

## Republic of Viet-Nam Military Mail Terms

Compiled by Andrew Crenshaw

**Ban Quan Y** = Medical Unit  
**Bao Chinh Doan** = National Guard  
**Bao Dam (BD)** = Registered  
**Bao Toan va Tiep Lieu** = Maintenance & Supply  
**Bat Chanh Qui Quan** = Irregular Troops  
**Benh Xa** = Dispensary (Medical)  
**Biet Cach Nhay Du** = Airborne Rangers  
**Biet Doi** = "Special Group" - temporary unit for a single mission  
**Biet Doi Thao Go (BDTG)** = Special Team Defuse (explosives)  
**Biet Dong Quan (BDQ)** = Ranger  
**Biet Hai Quan** = Special Navy  
**Binh Bi** = Military  
**Binh Doan** = Regional Army Corps  
**Binh Nhat** = Private First Class  
**Binh Nhat Phao Binh** = Private First Class, Artillery  
**Binh Nhi** = Private  
**Binh Nhi Bo Binh** = Private, Infantry  
**Binh Si Nhay Du** = Parachutist  
**Binh Chung Truyen Tin** = Signal Corps  
**Bo Binh (BB)** = Infantry  
**Bo Binh Co Van** = Motorized Infantry  
**Bo Chi Huy (BCH)** = Command Post / Fleet Command (Navy)  
**Bo Tu Lenh (BTL)** = Headquarters  
**Bo Tu Lenh Ham Doi** = Naval Fleet Headquarters  
**Buu Chinh** = Postal Service  
**Buu Dien** = Post Office  
**Buu Phi** = Postage  
**Buu Ta** = Postman  
**Buu Tin** = Mail  
**Buu Tin Vien** = Mail Clerk  
**Buu Uy** = Military Mailman or Courier, Usually Without the Authority of Buu Tin Vien (q.v.)  
**Can Cu (Cn) or (CC)** = Base  
**Can Cu Hai Quan (CCHQ)** = Naval Base  
**Canh Sat Quoc Gia** = National Police or "White Mice"  
**Cao Xa** = Anti-Aircraft Unit  
**Cap Tuong Khong Quan** = General Grade Officer, Air Force  
**Cap Tuong Hai Quan** = General Grade Officer, Navy  
**Cap Tuong Phong Khong** = General Grade Officer, Air Defense  
**Chi Doi** = Armored Squadron  
**Chi Huy Truong (CHT)** = Commanding Officer  
**Chien Doan (CD)** = Brigade or Task Force  
**Chien Si** = Warrior  
**Chien Tranh Chanh Tri (CTCT)** = Political Warfare Unit  
**Chien Tranh Tam Ly (CTTL)** = Psychological Warfare Department  
**Chien Truong** = Battlefield  
**Chieu Hoi Program** = Open Arms Program, Sought to Encourage Communist Defectors

