



INSIGNIA OF THE U.S. MILITARY

Your guide to recognizing military ranks and insignia



ENLISTED INSIGNIA

Enlisted Paygrade	 Army	 Marine Corps	 Navy	 Air Force	 Coast Guard	 Space Force
E-1	Private	Private	Seaman Recruit (SR)	Airman Basic	Seaman Recruit (SR)	Specialist 1 (Spc1)
E-2	 Private (PV2)	 Private First Class (PFC)	 Seaman Apprentice (SA)	 Airman (Amn)	 Seaman Apprentice (SA)	 Specialist 2 (Spc2)
E-3	 Private First Class (PFC)	 Lance Corporal (LCpl)	 Seaman (SN)	 Airman First Class (A1C)	 Seaman (SN)	 Specialist 3 (Spc3)

E-1/E-2/E-3

Servicemembers in paygrades E-1 through E-3 are usually either in some kind of training status or on their initial assignment. The training includes the basic training phase, where recruits are immersed in military culture and values and are taught the core skills required by their service component. Basic training is followed by a specialized or advanced training

phase that provides recruits with a specific area of expertise or concentration. In the Army and Marine Corps, this area is called a military occupational specialty (MOS); in the Navy, it is known as a rate; and in the Air Force, it is simply called an Air Force Specialty.

E-4	 Corporal (CPL)  Specialist (SPC)	 Corporal (Cpl)	 Petty Officer Third Class (PO3)	 Senior Airman (SrA)	 Petty Officer Third Class (PO3)	 Specialist 4 (Spc4)
E-5	 Sergeant (SGT)	 Sergeant (Sgt)	 Petty Officer Second Class (PO2)	 Staff Sergeant (SSgt)	 Petty Officer Second Class (PO2)	 Sergeant (Sgt)
E-6	 Staff Sergeant (SSG)	 Staff Sergeant (SSgt)	 Petty Officer First Class (PO1)	 Technical Sergeant (TSgt)	 Petty Officer First Class (PO1)	 Technical Sergeant (TSgt)
E-7	 Sergeant First Class (SFC)	 Gunnery Sergeant (GySgt)	 Chief Petty Officer (CPO)	 Master Sergeant (MSgt)  First Sergeant	 Chief Petty Officer (CPO)	 Master Sergeant (MSgt)

E-4/E-5/E-6/E-7

Leadership responsibility significantly increases in the mid-level enlisted ranks. This responsibility is given formal recognition by use of the terms noncommissioned officer (NCO) and petty officer. An Army sergeant, Air Force staff sergeant and a Marine

corporal are considered NCO ranks. The Navy NCO equivalent, petty officer, is achieved at the rank of petty officer third class.

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E-8	 Master Sergeant (MSG)	 Master Sergeant (Msgt)	 Senior Chief Petty Officer (SCPO)	 Senior Master Sergeant (SMSgt)	 Senior Chief Petty Officer (SCPO)	 Senior Master Sergeant (SMSgt)
	 First Sergeant (1SG)	 First Sergeant		 First Sergeant		
E-9	 Sergeant Major (SGM)	 Master Gunnery Sergeant (MGySgt)	 Master Chief Petty Officer (MCPO)	 Chief Master Sergeant (CMSgt)	 Master Chief Petty Officer (MCPO)	 Chief Master Sergeant (CMSgt)
	 Command Sergeant Major (CSM)	 Sergeant Major (SgtMaj)	 Fleet/Comm and Master Chief Petty Officer	 First Sergeant	 Fleet/Comm and Master Chief Petty Officer	
				 Command Chief Master Sergeant		
E-9	 Sergeant Major of the Army (SMA)	 Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps (SgtMajMC)	 Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)	 Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force (CMSAF)	 Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard (MCPOCG)	 Chief Master Sergeant of the Space Force (CMSSF)

E-8/E-9

At the E-8 level, the Army, Marine Corps and Air Force have two positions at the same pay grade. Whether one is, for example, a senior master sergeant or a first sergeant in the Air Force depends on the person's job. The same is true for the positions at the E-9 level. Marine Corps master gunnery sergeants and sergeants major receive the same pay but have different responsibilities. All told, E-8s and E-9s have 15 to 30 years on the

job and are commanders' senior advisors for enlisted members. A third E-9 element is the senior enlisted person of each service. The sergeant major of the Army, the sergeant major of the Marine Corps, the master chief petty officer of the Navy and the chief master sergeant of the Air Force are the spokespersons of the enlisted force at the highest levels of their services.

