

## US Army Enlisted Ranks

Service members in pay grades 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 this area is called a military occupational specialty (MOS)

For rank and precedence within the Army, specialist ranks immediately below corporal. Among the services, however, rank and precedence are determined by pay grade. Specialists who have demonstrated leadership abilities and are serving in Sergeant positions can be promoted to Corporals. This signifies that they hold a leadership position, and are held to the responsibilities and authorities inherent in that role. These individuals either do not have enough "Time in grade" to be promoted, or have not yet had a chance to go to the Primary Leadership Development Course.



Leadership responsibility significantly increases in the mid-level enlisted ranks. This responsibility is given formal recognition by use of the term noncommissioned officer (NCO).

Army Corporals and Sergeants are considered NCO ranks.



At the E-8 level, the Army has two positions at the same pay grade. Whether one is a Master Sergeant or a first sergeant in the Army depends on the person's job. A Master Sergeant works in a staff position, whereas a First Sergeant is responsible for a Company of soldiers. The same is true for the positions at the E-9 level (SGM and CSM), except that they are at a Battalion or higher level. Army Sergeant Majors and Command Sergeant Majors 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 advisers for enlisted matters. A third E-9 element is the senior enlisted person of the Army. The sergeant major of the Army is the spokespersons of the enlisted force at the highest levels of their services**



**Master Sgt, First Sgt  
(MSG) (1SG)**



**Sergeant Major  
(SGM)**



**Command Sgt Major  
(CSM)**



**Sergeant Major of  
the Army  
(SMA)**

## US Army Warrant Officer Ranks

Officer ranks in the United States military consist of commissioned officers and 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.



**Warrant Officer 1  
(WO1)**



**Chief Warrant Officer  
2  
(CW2)**



**Chief Warrant Officer 3  
(CW3)**



**Chief Warrant Officer 4  
(CW4)**



**Chief Warrant Officer 5  
(CW5)**

## US Army Officer Ranks

The commissioned ranks are the highest in the military. These officers hold presidential commissions and are confirmed at their ranks by the Senate. Army officers are called company grade officers in the pay grades of O-1 to O-3, field grade officers in pay grades O-4 to O-6 and general officers in pay grades O-7 and higher.



**Second Lieutenant**



**First Lieutenant (1LT)**



**Captain (CPT)**



**Major (MAJ)**



**Lieutenant Colonel (LTC)**



**Colonel (COL)**

Stars were first used to identify general officers on June 18, 1780 when it was prescribed that Major Generals would wear two stars and Brigadier Generals one star on each epaulette. Three stars were established in 1798 for the rank of Lieutenant General and were worn by the Commander-in-Chief, General Washington. Four stars were authorized for the rank of General when the rank was established by Act of Congress on July 25, 1866. Grant was the first officer of the Army to hold the rank of General and to wear the insignia of four silver stars.



**Brigadier General (BG)**



**Major General (MG)**



**Lieutenant General (LTG)**



**General  
(Gen)**



**General of the Army  
(Wartime only)**

**General of the Army was established by Congress on December 14, 1944 and provided that no more than four officers could be appointed. President Roosevelt appointed Generals George Marshall, Douglas MacArthur, Dwight D. Eisenhower and Henry H. Arnold. Act of Congress, approved September 15, 1950, authorized the President to appoint General Omar N. Bradley to the grade of General of the Army. The insignia of grade for General of the Army is prescribed as five silver stars set in a circle with the coat of arms of the United States, in gold, above the circle of stars.**

## **When to Salute**

**The salute is a courteous exchange of greetings, with the junior member always saluting first. When returning or rendering an individual salute, the head and eyes are turned toward the Colors or person saluted. When in ranks, the position of attention is maintained unless otherwise directed.**

**Military personnel in uniform are required to salute when they meet and recognize persons entitled (by grade) to a salute except when it is inappropriate or impractical (in public conveyances such as planes and buses, in public places such as inside theaters, or when driving a vehicle).**

## **Persons Entitled to a Salute**

- **The President of the United States (Commander-in-Chief)**
- **Commissioned Officers and Warrant Officers**
- **Any Medal of Honor Recipient**
- **Officers of Friendly Foreign Countries**