**Chuan Tuong** = Aspirant / Brigadier General  
**Chuan Uy (C/U, CH/U or CH/UY)** = Warrant Officer (top of NCO rank / Aspirant) / Cadet - Air Force  
**Chuan Uy Quan Phap** = Warrant Officer, Military Justice  
**Chuyen Nghiep (CN)** = Specialist  
**Chuyen Phong** = Border Defense  
**Chuyen Van** = Transport (Naval Flotilla)  
**Chuyen Vien Pha Huy** = Demolition Specialist  
**Chuyen Vien Tiep Te** = Supply Specialist  
**Co Khi (CK)** = Mechanic  
**Cong Binh (CB)** = Engineers  
**Cong Chuc Quoc Phong** = Civilian Working for Military Unit  
**Da Chin** = Field as in Da Chien So 2 - 2d Field Division  
**Dai Bac** = Cannon  
**Dai Doi (DD)** = Company  
**Dai Doi Biet Hai (DDBH)** = Special Navy Company  
**Dai Duong** = Ocean  
**Dai Ta** = Colonel / Senior Grade Officer  
**Dai Ta Bo Binh** = Colonel, Infantry  
**Dai Tuong** = Senior General (equivalent to US General)  
**Dai Uy** = Captain  
**Dai Uy Thiet Giap** = Captain, Armour  
**Dai Ta** = Colonel ("Senior Grade Superior Officer")  
**Dai Uy** = Captain ("Senior Grade Junior Officer")  
**De Nhat Quan Khu** = Military Zone 1 ("De Nhat" = One, borrowed from the Chinese)  
**Dia Phuong Quan (DPQ or DP)** = Regional Forces  
**Dien Thoai Vien** = Telephone Operator  
**Dinh Vu So (DVS)** = Job Number  
**Doan** = Squadron or Group, General Term for a Front, Division, Brigade, etc.  
**Doan Vu Ky (DVK)** = Weapons Group  
**Don Trai** = Camp  
**Don Vi** = Unit  
**Dong Dan** = Escort Ship  
**Du Bi** = Preparatory / Temporary  
**Duong Van Ham (DVH)** = Landing Ship Transport  
**Duyen Doan (DD15)** = Coastal Division  
**Duyen Phong** = Coastal Defense  
**Giang Canh (GC)** = River Police  
**Giang Doan** = River Group  
**Giang Doan Ngan Chan (GDNC)** = River Interdiction Group  
**Giang Doan Thuy Bo (GDTB)** = Amphibious River Group  
**Giang Doan Thuan Tham (GDTT)** = River Patrol Group  
**Giang Doan Ho Tong** = River Escort Group  
**Giang Doan Truc Loi** = River Mine Group  
**Giang Doan Xuan Phong** = River Assault Group  
**Ha Si** = Corporal  
**Ha Si Quan (HSQ)** = Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO)  
**Ha Si Quan Y** = Corporal, Medical Unit  
**Hai Doi** = Navy Group / Flotilla  
**Hai Luc** = Sea Force

**Hai Phao Ha Si Quan Chuyen Nghiep (HP HSQ/CN)** = NCO War Ship Cannon Specialist  
**Hai Quan (HQ)** = Navy  
**Hai Quan Cao Xa (HQCX)** = Naval Anti-Aircraft Unit  
**Hanh Quan (HQ)** = In the Field / Operation  
**Hanh Quan Vuot Bien** = Operation Outside Vietnam; Likely Cambodia or Laos  
**Hau Cu** = Main Base / "In Vietnam" (For Out-of-Country Operations)  
**Hau Phuong** = Rear Area  
**Hau Ve Quan** = Rear Guard  
**Ho Tong Ham** = Patrol Craft  
**Hoa Hoc** = Chemical Branch  
**Hoa Van Ham (HVH)** = Oil Transport Ship  
**Hoc Vien** = NCO or Enlisted Man Attending Advanced Specialized Training  
**Hoc Vien Ha Si Quan Bo Binh Co Gioi** = NCO Trainee, Armourer  
**Hoc Vien Hai Phao** = Trainee War Ship Cannon Group  
**Hoi Chanh** = Former Communist who defected to South Vietnamese side  
**Ho Tong** = Escort (Naval)  
**Ho Tong Ham (HTH)** = Patrol Craft / Escort  
**Huan Luyen (HL)** = Training  
**Huan Luyen Can Ban** = Basic Training  
**Huan Luyen Cao Cap** = Advanced Training  
**Huan Luyen Chien Thuat** = Tactical Training  
**Huan Luyen Ky Thuat** = Technical Training  
**Huan Luyen Vien** = Instructor or Drill Master  
**Huong Dao Vien** = Scout  
**Khan** = Urgent  
**Khoa** = Class (e.g. Khoa 3/73 = 3d class 1973)  
**Khoa Sinh Ha Si Quan (KSHSQ)** = NCO Trainee  
**Khong Doan Chien Thuat** = Tactical Wing  
**Khong Doan Yem Cu (KQYC)** = Base Support Air Group  
**Khong Phan** = Air Space  
**Khong Quan (KQ)** = Air Force  
**Khong Quan Cua Hai Quan** = Naval Aviation  
**Khong Soan** = Wing (Air Force)  
**Khong Tap** = Air Strike  
**Khong Tham** = Air Reconnaissance  
**Khu Buu Chinh (KBC)** = Military Postal Zone or Area  
**Khu Truc Ham (KTH)** = Destroyer (Navy)  
**Kiem Tin** = Censored  
**Kien Tao** = Construction  
**Kinh Binh** = Rifleman  
**Ky Binh** = Cavalry  
**Ky Su** = Engineer  
**Lien Doan (LD)** = Group  
**Lien Doi Nguoi Nhai (LDNN)** = Frogman Group  
**Lien Lo Quan** = Army Group  
**Linh Canh Tu** = Prison Guard  
**Linh Chua Lua** = Fireman  
**Linh Nhay Du** = Paratrooper (Airborne)  
**Linh Phong Ve Duyen Hai** = Coast Guard

