

foreword

Abbreviations, contractions, signs, and symbols are all around us and are increasing rapidly with the development of our technological civilization, which demands short cuts and invents short forms.

This reference book is necessary if only for the reason that some short forms stand for as many as sixty-four different things. Daily speech, newspapers, magazines, books, and signs along the airways, highways, railways, and waterways reveal the universality of short forms and the growing tendency to use and devise more and more of them.

arrangement

Everything in this book is arranged in alphabetical and numerical order. Particles, prepositions, and the ampersand are ignored in the arrangement. For example, U of P is alphabetized as UP; A & M and IT & T are arranged as if they were AM and ITT.

capitalization

Short forms usually follow the capitalization of the words they stand for, although this is not a fast rule. In the fields of armament, computing machinery, electronics, and engineering, we find that, as people get used to new devices and concepts, capital letters drop to initial capitals and finally to lower case. ICBM has become icbm; UNIVAC became univac and now is often written univac. Loran has become plain loran.

In many military establishments and offices, full capitalization is used because message machines are provided only with capital letters. That is the reason why many engineering drawings supplied the armed forces contain all abbreviated material in full capital letters.

In good technical writing and printing, however, all units of measure, velocity, and weight are rendered in lower case: 45 yds, 1500 mph, 1100 lbs. To set such items in running text or on drawings as 45 YDS, 1500 MPH, or 1100 LBS makes them look clumsy and in some instances may lead readers to believe that they stand for things other than the measures and weights indicated.

ABBREVIATIONS DICTIONARY

correct method

The correct way to use a short form is to explain it to your reader or listener the first time it appears. The burden of explaining short forms is one that every writer and speaker must shoulder if the communication given is to be understood clearly and quickly.

If you must write about the United Nations, for example, you had best begin: United Nations (UN) and then use UN throughout your article in order to avoid endless repetition as well as to save space.

golden rule

"When in doubt—spell it out," declared Ralph L. Bayless, former chief engineer of Convair, in the foreword of a special work on abbreviations I compiled for his organization. This is the golden rule to be followed by all who are tempted to use short forms that are not clear in themselves and that are to appear without previous definition.

Several common-sense rules about short forms are most often ignored. These include the rule not to abbreviate short words like Maine, dock, June; to avoid the truncation of words that wind up as other words: king.—kingdom, man.—management, etc.; but all these good rules are broken every day and in this reference you will find many examples of unapproved abbreviations.

You will also find what at first glance may appear to be unnecessary duplication as in the case of airlines and nationalities that are represented by both two- and three-letter combinations. They are all included because while you may correctly guess some of the short forms you cannot be expected to guess correctly all of them.

italics

Items taken from Latin, titles of books and periodicals, and a few other things, are usually set in italics. Many physical symbols are set in italics to differentiate them from other letters they resemble.

punctuation

Short forms were devised to save time, save space, and to overcome the necessity of repeating long words and phrases. All punctuation is avoided in modern practice unless the short form is taken from Latin or there is some conventional use that demands punctuation as is the

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case with certain academic degrees and a few governmental designations.

However, when the short form appears in lower-case letters and spells out a word it is followed by a period in order to avoid confusion with that word as we have seen in king.—kingdom, man.—management, and as we will observe in many other instances.

readers

Readers are invited to submit any useful short forms they would care to have us consider for inclusion in subsequent editions of this reference. Handling of such contributions for an expanded edition will be facilitated if they are submitted as separate items typed on a 3 x 5-inch card or slip of paper.

For example:

dsp: Duell, Sloan & Pearce (publisher's device)

thanks

The friendly co-operation of many people contributed to the publication of this book. Thanks and warm appreciation are due the librarians and many others in the Engineering Department of Convair.

The publisher and the printer and all of their personnel who had anything to do with the editing and production of this book are also in the category of people most important in helping make this an accurate and useful reference. I thank all of them, but because they are in New York and I am in California, I do not know them all by name and cannot give them individual credit for their aid.

Judy Michael, editorial assistant, is especially deserving of gratitude for her painstaking efforts with the manuscript, the galleys, and the page proofs of this expanded and revised edition.

Michael J. Sadoski, science reference librarian, and John A. Turner, ballistics expert, are also to be thanked for their splendid co-operation in giving us material for this expanded edition.