## **A salute is also rendered**

- **When the United States National Anthem, "To the Color," "Hail to the Chief," or foreign national anthems are played.**
- **To uncased National Color outdoors.**
- **On ceremonial occasions (such as Change of Command, and Military Parades).**
- **At reveille and retreat ceremonies, during the raising or lowering of the flag.**
- **During the sounding of honors.**
- **When the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag is being recited outdoors.**
- **When turning over control of formations.**
- **When rendering reports.**

## Salutes are not required when

- **Indoors, except when reporting to an officer or when on duty as a guard.**
- **Addressing a prisoner.**
- **Saluting is obviously inappropriate. In these cases, only greetings are exchanged. (Example: A person carrying articles with both hands, or being otherwise so occupied as to make saluting impracticable, is not required to salute a senior person or return the salute to a subordinate.)**
- **Either the senior or the subordinate is wearing civilian clothes (a salute in this case is not inappropriate, but is not required.)**
- **Officers of equal rank pass each other (a salute in this case is not inappropriate, but it is not required.)**

**Prisoners whose sentences include punitive discharges have lost the right to salute. All other prisoners, regardless of custody or grade, render the prescribed salute except when under armed guard. Any military person recognizing a need to salute or a need to return one may do so anywhere at any time.**

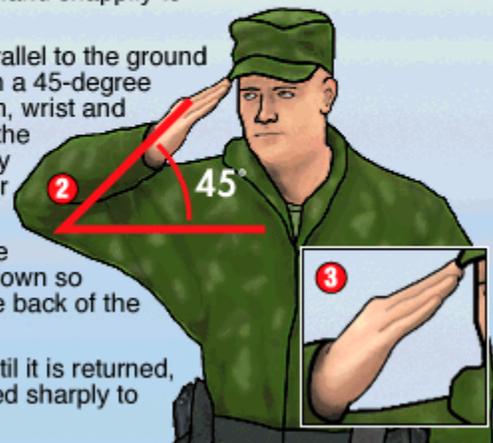


## Anatomy of a salute

When an officer and an enlisted soldier or two officers meet in uniform outdoors, a salute must be rendered at a distance of six to 30 paces.

- 1 In a one-count movement, the subordinate soldier raises the right hand snappily to the forehead.
- 2 The upper arm is parallel to the ground and the elbow is bent in a 45-degree angle. The soldier's arm, wrist and hand are straight, with the right index fingers lightly touching the eyebrow or the visor of the hat.
- 3 The outer edge of the hand is barely canted down so neither the palm nor the back of the hand is visible.

The salute is held until it is returned, then the hand is dropped sharply to its normal position.

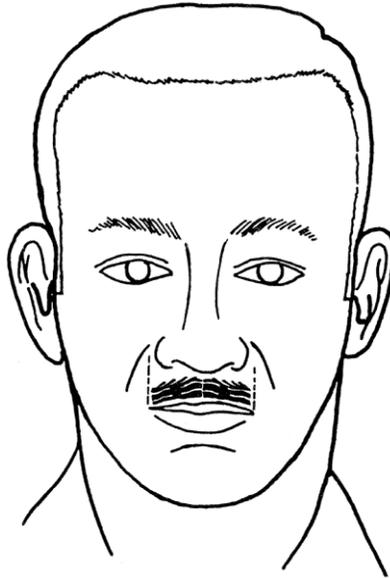


## **GENERAL APPEARANCE GUIDELINES AND UNIFORM WEAR**

AR 670-1 (Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia) Hair. Male haircuts will conform to the following standards:

**The hair on top of the head must be neatly groomed. The length and bulk of the hair may not be excessive or present a ragged, unkempt, or extreme appearance. The hair must present a tapered appearance. A tapered appearance is one where the outline of the soldier's hair conforms to the shape of the head, curving inward to the natural termination point at the base of the neck. When the hair is combed, it will not fall over the ears or eyebrows, or touch the collar, except for the closely cut hair at the back of the neck. The block-cut fullness in the back is permitted to a moderate degree, as long as the tapered look is maintained. In all cases, the bulk or length of hair may not interfere with the normal wear of headgear or protective masks or equipment. Males are not authorized to wear braids, cornrows, or dreadlocks (unkempt, twisted, matted, individual parts of hair) while in uniform or in civilian clothes on duty. Hair that is clipped closely or shaved to the scalp is authorized. Sideburns will be neatly trimmed. Sideburns may not be flared; the base of the sideburn will be a clean-shaven, horizontal line. Sideburns will not extend below the lowest part of the exterior ear opening.**