**Linh Thiet Giap** = Tankman  
**Lo Quan** = Army  
**Lu Doan** = Brigade  
**Luc Quan** = Ground Forces  
**Luc Luong Dac Biet (LLDB or LDB)** = Special Forces  
**Luc Luong Dac Nhiem (LLDN or DNLL)** = Special Mission Task Force  
**LLDN Duyen Phong 213** = Special Mission Task Force Coast Guard / Surveillance 213  
**LLDN Thuy Bo 211** = Special Mission Task Force Sea & Land (Amphibious) 211  
**LLDN Tuan Tham 212** = Special Mission Task Force Patrol 212  
**LLDN Trung Uong (or Dong) 214** = Special Mission Task Force Central 214  
**Luc Luong Duyen Phong (LLDP)** = Coastal Defense Task Force  
**Luc Luong Giang Canh (LLGC)** = River Police Force  
**Luc Luong Gioi Tuyen** = Border Force (Special Forces)  
**Luc Luong Tinh Bao Dac Biet (LLTDB or DNLL)** = Special Forces Intelligence  
**Luc Luong Tuan Tham 212 (LLTT)** = Task Force 212  
**Luc Luong Thuy Bo (LLTB)** = Special Naval Infantry (Amphibious) Task Force  
**Luc Quan** = Army  
**Mat** = Confidential  
**Mat Ma Vien** = Cryptologist  
**Mat Tran** = Front  
**Mu Do** = Red Beret (Vietnamese Airborne)  
**Ngan Chan** = Interdiction  
**Nghia Quan (NQ)** = Popular Forces  
**Nguoi Coi Vo Tuyen Dien** = Radio Operator  
**Nguoi Di Quan Dich** = Draftee  
**Nguoi Chua Vo Tuyen Dien** = Radio Repairman  
**Nguoi Giai Phau** = Surgeon  
**Nguoi Lam Bep** = Cook  
**Nguoi Lanh Dao** = Leader  
**Nguoi Mac Day Dien Thoai** = Telephone Line Repairman  
**Nguoi Nhai** = Frogman  
**Nha** = Corps  
**Nha Binh** = Military  
**Nha Quan Cu** = Ordnance Corps  
**Nha Quan Nhu** = Quartermaster Corps  
**Nha Quan Y** = Medical Corps  
**Nha Thuong** = Hospital  
**Nhay Du (ND)** = Airborne / Paratrooper  
**Nui** = Mountain  
**Oanh Tac Co** = Bombardier  
**Pha Huy** = Demolition  
**Phan Chi Khu (PCK)** = District Police (Rural)  
**Phan Doi** = Section (Company or sometimes Regiment)  
**Phao Binh (PB)** = Artillery  
**Phao Binh Co Van** = Motorized Artillery  
**Phao Binh Da Chien** = Field Artillery  
**Phao Binh Duyen Hai** = Coastal Artillery  
**Phao Binh Hang Nang** = Heavy Artillery  
**Phao Binh Hang Nhe** = Light Artillery