Finally, let me express my warmest gratitude to my wife, Dorothy, and to my friend, Robert McManaway, who undertook the dreadfully dull but most significant task of checking the more than seventeen thousand entries and arranging them in alphabetical and numerical order.

RALPH DE SOLA

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ABBREVIATIONS DICTIONARY

abbreviations

acronyms

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&

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defined

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Civil and Military Time Systems

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Ship's Bell Time Signals

Signs and Symbols

by RALPH DE SOLA

DUELL, SLOAN AND PEARCE

NEW YORK

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First Revised Edition



Affiliate of
MEREDITH PRESS
Des Moines & New York

Library of Congress Catalogue Card Number: 63-16829

MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR MEREDITH PRESS

VAN REES PRESS • NEW YORK

A

a: abbreviation; absent; acceleration in feet per second; account; acre; adjective; adult; aerial; afternoon; altitude intercept; amateur; ampere; annealing; anthracite; arc; are (unit of metric land measure); area; argent; at; atmosphere; audit; auditor; automatic; available; aviation; aviator; axis; azure; distance from leading edge to aerodynamic center

a': a minute (angle); a prime

a'': a second (angle); a double-prime

a''': a triple-prime

a: angle of attack; *annus* (Latin—year); attenuation constant

A: absolute; absolute temperature; academy; acid; acoustic source; actual weight of an aircraft; aircraft; airman; Alaska Steamship Company; Alcoa Steamship Company; Alfa—code for letter A; Ambassador; America; American; Ameri-

canization; Americanize; amphibian; Anchor Line; anode; anterior; April; Argon; Army; artillery; aspect ratio; astragal; Atlantic; atomic weight; attack; August; Austria (auto plaque); chemical activity; first van der Waals constant; Fraunhofer line caused by oxygen; linear acceleration; mean sound absorption coefficient; total acidity

Å: angstrom unit

A/1C: airman first class

A-2: intelligence

A/2C: airman second class

A-3: training and operations

A/3C: airman third class

A-4: supply and matériel

A-5: planning

A-6: communications

A: *albus* (Latin—white); *Amos*, *Book of*

aa: adjectives; armature accelerator

āā: equal parts

a-a: air-to-air

AA: absolute altitude; achievement age; Alcoholics Anonymous; American Airlines; Ansett Airways; antiaircraft
 A.A.: Associate in Arts
AA: Astronautica Acta (journal, International Astronautical Federation)
 aaa: amalgam
 AAA: All American Aviation; Allegheny Airlines; American Academy of Allergy; American Arbitration Association; American Automobile Association; antiaircraft artillery
 AAAA: American Association for the Advancement of Atheism; American Association of Advertising Agencies; Army Aviation Association of America
 AAAE: American Association of Airport Executives
 AAAS: Antiaircraft Artillery Information Service
 AAAL: American Academy of Arts and Letters
 AAAS: American Association for the Advancement of Science
 AAC: Aeronautical Advisory Council; Alaskan Air Command; Association of American Colleges
 AACS: Airways and Air Communications Service
 AADA: Advanced Air Depot Area
 AADS: Army Air Defense System

AAE: American Association of Endodontists; American Association of Engineers
 AAEC: Australian Atomic Energy Commission
 AAF: American Air Filter; Army Air Field; Army and Air Force
 AAFCE: Allied Air Force, Central Europe
 AAFES: Army and Air Force Exchange Service
 AAFMPS: Army and Air Force Motion Picture Service
 AAFNE: Allied Air Force, Northern Europe
 AAFSE: Allied Air Force, Southern Europe
 AAFWB: Army and Air Force Wage Board
 AAG: Air Adjutant General; Association of American Geographers
 AAGP: American Academy of General Practice
 AAL: American Airlines
 aam: air-to-air missile; *also* AAM
 AAM: American Association of Museums
 AAML: Arctic Aeromedical Laboratory
 AAMRL: American Association of Medical Record Librarians
 AANR: American Association of Newspaper Representatives
 AAO: American Association of Orthodontists
 AAOC: Antiaircraft Operations Center

