Can be associated with directive call.
Pointy End	The front of a boat
POP	1. Starting climb for A/S attack. 2. Max performance climb out of low-altitude structure.
POPEYE	Flying in clouds or area of reduced visibility. What you are when you’re flying in the goo.
POP-UP	Informative call of a group that has suddenly appeared inside of meld/No New Picture/briefed range.
POSIT	Request for friendly position; response in terms of a geographic landmark or off a common reference point (Bullseye).
Positive identification (PID)	The unambiguous label (friendly, bandit, or neutral) given to contacts identified from a combat ID system (CIDS) and/or visual sources.

Power Puke or Power Barf	Projectile vomiting, a symptom of airsickness.
Pole	Control stick.
Prang	To bump, crunch, or break an aircraft.
PRESS	Directive call to continue the attack; mutual support will be maintained. Supportive role will be assumed by the speaker.
Primary force	The flights that are being protected or escorted.
Primary locker	The fighter responsible for multi-targeting of a group.
PRINT (type)	Unambiguous non-cooperative target recognition (NCTR) reply.
Procedural identification	Identification determined solely by track behaviour. Examples of this are point of origin, BVR kill zones, boxes or lanes, guilt by association, friendly routes, and lack of IFF/SIF.
Pucker Factor	How scary something is.
Puke	Someone who flies a different kind of aircraft than you, as in fighter puke or attack puke.
Pull Chocks	To "punch out" is to eject. Sometimes used for other purposes that indicate a final departure. Someone who is going home for the evening may "punch out" (or "pull chocks").
PUMP	A briefed manoeuvre to low aspect to stop closure on the threat or geographical boundary with the intent to reengage. Will be used to initiate a Grinder tactic.
Punch Out	To eject. Sometimes used for other purposes that indicate a final departure. Someone who is going home for the evening may "punch out" (or "pull chocks").
PURE	Informative call indicating pure pursuit is being used or directive to go pure pursuit.
Pure pursuit	An attack geometry where the attacker's nose points directly at the target.
Push	Flight: To depart a point; the time and place from which a fighter formation leaves its holding pattern and begins its planned route. Also used generically; for example, when TDY, fighter pilots may plan a "push time" from the hotel front desk to head to the flight line. Ground: Something that is neither good nor bad, neither a win nor a loss; a tie. Often represented by a "o" as opposed to a "+" or "-".
PUSH (channel)	Go to designated frequency; no acknowledgment required.
PUSHING	Departing designated point.

Push it Up

In aviation, “pushing it up” refers to increasing the throttle setting; e.g., pushing the throttle up. In the fighter pilot world, the phrase refers to a night of partying and heavy drinking. See the Friday night event section of the article on Christian Fighter Pilot Participation.

Q

Queep	A term that is used to describe paperwork, reports, and other "extraneous" duties that keep a pilot out of the cockpit.
Quick Fix	Stop-gap measure or computer box change to repair an aircraft quickly.
Quick flow refuelling	Receiver next in line will fly formation off the current receiver to expedite the flow of receivers across the boom.

R

R2D2	A RIO (a reference to Luke Skywalker's robot backseater in the <i>Star Wars</i> movies).
Radome	Streamlined fiberglass enclosure covering a radar antenna.
RAG	Replacement Air Group. Squadron in which newly trained pilots are introduced to, and trained in, a particular aircraft type. The official name is FRS (Fleet Replacement Squadron).
Ramp Strike	Landing short in the ramp area, resulting in a crash.
RANGE	A picture label describing two groups separated in distance along the same bearing.
RAYGUN (position/heading/altitude)	Indicating a radar lock on to unknown aircraft. A request for a BUDDY SPIKE reply from friendly aircraft meeting these parameters.
Redball	A request for maintenance response, generally when a pilot is starting up an aircraft to go on a mission. I.e., if a pilot has a radar problem, he will call "Redball, radar," on the radio, which is a request for radar specialists.
Red Flag	A large mock air war, held quarterly by the Air Force at Nellis AFB, Nevada. Many non-Air Force assets — Navy/Marines, Army, foreign — are invited to participate.
Red risk (estimate distances)	These distances are reasonable figures for employing weapons near friendly forces in combat and are not minimum safe distances for peacetime training use.
REPORTED (information)	Information provided is derived from an off-board source.
RESAN (re-sanitize)	A range (prior to MELD) at which fighters who have been peeking, reset their radar coverage to search the extremes of their altitude AOR.
RESET	Proceed to a pre-briefed position or area of operation (AO).
RESUME	Resume last formation/route/mission ordered.
RETROGRADE	Directive/informative call to/from HVAA to withdraw from station in response to a threat, continue mission as able, may RESET if threat is negated.
REMINGTON	Informative call indicating the aircraft only has gun and/or self-protect ordnance remaining.
Rhino	Nickname for the F-4 <i>Phantom</i> and now the F/A-18E or -18F <i>Super Hornet</i> . The <i>Phantom</i> was also known as the Double Ugly.
RIDER	A bogey that is conforming to safe passage routing, airspeed, or altitude procedures.

