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# THE CHAIN OF COMMAND

## EXERCISE MATERIALS, HANDOUTS, AND VIEWGRAPHS

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The Chain of Command

# Army Ranks, Insignia and Grades

Officer		Enlisted	
	General of the Army		Sergeant Major of the Army E-9
	General/O-10		Command Sergeant Major E-9
	Lieutenant General/O-9		Sergeant Major E-9
	Major General/O-8		First Sergeant E-8
	Brigadier General O-7		Master Sergeant E-8
	Colonel/O-6		Sergeant First Class E-7
	Lieutenant Colonel O-6 (Silver)		Staff Sergeant E-6
	Major/O-4 (Gold)		Sergeant E-5
	Captain/O-3		Corporal E-4
	First Lieutenant/O-2 (Silver)		Specialist E-4
	Second Lieutenant O-1 (Gold)		Private First Class E-3
			Private E-2
		No Insignia	Private E-1
Warrant Officer			
	Master Warrant Officer (W-5)		Chief Warrant Officer (W-3)
	Chief Warrant Officer (W-4)		Chief Warrant Officer (W-2)
	Warrant Officer (W-1)		

Source: Profile of the Army: A Reference Handbook (Arlington, VA: Association of the United States Army, Institute of Land Warfare), January 1993.



## The Chain of Command

# Rank Structure

## Enlisted Ranks

- **Junior Enlisted personnel** — enter the military as Recruits, and once they complete their Basic Military Training, they generally attain rank. Some enter as Privates, but depending on education level can immediately attain the rank of PV2 or PFC, and upon completion of basic training, some may attain the rank of specialist. Enlisted personnel form the foundation of the Army's manpower.
- **Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO)** — expert Soldiers who have undergone professional military training courses and have proven themselves to be capable and responsible. They serve as the link between the officers and the Soldiers and are referred to as the backbone of the Army.

## Officer Ranks

- **Warrant Officer Ranks** — Warrant Officers are referred to as Mr. or Ms when being formally addressed and are generally technicians in their specified fields. They are considered specialists and experts in certain military technologies or capabilities.
- **Commissioned Officers**
  - **Junior Officer Ranks** — also known as Company Grades, the company grade officers are Second Lieutenant, First Lieutenant, and Captain. They command platoons or companies of Soldiers. They oversee the execution of orders and ensure the welfare of the Soldiers under their command. They are most important in small-unit combat and earn the respect of their Soldiers by leading by example.
  - **Field Grade Officer Ranks** — are the mid-level officers within organizations from battalion up. They are the staff officers in every senior level HQs from the Pentagon to the combatant commands. Major through Colonel, field grade officers serve as staff officers and as commanders. Many have successfully commanded at the company level, and in the ranks of Lieutenant Colonel and Colonel they command battalions and brigades respectively. Field grade officers orchestrate day-to-day activities on most staffs.
  - **General Officer Level Ranks** — The people with the highest ranks in the Army are known as the General Officers or GOs. They are responsible for the planning of policies which affect the entire Army, including command of Divisions, Corps, and Armies. Presently, the five levels for general officers are: Brigadier General (BG), Major General (MG), Lieutenant General (LTG), General (GEN), and General of the Army.



The Chain of Command

# Military and Civilian Grades

## ENLISTED PERSONNEL AND WAGE GRADE CIVILIANS

Military Grade	Military Rank	Civilian Grades
E-9	Command Sergeant Major (CSM)	Wage Supervisor (WS) Levels 1-17  Wage Leader (WL) Levels 1-15  Wage Grade (WG) Levels 1-15
E-9	Sergeant Major (SGM)	
E-8	First Sergeant (1SG)	
E-8	Master Sergeant (MSG)	
E-7	Sergeant First Class (SFC)	
E-6	Staff Sergeant (SSG)	
E-5	Sergeant (SGT)	
E-4	Corporal (CPL)	
E-4	Specialist (SPC)	
E-3	Private First Class (PFC)	
E-2	Private (PV2)	
E-1	Private (PV1)	

## WARRANT OFFICERS

Military Grade	Military Rank
W-5	Chief Warrant Officer (CW5)
W-4	Chief Warrant Officer (CW4)
W-3	Chief Warrant Officer (CW3)
W-2	Chief Warrant Officer (CW2)
W-1	Warrant Officer (WO1)

## COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND GENERAL SCHEDULE/SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE CIVILIANS