AAO & O: American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology

a.a.O.: *an andern Orten* (German—elsewhere; in the place cited)

aar: against all risks

AAR: Aircraft Accident Report; Association of American Railroads

AAs: author's alterations

AAS: Aircraft Airworthiness Section; American Antiquarian Society; American Astronomical Society

AASE: Association for Applied Solar Energy

AASHO: American Association of State Highway Officials

AASM: Association of American Steel Manufacturers

AATC: Army Aviation Test Command

AAXICO: American Air Export and Import Company

ab: adapter booster; afterburner; anchor bolt

a/b: airborne; *also* A/B

a-b: Aktiebolag (Swedish Company)

Ab: Alabamine

Ab: abnormal

AB: able-bodied seaman; Air Base; Arnold Bernstein Line

A/B: Airman Basic

ABA: American Bankers Association; American Bar Association; American Booksellers Association; Swedish Airlines

abandt: abandonment

abat: abattoir

Abb.: *Abbas* (Latin—Abbot); *Abbildung* (German—cut, diagram, figure, illustration, portrait)

Abbild.—*Abbildungen* (German—illustrations)

abbrev: abbreviation

abc: automatic bass control; automatic brightness control

ABC: American Brass Company; American Broadcasting Company; Aerated Bread Company; Argentina, Brazil, Chile; atomic, biological, and chemical; Audit Bureau of Circulation

ABC: Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao (Netherlands Antilles)

ABCB: American Bottlers of Carbonated Beverages

abdc: after bottom dead center

abdom: abdomen

Abdr.—*Abdruck* (German—copy, printing)

Abe: Abraham

aber: aberration

ab ex.: *ab extra* (Latin—from outside)

Abh.—*Abhandlungen* (German—transactions, treatises)

ab init.: *ab initio* (Latin—from the beginning)

ablat: ablative

ABMA: American Boiler Manufacturers Association; Army Ballistic Missile Agency

ABMC: American Battle Monuments Commission

abn: airborne

ABNCO: American Bank Note Company

abo: aboriginal; aborigine

A-bomb: atomic bomb

abonn.: *abonnement* (French—subscription)

abonné: (French—subscriber)

abp: arterial blood pressure

Abp: Archbishop

ABP: American Business Publications

ABPC: American Book Publishers Council

abr: abridge; abridgment

abrsv: abrasive

abs: absolute; air-break switch

ABS: American Bible Society; American Brake Shoe; American Bureau of Shipping

ABSD: advanced base sectional dock

abs.feb.: *absente febre* (in the absence of fever)

absol: absolute

abst jdg: abstract of judgment

abstr: abstract

abt: about

Abt.—*Abteilung* (German—part)

abv: above

abvolt: absolute volt

ac: absolute ceiling; aerodynamic center; air cool; anti-corrosive; arithmetic computation (test); auxiliary console; asbestos cement

a/c: account current; aircraft; also A/C and AC

a-c: alternating current (when used as an adjective)

ac: *ante cibos* (before meals)

Ac: Actinium; altocumulus

AC: Aden Colony; aerodynamic center; air controlman; alternating current (when used as a noun); Ambulance Corps; Amherst College; anodal contraction or closure; Antioch College; Arcadia College; arithmetic computation test; athletic club

A/C: Air Commodore; aviation cadet

A-C: Allis-Chalmers

AC: *Atlanta Constitution*

A.C.: *Ante Christum* (Latin—before Christ)

ACA: Aircraft Castings Association; Alaska Coastal Airlines

Acad. Med: Academy of Medicine

Acad Mus: Academy of Music

Acad Sci: Academy of Science

ACAN: Army Command and Administrative Network

Acap: Acapulco

a capp.: *a cappella* (unaccompanied chorus)

AC/AS: Assistant Chief of Air Staff

acb: air circuit breaker; asbestos cement board

ACC: Air Control Center; Air Coordinating Committee; Allied Control Commission; astronomical great circle course

