

SHOPTALK – Jargon common to Marines of the 50s and 60s. Cover the right side of the chart and see just how many of them you remember.

3.2	Beer sold at 20 cents a can at slop chute, usually Hamm's or Falstaff.
72 Hour Limits	Maximum distance permitted to travel on a 72 pass.
782 gear	Field equipment: packs, shovel, poncho, etc.
APC	Aspirin – the All Purpose Cure-all
AWOL	Absent Without Leave
Ball and AP	Ammunition
BCD	Bad Conduct Discharge
BDT Club	Bent Dog Tag Club
Bloused Boots	Use of garters to secure folded trouser bottoms near boot tops.
Boondockers	$\frac{3}{4}$ length boots
Boonies	In the field
Bore brush	Brush used in conjunction with cleaning rod to clean rifle bore.
Bore cleaner	Fluid used in cleaning a rifle bore.
Brasso	Brass cleaner still available in supermarkets
Bug juice	Fruit flavored punch
Building 19	LeJeune's Brig – circa 1960
Bulkhead	Jargon for a "wall"
Butt-can	A number 10 can used for cigarette butts.
Butt-kit	Cleaning gear maintained in butt of rifle.
C-3 [C-4]	Plastic explosive
Camouflage cover	Canvas cover for helmet
Cargo nets	"Hands on the vertical, feet on the horizontal, people!!!!".
Cattlecar	Ragtag busses used to transport troops during standby operations
Chaser	Brig guard, commonly observed with a shotgun and pistol
Chiggers	Blood sucking insects that borrow under your skin.
Class "B"	Khaki uniform required to get an evening meal, at Lejeune, even 10 minutes after returning from the field. Ever wonder where all the money went that was saved on the many meals we never ate?
Cleaning Rod	Used in conjunction with bore brush, bore fluid and cleaning patches to clean rifle bores.
Collar emblem	Eagle, Globe and Anchor insignia
Combat town	Training site for urban combat training at LeJeune
Cordite	Spaghetti-like, smokeless explosive used in munitions.
Corpsmen	Unit equivalent army medics or today's civilian paramedics
Cosmoline -	Pungent grease covering weapons during long-term storage.
C-ration TP	C-Rat toilet paper tucked into the sweatband of our helmet liner.
C-rats	Combat Rations, forerunner of today's MRE
DD	Dishonorable Discharge
Deck	Jargon for floor
Didi	Bug out
Drum out of Corps formation	At Harry Agannis field, LeJeune*

Elliot Beach	On Parris Island: “A Pleasant Walk to & Overnight ‘Outing’”
Fantail	Most aft portion of ship
Field kitchen	Soapy rinse...hot rinse...cold rinse for our mess gear.
Field strip	Disassembling of a weapon
First Shirt	A unit’s highest ranking enlisted man
Focs’le (Forecastle)	Most forward portion of a ship, inside hull line.
Foxtail	Shorthanded broom
Fore and aft	Bow and stern of ship
FUBAR	Fucked Up Beyond All Recognition
Gangway!	Verbal alert: “Get out of the way.”
Geedunk	Shipboard ice cream “parlor”
General Orders	Standards for standing guard duty
Greens	Winter Class A Uniform
Grits	White pasty-like southern breakfast food
Guide Book	Manual of rules, standards, history and weapons of the USMC
Hanger Bay	Below main deck area of a carrier where aircraft are stored.
HE	High Explosive
Head	Toilet
Helmet Liner	Webbed portion of helmet, which laid within the steel pot.
Hogey	Sub[marine] sandwich
Irish pennants	Threads and other foreign objects to be removed from clothing
Java or Joe	Coffee
John Wayne Crackers	Dry, tasteless crackers found in C-Rations
John Wayne key	C-Ration can opener
Junk on the bunks	Display of clothing and 782 gear during inspection
Ka-bar	USMC fighting knife
Keg party	Beer party
Ladder	Jargon for staircase
Lampblack	Used on rifle range [Name of lamp that produced it]
Lubriplate	Yellow grease used to lubricate the sliding metal parts of weapons.
Mad minute	Uncontrolled firing of all available weapons for one minute
Messdeck	Potion of a ship used exclusively for eating
Mid-watch	12-4 duty on the USS Gearing
MLR	Main Line of Resistance
MRE	Meals Ready to Eat which replaced the Combat Rations (C-rats)
Napalm	Flammable, gelatinous killer of all engulfed within.
NCOIC	Non-Commissioned Officer-in-Charge
OD	Officer of the Day
Office Hours	Company Discipline
Overhead	Jargon for ceiling
P38's	Field ration can opener
Peaches, Canned	Most sought after contents of C-Rat package.
Penetration however slight is sufficient"	Quote from UCMJ pertaining to the act of sodomy.
Piss and Punk	Reference to “water & bread” punishment under “Rocks &

