



The Maritime Academy Of Toledo

Rank And Promotion Handbook for Cadet Petty Officer

Rank of Petty Officer		Nautical/Maritime Terms	Nautical/Maritime Definition	Maritime Academy Terminology
1.	Petty Officer	AYE AYE	Aye is old English for "yes." A bluejacket says, "Aye aye, sir," meaning, "I understand and I will obey." It is based on the Latin word, 'Aio', meaning 'yes'	Yes I Understand And I Will Obey
2.	Petty Officer	B/P	Balance of Payment	Balance Due
3.	Petty Officer	BOOT	A rookie or newbie, as in 'Boot Ensign.' Originated in the habit of referring to a new man as 'boot camp,' rather than by name.	Seaman Recruit
4.	Petty Officer	BRIDGE	The location from which a vessel is steered and its speed controlled. Bridge As ships passed to steam and orders could be given by remote methods such as the engine-order telegraph, a small control deck with an enclosed pilot house was constructed above the main deck of the ship in front of the funnel, usually reaching from side to side and thus 'bridging' the main deck. It became the term used to describe the place where the Captain steered the ship from and gave his orders.	Captain's Office
5.	Petty Officer	BRIGHTWORK	Bright it should be and work it is. Varnished woodwork and/or polished metal. Brightwork originally referred to polished metal objects, and bright woodwork to wood which was kept scraped and scrubbed, especially topside.	Clean And Polished Classrooms
6.	Petty Officer	BROUGHT UP SHORT	A sailing ship underway could only be brought to an emergency standstill by dropping the anchors. Not a pleasant experience. Used today to mean a person brought to an unexpected standstill by a sudden change of fortune or circumstance.	Stopped In His/Her Tracks
7.	Petty Officer	CLEAN SLATE	Prior to GPS and onboard computers, courses and distances were recorded on a slate. At the end of each watch these were transcribed into the ship's log and the slate wiped clean for the next watch. Has come to mean starting anew.	Starting Anew
8.	Petty Officer	COLORS	True Colors, False Colors, Flying Colors The flag flown by a vessel indicating its nationality was referred to as her colors. Long before radios, you can imagine how important this might have been, especially when engaged in battle. False colors were sometimes flown to avoid capture or to approach without suspicion (see bamboozle above). This was frowned upon in International Law, wherein it is accepted as a 'ruse of war' only if the ship is in immediate danger.	American Flag, School Flag Or Class Flags

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9.	Petty Officer	CUT AND RUN	<p>Most often thought to mean the cutting of an anchor line in an effort to make a quick getaway. Hard to imagine that many ship's masters enjoyed routinely losing an anchor or two, so it is probably more likely referring to the practice of securing the sails of a square-rigged ship with rope yarns that could easily be cut away when a quick departure was necessary.</p> <p>1) To leave quickly, from the practice of cutting a ship's moorings in a hasty departure. 2) A common form of early sea warfare was sneaking into an enemy harbor at night and stealing the anchored ships or boats targeted by cutting their anchor lines and sailing away on the out-going, or 'running' tide. This soon became used to describe any action or plan requiring speed and urgency. It also applied to an emergency action if an anchored ship was caught by surprise by a superior enemy force.</p>	To Leave Quickly
10.	Petty Officer	SKYLARKING	<p>Originally, skylarking described the antics of young Navy men who climbed and slid down the backstays for fun. Since the ancient word "lac" means "to play" and the games started high in the masts, the term was skylacing." Later, corruption of the word changed it to "skylarking." Skylarking is a familiar term to most Sailors and a popular pastime for others. Today, it is generally looked upon with disfavor both onboard ship and ashore. Skylarking</p> <p>1) Originally, skylarking described the antics of young Navy men who climbed and slid down the backstays for fun. Since the ancient word "lac" means "to play" and the games started high in the masts, the term was skylacing." Later, corruption of the word changed it to "skylarking." Skylarking is a familiar term to most Sailors and a popular pastime for others. Today, it is generally looked upon with disfavor both onboard ship and ashore. 2) "Larking" meant to fool around and play. High-spirited sailors often did this while aloft among the sails and out of the immediate reach of their officers.</p>	Fooling Around
11.	Petty Officer	SLEEPING DICTIONARY	<p>A member of the local population who teaches a sailor the local language (among other things), usually in exchange for room and board.</p>	Peer Mentors
12.	Petty Officer	SLUSH FUND	<p>A small (usually illegal) fund raised on ships from the misappropriation and sale of grease, rope, rags, and odds-and-ends to other ships or local citizens ashore. This was used to pay for small, often shady expenses, like an extra rum ration. This originally comes from the cook's habit of skimming the grease off the meat as he boiled it (Cooks often had the nick-name of 'slushy' for this reason). He would sell the grease in small pots to the sailors to spread on their biscuits when the butter had turned rancid or was used up. Or, he would sell it to the ship's purser to make into candle wax. Sea cooks were usually disabled or elderly seamen with wages much lower than a prime sailor's...</p>	Monies Raised By Fundraisers