Military Grade	Military Rank	Civilian Grades
	General of the Army	Senior Executive Service (SES) Level 1-6
0-10	General (GEN)	
0-9	Lieutenant General (LTG)	
0-8	Major General (MG)	
0-7	Brigadier General (BG)	
0-6	Colonel (COL)	
0-5	Lieutenant Colonel (LTC)	
0-4	Major (MAJ)	
0-3	Captain (CPT)	
0-2	First Lieutenant (1LT)	
0-1	Second Lieutenant (2LT)	

**NOTES:**

1. Military/civilian *equivalencies* are not reflected on this chart.
2. Grade and rank/position identify the official standing and level of advancement of a Soldier or civilian employee.



The Chain of Command

# Army Branch Insignia



Adjutant General



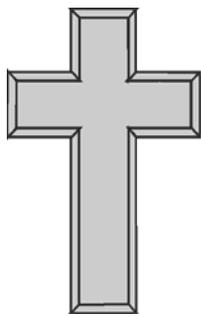
Air Defense Artillery



Armor



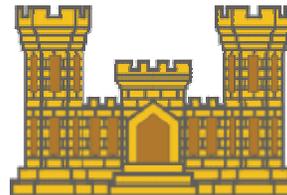
Aviation



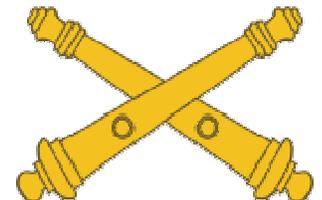
Chaplain Corps



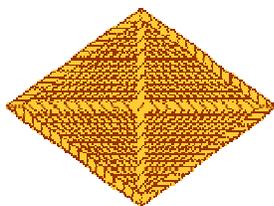
Chemical



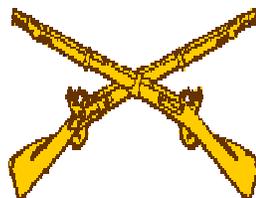
Engineer



Field Artillery



Finance



Infantry



Judge Advocate General



Medical Corps



Military Intelligence



Military Police



Ordnance



Quartermaster



Signal



Special Forces



Transportation



Dental Corps



Veterinary Corps



Army Nurse Corps



Army Medical Specialist Corps



Medical Service Corps

My Soldier's Branch is \_\_\_\_\_.

