

ad – stands for accidental discharge
affidavits – formal statement of fact signed in a criminal investigation
afrikaans – south african dialect of dutch descent
afrikaner – south african of dutch descent
agricalert – an agricultural alert system whereby surrounding farms, police or Army were on a network that could be alerted if a farm came under attack, so that a defence stick could immediately be dispatched
aldeamentos – portuguese version of the protected village concept
assimilado – portuguese term for africans who had proved themselves to have met certain standards of assimilation with the portuguese language and culture
b-cars – term used by BSA police for patrol cars
backie – south african term for a pick-up truck
batmen – soldiers assigned to commissioned officers as personal servants
bergen – military-style rucksack
braai / braaivleis – roasted meat barbeque, afrikaans/south african origin
bright lights – term used for guards who usually came from the 'bright lights' of the city, as stationed guards in rural areas, sometimes part of the bsap police reserve (?), but the term also seems to have grown to include those working through private security groups/by local arrangement. 'official' bright lights wore blue uniforms and didn't get camouflage.
blue jobs – air force troops, so called because they wear blue uniforms (as opposed to brown). blue girls refers to women working in the rhodesian air force.
blue on blue – e.g. a death that occurred as a result of rhodesian (usually accidentally) attack on other Rhodesians, as a case of mistaken identity
brown jobs – army or ground troops, so called because they wear brown uniforms (as opposed to blue)
bumbazonke – a nickname those living in bulawayo gave to salisbury, meaning 'have it all' because they seemed to get all of the best investment and facilities
bundu – bush/rural areas outside of town
cadres – communist – originating term used for opposition troops
casevac – casualty evacuation (usually by helicopter)
chibuku – an African home-brewed 'beer'
chicken run – nickname to describe the actions of rhodesians who left the country during the war. this then changed to the 'wise own run' when people started to believe that in fact, this could be considered the wise thing to do
chilapalapa is a language spoken primarily in zimbabwe and zambia, where it is called 'cikabanga', and a variant used in south africa is called fanagalo
chimurenga – war of liberation
civvies – local civilian populations / can also mean civilian clothing (i.e. not in uniform)

comms / commies – communists
copper belt – mining area of zambia, so-called for its rich copper mines
copperpot – the place you'd go after returning from the field to debrief and relax
dagga – marijuana
dare – a council of elders
dial sight – optical sighting system used for mortars and machine guns
docket – a schedule of proceedings within a court of law
doppies – firearm cartridge shells, used for ballistics
erk – world war 2 slang term for a lowly ranked soldier
fanagalo – pidgin (simplified language) based on the Zulu, English, and Afrikaans languages. See chilapalapa above
fire force – quick reaction group of helicopters, supported by a k-car
floppy – dead terrorist (floppy body)
fuzz – nickname for the police
g-cars – troop-carrying helicopters, which would be led by the k-car
gook - terrorist
gukurahundi – translates as 'the early rain which washes away chaff before the spring rain' often used to refer to suppression (or alleged period of ethnic cleansing) in ndebele regions of zimbabwe by fifth brigade soldiers
hamstring – hamstringing an animal involved crippling them by cutting/slashing their hamstring muscle
hobo – american term for a vagrant, a homeless/countrified person – a hobo dance would be an informal dance, or a barn dance
intaf – internal affairs
irksome / erksome – something causing annoyance
jambok – sometimes sjambok – a whip (afrikaans)
k-cars – command car helicopters with a canon on, which would hold the battle commander in it and lead the other helicopters/troops
kaffir – offensive term for a black person. its origin is arabic, meaning 'one who does not believe in god'
kaffir boetie – 'brother of the blacks' derived from boatie meaning brother in afrikaans
keep – a shelter, usually used to refer to the main shelter within a protected village
kitchen kaffir – past use of 'kitchen servant' but most people used it in the context of a very basic form of pidgin language, so called because it would have been to communicate with kitchen servants, about only the essentials, such as food
knobkerrie – a club or truncheon-type weapon

kopje/koppie – small hill (afrikaans)
kosh – thumb i.e. under the kosh/thumb
kraal – south african village enclosed by a wall, or sometimes a pen to hold animals
laager – south african camp with wagons circled for defence – also used as ‘laager mentality’ meaning a defensive mentality, of being under-attack
little red book – refers to mao tse-tung’s little red book, which was issued as an information tool to those sympathetic with mao’s communist message
mahuris – a prostitute ???
matric – stands for matriculation
mbangi - marijuana
mukwa – a type of hardwood tree e.g. “thick as mukwa”
mujiba – a young ‘spy’ boy who was planted, or used, by nationalist fighters to report on goings on in an area or village
ngangas – (also inyanga or n’anga) a form of spirit medium/herbalist-type ‘witch doctor’
outbrassed – outranked, where a commanding officer of one unit is senior in rank to that of another unit
patu – police anti terrorist unit
pc – political correctness/politically correct, i.e. use of language that is sensitive to the offence it may cause
petty apartheid – socially reinforced, as opposed to legally-enforced apartheid
pfumo re vanhu – spear of the people, an auxiliary military group formed for bishop abel muzorewa
pisé de terre – house made of mud
pole and dagga – type of construction, similar to wattle and daub, from sticks and mud
police reserves – reserves was a very broadly used term for any non-regular (i.e. voluntary) police work – this could have been with patu, bright lights, or in a station
pookie – mine detection and clearance vehicle
pt – physical training, sometimes used as punishment
pv – protected village – an area that a village has been moved to, in order to be guarded or put under curfew, so that monitoring of population can take place. also cv – collective or consolidated villages
pwd – public works department
r & r – rest and recuperation or recreation
rat pack – ration pack
reccie – reconnaissance (i.e. investigative) mission
regular – a regular is someone who is paid to work in the army/police regularly as

