

US Military Ranks and Units

Modern US Military Ranks

The table shows current ranks in the US military service branches, but they can serve as a fair guide throughout the twentieth century. Ranks in foreign military services may vary significantly, even when the same names are used. Many European countries use the rank Field Marshal, for example, which is not used in the United States.

Pay Scale	Army	Air Force	Marines	Navy and Coast Guard
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Commissioned Officers

**	General of the Army	General of the Air Force		Fleet Admiral
O-10	Army Chief of Staff General	Air Force Chief of Staff General	Commandant of the Marine Corps General	Chief of Naval Operations Commandant of the Coast Guard Admiral
O-9	Lieutenant General	Lieutenant General	Lieutenant General	Vice Admiral
O-8	Major General	Major General	Major General	Rear Admiral (Upper Half)
O-7	Brigadier General	Brigadier General	Brigadier General	Rear Admiral (Commodore)
O-6	Colonel	Colonel	Colonel	Captain
O-5	Lieutenant Colonel	Lieutenant Colonel	Lieutenant Colonel	Commander
O-4	Major	Major	Major	Lieutenant Commander
O-3	Captain	Captain	Captain	Lieutenant
O-2	1st Lieutenant	1st Lieutenant	1st Lieutenant	Lieutenant, Junior Grade
O-1	2nd Lieutenant	2nd Lieutenant	2nd Lieutenant	Ensign

Warrant Officers

W-5	Master Warrant Officer 5		Chief Warrant Officer 5	Master Warrant Officer
W-4	Warrant Officer 4		Chief Warrant Officer 4	Warrant Officer 4
W-3	Warrant Officer 3		Chief Warrant Officer 3	Warrant Officer 3
W-2	Warrant Officer 2		Chief Warrant Officer 2	Warrant Officer 2
W-1	Warrant Officer 1		Warrant Officer	Warrant Officer 1

Blank indicates there is no rank at that pay grade.

** Ranks used infrequently during wartime.

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Non-Commissioned Officers

Special	Sergeant Major of the Army	Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force	Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps	Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy
E-9	Command Sergeant Major Sergeant Major	First Sergeant (Chief Master Sergeant) Chief Master Sergeant	Sergeant Major Master Gunnery Sergeant	Master Chief Petty Officer
E-8	First Sergeant Master Sergeant	First Sergeant (Senior Master Sergeant) Senior Master Sergeant	First Sergeant Master Sergeant	Senior Chief Petty Officer
E-7	Sergeant First Class	First Sergeant (Master Sergeant) Master Sergeant	Gunnery Sergeant	Chief Petty Officer
E-6	Staff Sergeant	Technical Sergeant	Staff Sergeant	Petty Officer First Class
E-5	Sergeant	Staff Sergeant	Sergeant	Petty Officer Second Class
E-4	Corporal		Corporal	Petty Officer Third Class

Enlisted Personnel

E-4	Specialist	Senior Airman		
E-3	Private First Class	Airman First Class	Lance Corporal	Seaman
E-2	Private	Airman	Private First Class	Seaman Apprentice
E-1	Private (Recruit)	Airman Basic	Private	Seaman Recruit

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