*Circle the one that your Soldier's Branch falls under:*

Combat Arms

Combat Support

Combat Service Support

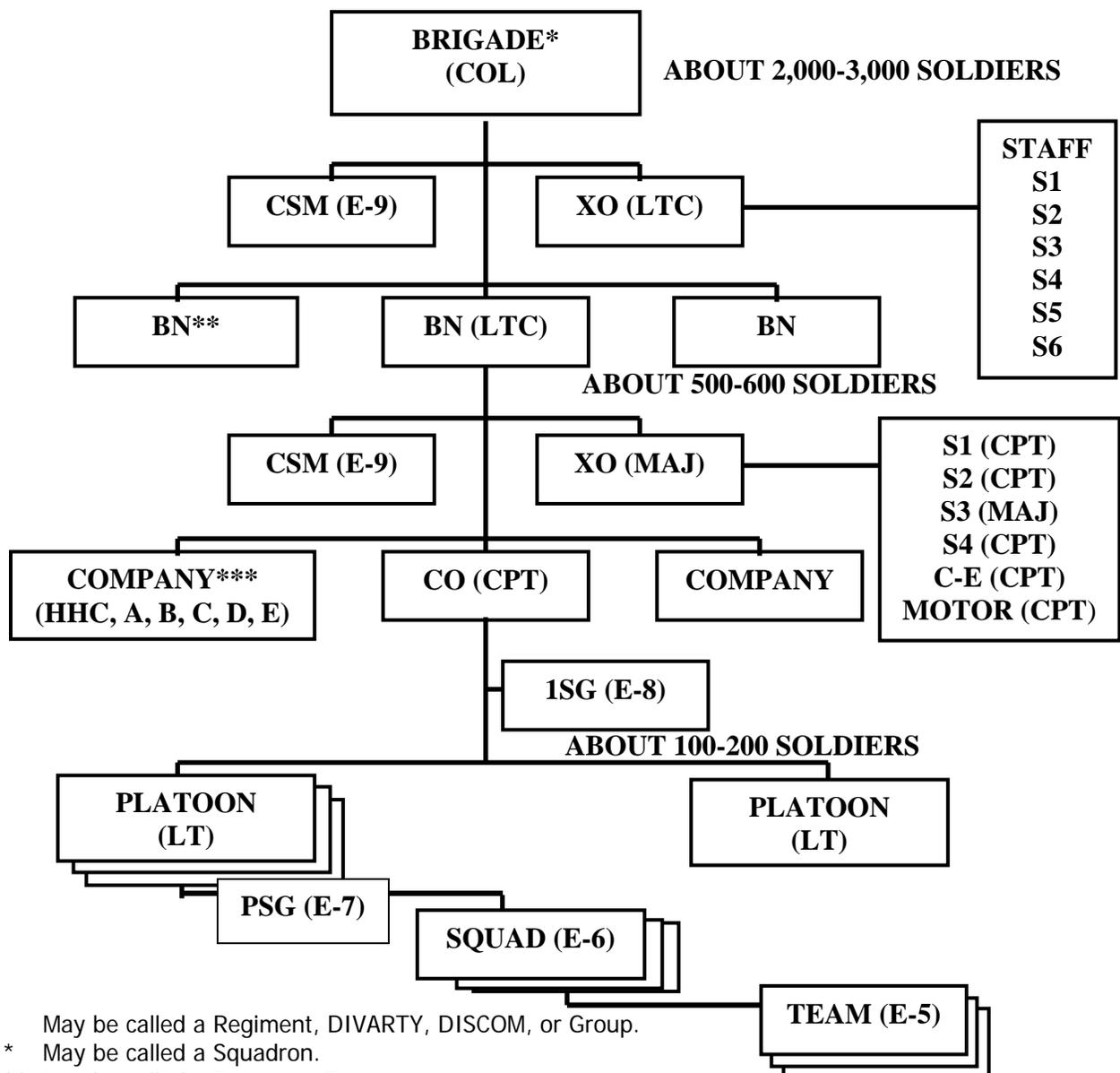
Medical Services



The Chain of Command

# Brigade Command Structure

This chart depicts a brigade (BDE), battalion (BN), and a company (CO) organization generally representative of what you may find in a military unit. There may be more or fewer battalions or companies in the unit with different staff positions.



\* May be called a Regiment, DIVARTY, DISCOM, or Group.  
 \*\* May be called a Squadron.  
 \*\*\* May be called a Battery or Troop.

NOTE: Use PITS (Personnel/Intelligence/Training/Supply) to remember staff numbers 1-4.  
 S6 = Communications-Electronics; S5 = Civilian/Military (in foreign country/metropolitan area).



## U.S. Army Structure

Unit	Composition	Unit Commander	Senior NCO
<p><b>Corps</b> 20,000 to 45,000 Soldiers. As the deployable level of command required to synchronize and sustain combat operations, the corps provides the framework for multi-national operations.</p>	<p>Headquarters 2 or more Divisions Corps Artillery Support Command</p>	<p><b>Lieutenant General (LTG)</b></p>	<p><b>Command Sergeant Major (CSM)</b></p>
<p><b>Division</b> 10,000 to 15,000 Soldiers. The division performs major tactical operations for the corps and can conduct sustained battles and engagements.</p>	<p>Headquarters 3 Brigades (DIVARTY, DISCOM, Regiment)</p>	<p><b>Major General (MG)</b></p>	<p><b>CSM</b></p>
<p><b>Brigade</b> Brigades are employed on independent or semi-independent operations.</p>	<p>Headquarters 3-5 Battalions (DIVARTY, DISCOM Squadrons, Regiment)</p>	<p><b>Colonel (COL)</b></p>	<p><b>CSM</b></p>
<p><b>Battalion (Squadron)</b> A battalion is capable of independent operations of limited duration and scope.</p>	<p>Headquarters 3-5 Companies (Batteries, Troops)</p>	<p><b>Lieutenant (LTC)</b></p>	<p><b>CSM</b></p>
<p><b>Company (Battery, Troop)</b></p>	<p>Headquarters 3-4 Platoons</p>	<p><b>Captain (CPT)</b></p>	<p><b>First Sergeant (1SG)</b></p>
<p><b>Platoon (Sections)</b></p>	<p>3-4 Squads</p>	<p><b>Lieutenant – 2LT, 1LT</b></p>	<p><b>Sergeant First Class (SFC) (Platoon Sergeant - PSG)</b></p>
<p><b>Squad (Section)</b> Smallest element in the Army structure, and its size is dependent on its function.</p>	<p>3 to 4 Teams of 3 to 4 Soldiers each</p>	<p><b>Staff Sergeant (SSG)</b></p>	