ACCCE: Association of Consulting Chemists and Chemical Engineers

accel: accelerate

accel.: *accelerando* (faster by degrees)

access: accessory

acci: accidental injury

ACCL: American Council of Commercial Laboratories

acco.: *accompagnamento* (accompaniment)

accom: accommodation

accomp: accomplish

acct: account; accountant; accounting

accum: accumulate

accus: accusative

accy: accessory

acd: accord

acdt: accident

ACE: alcohol, chloroform, ether mixture; Allied Command, Europe; American Council of Education; American Hard Rubber Company

acet: acetone

acetyl: acetylene

ACF: American Car & Foundry

acft: aircraft

ACFT: Aircraft Flying Training

achrom: achromatism

ACI: Air Cargo Incorporated; American Concrete Institute

ACIC: Aeronautical Chart and Information Center

acid.: acidosis

ACJ: American Council for Judaism

ack: acknowledge; acknowledgment

ack-ack: antiaircraft (slang)

acl: allowable cabin load

ACL: Atlantic Coast Line Railroad

AClant: Allied Command, Atlantic

acid: air cooled

acls: automatic carrier landing system

ACLS: American Council of Learned Societies

ACLU: American Civil Liberties Union

aclv: accrued leave

ACM: Association for Computing Machinery; auxiliary mine layer

ACME: Association of Consulting Management Engineers

acmp: accompany

acn: automatic celestial navigation

ACO: anodal closing odor

acog: aircraft on ground

acous: acoustics

ACP: American College of Physicians

ACPA: Asbestos-Cement Products Association

acpt: accept

acq: acquire; acquittal

acr: anti-constipation regimen

acrd: accrued

acre ft: acre foot

ACRL: Association of College and Research Libraries

acs: alternating current synchronous

ACS: Alaskan Communication System; American Ceramic Society; American Chemical Society; American College of Surgeons; anodal closing sound

AC/S: Assistant Chief of Staff

ACSC: Air Command and Staff College

ACSF: attack carrier striking force

act.: acting; active; actor; actress; actuate

ACT: Air Control Team

ACTA: Aircoach Transport Association

actnt: accountant

ACTOR: Askania cine-theodolite optical-tracking range

Acts: Acts of the Apostles

acv: air-cushion vehicle (ACV)

actv: activate

ACV: auxiliary aircraft carrier or tender

ACW: Amalgamated Clothing Workers

AC & Y: Akron, Canton & Youngstown Railroad

ad: area drain

AD: active duty; Aden Airways; air distance; Astia Document; average deviation; destroyer tender

A/D: Air Depot

A.D.: Anno Domini (Latin—In the Year of Our Lord); *auris dextra* (Latin—right ear)

ADA: air defense area; American Dental Association; American Dietetic Association; Atomic Development Authority

adammm: area defense anti-missile missile (ADAMM)

adandac: administrative and accounting purposes

adc: adopted child

ADC: aide-de-camp; Air Defense Command; Air Development Center

ADCC: Air Defense Control Center

add.: addendum (addition)

ad fin.: ad finem (to the end)

ADG: degaussing vessel

adh: adhesive

adhib.: adhibeatur (administer)

ad inf.: ad infinitum (to infinity)

ad init.: ad initium (to the beginning)

ad int.: ad interim (meanwhile)

ADIS: air defense integrated system

ADiv: Air Division

ADIZ: air defense identification zone

adj: adjective; adjoint; adjust

Adj: Adjutant

Adj Gen: Adjutant General

adl: armament datum line

ADL: Anti-Defamation League; Arthur D. Little, Inc.

ad lib.: ad libitum (at one's pleasure)

ad loc.: ad locum (to, or at, the place)

Adm: Admiral

ADMA: Aircraft Distributors and Manufacturers Association
 admin: administration; administrative; administrator
 AdminInstr: administrative instructions
 AdminO: administrative order (s)
admov.: *admoveatur* (apply)
 admx: administratrix
ado.: *adagio* (very slow and expressive)
 adpt: adapter
 adr: address
 Adr: Adriatic
 adren: adrenal; adrenalin
 adrm: airdrome
 ads: advertisements; air defense sector (ADS); area, date, subject (ADS); automatic door seal
 AdSec: Advanced Section
 adt: average daily traffic
 ADT: American District Telegraph
 ADTIC: Arctic, Desert, Tropic Information Center
 adult.: adulteration
 adv: advance; adverb
adv.: *adversum* (against)
 Adv: Adventist
 ADVON: Advanced Echelon
 advst: advance stoppage
 advt: advertise; advertisement; advertiser; advertising
 ADW: air defense warning
 ADWKP: air defense warning key point
 ae: aircraft equipment; air escape