**SHAVING. Males will keep their face clean-shaven when in uniform or in civilian clothes on duty. Mustaches are permitted; if worn, males will keep mustaches neatly trimmed, tapered, and tidy. Mustaches will not present a chopped off or bushy appearance, and no portion of the mustache will cover the upper lip line or extend sideways beyond a vertical line drawn upward from the corners of the mouth (see figure below). Handlebar mustaches, goatees, and beards are not authorized.**



**Figure 1-1. Wear of mustache**

---

**Female haircuts. Will conform to the following standards**

**Females will ensure their hair is neatly groomed, that the length and bulk of the hair are not excessive, and that the hair does not present a ragged, unkempt, or extreme appearance. Likewise, trendy styles that result in shaved portions of the scalp (other than the neckline) or designs cut into the hair are prohibited. Females may wear braids and cornrows as long as the braided style is conservative, the braids and cornrows lie snugly on the head, and any hair-holding devices comply with the standards in below. Dreadlocks (unkempt, twisted, matted individual parts of hair) are prohibited in uniform or in civilian clothes on duty. Hair will not fall over the eyebrows or extend below the bottom edge of the collar at any time during normal activity or when standing in formation. Long hair that falls naturally below the bottom edge of the collar, to include braids, will be neatly and inconspicuously fastened or pinned, so no free-hanging hair is visible. This includes styles worn with the physical fitness uniform (PFU). Styles that are lopsided or distinctly unbalanced are prohibited. Ponytails, pigtails, or braids that are not secured to the head**

**(allowing hair to hang freely), widely spaced individual hanging locks, and other extreme styles that protrude from the head are prohibited. Extensions, weaves, wigs, and hairpieces are authorized; however, these additions must have the same general appearance as the individual's natural hair. Additionally, any wigs, extensions, hairpieces, or weaves must comply with the grooming policies set forth in this paragraph. Females will ensure that hairstyles do not interfere with proper wear of military headgear and protective masks or equipment at any time. When headgear is worn, the hair will not extend below the bottom edge of the front of the headgear, nor will it extend below the bottom edge of the collar. Hair-holding devices are authorized only for the purpose of securing the hair. Soldiers will not place hair-holding devices in the hair for decorative purposes. All hair-holding devices must be plain and of a color as close to the soldier's hair as is possible or clear. Authorized devices include, but are not limited to, small, plain scrunchies (elastic hair bands covered with material), barrettes, combs, pins, clips, rubber bands, and hair bands. Devices that are conspicuous, excessive, or decorative are prohibited. Some examples of prohibited devices include, but are not limited to, large, lacy scrunchies; beads, bows, or claw clips; clips, pins, or barrettes with butterflies, flowers, sparkles, gems, or scalloped edges; and bows made from hairpieces.**

**Dreadlocks are prohibited for all soldiers. Prohibited colors of hair dye include purple, blue, pink, green, orange, bright fire-engine red, and neon colors. Applied colors must look natural on the individual soldier. Females are authorized to wear braids and cornrows. Baldness is authorized for males, either natural or shaved.**

**Nails.** Males are not authorized to wear nail polish, and they must keep nails trimmed to the tip of the finger. Females must keep nails trimmed no longer than 1/4 inch, as measured from the fingertip. Two-tone or multitone manicures and nail designs are prohibited. Prohibited nail polish colors include bright fire-engine red, khaki or camouflage, purple, gold, blue, black, white and neon colors.

**Contact Lenses.** Tinted or colored contact lenses and contacts that change the shape of the iris are prohibited because they are not medically required. The only authorized contact lenses are opaque lenses (when prescribed for eye injuries) and clear, corrective vision lenses.

