

ARMY RANKS

The rank of army officers is denoted as follows:

Army men wear khaki with service marks on their shoulders with bars, leaves and stars.

A gold bar on the shoulder of an army officer indicates the rank of Second Lieutenant; a silver bar First Lieutenant. Two bars mean Captain. A Major wears a gold leaf. A Lieutenant Colonel wears a silver leaf.

A Colonel wears a silver spread eagle.

A Brigadier General wears one star. A Major-General wears two stars. A Lieutenant-General wears three stars and a full General wears four stars.

These are the commissioned officers in the fighting army. Men in other military services carry these same ranks; for instance, Drs. in the Medical Corps are ranked as above with the highest rank being the Surgeon-General, and it has its distinct markings of snakes wrapped around an upright bar with wings at the top, known as Caduceus. It signifies the Biblical reference to Moses lifting up the serpent in the wilderness and the people being healed when looking upon it.

Army Chaplains wear the cross. Aviators wear "wings." The navy has distinct markings which correspond to the same ranks as the army.

Non-commissioned officers are below the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. In other words officers are men from 2nd Lieut. up; non-coms. are men up to 2nd Lieut., as follows:

Lieut., as follows:

When a man first enlists he is a buck private with no markings. The next higher rank is Private First Class whose mark is one chevron (inverted V) on left arm; then comes the Corporal with 2 chevrons; then comes Sergeant with 3 chevrons; then Staff-Sergeant with 3 chevrons and lowest one connected at the bottom; then Technical Sergeant with a bar under the chevrons; then Master Sergeant (Top Sergeant or "Top Kick") with the 3 chevrons and a diamond mark in the center.

In army talk the "Top Kicks" and the Colonel run the army, the rest of the men are "just around there." A private is as bare of markings as is a freshly hatched chicken. Top Sergeants draw more pay than Lieut. because Sergeants get free meals and uniforms while officers must pay for these out of their own pockets. When a "Top Sergeant" is promoted, he won't accept a lieutenantancy and must receive a captaincy. Here is a way you can remember some markings: The gold represents the lowest rank of commissioned officers because it is the first rank any private receives and, therefore, is most coveted. That is why a 1st Lieut. wears a silver bar while a 2nd-Lieut. wears a gold bar. The Captain wears double bars called railroad tracks. The leaf of a major refers to the old Roman army saying that a major should climb a tree and look over his battalion. The eagle eye of a Colonel represents the height of a bird to overlook a regiment. A Captain is over a company of 100 or more men. A Corporal is over a squad of generally 3 men, a Sergeant is over several squads.