## The Chain of Command

# Major Army Commands (MACOMS)

### **ACCESSIONS COMMAND –**

[www.usaac.army.mil](http://www.usaac.army.mil)

The U.S. Army Accessions Command (USAAC) is charged with providing recruiting and initial military training for the Army. It meets the human resource needs and transforms volunteers into soldiers and leaders for the Army. The U.S. Army Recruiting Command is located in Ft. Jackson, South Carolina.

### **AMC –**

[www.amc.army.mil](http://www.amc.army.mil)

AMC is the Army's premier provider of materiel readiness to the total force across the spectrum of joint military operations. If a soldier shoots it, drives it, flies it, wears it or eats it, AMC provides it. U.S. Army Material Command located in Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

### **EUSA –**

<http://8tharmy.korea.army.mil>

The EUSA is the Army Component of the Joint Command, US Forces Korea. EUSA serves as a deterrent of North Korean aggression against the Republic of Korea and, should deterrence fail, supports noncombatant-evacuation operations and transitions to hostilities as it generates combat power to support the United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, and US Forces Korea response. Eight U.S. Army located in Yongsan, Korea.

### **FORSCOM –**

[www.forscom.army.mil](http://www.forscom.army.mil)

The Army component of U.S. Joint Forces Command, FORSCOM trains, mobilizes, deploys and sustains active and reserve component forces capable of operating in joint and combined environments to meet worldwide operational commitments. U.S. Army Forces Command located at Fort McPherson, Georgia.

### **INSCOM –**

[www.inscom.army.mil](http://www.inscom.army.mil)

U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM) conducts dominant intelligence security and information operations for military commanders and national decision makers. INSCOM Headquarters are located at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia.

### **MEDCOM –**

[www.armymedicine.army.mil](http://www.armymedicine.army.mil)

MEDCOM projects and sustains a healthy and medically protected force; trains, equips, and deploys the medical force; and manages and promotes the health of soldiers and military families. U.S. Army Medical Command located at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

### **MTMC –**

[www.mtmc.army.mil](http://www.mtmc.army.mil)

MTMC is the Department of Defense's heavy-equipment mover for contingency, training and humanitarian operations. U.S. Army Military Traffic Management Command located on Alexandria, Virginia.



## Major Army Commands (MACOMS)

(cont'd.)

### SMDC –

[www.smdc.army.mil](http://www.smdc.army.mil)

SDMC develops and provides space and missile-defense capabilities for the Army and the nation. U.S. Space and Missile Defense Command located in Arlington, Virginia.

### TRADOC –

[www.tradoc.army.mil](http://www.tradoc.army.mil)

TRADOC shapes the 21<sup>st</sup>-century Army by training and educating its Soldiers and leaders while sustaining the shared vision of how the Army operates as a member of joint service, combined arms and multinational teams. U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command located at Fort Monroe, Virginia.

### USAREUR –

[www.hqusareur.army.mil](http://www.hqusareur.army.mil)

As the Army in Europe, USAREUR is structured and trained as a versatile and agile power-projection force, ready for joint and multinational operations, and committed to providing for the readiness and well-being of its soldiers, civilians and families. U.S. Army, Europe located at Heidelberg, Germany.

### USARPAC –

[www.usarpac.army.mil](http://www.usarpac.army.mil)

USARPAC provides trained and ready forces in support of military and peacetime operations in the Asia-Pacific area in order to contribute to regional stability, crisis response and decisive victory. U.S. Army Pacific located at Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

### USASCE –

[www.usace.army.mil](http://www.usace.army.mil)

USACE provides quality, responsive engineering services to the Army, Department of Defense and the nation. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers located in Washington, D.C.

### USASOC –

[www.soc.mil](http://www.soc.mil)

USASOC organizes, trains, educates, mans, equips, funds, administers, mobilizes, deploys and sustains Army special operations forces to successfully conduct worldwide special operations across the range of military operations, in support of regional combatant commanders, American ambassadors and other agencies, as directed. U.S. Army Special Operations Command located at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.