A Graduate Student’s Guide to Citadel Language

1. BATTALION: Building in which cadets live. The Citadel has 4 battalions each housing approximately 500 cadets. Also known as barracks.

2. BLITZED: (adj.) Having outstanding personal appearance.

3. BRACE: (v.) To pull the chin and stomach in and pull the shoulders back and down.


5. CADRE: Cadets of the upper three classes who train the incoming 4th class cadets.

6. CIVIES: Civilian clothes.

7. CO: Commanding officer.

8. COMMANDANT: A retired officer that supervises and directs the corps of cadets.

9. COMPANY: The basic administrative unit of the Corps. The Corps of Cadets consists of 17 rifle companies, the Regimental Band, and the Palmetto Battery.

10. CONS: Confinements – awarded as punishment. Confined to quarters for certain rule violations.

11. CONTRACT: Committing to serve with one of the four branches of the military – as in a contracted cadet.

12. CORPS SQUAD: Cadets who participate in varsity athletics

13. COVER: Cadet uniform hat.

14. DRILL: The practicing of rifle manual of arms or parade practice.

15. ESP: Evening Study Period – A mandatory study period held Sunday thru Thursday.

16. FOURTHCLASSMAN: See Knob.

17. FURLOUGH: Period in which all cadets are allowed to return to their homes for a specified number of days (ex. Thanksgiving, Spring Break, etc)
18. GOLD STARS: Award given to a cadet who receives a 3.7 GPA or higher.

19. GUIDON: Book of facts that every incoming cadet must know; also each company’s flag.

20. HOPS: Cadet dances held during the year.

21. KNOB: A freshman cadet – term used because head resembles a doorknob after haircut.

22. LEAVE: (n) Period in which cadets may leave campus.

23. MESS FACT: Fourth-class cadets may be required to give mess facts at lunch and evening meals. These facts may be from Knob Knowledge contained in The Guidon.

24. MESS HALL: Dining hall.

25. MRI: Morning Room Inspection.

26. PARADE: On most Friday afternoons during the school year, cadets march on the center field of the campus known as the parade field or deck.

27. PLATOON: A subdivision of a company. Three platoons make up a company.

28. PT: Physical training. Also the name of the uniform worn while performing PT.

29. QUAD: Quadrangle, paved center of each barracks where formations are held.

30. RACK: (n.) the bed; (v.) to yell at someone

31. REGIMENT: The Corps of Cadets.

32. SHAKO: Cadet full dress cover; also the literary magazine published by the Corps of Cadets.

33. SMI: Saturday Morning Inspection – A formal personal and room inspection.

34. TAC: Tactical Officer. A retired military officer assigned to oversee all cadet activities at the company/battalion levels.

35. TOURS: A punishment, served by marching on the quad with a rifle for 50 minutes.

36. XO: Executive officer, the second in command.