RIFLE	Friendly air-to-surface missile launch. Code word (slang term) indicating an AGM-65 Maverick (air-to-ground missile) has been fired.
RIO	Radar Intercept Officer. Back-seat crewman in the F-14 <i>Tomcat</i> or F-4 <i>Phantom II</i> .
RIPPLE	Two or more munitions released or fired in close succession.
Rocket One	The skipper.
ROE	"Rules of Engagement." The regulations that govern a particular scenario. There may be ROE specific to an event, a theatre, a battle, or a war. The ROE are intended to deconflict friendly assets, prevent fratricide, minimize risk, and maximize efficiency. Deviations from ROE can result in a pilot being rewarded, grounded, or court-martialed, depending on the outcome. The ROEs contain the criteria and guidelines for weapons employment against an enemy. ROEs provide direction to the shooter governing what level of identification confidence is required to shoot. ROEs also include, but are not limited to, definitions of weapons control states (hold, tight, and free) and self-defence criteria.
ROGER	Indicates aircrew understands the radio transmission; does not indicate compliance or reaction.
ROLEX (+/-time)	Time line adjustment in minutes always referenced from original pre-planned mission execution time. Plus means later; minus means earlier.
Roll 'Em	A movie ("What time's the roll 'em?") — a nightly social event in the readyroom.
Roof	The flight deck on the carrier.
ROPE - Circling an IR pointer around an aircraft to help the aircraft identify the friendly ground position.	
Rounddown	The very back end of the flight deck, so called because of its rounded shape.
RTB	"Return to Base." Radio call indicating aircraft is beginning journey home.
RUMBA	Radar has detected jamming but has not resolved the type.

S

SA	Situational Awareness. An all-encompassing term for keeping track of what's happening when flying. SA involves knowing what your airplane is doing relative to its envelope, where your adversary is and what he's up to, where the ground is, the status of enemy threats on the ground, and hundreds of other variables. Loss of situational awareness is often cited as a contributing factor to many military-aviation mishaps.
SADDLED	Informative call from wingman or element indicating the return to briefed formation position.
SAM	"Surface to Air Missile." An air defensive system that can be as benign as a shoulder-launched heat-seeking missile or as aggressive as a long-range radar-guided missile designed to bring down enemy aircraft. Read about SAMs in the article on OIF.
SAM (w/direction)	Visual acquisition of a SAM in flight or a SAM launch, should include position and type if known.
Sandbag	To "ride along" in the backseat of the two-seat version of a fighter, so called because single-seat fighter pilots generally don't like backseaters and sometimes view them as nothing more than extra weight.
SANDWICHED	A situation where an aircraft or element finds themselves between opposing aircraft or elements.
Sanitize	Using sensors to search an area for threats.
SAR	Search and Rescue
SAUNTER	Fly at best endurance.
Scooter	Nickname for the A-4 <i>Skyhawk</i> .
Scope	A RIO.
SCRAM (direction)	Directive/informative call to egress for defensive or survival reasons; no further HVAA mission support is expected.
SCRAMBLE	Take-off as quickly as possible.
SCRUB	A low, slow airborne target.
SCUD	Any threat theatre ballistic missile (TBM).
Secondary locker	Fighters responsible for assisting the primary locker. The secondary locker will shoot into a group when directed or other briefed criteria are met (e.g., SPITTER, primary locker's shot trashed, primary locker calls CLEAN, secondary locker sees untargeted group).
Section	Two aircraft operating together as a tactical unit.
Semi-active	A system wherein the receiver uses radiation or reflections from the target that has been illuminated by an outside source.

