



Ministry of Defence

# The rank insignias of the Netherlands armed forces



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**ROYAL NETHERLANDS NAVY**



**ROYAL NETHERLANDS ARMY**



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**ROYAL NETHERLANDS MARECHAUSSEE**



**FORMS OF ADDRESS IN THE ARMED FORCES**



This brochure was published by:

Netherlands Ministry of Defence  
Directorate of Communication

April 2016

Graphic design/photography:  
Defence Media Centre | The Hague

# Royal Netherlands Navy

The ranks have been grouped according to their rank group (flag- and general officers, senior officers, junior officers, NCOs, corporals and other ranks).  
 In the RNLN, a corporal is classed as an NCO. A distinction is made between the insignias of NCOs and other ranks of the fleet and those of the marine corps.  
 For the marines, the chevrons (V shaped symbols) have a red border.



Admiral

General  
(Marine corps)



Vice Admiral

Lieutenant  
General  
(Marine corps)



Rear Admiral

Major General  
(Marine corps)



Commodore

Brigadier  
General  
(Marine corps)



Captain

Colonel  
(Marine corps)



Commander

Lieutenant  
Colonel  
(Marine corps)



Lieutenant  
Commander

Major  
(Marine corps)



Lieutenant

Captain  
(Marine corps)



Lieutenant  
Junior Grade

First  
Lieutenant  
(Marine corps)



Sub-  
Lieutenant

Second  
Lieutenant  
(Marine corps)



Warrant  
Officer

Warrant  
Officer  
(Marine corps)



Chief Petty  
Officer

Sergeant  
Major  
(Marine corps)



Petty Officer

Sergeant  
(Marine corps)



Leading Rating

Corporal  
(Marine corps)



Able Rating

Marine  
Class 1  
(Marine corps)



Ordinary Rating

Marine  
Class 2  
(Marine corps)



Junior Rating

Marine  
(Marine corps)

# Royal Netherlands Army

The ranks have been grouped according to their rank group (general officers, senior officers, junior officers, NCOs, corporals and other ranks). For cavalry and military administration units, the insignias of the ranks of corporal up to and including sergeant major are in silver braid.



General



Lieutenant General



Major General



Brigadier General



Colonel



Lieutenant Colonel



Major



Captain



First Lieutenant



Second Lieutenant



Officer Candidate



Warrant Officer



Sergeant Major



Sergeant Class 1



Sergeant



Corporal



Lance Corporal



Private Class 1



Private Class 2



Private

# Royal Netherlands Air Force

The ranks have been grouped according to their rank group (general officers, senior officers, junior officers, NCOs, corporals and other ranks).



General



Lieutenant General



Major General



Air Commodore



Colonel



Lieutenant Colonel



Major



Captain



First Lieutenant



Second Lieutenant



Officer Candidate



Warrant Officer



Sergeant Major



Flight Sergeant



Sergeant



Corporal



Lance Corporal



Private Class 1



Private Class 2



Private Class 3

# Royal Netherlands Marechaussee

The ranks have been grouped according to their rank group (general officers, senior officers, junior officers, NCOs, corporals and other ranks).



Lieutenant General



Major General



Brigadier General



Colonel



Lieutenant Colonel



Major



Captain



First Lieutenant



Second Lieutenant



Officer Candidate



Warrant Officer



Sergeant Major



Sergeant Class 1



Sergeant



Marechaussee Class 1



Marechaussee Class 2



Marechaussee Class 3



Marechaussee Class 4

# Forms of address in the armed forces

Most forms of address (the way somebody is addressed in a letter or conversation) correspond with rank. A number of ranks, however, should be addressed differently. The following overview shows the ranks that have an alternative form of address.

## Rank

### Royal Netherlands Navy (fleet)

Admiral, Vice Admiral

Captain

Commander

Lieutenant Commander, Lieutenant Junior Grade,

Sub-Lieutenant and Lieutenant

Warrant Officer

Sergeant Major

Able Rating, Ordinary Rating

*\* In the Netherlands nautical service, a warrant officer is addressed as opperschipper, a sergeant major as captain (schipper), a sergeant as boatswain and a corporal as quartermaster.*

### Royal Netherlands Navy (Marine Corps)

Lieutenant General, Major General,

Brigadier General

Lieutenant Colonel

First Lieutenant, Second Lieutenant

Warrant Officer

Sergeant Major

Marine Class 1,2,3

## Forms of address

Admiral

Colonel

(NL: Overste)

Sir/Madam

Warrant Officer (\*)

Major

Rating

General

Colonel (NL: Overste)

Lieutenant

Warrant Officer

Major

Marine

### Royal Netherlands Army

Lieutenant General, Major General,

Brigadier General

Lieutenant Colonel

First Lieutenant, Second Lieutenant

Warrant Officer

Sergeant Class 1

Corporal

Private Class 1,2,3

General

Colonel (NL: Overste)

Lieutenant

Warrant officer

Sergeant

Corporal

Private\*

*\* Depending on the armed forces Service, service group or regiment, the form of address can also be: grenadier, rifleman, fuselier, commando, shock trooper, hussar, gunner, rider or pontonier.*

### Royal Netherlands Air Force

Lieutenant General, Major General

Lieutenant Colonel

First Lieutenant, Second Lieutenant

Flight Sergeant

Private Class 1,2,3

General

Colonel (NL: Overste)

Lieutenant

Sergeant

Private

### Royal Netherlands Marechaussee

Lieutenant General, Major General,

Brigadier General

Lieutenant Colonel

First Lieutenant, Second Lieutenant

Sergeant Class 1

Marechaussee Class 1, 2, 3, 4

General

Colonel (NL: Overste)

Lieutenant

Sergeant

Marechaussee

*Military chaplains are addressed by the form of address used within their religion, irrespective of rank. For example minister, father, rabbi, imam, pandit, etc.*