

THE LEXICON OF THE ENGINEER
OFFICER CANDIDATE REGIMENT

Original Edition
Complete and Unabridged

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Class 18C2

abbreviation n. forbidden underclass practice of substituting letters for entire words. This is forbidden in order to prepare the candidate for Army publications, which deplore the employment of this device.

attitude check n. shouted directive which is used to arouse cataclysmic amounts of noise from candidates.

attitude problem n. diagnostic term applied to nonconformists, malcontents, and duds.

back-stabbing n. saluting a superior from behind after neglecting to do it from the front.

barracks n. type of living quarters in which officer candidates do not live. ANT. billets

bayonet sheets n. any of several peer ratings on leadership made by candidates on each other during the course of the Program.

bean n. informal term applied to a candidate during the first 10-week phase of the Program.

beaver n. informal term applied to a beaver who is in or beyond the 5th week.

Big Chicken n. large, funny-looking bird which descends upon candidates during uninteresting classes, sits on their heads until they begin to nod, and leaves mysterious illegible scratch marks on their notebooks.

beebop v. to release nervous tension through unauthorized movement in formation.

blow it by the numbers v. to make an outstanding series of mistakes, usually leading to the collapse of an entire operation.

boonies n. incredibly hostile terrain, laced with barbed wire and fallen timber, referred to in patrol orders as "gently rolling woods".

boonie boots n. heavily-worn boots left over from AIT which are worn in the boonies to save wear on expensive jump boots; sometimes, the object of a contest of concealment and discovery played by candidates and inspecting officers.

boonie run n. exhilarating display of stamina staged by a tactical officer and his platoon, trailing from 30 to 500 meters behind him. Participants are clad in gayly colored OD fatigues, full field gear, weapons, and, in the case of the tactical officer, waist and ankle weights.

break starch v. to put on a clean set of starched fatigues.

bridge n. substandard bend in a starched collar created when the cloth between the holes of brass insignia pins is longer than the distance between the pins. Engineer officer candidates must blow bridges with proper demolition procedure.

bullet hole n. hole in a fatigue uniform.

butter bars n. second lieutenant's insignia.

butterfly n. exposed loop of tied bootlace supposed to be tucked out of sight.

by the ripples adv. in reference to precision movements, having the appearance of uncoordinated or random response to commands.

Candidate Zilch n. the equivalent of John Doe or Willy Stevens in the Officer Candidate Regiment (OCR).

Chairborne n. variable size troop element attached to an CCS platoon consisting of medical profiles unable to perform physically strenuous exercise. The members of this unit are required to carry folding chairs with them for the purpose of erecting an expedient peanut gallery at the platoon's PT sessions. SYN. wimp squad

chicken machine n. any slide projector, film projector, or overhead optical device which requires darkness, thereby providing excellent camouflage and concealment for ambushes by the Big Chicken.

chicken serum n. dark, hot liquid, resembling coffee in all respects save taste, used as Big Chicken repellent.

click n. unit of distance: 1000 meters.

Commode Commander n. crotchety, ill-mannered candidate assigned to maintaining the latrine who does so by keeping it off limits most of the time. SYN. vector control officer.

Corcoran bite n. persistent injury to the front part of the ankles which is caused by the faulty design of Corcoran paratrooper jump boots, the standard footgear of candidates.

coin-operated adj. having one's belt buckle improperly fastened so that the slot is showing from the frame.

C.Y.A. v. to cover oneself; that is, to look out for one's own benefit at the expense of the group.
n. such an action.

drive v. to proceed, continue, or accompany, used as a substitute for "walk" or "run". (e.g. I will drive on alone to chow.)

drop interjection favorite directive of tactical officers indicating their desire to see the candidates make a four-point landing in the push-up position.
v. to comply with such an order.

dying cockroach n. disciplinary position whereby the candidate lies on his back with both arms and legs extended skyward.

eyeball v. to cast one's gaze in any unauthorized direction, i.e. anywhere but perfectly straight ahead.

fall out v. to tolerate or encourage any breach of courtesy, military bearing, or impersonality in dealing with a subordinate.