	Shoals”
Piss-cutter	Khaki, Tropical worsted or green wool overseas cap.
Pogey Bait	Candy
Pogey Bait Wagon	Truck appearing nightly in barrack’s parking lot.
Port & Starboard	Alternate days of liberty, Left & Right side of ship
Porthole	Jargon for window
Rat Guard	Conical shaped device slung on hawser lines.
Rocks & Shoals	Reference to Codes used before introduction of the UCMJ
RPF	Rectal Pucker Factor rated from 1 to 10.
Rubber Lady	Air mattress
Six, six and a kick	Six months Brig, loss of pay and a Bad Conduct or Dishonorable Discharge.
Salt tablets	Pink tablets found in dispensers throughout barracks.
Scuttlebutt	Rumor
Shitcan	Garbage can
Shoes on fire	We set new shoes on fire with lighter fluid before dying them.
Short-arm inspections	Corpsman’s or Doctor’s visual exam for VD
Six, Six and a Kick	Confinement, loss of pay and discharge
Slop Chute	Enlisted "entertainment center," aka: beer hall.
Slop sink	Deep sink commonly used to clean the swabs.
Smells: How many remembered?	Brasso, Shoe Polish, shoe dye, lubriplate, cosmoline, spent gun powder, cordite..
SNAFU	Situation Normal, All Fuck Up
Snapping in	Preparation for rifle certification
SOS	Shit-On-the Shingle, chip beef on toast
Standby	Immediate or [24 or 48 (?)] hours alert for potential mount -out
Supernumerary	Extra body for guard duty
Suspender straps	Used to hold up the heavy magazine belt of BARmen
Swab [Swabby]	Mop [Sailor]
The “Circle”	Place at Lejeune where all looking for a weekend ride met.
Thermite Grenade	Mixture of Aluminum and Iron fillings that burns at 2500 ⁰ F
Tie-ties	Short pieces of cord used to secure washed clothes on line
Tropicals	Summer Class A Uniform – No longer used in Corps
UCMJ	Uniform Code of Military Justice
Vomit comet	Obvious
WP	White Phosphorus, required emersion in water to extinguish

- Do you remember the Regimental formation held for a young Marine in “E” Company’s weapons platoon, that had been found guilty of stealing a watch and given “six, six and a kick.” He arrived, in civvies, via the Brig wagon with two chasers. He was marched to the front of the preformed 6th Marine Regiment. The Regimental Commander thereupon called the Regiment to attention and ordered an “About face” and ordered the chasers to remove the prisoner.
It might interest you to know that few in Echo Company were ever sure about the man’s guilt. He had been observed wearing a watch owned by a member of the 3rd platoon of

Echo. When confronted by the Corporal of the guard, the accused explained that another member of the weapons platoon had sold it to him, but...he had no receipt.
Soooo, “Six, Six and a kick” with a BCD,” topped off with probably the most horrifically emotional experiences of the man’s life: a “drumming out.” Though, for the life of me, I don’t remember any drums.
How about you????