SEPARATE	Leaving a specific engagement; may or may not re-enter.
Separation	Distance between an attacker and defender; can be lateral, longitudinal, or
Shack	Term used when a fighter pilot drops a bomb and makes a direct hit on a ground target; a bullseye.
SHACKLE	One weave, a single crossing of flight paths; manoeuvre to adjust or regain formation parameters.
SHADOW	Follow indicated target.
SHIFT (w/direction)	Directive call to shift laser illumination.
Shoe	Short for "blackshoes," a derogatory term for nonflying personnel; aviators wear brown shoes.
Shooter	The catapult officer or aircraft designated to employ ordnance.
Shot depth	The range behind the closest bandit group within which trailing groups will be shot at.
SHORT SKATE	Informative or directive call to execute launch-and-leave tactics and be out no later than minimum abort range (MAR)/decision range (DR).
SHOTGUN	Pre-briefed weapons state at which separation/bug out should begin.
(System) SICK	System indicated is degraded/partially operative.
SIDE-SIDE	Fighter term depicting a radar-apparent description of two or more contacts within a group separated in azimuth.
Sierra Hotel	Phonetic abbreviation for "shit hot," high praise; the pilot's favorite and all-purpose expression of approval. An exclamation that something is good, particularly in reference to a fighter pilot or flying skills.
SILENT (time)	System will be unavailable for time indicated.
SINGER (type w/direction)	Informative call of RWR indication of surface-to-air missile launch.
Situational awareness (SA)	The level the war fighter is able to recognize, process, and react to both external and internal factors in a dynamic environment to increase lethality, survivability, and mission effectiveness.
SKATE	Informative or directive call to execute launch-and-leave tactics and be out no later than desired out range (DOR)/minimum out range (MOR).
SKINNY	Current survivor coordinates.
SKIP IT	Veto of fighter commit call, usually followed with further directions.
SKOSH	Aircraft is out of or unable to employ active radar missiles.
SKUNK	A radar or visual maritime surface contact whose identity is unknown.

SLAPSHOT (type, bearing)	Directive call for an aircraft to immediately employ a best-available HARM against a specified threat at the specified bearing.
SLAVE (Reference Point)	Directive call to slave TGP to a particular point.
SLAVE ALL (Reference Point)	Directive call to slave all sensors to a particular point.
SLICE/SLICEBACK (LEFT/RIGHT)	Directive call to perform a high-G descending turn in the stated direction, usually 180-degree turn.
SLIDE	Directive/informative call to/from high value airborne asset (HVAA) to continue present mission while flowing from station in response to perceived threat; implies intent to RESET.
Slider	A hamburger cooked in aircraft carrier wardrooms with cheese to ensure the grease contest is high enough to guarantee it will slide off the plate in heavy seas.
SLOW	Target with ground speed of less than 300 knots.
SMASH (ON/OFF)	Directive call to turn on/off anti-collision lights.
SMOKE	Smoke marker used to mark a position.
Smoking Hole	An airplane crash site.
SNAKE	Directive call to oscillate an IR pointer about a target.
SNAP (group)	Fighter request for immediate BRAA call (with appropriate fill-ins) to the group described. Indicates fighter intent to intercept/join.
SNAPLOCK (w/BRAA)	Indicates fighter has obtained a radar contact inside pre-briefed threat range with beam, flank, or head aspect.
SNIFF (type)	Passive sensor indication of a stated radar emitter.
Sniffer	A device on the flight deck that checks that an aircraft is broadcasting IFF transmissions.
SNIPER (type, location [range, bearing])	Directive call for an aircraft to employ a range-known HARM against a specified threat at the specified location.
SNOOZE	Directive or informative call indicating initiation of emission control (EMCON) procedures.
Snuggle Up	During formation flight, to close up under the wing of another aircraft.
SOFTBALL	Unpaved road surface/dirt track.
SORT	Directive call to assign responsibility within a GROUP; criteria can be met visually, electronically (radar), or both.