13.	Petty Officer	SMOKING LAMP	The exact date and origin of the smoking lamp has been lost. However, it probably came into use during the 16 th Century when seamen began smoking on board vessels. The smoking lamp was a safety measure. It was devised mainly to keep the fire hazard away from highly combustible woodwork and gunpowder. Most navies established regulations restricting smoking to certain areas. Usually, the lamp was located in the forecastle or the area directly surrounding the galley indicating that smoking was permitted in this area. Even after the invention of matches in the 1830s, the lamp was an item of convenience to the smoker. When particularly hazardous operations or work required that smoking be curtailed, the unlighted lamp relayed the message. "The smoking lamp is lighted" or "the smoking lamp is out" were the expressions indicating that smoking was permitted or forbidden. The smoking lamp has survived only as a figure of speech. When the officer of the deck says "the smoking lamp is out" before drills, refueling or taking ammunition, that is the Navy's way of saying "cease smoking."	Smoking Is Forbidden Onboard Ship (In The School)
14.	Petty Officer	SOUNDING BELLS	By tradition sixteen bells are struck on midnight of New Years... the oldest person on the vessel strikes the first 8 no matter what his rank (enlisted or admiral or whatever) and the second 8 are struck by the youngest person on the vessel.	Morning And Evening Bells
15.	Petty Officer	SPIN A YARN	Early ropes and lines were made from yarn, which was spun by hand and later spliced or woven into larger sizes or used to repair existing ones. Leisurely, relaxing work, it required only the use of the hands, and sailors could sit around and tell stories or gossip as they did so ("Ropeyarn Sunday" comes from this, also). Tales, jokes, and anecdotes became known as "yarns" because of their origins from this activity.	Telling Tales, Jokes, And Anecdotes
16.	Petty Officer	STATEROOM	Officers' quarters aboard a warship and/or passenger cabins aboard a passenger liner. It is derived from the paddlewheel riverboats that steamed up and down the major rivers and waterways of the United States during the 1800's. The first-class cabins aboard were named after various states in the union (New York, Virginia, Pennsylvania, etc).	Board Room
17.	Petty Officer	STORE	A general term for provisions, materials and supplies used aboard ship for the maintenance of the crew, and for the navigation, propulsion and upkeep of the vessel and its equipment.	Items In Storage

18.	Petty Officer	THE BITTER END	As any able-bodied seaman can tell you, a turn of a line around a bitt, those wooden or iron posts sticking through a ship's deck, is called a bitter. Thus the last of the line secured to the bitts is known as the bitter end. Nautical usage has somewhat expanded the original definition in that today the end of any line, secured to bitts or not, is called a bitter end. The landlubbing phrases "stick to the bitter end" and "faithful to the bitter end" are derivations of the nautical term and refer to anyone who insists on adhering to a course of action without regard to consequences.	Sticking To A Task Or Assignment, Being Faithful, Persevering To The End
19.	Petty Officer	TOE THE LINE	The space between each pair of deck planks in a wooden ship was filled with a packing material called "oakum" and then sealed with a mixture of pitch and tar. The result, from afar, was a series of parallel lines a half-foot or so apart, running the length of the deck. Once a week, as a rule, usually on Sunday, a warship's crew was ordered to fall in at quarters—that is, each group of men into which the crew was divided would line up in formation in a given area of the deck. To insure a neat alignment of each row, the Sailors were directed to stand with their toes just touching a particular seam. Another use for these seams was punitive. The youngsters in a ship, be they ship's boys or student officers, might be required to stand with their toes just touching a designated seam for a length of time as punishment for some minor infraction of discipline, such as talking or fidgeting at the wrong time. A tough captain might require the miscreant to stand there, not talking to anyone, in fair weather or foul, for hours at a time. Hopefully, he would learn it was easier and more pleasant to conduct himself in the required manner rather than suffer the punishment. From these two uses of deck seams comes our cautionary word to obstreperous youngsters to "toe the line."	Do The Right Thing Follow The Rules, Behave
20.	Petty Officer	WARDROOM	The Wardroom originally was known as the Wardrobe Room, a place where officers kept their spare wearing apparel. It was also the space where loot secured from enemy ships, was stored. In an effort to have some privacy on a crowded ship, officers would sometimes take their meals in the Wardrobe Room. Today, the wardroom aboard ship is where officers take their meals, relax, and socialize.	Staff And Faculty Lounge
21.	Petty Officer	WAY	Movement of a vessel through the water such as headway, sternway or leeway.	Course Of Action To Achieve School Goals For All Students
22.	Petty Officer	WEATHER DECK	Literally, any deck of a ship which is exposed to the weather, i.e. outside the skin of the ship.	Outdoors- Recess Area

23.	Petty Officer	WINDFALL	In the days of King George III, a common decree was that any tree greater than 24" in diameter 'belonged to the king'. In other words, reserved exclusively for building materials for ships of the Royal Navy. It was forbidden to cut them down by commoners. However, if a big tree was felled by natural causes, such as a windstorm, then it was free and available for use by anyone. Thus a 'windfall' became applied to any unexpected stroke of fortune.	Unexpected Good Fortune
24.	Petty Officer	WORTH HIS SALT	In the days of the Roman Empire, soldiers were paid with bags of salt, or their 'salarium'(The term, 'salary' is derived from this) which they in turn would exchange with locals for goods and services. Thus any man who did his job well was worth what was paid to him.	A Job Well Done
25.	Petty Officer	HAZE	Long before fraternal organizations, hazing was the practice of keeping the crew working all hours of the day or night, whether necessary or not, in order to deprive them of sleep and to make them generally miserable. In the 19 th century, many captains used this practice to assert their authority. Hazing has come to mean the initiation of a newcomer to a group by humiliating and harassing him or her, thereby asserting the authority of the group.	Newcomer Initiation