AE: Air Explorer; ammunition ship (symbol); Automatic Electric
 A.E.: Agricultural Engineer; Architectural Engineer
 A & E: Agricultural and Engineering; Architectural and Engineering
A & E: *Adolphus and Ellis*
 AEA: American Economic Association; American Education Association; American Enterprise Association; American Export Airlines
 AEC: Aeronautical Research Council; Aircraft Radio Corporation; Airworthiness Requirements Committee; American Red Cross; Ames Research Center; Army Electronics Command (formerly Signal Corps)
 AEDC: Arnold Engineering Development Center
 AEDD: Air Engineering Development Division
 Ae. E.: Aeronautical Engineer
 AEFC: Airlines Electronic Engineering Committee
 AEEL: Aeronautical Electronic and Electrical Laboratory
 AEF: American Expeditionary Force
 Aeg: Aegean
 AEG: Allgemeine Elektrizitäts-Gesellschaft
 AEI: Air Express International
 AEL: Aeronautical Engine Laboratory

Aeol: Aeolic

AEP: American Electric Power

aera: aeration

AERNO: Aeronautical Equipment Reference Number

aero: aerographer; aeronautical; aeronautics

aerodyn: aerodynamics

AEROFLOT: Soviet Air Lines

AERONAVES: Aeronaves de Mexico

AERONORTE: Empresa de Transportes Aereos Norte do Brasil

AERO O/Y: Finnair

AEROVIAS "Q": Cuban Airline

AES: Aircraft Electrical Society; American Electrochemical Society; American Electroplaters Society; American Eugenics Society

AESC: American Engineering Standards Committee

aet.: *aetatis* (Latin—at or of the age of)

AEW: airborne early warning

AEWRON: Airborne Early Warning Squadron

af: anti-foam; audio frequency; *also* AF

AF: Africa; African; Air Force; Air France; air freight; Anglo-French; armored force; Aviation Photographer's Mate; provision stores ship

AFA: Air Force Association; American Foundrymen's Association

AFAC: Air Force Armament Center

AFAPO: Air Force Property Accountable Officer

AFAS: Air Force Aid Society

afb: antifriction bearing

AFB: Air Force Base

AFBMA: Antifriction Bearing Manufacturers Association

afc: automatic frequency control

AFCEA: Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association

AFCent: Allied Forces, Central Europe

AFCO: Air Force Contracting Officer

AFCRC: Air Force Cambridge Research Center

AFCRL: Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories

AFD: Air Force Depot; mobile floating drydock

AFHF: Air Force Historical Foundation

AFF: Army Field Forces

AFFA: Air Freight Forwarders Association

AFFC: Air Force Finance Center

affeto.: *affetuoso* (tenderly, with pathos)

affores: afforestation

affreto.: *affretando* (speeding the tempo)

afft: affidavit

AFFTC: Air Force Flight Test Center

Afghan: Afghanistan

AFIED: Armed Forces Information and Education Division

AFIP: Air Force Information Program; Armed Forces Institute of Pathology

afirm: affirmative

AFIS: Armed Forces Information School

AFL: Air Force Letter

AF of L: American Federation of Labor

AFLC: Air Force Logistics Command

AFL-CIO: American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations

afld: airfield

afm: antifriction metal

AFM: Air Force Manual; American Federation of Musicians

AFMed: Allied Forces, Mediterranean

AFML: Armed Forces Medical Library

AFMTC: Air Force Missile Test Center

AFNA: Air Force with Navy

AFNC: Air Force Nurse Corps

AFNorth: Allied Forces, Northern Europe

a fort.: *a fortiori* (with greater force)

AFOSR: Air Force Office of Scientific Research

AFP: Air Force Pamphlet

AFPC: Air Force Procurement Circular; Armed Forces Policy Council

AFPI: Air Force Procurement Instructions

AFPP: Air Force Procurement Procedures

AFPR: Air Force Plant Representative

AFPS: Armed Forces Press Service

AFPTRC: Air Force Personnel and Training Research Center

AFPU: Air Force Postal Unit

AFQC: Air Force Quality Control

AFQT: Armed Forces Qualification Test

afr: airframe

Afr: Afrikaans (South African Dutch)