FEBA n. originally, forward edge of battle area; in the OCR, false enthusiasm, bad attitude.

fins uniform deficiency whereby several inches of baggy fatigue pants have been left stuck together with laundry starch to form fin-like protrusions.

foot locker manual of arms n. the rifle manual of arms, except that foot lockers are used in lieu of rifles.

front leaning rest n. push-up position found to be highly conducive to corrective counseling and motivation generation. Not truly restful.

function v. to accomplish critical tasks (e.g. polishing boots or shining brass) in a clandestine manner between the hours of 2200 and 0530, when only sleeping is authorized.

funk rag n. piece of unserviceable cloth which is used as a portable all-purpose cleaning and polishing aid. Also denoted as "1 each, rag, funk".

gig line n. line formed by the buttons on a shirt, the belt buckle, and the trousers zipper which is never aligned when it should be.

golf suit n. set of fatigues which is not matched in color because one element has been washed more than the other.

gorrilla drills n. nefarious collection of exercises which tear down the muscles rather than build them up.

grass drills n. tongue-twisting speech exercise for tactical officers performed with the aid of a candidate as a pacesetter. (e.g. "DropOnyourfeetTooslow DropOnyourbackOnyourbellyPushouttwentyOnyour feetKneebendsDropMountainclimbersOnyourback, etc.")

green chair n. disciplinary position whereby the candidate assumes an erect sitting position with his back against a wall without the aid of a chair.

Green Phantom n. invisible, silent gremlin who haunts the billets at night accomplishing all the necessary tasks that candidates can not accomplish because they are required to sleep during this time.

gross adj. dirty, unmannerly, substandard, offensive, slovenly.

grossoid n. candidate who is consistently, intentionally, or inordinately gross.

greet v. to render to another candidate or officer the proper salutation in accordance with what seems to the new canddate to be an impossibly complicated courtesy system.

hump day n. milestone date in the Program when a class is exactly half way through.

initiative n. a quality which sparks candidates' minds and spurs them on to creative, aggressive, risky, and extraregulatory action.

inspection bananna n. mealtime drill whereby one section of bananna peel is snapped back so that the meat may be inspected for dark spots.

it pro. special-use substantive denoting full field gear, weapons, helmets, protective masks, and sleeping bags. This meaning applies when a tactical officer says "Get it on."

hang around hang n. condition of disarray pertaining to a group of candidates when they relax or loiter in an area. (see also "smoke and joke" and "mill around mill")

kangaroo n. what a candidate becomes when he has one of his pocket flaps folded in to form a pouch in his field jacket. It is alledged that such a pocket contains scale models of the candidate.

kryptonite n. green, moldy substance which forms in the corners of brass belt buckles and which is considered evidence of the candidate's vendetta toward Superman.

lay hold--heave n. originally, a set of commands used to lift heavy bridge parts with several men in unison; used in the OCR to correct the mandibular posture of beans. Upon the preparatory command "lay hold", the bean extends his chin as far to the front as possible; upon the command of execution "heave", he vigorously thrusts it to the rear in a braced, 5-wrinkle position. NOTE: There are many variations on this movement, such as the Polish, Italian, Catholic, Artillery, California; and Kiwi lay holds.

lay hold--heave collar n. configuration of a fatigue shirt collar which resembles the lay hold--heave movement; that is, one collar is bent in a concave arc while the other is convex.

lock and load v. to place an item of food in one's mouth before the previous bite is completely swallowed. (see also "mad minute")

mad minute n. originally, in Viet Nam, a heavy volume of fire used to clear an area of the enemy; in the OCR, a minute during which a bean is required to lock and load as much food as he can, usually in competition with another bean. SYN. wolf down wolf.

magic pencil n. Mysterious, self-propelled writing instrument which improves the scores of candidates on self-graded exercises.

magic water n. Glo-Coat or any other hard floor wax which is used to produce a hard shine on footgear.

mill around mill n. condition resembling hang around hang whereby there is much moving around in formations.

mountain climbers n. disciplinary exercise started from the front leaning rest whereby the candidate moves his legs as if walking.

motor pool blouse n. slovenly blousing of the fatigue trousers, usually baggy and half way down the boot, reflecting the candidate's failure to uphold OCR standards.