**Phao Binh Hang Trung** = Medium Artillery  
**Phao Binh Luu Dong** = Mobile Artillery  
**Phao Binh Phong Khong** = Anti- Aircraft Artillery  
**Phao Binh Su Doan** = Divisional Artillery  
**Phao Binh Thiet Giap** = Armored Artillery  
**Phao Dai** = Bunker  
**Phao Doi Chi Huy** = Artillery Battery Headquarters  
**Phao Doi Truong** = Battery Commander  
**Phao Ham** = Gun Boat  
**Phao Luy** = Fort  
**Phao Thu** = Cannoneer/ Artillery Man  
**Phao Thuyen** = Gun Boat  
**Phi Co** = Plane  
**Phi Co Huan Luyen** = Training Plane  
**Phi Co Khu Truc** = Fighter Plane  
**Phi Co Len Thang** = Helicopter  
**Phi Co Oanh Tac** = Bomber  
**Phi Co Phan Luc** = Jet Plane  
**Phi Co Tai Thuong** = Air Ambulance  
**Phi Co Tuc Thang** = Helicopter  
**Phi Co Van Tai** = Transport Plane  
**Phi Cong** = Pilot  
**Phi Doan** = Flying Squadron  
**Phi Doi (PD)** = Squadron  
**Phi Hanh** = Flight  
**Phi Hanh Gia** = Pilot  
**Phi Tac** = Air Mission  
**Phi Truong** = Airport  
**Phong Huan Luyen** = Training Department  
**Phong Khong** = Air Defense  
**Phong Thu** = Defense  
**Phong Thu Hai Cang (PTHC)** = Harbor Defense  
**Phong Ve Duyen Hai** = Coast Guard  
**Quan Buu** = Military Mail  
**Quan Buu Chinh** = Military Mail Postage or Frank  
**Quan Buu Cuc** = Military Post Office - Where "Quan Buu" Cancels Were Applied  
**Quan Cang** = Military Port  
**Quan Canh (QC)** = Military Police / Prison Guard  
**Quan Cu** = Ordnance  
**Quan Dich** = Military Service / Draft  
**Quan Dinh** = Military Camp (no longer used – see Trai Linh)  
**Quan Doan** = Strategic Army Corps  
**Quan Doi** = Army Troops  
**Quan Doi Cach Mang** = Revolutionary Army  
**Quan Doi Chanh Quy** = Regular Army  
**Quan Hai** = First Lieutenant (no longer used)\*  
**Quan Ham** = Warship  
**Quan Khu** = Military Zone  
**Quan Linh** = Soldiers, Troops