WARRANT OFFICER INSIGNIA

Officer Paygrade	 Army	 Marine Corps	 Navy	 Air Force	 Coast Guard	 Space Force
W-1	 Warrant Officer 1 (WO1)	 Warrant Officer 1 (WO)	 USN Warrant Officer 1 (WO1)	N/A	N/A	N/A
W-2	 Chief Warrant Officer 2 (CW2)	 Chief Warrant Officer 2 (CWO2)	 USN Chief Warrant Officer 2 (CWO 2)	N/A	 Chief Warrant Officer 2 (CWO2)	N/A
W-3	 Chief Warrant Officer 3 (CW3)	 Chief Warrant Officer 3 (CWO3)	 USN Chief Warrant Officer 3 (CWO3)	N/A	 Chief Warrant Officer 3 (CWO3)	N/A
W-4	 Chief Warrant Officer 4 (CW4)	 Chief Warrant Officer 4 (CWO4)	 USN Chief Warrant Officer 4 (CWO4)	N/A	 Chief Warrant Officer 4 (CWO4)	N/A
W-5	 Chief Warrant Officer 5 (CW5)	 Chief Warrant Officer 5 (CWO5)	 USN Chief Warrant Officer 5 (CWO5)	N/A	N/A	N/A

Warrant Officers

Warrant officers hold warrants from their service secretary and are specialists and experts in certain military technologies or capabilities. The lowest-ranking warrant officers serve under a warrant, but they receive commissions from the president upon promotion to chief warrant officer 2. These commissioned

warrant officers are direct representatives of the president of the United States. They derive their authority from the same source as commissioned officers but remain specialists, in contrast to commissioned officers, who are generalists. There are no warrant officers in the Air Force.

COMMISSIONED OFFICER INSIGNIA

Officer Paygrade	 Army	 Marine Corps	 Navy	 Air Force	 Coast Guard	 Space Force
O-1	 Second Lieutenant (2LT)	 Second Lieutenant (2ndLt)	 Ensign (ENS)	 Second Lieutenant (2dLt)	 Ensign (ENS)	 Second Lieutenant (2dLt)
O-2	 First Lieutenant (1LT)	 First Lieutenant (1stLt)	 Lieutenant Junior Grade (LTJG)	 First Lieutenant (1stLt)	 Lieutenant Junior Grade (LTJG)	 First Lieutenant (1stLt)
O-3	 Captain (CPT)	 Captain (Capt)	 Lieutenant (LT)	 Captain (Capt)	 Lieutenant (LT)	 Captain (Capt)
O-4	 Major (MAJ)	 Major (Maj)	 Lieutenant Commander (LCDR)	 Major (Maj)	 Lieutenant Commander (LCDR)	 Major (Maj)
O-5	 Lieutenant Colonel (LTC)	 Lieutenant Colonel (LtCol)	 Commander (CDR)	 Lieutenant Colonel (LtCol)	 Commander (CDR)	 Lieutenant Colonel (LtCol)
O-6	 Colonel (COL)	 Colonel (Col)	 Captain (CAPT)	 Colonel (Col)	 Captain (CAPT)	 Colonel (Col)

Commissioned Officers

The commissioned ranks are the highest in the military. These officers hold presidential commissions and are confirmed at their ranks by the Senate. Army, Air Force and Marine Corps officers are called company grade officers in paygrades of O-1 through O-3, field grade officers in paygrades O-4 through O-6 and general officers in paygrades O-7 and higher. The equivalent

officer groupings in the Navy are called junior grade, mid-grade and flag. Naval officers wear distinctly different rank devices depending upon the uniform they're wearing. The three basic uniforms and rank devices used are: khakis with collar insignia pins, whites with stripes on shoulder boards and blues with stripes sewn on the lower coat sleeves.

COMMISSIONED OFFICER INSIGNIA

Officer Paygrade	 Army	 Marine Corps	 Navy	 Air Force	 Coast Guard	 Space Force
O-7	 Brigadier General (BG)	 Brigadier General (Bgen)	 Rear Admiral Lower Half (RDML)	 Brigadier General (Brig Gen)	 Rear Admiral Lower Half (RDML)	 Brigadier General (Brig Gen)
O-8	 Major General (MG)	 Major General (MajGen)	 Real Admiral Upper Half (RADM)	 Major General (Maj Gen)	 Real Admiral Upper Half (RADM)	 Major General (Maj Gen)
O-9	 Lieutenant General (LTG)	 Lieutenant General (LtGen)	 Vice Admiral (VADM)	 Lieutenant General (LtGen)	 Vice Admiral (VADM)	 Lieutenant General (LtGen)
O-10	 General (GEN)	 General (Gen)	 Admiral (ADM)	 General (Gen)	 Admiral (ADM)	 General (Gen)
O-11	 General of the Army <i>Reserved for wartime only</i>	N/A	 Fleet Admiral <i>Reserved for wartime only</i>	 General of the Air Force <i>Reserved for wartime only</i>	 Fleet Admiral <i>Reserved for wartime only</i>	N/A

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