

# Australian Defence Force ranks

The **Australian Defence Force's (ADF) ranks** of officers and enlisted personnel in each of its three service branches of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN), the Australian Army, and the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) inherited their rank structures from their British counterparts. The insignia used to identify these ranks are also generally similar to those used in the British Armed Forces.

The following tables show the "equivalent rank and classifications" for the three services, as defined in the ADF Pay and Conditions Manual.<sup>[1]</sup> "Equivalent rank" means the corresponding rank set out under Regulation 8 of the *Defence Force Regulations 1952*.<sup>[2]</sup>

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## Commissioned officer ranks

**NATO Aus/US**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Navy</b>	<b>Army</b>	<b>RAAF</b>
<b>Flag/General/Air Officers</b> <sup>[1][3]</sup>				
OF-10	O-11 <sup>[a]</sup>	Admiral of the fleet	Field marshal	Marshal of the RAAF
OF-9	O-10 <sup>[b]</sup>	Admiral	General	Air chief marshal
OF-8	O-9 <sup>[c]</sup>	Vice admiral	Lieutenant general	Air marshal
OF-7	O-8	Rear admiral	Major general	Air vice marshal
OF-6	O-7 <sup>[d]</sup>	—	—	Air commodore

**Senior officers**

OF-6	O-7 <sup>[d]</sup>	Commodore	Brigadier	—
OF-5	O-6 <sup>[d]</sup>	Captain (RAN)	Colonel	Group captain
OF-4	O-5 <sup>[d]</sup>	Commander	Lieutenant colonel	Wing commander
OF-3	O-4 <sup>[d]</sup>	Lieutenant commander	Major	Squadron leader

**Junior officers**

OF-2	O-3 <sup>[d]</sup>	Lieutenant	Captain (Army)	Flight lieutenant
OF-1	O-2	Sub lieutenant	Lieutenant	Flying officer
OF-1	O-1	Acting sub lieutenant	Second lieutenant	Pilot officer
—	S-1	Midshipman	—	—

**Cadets**

—	—	—	Officer cadet	Officer cadet
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## Warrant officer ranks

**NATO Aus/US**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Navy</b>	<b>Army</b>	<b>RAAF</b>
<b>Warrant officers</b>				
OR-9	E-9	Warrant officer	Warrant officer	Warrant officer
			Warrant officer class 1	
OR-8	E-8	—	Warrant officer class 2	—

Note that the most senior warrant officer in each of the three services is appointed either Warrant Officer of the Navy (WO-N), Regimental Sergeant Major of the Army (RSM-A), or Warrant Officer of the Air Force (WOFF-AF), as appropriate. These are appointments, not ranks; these three people hold the rank of Warrant Officer in their respective services. However, they each wear special insignia, different from the rank insignia worn by other warrant officers. Although the RAN and the RAAF have the one warrant officer rank, the army has three. The soldier appointed Regimental Sergeant Major of the Army (RSM-A) holds the unique Army rank of warrant officer (introduced in 1991 and senior to WO1). The Army rank of WO2 is the same pay grade as the RAN and the RAAF's most senior NCOs, (i.e. chief petty officer and flight sergeant).<sup>[1]</sup>

## Non-commissioned officer ranks

NATO Code	Aus/US Code	Navy	Army	RAAF
<b>Senior non-commissioned officers</b>				
OR-8	E-8	Chief petty officer	—	Flight sergeant
OR-7	E-7	—	Staff sergeant <sup>[1][e]</sup>	—
OR-6	E-6	Petty officer	Sergeant	Sergeant
<b>Junior non-commissioned officers</b>				
OR-5	E-5	Leading seaman	Corporal/bombardier	Corporal
OR-4	E-4	—	Lance Corporal/Bombardier	—

## Other ranks

NATO Code	Aus/US Code	Navy	Army	RAAF
<b>Enlisted</b>				
OR-3	E-3	Able seaman	Private (Proficient)	Leading aircraftman/woman
OR-2	E-2	Seaman	Private	Aircraftman/woman

## Insignia

### Commissioned officers

The rank insignia for commissioned officers for the army, navy and air force respectively.

<b>Equivalent NATO code</b>	OF-10	OF-9	OF-8	OF-7	OF-6	OF-5	OF-4	OF-3	OF-2	
 <b>Australia (Edit)</b>										
	<u>Field marshal</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Lieutenant general</u>	<u>Major general</u>	<u>Brigadier</u>	<u>Colonel</u>	<u>Lieutenant colonel</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>Lieutenant</u>
 <b>Australia (Edit)</b>										
	<u>Admiral of the fleet</u>	<u>Admiral</u>	<u>Vice admiral</u>	<u>Rear admiral</u>	<u>Commodore</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>Commander</u>	<u>Lieutenant commander</u>	<u>Lieutenant</u>	<u>Sub-lieutenant</u>
 <b>Australia (Edit)</b>										
	<u>Marshal of the RAAF</u>	<u>Air chief marshal</u>	<u>Air marshal</u>	<u>Air vice-marshal</u>	<u>Air commodore</u>	<u>Group captain</u>	<u>Wing commander</u>	<u>Squadron leader</u>	<u>Flight lieutenant</u>	<u>Flight instructor</u>
<b>Equivalent NATO code</b>	OF-10	OF-9	OF-8	OF-7	OF-6	OF-5	OF-4	OF-3	OF-2	

### Enlisted

The rank insignia for enlisted personnel for the army, navy and air force respectively.