**Quan Luc** = Armed Forces  
**Quan Luc Viet Nam Cong Hoa** = Army of the Republic of Vietnam  
**Quan Mot** = Second Lieutenant (no longer used)\*  
**Quan Nam** = Colonel (no longer used)\*  
**Quan Nhan** = Soldier (Military Man)  
**Quan Nhu** = Quartermaster Corps / Military Supplies Corps  
**Quan Sat Vien** = Observer  
**Quan Si** = Soldiers, Warriors  
**Quan Su** = Military  
**Quan Thu** (accent on "u") = Enemy  
**Quan Thu (QT)** ("u" has "hook") = Military Mail / Correspondence  
**Quan Tinh Nguyen** = Volunteer  
**Quan Truong** = Military School  
**Quan Tu** = Major (no longer used)\*  
**Quan Vu** = Military Service  
**Quan Y / Binh Chung Quan Y / Cuc Quan Y** = Medical Corps  
**Quan Y Vien** = Military Hospital / Medical Corpsman  
**Ra Da** = Radar Unit  
**Radar Dia Sat** = Ground Radar  
**Rung** = Forest  
**Rung Nui Sin Lay (RNSL)** = Rung (forest) Nui (mountain) Sin Lay (mud). This was the name of a Ranger training course at Duc My in Nha Trang  
**Sat Cong** = Kill Communists (VC) - Motto of various units, esp. naval  
**Si Quan** = Commissioned Officer  
**Si Quan Coi Vo Tuyen Dien** = Radio Officer  
**Si Quan Hai Quan** = Naval Officer  
**Si Quan Hanh Quan** = Operations Officer  
**Si Quan Phu Ta Xu Ly** = Executive Officer  
**Si Quan Phu Trach** = Officer in Charge  
**Si Quan Quan Buu** = Postal Officer  
**Si Quan Quan Thue** = Customs / Revenue Officer  
**Si Quan Quan Tri Va Nhan Vien** = Human Resource Officer  
**Si Quan Tai Chanh** = Finance Officer  
**Si Quan Thong Tin Cong Cong** = Public Relations Officer  
**Si Quan Tiep Te** = Supply Officer  
**Si Quan Tinh Bao** = Intelligence Officer  
**Si Quan Tuyen Binh** = Recruiting Officer  
**Si Tot** = Soldiers  
**Sinh Vien Si Quan (SVSQ)** = Officer Trainee Cadet  
**Sinh Vien Si Quan Bo Binh** = Officer Trainee, Infantry  
**Sinh Vien Si Quan Tru Bi Thu Duc** = Trainee Cadet at Thu Duc Reserved Infantry School  
**Sinh Vien Si Quan Vo Bi / Da Lat** = Officer Cadet at National Military Academy in Dalat  
**So Quan (SQ)** = Military Service Number  
**Su Doan (SD)** = Division  
**Su Doan 2 Khong Quan (SD2KQ)** = 2nd Air Division  
**Su Doan Khinh Chien (SDKC)** = Light Division (e.g. 12th Light Division)  
**Sung Phong Phao** = Artillery  
**Tai Xe** = Driver  
**Tem Thu (Thandstamp)** = Postage Due

**Ten Lua** = SAM Unit  
**Tham Bao** = Recon Unit  
**Tham Kich** = Recon Force  
**Tham Sat** = Recon  
**Thien Xa** = Sharpshooter  
**Thiet Giap** = Calvary, Armor  
**Thieu Doi Truong** = Squad Leader  
**Thieu Khu (TK)** = Small Unit  
**Thieu Ta** = Major ("Junior Grade Superior Officer")  
**Thieu Ta Ky Thuat** = Major, Technical Sector  
**Thieu Tuong** = Major ("Junior") General  
**Thieu Tuong Cong Binh** = Major General, Engineers  
**Thieu Uy (TH/U)** = Second Lieutenant  
**Tho May** = Mechanic  
**Thong Tin Vien** = Messenger  
**Thong Tuong** = General  
**Thu** = Letter  
**Thu Bin** = Military Letter  
**Thu Ky (Quan Nhan)** = Clerk  
**Thu Hanh Quan** = "In the Field"  
**Thu Linh Hanh Quan** = "Soldier's Letter in the Field"  
**Thuong Khan** = Extremely Urgent  
**Thuong Si** = WOJG-1 or First Sergeant  
**Thuong Si Hoa Hoc** = Master Sergeant, Chemical Branch  
**Thuong Si Nhat** = Sergeant Major  
**Thuong Uy Bo Binh Co Gioi** = Second Lieutenant, Armour  
**Thuong Uy Dac Cong** = Captain, Sappers  
**Thuy Bo** = Amphibious  
**Thuy Cong** = Underwater Demolition Team  
**Thuy Quan** = Navy  
**Thuy Quan Luc Chien (TQLC)** = Marines  
**Thuy Thu** = Sailor  
**Thuy Xuong (Hai Quan)** = Repair Facility (Naval)  
**Tiep Lieu** = Supplies  
**Tieu Dinh** = Small Ship  
**Tieu Doan (TD)** = Battalion  
**Tieu Doan Chuyen Nghiep (TDCN)** = Specialist Battalion  
**Tieu Doan Chien Thuat** = Battalion Combat Team  
**Tieu Doan Kinh Quan (TDKQ)** = Commando Battalion, short lived during French Period  
**Tien Doan Yem Tro Triep** = Supply and Support (Naval Base)  
**Tieu Doi** = Squad  
**Tieu Doi Truong** = Squad Leader  
**Tieu Khu (TK)** = Sector  
**Toan** = Group or Team  
**Toan Quan Chien Dau** = Combat Group  
**Tong Bo An Ninh** = Central Committee Security - Military/Political Correctness Censor  
**Tong Hanh Dinh (THD)** = Headquarters  
**Tong Y Vien (TYV)** = Military Hospital  
**Trai Giam** = Concentration Camp / Disciplinary Barracks