opposed to via volunteering or national service
rhodie – someone from rhodesia
rit – removal in transit, refers to the removal of products from one country, through rhodesia, into another country
rondavel – a round hut
rooigevaar – afrikaans word for the ‘red danger,’ i.e. communist threat
rooineck – redneck, a stranger, someone unused to the african sun
sam browne – a leather belt with a strap across the shoulder, seen as part of the military or police uniform; possibly as a sign of status
sangomas – medicine doctors/spiritualist ‘witch doctor’
shavé – (pronounced sha-vey) an unquiet spirit that can haunt people
sitreps – situation reports – reports updating on the security of, and incidents in, an area
sjambok – heavy leather whip, traditionally made from rhinoceros hide
slotted – shot
soutie or soutpiel – derogatory afrikaans word for the english, literally translates as ‘salt penis,’ refers to people who have one foot in africa and one foot in britain, and their penis dangling in the sea in between!
spoor – signs of someone’s passage, used when tracking
square bashing – parade marching within training grounds
stick – often used to refer to a police anti-terrorist unit ‘stick,’ a group of four or five soldiers/police who would undertake patrols together
stint – period of time someone goes out on a tour of duty/call up
strips or narrow tar – refers to the two narrow strips of tar that were used on roads as an economical alternative to surfacing the entire road
sudza – ground (corn) mealies eaten as a staple part of the diet
sunshine girls – girls or women who went out to Rhodesia to work via the so-called ‘sunshine scheme’
svikiros – different type of spirit medium/spiritual leader
tackies – trainers or plimsolls used for sport
terr(s) – terrorists
ticking – someone ticking themselves when drunk, meant they were ‘ticking over,’ i.e. just managing to stay sober
ticky – a threepenny piece
tokolosh(e) – a mystical monster/spirit monster, which is capable of killing
troopie – endearing term for a soldier of the rank of trooper or private – sometimes used to denote a soldier regardless of rank

tshombe – a sell-out
ttl – tribal trust land
veld – grassland with scattered shrubs and trees, e.g. high-veld and low-veld
wattle and daub – building method of wall construction using sticks to make a structure, which are then covered in wet material such as mud or dung

Military abbreviations:

2IC – second in command
 AFV – armoured fighting vehicle
 AMA – armed militant??
 AO – e.g. operated in a small AOXXX???
 APA – African purchase area
 APs – assembly points / have also seen ammunition points(?)
 AS – African sergeants
 AWOL – away without official leave (i.e. un-permitted absence)
 BSAP – british south Africa police
 CB – confined to barracks
 CIO – central intelligence organisation
 CO – commanding officer
 COIN – counterinsurgency
 COMOPS – combined operations
 CPU – crime prevention unit (bsap) / have also seen coloured protection unit
 CSM – colour sergeant major
 CT – communist terrorist / some have said communist-trained, or captured terrorist
 DB – detention barracks
 CD – district commissioner XX??
 FPU – frontier patrol unit
 HDF – high density forces
 IntAf – internal affairs
 ISOPS – internal security operations
 JOC – joint operations centre / command
 JPS – joint planning staff
 KG5; KG6 – king george V; king george VI barracks etc
 KIA – killed in action
 MC – military cross
 MIC – member in charge
 MM – military medal
 NCO – non-commissioned officer
 OC – officer in charge
 OCC – operations coordinating committee
 OPs – observation points
 PATU – police antiterrorist unit
 PPs – petrol points
 PRAW – police reserve air wing
 PsyOps – psychological operations
 RAA – Rhodesian army association
 RAF – royal air force (UK)
 REME – royal electrical and mechanical engineers
 RhAF – Rhodesian air force (and RhodAF)
 RIC – Rhodesian intelligence corps

RLI – Rhodesian light infantry
RRAF – royal Rhodesian air force
RSM – regimental sergeant major
RV – rendezvous (i.e. point at which a group will meet after dispersal)
SALOPS – Salisbury operations
SAP – south African police
SAS – special air service
SB – special branch
SCO – senior commanding officer
SF – security force
SFA – special/security forces auxiliary
SITREP – situation report
SWAT – special weapons and tactics
TT – turned terrorist
UDI – unilateral declaration of independence
VAT – voluntary additional training / have also seen voluntary antiterrorist training
WO – warrant officer
ZANLA – Zimbabwe african national liberation army
ZIPRA – Zimbabwe people’s revolutionary army

Weapons:

AK – automatic kalashnikov
FN – fabrique nationale, a firearms manufacturer in belguim, most likely used to refer to either the FNC (fabrique nationale carabine), or FAL (fusil automatique léger ‘light automatic’) rifles
IED – improvised explosive device
RPG – rocket propelled grenade
SK – a type of russian semi-automatic rifle
SLR – self-loading rifle
SMLE .303 – short magazine lee-enfield rifle, a magazine-fed repeating rifle, which uses .303 cartridges
Uzi – uzi submachine gun

Joint Operation Commands:

Repulse	Fort Victoria
Hurricane	Bindura
Thrasher	Umtali
Tangent	Bulawayo
Grapple	Gwelo
Splinter	Binga