**Cell Phones and Pagers.** One electronic device is authorized for wear on the uniform in the performance of official duties. The device may be either a cell phone or pager - not both. The device must be black in color and may not exceed 4x2x1 inches. Devices that do not comply with these criteria may not be worn on the uniform and must be carried in the hand, in a bag, or in some other carrying container.

**Bloused Boots.** Soldiers will not blouse boots any lower than the third eyelet from the top of the boot.

**Headgear.** Males are exempt from wearing headgear to evening social events (after retreat).

**Black Beret.** The Army flash is the only flash authorized, unless authorization for distinctive flashes was granted (such as opposing forces (OPFOR)) before 14 Jun 01.

**Hydration Systems.** Commanders may authorize the use of a camouflage hydration system (commonly called "camelbacks") for field duty or on work details. Soldiers will not use these devices in a garrison environment unless directed by the commander.

**Jewelry. Soldiers may wear a wristwatch, a wrist identification bracelet, and a total of two rings (a wedding set is considered one ring) with Army uniforms, unless prohibited by the commander for safety or health reasons. Any jewelry soldiers wear must be conservative and in good taste. Identification bracelets are limited to medical alert bracelets and MIA/POW identification bracelets. Soldiers may wear only one item on each wrist.**

**Body piercing. When on any Army installation or other places under Army control, soldiers may not attach, affix, or display objects, articles, jewelry, or ornamentation to or through the skin while they are in uniform, in civilian clothes on duty, or in civilian clothes off duty (this includes earrings for male soldiers). The only exception is for female soldiers, as indicated in paragraph 1-14d, below. (The term "skin" is not confined to external skin, but includes the tongue, lips, inside the mouth, and other surfaces of the body not readily visible). Females are not authorized to wear earrings with any class C (utility) uniform (BDU, ACU, hospital duty, food service, physical fitness, field, or organizational).**

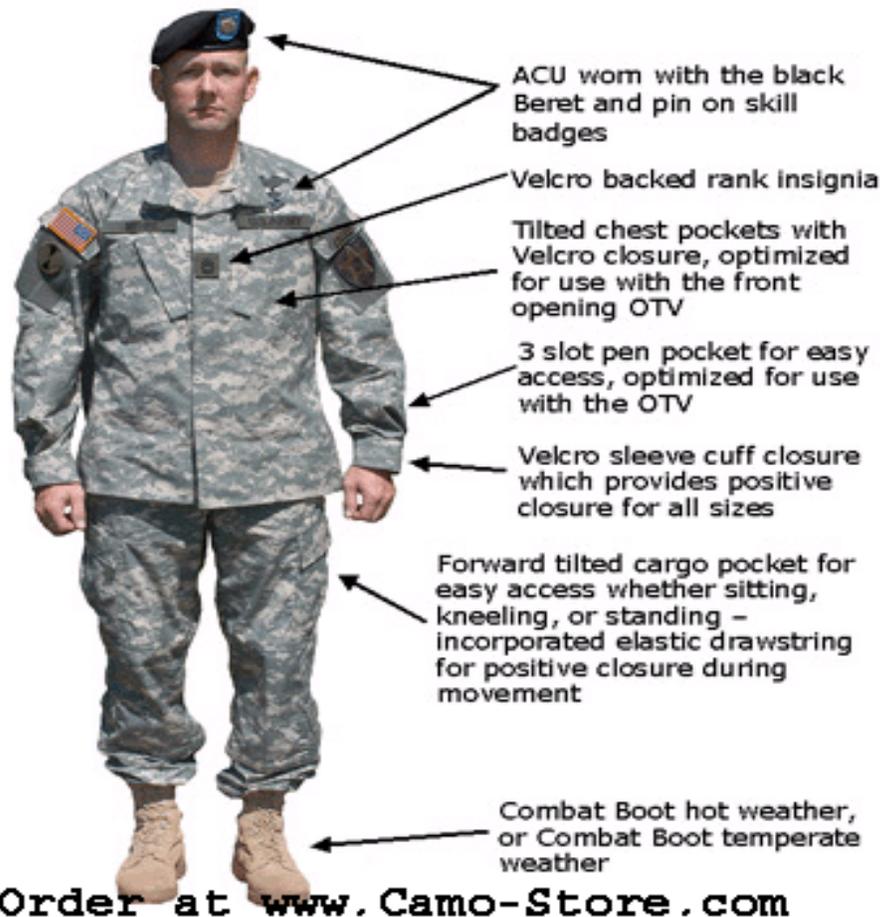
### **ARMY PHYSICAL TRAINING UNIFORM (PT'S)**