**Trai Huan Luyen** = Training Camp  
**Trai Linh** = Military Camp  
**Trai Tap Trung** = Concentration Camp  
**Trai Tu Binh** = Prisoner of War Camp  
**Trang Giap Ham** = Armoured Ship  
**Trinh Sat** = Reconnaissance  
**Truc Loi** = Minesweeper  
**Truc Loi Dinh (TLD)** = Motor Launch Mine Sweeper  
**Trung Doan** = Regiment  
**Trung Doan Chien Thuat** = Regimental Combat Team  
**Trung Doi (TRD)** = Platoon  
**Trung Doi Truong** = Platoon Leader  
**Trung Si (T/S) or TSI** = Sergeant  
**Trung Si Cong Binh** = Sergeant, Engineers  
**Trung Si Nhat** = Master Sergeant / Sergeant First Class  
**Trung Ta** = Lieutenant Colonel  
**Trung Ta Phao Binh** = Lieutenant Colonel, Artillery  
**Trung Tam** = Center (i.e. Training Center)  
**Trung Tam Cai Huan** = "Center to Teach Change" - Chieu Hoi Program Camp Marking  
**Trung Tam Huan Luyen Hai Quan (TTHL / HQ)** = Naval Forces Training Center  
**Trung Tuong** = Lieutenant General ("Intermediate General")  
**Trung Tuong Hau Can** = Lieutenant General, Logistical/Supply Units (?)  
**Trung Uy** = First Lieutenant ("Intermediate Grade Junior Officer")  
**Truong Bay** = Airfield  
**Truong Ha Si Quan** = NCO Academy  
**Truong Khong Quan** = Flight School  
**Truong Ky Thuat** = Tech Center  
**Truong Quan Bao** = Military Intelligence School  
**Truong Quan Cu** = Ordnance School  
**Truong Quan Nhu** = Quartermaster School  
**Truong Quan Y** = Army Medical School  
**Truong Sinh Ngu Qhan Doi** = Armed Forces Language School  
**Truong Sinh Vien Si Quan** = Officer Candidates School  
**Truong Thieu Sinh Quan** = Junior Military School / "Children's Army School"  
**Truong Vo Bi Quoc Gia Viet Nam (TVB/QG/VN)** = Vietnam National Military Academy  
**Tuan Tham** = Patrol  
**Tuan Tieu Chien Dau** = Combat Patrol  
**Tuan Zuong Ham** = Ocean Patrol Ship  
**Tu Binh** = Prisoner  
**Tu Lenh** = Commander  
**Tu Tran** = Killed in Action  
**Tuan Duong Ham (TDH)** = Ocean Patrol Ship  
**Tuan Tham (TT)** = Patrol  
**Van Chuyen** = Transportation  
**Vi Chi Huy** = Commander  
**Vien Tham** = Long-Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP)  
**Vo Tuyen** = Radio Man  
**Vung** = Zone or Corps  
**Vung I Chien Thuat** = Military Strategic Region 1