SORT (TAD, TIDS, etc.)	Inter-flight directive to execute sorting plan via information displayed on data link system.
SORTED	SORT responsibility within a group has been met.
Sorting	Using any available information (e.g., radar presentation, C2 information) to determine which bandit to attack.
Sortie	A single mission by one aircraft.
SOUR (mode/type)	Invalid/no response to an administrative IFF/SIF check. Opposite of SWEET.
Spank or Shpank	What one does to a lesser opponent in a dogfight.
SPARKLE	Target marking by IR pointer or by gunship/forward air control-airborne (FAC [A]) using incendiary rounds.
Specific excess power (PS)	A measure of an aircraft's ability to gain or lose energy in terms of altitude, airspeed, or a combination thereof. Also called energy rate and expressed in feet per second or knots per second.
Speed of Heat, Warp One	Very, very fast.
Speed Slacks, Speed Jeans	The G-suit. which applies pressure to the legs to aid in preventing blackout during high-G maneuvering.
SPIKE (w/direction)	RWR indication of an Air Intercept threat in track or launch.
SPIN	Directive or informative call to execute a timing/spacing manoeuvre.
SPITTER (w/direction)	An aircraft that has departed from the engagement or is departing the engaged fighter's targeting responsibility.
SPLASH	1. (Air-to-Air) Target destroyed. 2. (Air-to-Surface) Weapons impact.
SPLIT	An informative/directive call that a flight member is leaving formation to pursue a separate attack; visual may not be maintained.
Split-plane manoeuvring	Aircraft or elements manoeuvring in relation to one another but in different planes and/or altitudes.
SPOOFING	Informative call that voice deception is being employed.
Spooled Up	Excited.
SPOT	Acquisition of laser designation.
Spud Locker	The part of a carrier where you don't want to land; it is well down on the fantail, so if you hit it, you are way too low (at least one Navy pilot earned the nickname "Spud" for doing just that).
STACK	Two or more contacts or formations with an altitude separation in relation to each other and azimuth/range separation less than or equal to 3 NM.

STARE (w/reference point)	Directive call to cue the targeting pod and enable the laser spot search (LSS) function in relation to the specified reference point. Reference point may include the following: INS steer point, GEOREF, bearing and range, TAD link, or other mark.
State	How much fuel you've got. Mother requests, "Say your state." Responded to in the form of hours and minutes of fuel onboard til you fall out of the sky ("splash"). You respond, "State two plus two zero to splash" = 2 hours and 20 minutes of flying time remaining.
STATUS	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Request for an individual's tactical situation.2. (Group name) Request for a full positional update in digital Bullseye format on the specified group.
STEADY	Directive call to stop oscillation of IR pointer.
STERN	Request for or directive to intercept using stern geometry.
Stick-Throttle Interconnect	Mock-tech term for a pilot (also called just a "stick").
STINGER	Three-ship inner group formation with two lead contacts line abreast and the single in trail. See Figure 2.9. , STINGER Formation.
STRANGER	Unidentified traffic that is not a participant with the action in progress.
STRANGLE (system)	Turn off equipment indicated.
STRIPPED	Informative call that aircraft is out of briefed formation.
STROBE (w/bearing)	Radar indications of noise jamming.
SUNRISE	Informative call that C2 radar functions are available. Opposite of MIDNIGHT.
SUNSHINE	Directive or informative call indicating illumination of target is being conducted with artificial illumination.
Sweet	Up and working.
SWITCHED	Indicates an attacker is changing from one aircraft to another.

T

TAC-A	Tactical Air Coordinator-Airborne) - An airborne agency located far enough away from threats and jamming to provide a communications relay between fighters, FACs, and ground agencies; typically aboard a FAC aircraft, ABCCC, or airborne warning and control system (AWACS).
TACAN	TACTical Aid to Navigation. Navigation aid which provides bearing and distance (slant range) between it and an airplane.
Tactical control	A mode of control providing information in BRAA, bullseye, or geographic reference.
TACTS	Tactical Aircrew Combat Training System. A system of computers, sensors, data pods, and graphic displays that permits real-time depiction of an aerial dogfight. TACTS is an integral element of aircrew training.
TAG (system, w/location)	Response to an emitter ambiguity resolution request (COLOR).
TALLY	Sighting of a target, bandit, bogey, or enemy position. Opposite of NO JOY.
Tank	Refuel
Tango Uniform	Polite phonetics for "tits up"; broken, not functioning. Something that is "Tango Uniform" is dead, inoperative, broken, or otherwise malfunctioning.
TARGET ()	A directive call to assign group responsibility.
TARGET (TAD, TIDS, etc.)	Inter-flight directive to target via information displayed on data link system.
TARGETED ()	Group responsibility has been met.
TARGET POINT (Bearing/Range)	Directive call to make data link point SPI in preparation for a system delivery.
Targeting depth (TD)	The maximum distance from the leading edge of a targeted group that a flight member must target. Beyond this range, GCI/AWACS owns targeting responsibility.
TEN SECONDS	Directive to terminal controller to standby for LASER ON call in approximately 10 seconds.
TERMINATE	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Stop laser illumination of a target.2. In training, cease local engagement without affecting the overall exercise.
Texaco	An aerial tanker.
THREAT (w/direction)	Untargeted HOSTILE/BANDIT/BOGEY is within pre-briefed range and/or aspect to a friendly.
Three Down and Locked	Landing gear down and ready for landing. A required confirmation call prior to landing at Air Force bases. Pilots who fly fixed-gear aircraft are known to modify this call as "three down and welded."
Three-Nine Line	Imaginary line across your airplane's wingspan. A primary goal in ACM is to keep your adversary in front of your three-nine line.