### **POINTS FOR WEAR**

- **SHIRT MUST BE TUCKED IN**
- **SOCKS MUST BE WHITE WITH NO LOGOS**
- **COMMERCIAL RUNNING SHOE IS AUTHORIZED FOOTWEAR**
- **670-1 STANDARDS APPLY**

### **ARMY COMBAT UNIFORM (ACU)**



Order at [www.Camo-Store.com](http://www.Camo-Store.com)

## **THE ARMY'S FORCE STRUCTURE**

**The basic building block of all Army organizations is the individual soldier. A small group of soldiers organized to maneuver and fire is called a squad. As elements of the Army's organizational structure become larger units, they contain more and more subordinate elements from combat arms, combat-support and combat-service-support units. A company is typically the smallest Army element to be given a designation and affiliation with higher headquarters at battalion and brigade level. This alphanumeric and branch designation causes an "element" to become a "unit."**

**SQUAD** – Nine to 10 soldiers. Typically commanded by a sergeant or staff sergeant, a squad or section is the smallest element in Army structure, and its size is dependent on its function.

**PLATOON** – 16 to 44 soldiers. A platoon is led by a lieutenant with an NCO as second in command, and consists of two to four squads or sections.

**COMPANY** – 62 to 190 soldiers. Three to five platoons form a company, which is commanded by a captain with a first sergeant as the commander's principal NCO assistant. An artillery unit of equivalent size is called a battery, and a comparable armored or air cavalry unit is called a troop.

**BATTALION** – 300 to 1,000 soldiers. Four to six companies make up a battalion, which is normally commanded by a lieutenant colonel with a command sergeant major as principal NCO assistant. A battalion is capable of independent operations of limited duration and scope. An armored or air cavalry unit of equivalent size is called a squadron.

**BRIGADE** – 3,000 to 5,000 soldiers. A brigade headquarters commands the tactical operations of two to five organic or attached combat battalions. Normally commanded by a colonel with a command sergeant major as senior NCO, brigades are employed on independent or semi-independent operations. Armored, cavalry, ranger and Special Forces units this size are categorized as regiments or groups.

**DIVISION** – 10,000 to 15,000 soldiers. Usually consisting of three brigade-sized elements and commanded by a major general, divisions are numbered and assigned missions based on their structures. The division performs major tactical operations for the corps and can conduct sustained battles and engagements.

**CORPS – 20,000 to 45,000 soldiers. Two to five divisions constitute a corps, which is typically commanded by a lieutenant general. As the deployable level of command required to synchronize and sustain combat operations, the corps provides the framework for multi-national operations.**

**ARMY – 50,000+ soldiers. Typically commanded by a lieutenant general or higher, an army combines two or more corps. A theater army is the ranking Army component in a unified command, and it has operational and support responsibilities that are assigned by the theater commander in chief. The commander in chief and theater army commander may order formation of a field army to direct operations of assigned corps and divisions. An army group plans and directs campaigns in a theater, and is composed of two or more field armies under a designated commander. Army groups have not been employed by the Army since World War II.**

## **THE SOLDIER'S CREED**

**I am an American Soldier.**

**I am a Warrior and a member of a team. I serve the people of the United States and live the Army Values.**

**I will always place the mission first.**

**I will never accept defeat.**

**I will never quit.**

**I will never leave a fallen comrade.**

**I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills. I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.**

**I am an expert and I am a professional.**

**I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.**

**I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.**

**I am an American Soldier.**

## **THE ARMY SONG**

**First to fight for the right, and to build the Nation's might,  
And the Army Goes Rolling Along  
Proud of all we have done,  
Fighting till the battle's won,  
And the Army Goes Rolling Along**

### **CHORUS:**

**Then it's hi, hi, hey! The Army's on its way  
Count off the cadence loud and strong (two, three)  
for wher-e'er we go, you will always know  
that the Army Goes Rolling Along**