Equivalent	OR-9	OR-8	OR-7	OR-6	OR-5	OR-4	OR-3	OR-2	OR-1
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NATO code										
 <b>Australia</b> (Edit)						<i>No equivalent</i>			<b>No insignia</b>	
	Regimental sergeant major of the army	Warrant officer class 1	Warrant officer class 2	Staff sergeant (to be phased out)	Sergeant		Corporal	Lance corporal	Private (or equivalent)	
 <b>Australia</b> (Edit)				<i>No equivalent</i>		<i>No equivalent</i>		<i>No equivalent</i>		
	Warrant Officer of the Navy	Warrant Officer	Chief Petty Officer		Petty Officer		Leading Seaman		Able Seaman	Seaman
 <b>Australia</b> (Edit)				<i>No equivalent</i>		<i>No equivalent</i>		<i>No equivalent</i>		
<b>Equivalent NATO Code</b>	OR-9		OR-8	OR-7	OR-6	OR-5	OR-4	OR-3	OR-2	OR-1

## See also

- [Royal Australian Navy ranks and uniforms](#)
- [Australian Army officer rank insignia](#)
- [Australian Army enlisted rank insignia](#)
- [Royal Australian Air Force \(RAAF\) rank insignia](#)

## Notes

- O-11 ranks - admiral of the fleet, field marshal and marshal of the RAAF - may only be used in wartime and for honorary appointments.
- O-10 ranks - The **Chief of the Defence Force** is the sole O-10 ranked appointment.
- O-9 ranks - The **Vice Chief of the Defence Force**, Chief of Joint Operations, Chief of the Capability Development Executive and Chiefs of the Navy, Army and Air Force comprise the six O-9 ranked appointments.
- Chaplains:
  - O-3 ranks - Chaplains are **commissioned officers** without rank, however they are accorded the rank of Captain (O-3) for reasons of protocol, ceremonial occasions and for saluting purposes.
  - O-4/5 ranks - The more senior division 2 and 3 chaplains are accorded the rank of Major (O-4) and Lieutenant Colonel (O-5), respectively.
  - O-6 ranks - The three Principal Chaplains representing the three major Christian denominations: **Catholic**, **Anglican**, and **Protestant**, are equivalent to a Colonel (O-6).
  - O-7 ranks - The heads of the various churches and religions officially associated to the ADF's Religious Advisory Committee, such as the Anglican and Catholic Bishops of the Military, are equivalent to a Brigadier (O-7).
- Without prejudice to existing holders of the rank, the Army has ceased to promote soldiers to the rank of staff sergeant.<sup>[4]</sup>

## References

- "ADF Pay and Conditions Manual (PACMAN)" ([http://www.defence.gov.au/DPE/PAC/V2\\_Ch1\\_Pt4.htm](http://www.defence.gov.au/DPE/PAC/V2_Ch1_Pt4.htm)). *People Strategies and Policy* (AL13 ed.). Department of Defence, Australian Government. November 2009. p. 1.
- Defence Force Regulations 1952. (<http://www.comlaw.gov.au/comlaw/Legislation/LegislativeInstrumentCompilation1.nsf/frameLodgmentattachm ents/940A4F3215B96743CA256F7100446DD8>)

3. *Badges of Rank and Special Insignia* ([http://www.defence.gov.au/badges\\_of\\_rank.cfm](http://www.defence.gov.au/badges_of_rank.cfm)). Commonwealth of Australia - Department of Defence. September 2003. pp. 2–3.
4. "Australian Army Rank Structure, Other Ranks" (<https://www.army.gov.au/our-people/australian-army-rank-structure/other-ranks>). *army.gov.au*. Australian Army. 25 October 2019. Retrieved 25 January 2020.

## External links

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- [ADF Badges of rank \(http://www.defence.gov.au/images/Badges\\_of\\_rank.pdf\)](http://www.defence.gov.au/images/Badges_of_rank.pdf) (copyright (<https://web.archive.org/web/20080403033424/http://www.defence.gov.au/copyright.cfm>))
  - [ADF Pay & Conditions Manual - Equivalent ranks and classifications \(http://www.defence.gov.au/PayAndConditions/ADF/chapter-1/Part-4/default.asp\)](http://www.defence.gov.au/PayAndConditions/ADF/chapter-1/Part-4/default.asp)
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