

## Researching History – Selected Words for Korea & Later Wars

### Campaign Medals & Awards: US

American Service Defense Medal  
American Campaign Medal  
Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal  
European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal  
Women's Army Corps Service Medal  
WWII Victory Medal  
Merchant Marine Victory Medal  
Commendation Medal

Purple Heart

Bronze Star

Silver Star

Distinguished Service Medal

Distinguished Flying Cross

armoured warfare (tanks)

artillery (big guns)

atabrine (anti-malarial drug)

### Korea

Web resources:

Korean War History (Korean War  
Commemoration):

<http://korea50.army.mil/history/index.shtml>

Sasebo - port city in Japan from where American  
troops were sent to and from Korea

Seoul (capitol of S. Korea)

Towns:

Pusan

Andong

Taegu

Inchon

Chorwon (near Iron Triangle)

Changjin (Chosin) Reservoir

Wonju

Hamhung

Pyongyang

Kaesong

Chechon

Hongchon

Chosan

Pamunjom (P'anmunjom) (armistice area)

Yalu River

ROK = Republic of Korea

ROKA = Republic of Korea Army

KPA/CPVA = Korean People's Vol. Army/

Chinese People's Vol. Army

X Corps (US troops)

Eighth Army

Gen. Douglas MacArthur

President Truman's recall of MacArthur

Lt.-Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway

Gen. James Van Fleet

DMZ = Demilitarized Zone

Browning Automatic Rifles (BAR)

38<sup>th</sup> Parallel

MiG Alley (MiG-15 = Russian-built plane) location  
of jet aircraft battles

Battle of Heartbreak Ridge

Battle of Porkchop Hill

Battle of Wonju (North Korean's Gettysburg)

R & R = Rest and Recuperation

Hospital Ships: (note type of ship not in italics, only  
proper name!)

*USS Repose*

*USS Consolation*

*USS Maine*

*USS Jutlandia*

*USS New Haven*

M.A.S.H. = Mobile Ambulatory Surgical Hospital

Inchon Landing (15 Sep 1950)

LST = landing ship, tank

Iron Triangle

Indo-China

Koje-do = United Nation's POW camp

UN Forces in combat:

Great Britain

Turkey

Canada

Australia

France

Colombia

Greece

Thailand

Netherlands

Ethiopia

The Philippines

Belgium & Luxembourg

South Africa

FEC = US Far East Command

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### Aircraft:

fighters & fighter-bombers: F-80, F-94, F-51, F-82, F-86

Bombers: B-29, B-26, RB-45

Cargo: C-47, C-54, C-119, C-124, C-199 (Flying Boxcar)

helicopters: H-13 (huey)

Airfields: (numbers after letter 'K' for Korea)

Armistice Agreement: 27 Jul 1953

Mountains are numbered according to height: hill 778 = 778 meters high

### Vietnam

See resource from PBS on war timeline:

<http://www.pbs.org/battlefieldvietnam/timeline/index2.html>

Vietnam Online (*The American Experience*):

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/vietnam/>

Mao Tse-tung - founder of Chinese Communist Party

Vietminh - communist group in North Vietnam

Viet Cong (South Vietnamese guerillas)

Ho Chi Minh nationalist leader of North Vietnam

First Indochina War - 1946-1954

ARVN = South Vietnamese Army

PAVN = People's Army of North Vietnam

I-Corps = northern provinces

II-Corps

III-Corps = tactical zones in South Vietnam

Mekong Delta

U.S. General William C. Westmoreland

Gulf of Tonkin

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara

C-47 Transport Ships or "Puff the Magic Dragon"

F-105 Thunderchiefs

Hanoi = capitol of North Vietnam

"Hanoi Hilton" - POW prison in Hanoi

Rolling Thunder bombing program

Towns, etc.:

Bien Hoa

Pleiku

Saigon

Da Nang

Cam Ranh

Dalat

Mekong River

Kontum

Hue

Khe Sanh

Quang Tri

Qui Nhon

Haiphong Harbor

Ho Chi Minh Trail

Ton Son Nhut (Airport)

Ia Drang Valley, battle of

Tet Offensive, 1968

### Ships:

USS *Missouri* (note name of ship is always in italics, but not the preface USS)

airborne warfare

Landing Craft:

LST = Landing ships, Tank

LCVP = Landing Craft Vehicle Personnel

(steel boats which replaced wooden Higgins boats)

To search for types of ships and/or specific ships, go to this site: <http://www.nvr.navy.mil/class.htm>

### Some popular Acronyms:

POW = prisoners-of-war

Seabees (derived from CB or construction battalions)

SEALs

slit trench (for more than one soldier) versus foxhole

MIA = missing in action

### Best site for Military Ranks

<http://www2.sjsu.edu/depts/AFROTC/cadet/ranks.html>

To search for military acronyms:

<http://www.militarywords.com/>

Site for war maps (all wars):

<http://vlib.iue.it/history/USA/maps.html>

### Miscellaneous:

*Stars and Stripes* - US military magazine

G.I. = government issue (US soldiers)

MIA = missing in action

AWOL = absent without leave

USO = entertainment centers or special programs for troops

## Researching History – Selected Words for Korea & Later Wars

CO = commanding officer  
PX = post exchange  
APO = army post office c/o either San Francisco or NY)  
NCO = non-commissioned officer

Baghdad  
Basra  
  
al-Busayyah  
Dhahran

Units of organization:

**Squad** - The smallest military unit, usually around 10 soldiers.

1. **Platoon** - Usually comprised of four squads, led by lieutenants with sergeants second in command. (Approx 40 soldiers)

**Company** - Four platoons with headquarters, commanded by captains (160 soldiers)

**Battalion** - Generally made up of four to five companies including a support company and a headquarters company. (640-800 soldiers)

**Brigade** - A few battalions and totaling around 2,000 - 3,000 troops commanded by a colonel.

**Division** - Made up of at least three brigades. A major general commands divisions. (At least 6,000 soldiers)

**Corps** - Anywhere from two to five divisions, corps are the largest tactical units in the US Army. (12,000-30,000 soldiers)

### For military dictionaries:

<http://military.dictionary.kamous.com/translator/reference.asp?sort=&start=20>

For Fleet post offices (numbers) go to this site:

[http://www.bluejacket.com/usn-usmc\\_ww2\\_location-codes.htm](http://www.bluejacket.com/usn-usmc_ww2_location-codes.htm)  
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## Gulf War (1990) & Iraq War (2003)

Web resources:

Fog of War: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/inatl/longterm/fogofwar/fogofwar.htm>

The Gulf War: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/gulf/>

XVIII Airborne Corps

Kuwait

Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf

Saddam Hussein

Additional towns: Abu al-Khasib, al-Amarah, Arbil, Diwaniyah, Fallujah, al-Faw, al-Hillah, al-Hindiyah, Iskandariyah, Karbala, Kirkuk, al-Kufah, al-Kut, Mosul, Najaf, al-Nasiriyah, al-Numaniyah, Ramadi, Rumaila, al-Shatrah, Sulaimaniyah, Tikrit, Umm Qasr, Zakho.

CENTCOM - central command

F-4G Wild Weasels

F-117A Stealth aircraft

G-day ground combat

“Tomahawk” cruise missiles

Patriot air-defense system

Scud missiles

Republican Guard