Throttle Back	To slow down, take it easy.
THROTTLES	Reminder to set throttles appropriately considering the IR threat and desired energy state.
THUNDER	Informative call 1 minute prior to air-to-surface weapons impact.
Tickets	The jobs, billets, and accomplishments you need to climb the totem pole (the tickets get "punched").
TIED	Positive radar contact with element or aircraft.
TIGER	Enough fuel and ordnance to accept a commit, also an aggressive pilot.
Tilly	The mobile crane on the flight deck used to pick up disabled aircraft and move them.
TIMBER	The Link-16 network.
TIMBER SOUR	Potential problems with net entry; initiates pre-mission link troubleshooting.
TIMBER SWEET	Confirms receipt of data link message.
Tits Machine	A good, righteous airplane. Current airplanes need not apply, this is a nostalgic term referring to birds gone by. By all accounts the F-8 <i>Crusader</i> was a tits machine.
TOF	(Time Of Flight) - The time from weapon release to weapon impact.
TOGGLE	Execute a pre-briefed change of an avionics setting.
Top Off	Fill up with gas.
TOY	HARM targeting system (HTS) pod.
TransPac/Lant	To cross the Pacific or Atlantic by aircraft.
TRACK (w/direction)	Group/contact flight direction in eight cardinal directions.
Trap	An arrested landing on a carrier, a helo landing into an RSD (rapid securing device)
TRASHED	Informative call missile has been defeated.
TRESPASS (system, w/position)	The addressed flight is entering the surface-to-air threat ring of a specific (system) at the stated location.
Trick-or-Treat	If you don't make this pass. you have to tank or land ashore.
TUMBLEWEED	Indicates limited SA, NO JOY and BLIND. A request for information.
Turkey	Nickname for the F-14 <i>Tomcat</i> (when landing, the movement of its control surfaces makes it look like a turkey).

Tweak	To fine-tune or adjust.
Twirly	Anti-collision beacon on an aircraft.
Two Turnin' and Two Burnin'	Refers to a P2V-7 in order to capture the flavor of having two Wright R-3350s (turnin') and two Westinghouse J34 pure jets (burnin') on takeoff. Jets were later put into standby for a rainy day.

U

UNABLE	Cannot comply as requested or directed.
UNIFORM	UHF/AM radio.
Up	Working, not broken.
Up and Locked	As in “Brain Disengaged.” Derives from that bad thing that happens when you try to make a gear-up approach.
Up on the Governor	When someone is about to have a tantrum (term comes from the device that keeps the engine from overspeeding).
Up to Speed, or Up to Snuff	To understand or to know what’s going on.

V

VACANT	Ground equipment not present at tasked target location. Opposite of OCCUPIED.
VAMPIRE	Hostile anti-ship missile launch.
Varsity Play for the Deck	A skillful landing attempt.
VERY FAST	Target speed greater than 900 knots ground speed/Mach 1.5.
VERY HIGH	Target altitude above 40,000 feet MSL.
VIC	A picture label describing three groups with a single group closest in range and two trail groups, separated in azimuth from a god's eye view.
VICTOR	VHF/AM radio.
VISUAL	Sighting of a friendly aircraft or ground position. Opposite of BLIND.
VC	Closure between fighter and target expressed in knots.
VSTOL	Very Short Takeoff and Landing. Also VTOL (Vertical Takeoff and Landing). The AV-8B <i>Harrier</i> is a VSTOL (VTOL) aircraft. Capable of vectoring its jet thrust to shorten its take-off roll or even to rise and descend vertically.
Vulture's Row	A viewing gallery on an aircraft carrier's island where you can watch flight operations.