AFR: Air Force Regulation

AFRC: Air Force Records Center

AFRes: Air Force Reserve

AFROTC: Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps

AFS: Air Force Specialty; Air Force Supply

AFSA: Armed Forces Security Agency

AFSC: Air Force Specialty Code; Air Force Systems Command; Air Force Supply Catalog

AFSN: Air Force Stock Number

AFSS: Air Force Service Statement

AFSWC: Air Force Special Weapons Center

AFSWP: Armed Forces Special Weapons Project

aft.: after; at, near, or toward the rear; afternoon

AFT: Air Freight Terminal
AFTAC: Air Force Technical Applications Center
AFTB: Air Force Test Base
AFTR: *American Federal Tax Reports*
AFTRA: American Federation of Television and Radio Artists
AFTRC: Air Force Training Command
AFTTH: Air Force Technical Headquarters
AFVA: Air Force Visual Aid
ag: armor grating
a-g: air-to-ground; anti-gas
Ag: Agaña; *argentum* (silver)
AG: Aktiengesellschaft (German company); Attorney General; miscellaneous auxiliaries
AGA: American Gas Association; American Gastroenterological Association
agacs: automatic ground-air communication system
AGARD: Advisory Group for Aeronautical Research and Development (NATO)
agb: any good brand
AGCA: Associated General Contractors of America
AGCT: Army General Classification Test
AGB: icebreaker
agc: automatic gain control
AGC: amphibious vessel; combined operations communications headquarters ship

agca: automatic ground control approach
AGD: Adjutant General's Department
Ag. Dei: *Agnus Dei* (Latin—Lamb of God)
AGDS: American Gage Design Standard
age.: aerospace ground equipment; AGE (program)
AGEP: Advisory Group on Electronic Parts
AG & ES: American Gas & Electric System
AGFA: Aktiengesellschaft für Anilinfabrikation
AGI: American Geological Institute
agit.: *agitatum* (shaken)
agit-prop: agitation and propaganda
AGL: lighthouse tender
agm: air-to-ground missile
AGMA: American Gear Manufacturers Association
agnos: agnostic; agnosticism
AGO: American Guild of Organists
AGP: motor torpedo boat tender
agep: angle plate
agpi: automatic ground position indicator
AGREE: Advisory Group on Reliability of Electronic Equipment
agric: agricultural; agriculture
agron: agronomy
Ags: Aguascalientes

AGS: American Geographical Society; surveying ship

AGU: American Geophysical Union

agw: allowable gross takeoff weight

AGWI: American Gulf West Indies Steamship Company

Ah: hyperopic astigmatism

AH: Alfred Holt's Blue Funnel Line; Arrow-Hart & Hegeman Electric Co.; hospital ship

A-H: American-Hawaiian Line

AHA: American Historical Association; American Hotel Association

AHC: Army Hospital Corps

ahd: ahead

ahf: anti-hemophilic factor

a.h.l.: *ad hunc locum* (at this place)

ahm: ampere hour meter

Ahm: Ahmedabad

ahp: air horsepower

AHP: Assistant House Physician

AHS: American Helicopter Society; Assistant House Surgeon

ai: airborne intercept; anti-icing

AI: Air India; American Institute

A/I: Aptitude Index

AIA: American Institute of Accountants; American Institute of Aeronautics; American Institute of Architects; Archaeological Institute of America

AIAA: Aircraft Industries Association of America; American

Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics

aic: aircraft in commission

AIC: ammunition identification code; Art Institute of Chicago

aicbm: anti-intercontinental ballistic missile

AICE: American Institute of Chemical Engineers; American Institute of Consulting Engineers

AICMA: Association Internationale des Constructeurs de Matériel Aéronautique

a & id: acquisition and improvement district

AID: Agency for International Development (successor to Development Loan Fund and International Cooperation Administration)

AIEE: American Institute of Electrical Engineers

AIF: Australian Imperial Forces

AIGA: American Institute of Graphic Arts

AIH: American Institute of Homeopathy

AIHS: American Irish Historical Society

AII: Air India International

AIIE: American Institute of Industrial Engineers

ail: aileron

AIMME: American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers