

So you think you know a little about the Navy, how about the chiefs space?

Goat locker

In Navy jargon, the **goat locker** is a lounge, sleeping area and galley on board a naval vessel which is reserved for the exclusive use of [Chief Petty Officers](#). By tradition, all other personnel, including officers and even he, the Commanding Officer, must request permission to enter the goat locker.

Origins of the Term:

The term takes its name from the slang term "old goat," and is a recognition that CPOs are generally, the oldest individuals aboard a Navy ship. In early sailing years, there was no refrigeration available, so livestock would travel on ships, providing the crew fresh milk and eggs.

To keep the supply of milk safe and available, the goat was kept in the Chief Petty Officers quarters. This is believed to be the source of the old Navy term, "Goat Locker." Entertainment on liberty took many forms, mostly depending on the coast and opportunity.

One pet, a goat named El Cid (meaning Chief) was the mascot aboard the *USS New York*. When its crew attended the fourth [Army–Navy Game](#) in 1893, they took El Cid to the game, which resulted in the West Pointers

losing. El Cid (The Chief) was offered shore duty at Annapolis and became the Navy's mascot.

And now you know a little bit more about the Navy and the rest of the story.

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