W

WALL	A picture label describing three or more groups separated primarily in azimuth from a god's eye view.
WARNING (w/colour)	Hostile attack is: 1. RED - Imminent or in progress. 2. YELLOW - Probable 3. WHITE - Improbable (all clear)
Warm Fuzzy	Feeling of confidence or security. When things feel right.
Warthog	Universal nickname for the A-10 <i>Thunderbolt II</i> close air support aircraft.
Wash Out	To not make the grade at flight school.
Washed Out	To be eliminated or removed from training.
Waveoff	When the LSO orders a pilot not to trap. A mandatory signal, usually a visual (waveoff lights on the lens) or audible command (on the UHF radio) for a pilot to cease his approach and not touch down.
WEAPONS ()	Fire only: 1. FREE - At targets not identified as friendly IAW current ROE. 2. TIGHT - At targets positively identified as hostile IAW current ROE. 3. HOLD - In self-defence or in response to a formal order.
WEDGE	Three-ship inner-group formation with a single contact closest in range and two trail contacts line abreast.
WEEDS	Indicates that aircraft are operating close to the surface.
(System) WELL	System indicated is fully operative.
WHAT LUCK	Request for results of mission or tasks.
WHAT STATE ()	Report amount of fuel and missiles. Ammunition and oxygen are reported only when specifically requested or critical (For NATO TTPs always report ammunition state). (e.g. "2, 3/0/1/Minus/8.4") 1. ACTIVE - Number of active radar missiles remaining. 2. RADAR - Number of semi-active radar missiles remaining. 3. HEAT - Number of IR missiles remaining 4. GUN – "Plus" (sufficient ammunition for gun attack)/"Minus" (No gun/insufficient ammunition) 5. FUEL - Pounds of fuel or time remaining.
Whiskey Charlie	Phonetics for "Who cares."
Whiskey Delta	Phonetics for "Weak Dick," a pilot who can't cut it. Such a scurrilous term that it's almost never used.
WIDE	Descriptive term used to indicate the separation between the farthest GROUPS in azimuth in a relative formation used to describe a WALL, VIC, CHAMPAGNE, or BOX.
WILCO	Will comply with received instructions.

Willy Pete	A white phosphorus smoke, rocket, grenade, or artillery round used to provide a ground reference; can be employed as a bomb to provide a smokescreen.
WINCHESTER	No ordnance remaining.
'Winder	A <i>Sidewinder</i> missile.
Wingman	Second pilot in a two-plane formation. Responsible for ensuring that his leader's six o'clock remains clear. The second or fourth pilot in a formation whose primary responsibility is to support his flight lead. Generally inexperienced; qualified to employ the aircraft, but not qualified to lead another pilot in a formation. Generically, any pilot who supports another.
WINGS LEVEL	Informative call from aircraft to FAC reporting rolled-out on final attack heading.
WOM	"Word of Mouth." A WOM is generally an action or "rule" that is consistently quoted but no one can find any regulation to support. It often occurs when someone quotes something as "fact," no one confirms it, but everyone accepts it. Eventually someone questions it--when they discover there is no basis for it, they realize it's just a WOM.
WOOFER	Off board active radar decoy.
WORDS	Directive or interrogative call regarding further information or directive pertinent to the mission.
Workups	Putting a ship through certain tests and exercises before going on cruise.
WSO	"Weapons System Officer." The Air Force equivalent of the Navy Radar Intercept Officer (RIO). In the F-15E, the backseater who is responsible for air to ground weapons employment.

Y

YARDSTICK

Directive to use A/A TACAN for ranging.

Z

ZAP	Request for data link information (e.g. ZAP POINT).
Zero-Dark-Thirty	Technically a half-hour after midnight, but commonly used to describe any event that is scheduled to take place after midnight and before sunrise.
Zipper-suited Sun god	A derogatory term for fighter pilots, referring to their zipper-front flight suits and arrogant personalities.
ZIPLIP	Directive call to minimize radio transmissions.
ZOMBIE	A SUSPECT air track conforming to ATC rules or following a recognised traffic pattern.
Zone 1	Minimum afterburner in the <i>Tomcat</i> .
Zone 5	Maximum afterburner in the <i>Tomcat</i> .
Zoombag	Flight suit.