**Vung (1-5) Duyen Hai** = Naval Coastal Zone (1-5)

**Vung (3 or 4) Song Ngoi** = 3rd/4th Riverine Zone

**VBQG** = National Military Academy

**Xa Thu** = Gunner

**Xa Thu Lien Thanh** = Machine Gunner

**Xung Kich** = Strike Force

**Xung Phong** = Assault

## Republic of Viet-Nam Armed Forces Mottos, Slogans and Mascots:

### ARVN Infantry:

**Bac Long** = White Dragon (3rd Battalion, 11th Infantry Regiment)

**Hac Bao** = Black Panther (1st Division)

**Hac Long** = Black dragon (11th Infantry Regiment Recon Company)

**Hai Su** = Sea Master (4th Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment)

**Kim Long** = Yellow Dragon (2nd Battalion, 11th Infantry Regiment)

**Manh Ho** = Ferocious Tiger (1st Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment)

**O Den** = Black Black Eagle (1st Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment)

**Quyet Thang** = Resolved to Win (12th Infantry Regiment)

**Thanh Sa** = Sacred Snake (3rd Infantry Division)

**Xich Long** = Red Dragon (2nd and 4th Battalion, 11th Infantry Regiment)

### Marines:

**Cam-Tu** = Suicide (6th Battalion Slogan)

**Danh-Du To Quoc** = Honor & Country (TQLC motto, like "Semper Fi" in US Marine Corps)

**Hac Long** = Black Dragon (5th Battalion Mascot)

**Hum Xam** = Killer Tiger (7th Battalion Mascot)

**Huu-Hien & Chian Thang** = Efficiency & Victory (Transportation Battalion Motto)

**Kinh Ngu** = Killer Sharks (4th Battalion Mascot)

**Loi-Hoa** = Lightning Fire (1st Artillery Battalion Motto)

**Manh-Ho** = Strong Tiger (9th Battalion Mascot)

**No-Tham** = Sacred Bo (3rd Artillery Battalion Motto)

**O-Bien** = Sea Hawk (8th Battalion Mascot)

**Quan Dieu** = Monster Bird (1st Battalion Mascot)

**Soi Bien** = Sea Wolf (3rd Battalion Mascot)

**Than-Tien** = Sacred Arrow (2nd Artillery Battalion Motto)

**Than-Ung** = Sacred Bird (6th Battalion Mascot)

**Trau Dien** = Crazy Buffalo (2nd Battalion Mascot)

**Truyen Song** = Tidal Wave (Signal Battalion)

### Navy:

**Hai Kich** = Frogman Motto

**Than Tien** = Sacred Arrow (LSIL HQ331)

**Thang Khong Kieu, Bai Khong Nan** = "Not Arrogant When Winning, Not Discouraged When Losing"  
(River Mine Sweeper Group 93)

**Vuot Song Ngan Thu** = Across Waves to Stop Enemies (HQ613)

### **Special Forces:**

**Danh Du-Dung Cam** = Honor and Gallantry (77th Special Forces Battalion)

**Danh Du To Quoc** = Honor Nation (Technical Directorate)

**Loi Ho** = Lightning Tiger (Recon Team Loi Ho)

**Loi Vu** = Lightning Force (81st Battalion)

**Queyet Tu** = Ready to Die (unknown unit)

**Tham Tu** = Suicide (Exploitation Force)

**Than Ho** = Sacred Tiger (81st Group Strike Company)

**Xich Quy** = Phantom (81st Group Intelligence Unit)

### **North Viet-Nam / Socialist Republic of Viet-Nam Military Terms:**

The following terms are predominately or exclusively associated with Communist Vietnamese military forces.