Nauga n. small, fur-bearing animal, the hide of which is used to make upperclassmen's bookbags.

nuke v. to disturb, cast about, tear apart, and write messages upon the contents of candidates' quarters.

pair n. set of male genital organs which is alledged to be the source of volume in yelling and singing. (e.g. "Sound off like you've got a pair.")

phone call n. simulated telephone conversation made from the inside of a wall locker.

pogey bait n. unauthorized foodstuffs.

poop n. information, usually designated as "pertinent"

pop-off n. Honor Code violation where a candidate tells a lie under pressure without stopping to think.

pucker factor n. index of tension and anxiety arising from a tight combat situation.

Program n. 23-week period of isolation in the unique and untouched world of OCS.

quibbling n. Honor Code violation encompassing half-truths, tricky wordings, and evasive statements.

railroad tracks n. captain's insignia.

racing stripe n. web belt configuration whereby some of the black webbing is visible between the buckle and the brass tip on the end of the belt.

rathole n. secret hiding place, usually for pogey bait, magic water, or paste wax.
v. to use such a hiding place.

red tab n. senior candidate

rigging n. stray strands of thread which appear of the uniforms of candidates at the most inoportune moments.

roger that elliptical expression, meaning "I understand what you have just said"; also used as a question with interrogative inflection to mean "Tell me if you understand what I just said."

rog (soft g) n. word used as an affirmative response. (e.g. Did you post the status report? That's a rog.)

sharpshooter n. subordinate candidate who takes on his superiors in a contest of wits. True sharpshooting requires that the sharpshooter bend protocol and courtesy to the limit without breaking them.

single digit midget n. senior candidate who is so short that he has 9 or fewer days remaining in the Program.

ski-slope n. grossly curved shirt collar.

smeac n. (pronounced "smack") bean.

smeaced in adj. exhibiting maximum military bearing, discipline, and compliance with regulations; also, having been deprived of privileges.

smile problem n. inability to suppress one's urge to smile. The smile problem is second in gravity only to the attitude problem.

smoke and joke v. to engage in convivial association with fellow candidates.

stabbing n. the privilege of spearing one's food with a fork.

snake n. black shoelace protruding from the top of a boot which must be trampled to death while the candidate delates loudly.

stockpiling n. illegally preparing more than one bite of food at a time in order to avoid consuming time by cutting each bite.

strac adj. ephemeral quality of perfection in personal appearance lasting for about 30 minutes each morning; also, well-trained, sharp.

Tac shack n. Army style structure containing the tactical officers' offices. These offices are replete with woodsy handcrafted tokens of affection from the candidates, reference books such as "Mandigo" and "War Lust", and cramped doorways with nails, hinges, and latches that catch on the uniforms of nervously exiting candidates.

time check n. directive screamed by an upperclassman from the Command Information room of a bean billet requiring the nearest bean to reply with the correct time.

teeny-bopper n. senior candidate who has more than 9 but fewer than 20 days left in the Program.

vector n. originally, something which carries disease but is not subject to it; in the OCR, an individual who is physically dirty, smelly, grimy, scruffy, or grungey. SYN. grossoid

Wake-up Song n. song sung to the upperclassmen by their beans each morning specifying the number of days until graduation.

week one, day one n. the first day of the Program
adj. similar to the condition of the first day (e.g. "Your boots are week one, day one")

wimp n. candidate who is considered to be physically, motivationally, or aesthetically deficient; also, one who is on medical profile