

## **Definition of a Classic Military Chickenshit Officer**

Anyone who has been in the Army knows the type. He was a classic chickenshit if:

1. Other officers avoided him in the Club.
2. None sought out his company.
3. No one knew anything about his previous life and no one cared.
4. He did have his favorites and loved to play them against the rest of the unit.
5. He generated maximum anxiety of matters of minimum significance.

Paul Fussell, in his book *Wartime* defined Chickenshit:

"Chickenshit refers to behavior that makes military life worse than it need be: petty harassment of the weak by the strong, open scrimmage for power and authority and prestige; sadism thinly disguised as necessary discipline; a constant 'paying off of old scores:' and insistence on the letter rather than on the spirit of the ordinances  
Chickenshit is so-called instead of horse- or bull- or elephant shit - because it is small-minded and ignoble and takes the trivial seriously."