**Bao Dam** = Secured or Warranted (Viet Cong)

**Bao Ve** = Military Security (Dept. of PAVN General Political Directorate)

**Bao Ve Bien Cuong** = Frontier Guards

**Binh Nhi** = Private

**Binh Nhat** = Private First Class

**Bo Doi** = Army / Service Men

**Bo Doi Bien-Phong** = Border Defense Force

**Bo Doi Xe Tang** = Tank Driver

**Bo Quoc Phong** = Ministry of National Defence

**Bo Thuong Binh va Xa Hoi** = Ministry of War Invalids (& Social Welfare)

**Bo Tong Tham-Muu** = People's Army of Viet-Nam (PAVN) General Staff

**Bo Tu-Lenh Quan-Khu** = Military Region

**Can Bo** = Cadre / Officer

**Can Bo Nam Vung** = Undercover Agent

**Chien Si** = Soldier; Combatant

**Chien-Truong Mien Bac** = Northern Theater

**Chuan Uy** = Third Lieutenant, Aspirant

**Cuc Lien-Lac Doi-Ngoai Bo Quoc-Phong** = Minister Defense External Relations Dept.

**Dai Ta** = Senior Colonel (Considered to be of General Rank)

**Dai Tuong** = Senior General (Highest Rank - 4 Stars)

**Dai Uy** = Captain

**Dai Uy Xe Tang** = Captain, Armour

**Dia Phuong** = Local / Region

**Dia Phuong Quan** = Provincial / Regional Forces

**Di Xem** = Examined

**Doan Thanh-Nien Xung-Phong** = Youth "Rush to the Front" Organization

**Don Vi Dan Quan Tu-Ve Huyen** = District Militia  
**Ha Si** = Corporal  
**Ho Dong Quoc Phong** = National Defense Council  
**Hom Thu (HT)** = Military Mail Box Number (unit)  
**Hop Thu** = Mail Box Number (individual)  
**Khoi Nghia** = General Uprising  
**Kiem Duyet** = Censored or Examined  
**Kin (K)** = Secret/Confidential Mail  
**Linh Chien Xa** = Tankman  
**Linh Thuy Danh Bo** = Marines  
**Luc Luong** = Force  
**Luc Luong Nhan Dan Tu Ve** = Village Forces  
**Nam Vung Thoi-Co** = "To Seize the Opportunity"  
**Quan** = Army / Force  
**Quan Dan Nhat Tri** = Unity of Mind - People and Army  
**Quan Doi Dang Lanh-Dao** = Party-led Army  
**Quan Doi Giai Phong** = National Liberation Front (NLF) Army  
**Quan-Doi Nhan-Dan** = People's Army of Viet-Nam (PAVN)  
**Quan Giai Phong** = Army of Liberation  
**Quan Khu** = Military Region  
**Quan Phuc Vien** = Demobilized Soldier  
**Quan-Uy Truong-Uong Dang** = Central Military Party Committee  
**Rung Sat (R)** e.g. "HT 9R" = Jungle  
**San Bat Cuop** = Bandit Hunters (Anti-Draft Dodger Unit)  
**Tan Binh** = Recruit  
**Tem Binh Si** = Postage Free  
**Tem Noi Bo** = Internal Usage  
**Thieu Ta** = Major  
**Thieu Tuong** = Major General (1 Star)  
**Thieu Uy** = Second Lieutenant  
**Thu Chien** = Liberation Fighter  
**Thu Gui Nao Nam** = "Somewhere in the South"  
**Thuong Ta** = Rank Between Lieutenant Colonel and Colonel  
**Thuong Tuong** = Colonel General (Rank Between Lieutenant General and Senior General - 3 Stars)  
**Thuong Uy** = Rank Between First Lieutenant and Captain  
**Toa An Quan Su** = Military Court  
**Toa An Qua Su Dac Biet** = Special Military Tribunal  
**To-Dang** = Party Cell  
**Tong Cuc Hau Can** = Rear Services Directorate  
**To-Truong** = Party Cell Leader  
**Trai Giao Hoa** = Re-Education Center  
**Trung Si** = Sergeant  
**Trung Ta** = Lieutenant Colonel  
**Trung Tuong** = Lieutenant General (2 Stars)  
**Trung Uy** = First Lieutenant  
**Tu-Lenh** = Military Commander  
**Xoi Mon** = "To Miss the Opportunity"

\* According to Mr. Toan Nguyen, when Bao Dai first established the South Vietnamese Army the shoulder patch insignia of the French Army

was still used (2nd Lieutenant = one straight bar, 1st Lieutenant = two straight bars, etc.). People wearing these insignia were called Ong Mot (Mr. One), Ong Hai (Mr. Two)...

Anyone who worked for the government was called Quan. In the Army, Quan Mot became 2nd Lieutenant, Quan Hai 1st Lieutenant and so forth. These names were used only prior to 1955. After than President Diem reorganized the SVN army and created new ranks used through 1975. These ranks had new insignia, for example Thieu Uy, or 2nd Lieutenant, was represented by one gold flower.

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