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Australian Defence Force RanksThis article lists the ranks of officers and enlisted personnel in the Australian Defence Force's (ADF) three service branches. The ADF comprises the: Royal Australian Navy (RAN) Australian Army Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) The three Australian services 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 PACMAN, ADF Pay and Conditions Manual, Vol.2, Chap.1, Part.4, pg.1, sections 1.4.1 and 1.4.2, Edition AL13 (November 2009), People Strategies and Policy, Australian Department of Defence. "Equivalent rank" means the corresponding rank set out under Regulation 8 of the Defence Force Regulations 1952. [Index] [Table] [Search] [Search this Act] [Notes] [Noteup] [Previous] [Download] [Help] Ranks and corresponding ranks Note: See section 21. 1 Ranks and corresponding ranks (1) The ranks of members of the Defence Force (other than chaplains) in the Navy, Army and Air Force are set out in the following table. Ranks and corresponding ranks Item Column 1 Navy Column 2 Army Column 3 Air Force 1 Admiral of the Fleet Field Marshal Marshal of the Royal Australian Air Force 2 Admiral General Air Chief Marshal 3 Vice Admiral Lieutenant General Air Marshal 4 Rear Admiral Major General Air Vice Marshal 5 Commodore Brigadier Air Commodore 6 Captain Colonel Group Captain 7 Commander Lieutenant Colonel Wing Commander 8 Lieutenant Commander Major Squadron Leader 9 Lieutenant Captain Flight Lieutenant 10 Sub Lieutenant Lieutenant Flying Officer 11 Acting Sub Lieutenant Second Lieutenant Pilot Officer 12 Midshipman Staff Cadet or Officer Cadet Officer Cadet 13 Warrant Officer of the Navy Regimental Sergeant Major of the Army Warrant Officer of the Air Force 14 Warrant Officer Warrant Officer Class 1 Warrant Officer 15 Chief Petty Officer Warrant Officer Class 2 Flight Sergeant 16 Staff Sergeant 17 Petty Officer Sergeant Sergeant 18 Leading Seaman Corporal Corporal 19 Lance Corporal 20 Able Seaman Leading Aircraftman 21 Seaman Private Aircraftman (2) A rank specified in an item in the table in subclause (1) is a corresponding rank in relation to any other rank specified in that item. (3) A reference in an item in the table in subclause (1) to a rank is taken to include a reference to any other rank, not specified in that table, that is equivalent to the rank specified in that item. AustLII: Copyright Policy | Disclaimers | Privacy Policy | Feedback The Australian Government has a number of military ranks and these are used across the military forces that it supports. The following table shows some equivalencies between the different ranks used by this government. Military rank (or rank) is a system of listing the seniority and command (degree of decision-making responsibility) within military organizations. The following are rank equivalents in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) three service branches: Royal Australian Navy (RAN), Australian Army, Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). Commissioned Officers AIR FORCE (RAAF)ARMYNavy (RAN) Marshal of the RAAFMRAAFField MarshalFMAdmiral of the FleetAF Air Chief MarshalACMGeneralGENAdmiralADML Air MarshalAIRMSHLLieutenant GeneralLTGENVice AdmiralVADM Air Vice-MarshalAVMMajor GeneralMAJGENRear AdmiralRADM Air CommodoreAIRCDREBrigadierBRIGCommodoreCDRE Group CaptainGPCAPTColonelCOLCaptainCAPT Wing CommanderWGCDRLieutenant ColonelLTCOLCommanderCMDR Squadron LeaderSQNLDRMajorMAJLieutenant CommanderLCDR Flight LieutenantFLTLTCaptainCAPTLieutenantLEUT Flying OfficerFLGOFFLieutenantLTSub LieutenantSBLT Pilot OfficerPLTOFF2nd Lieutenant2LT… … … MidshipmanMIDN Note: Lieutenant is pronounced “Left-tenant” Warrant Officers AIR FORCE (RAAF)ARMYNAVY (RAN) Warrant OfficerWOFFWarrant Officer Class OneWO1Warrant OfficerWOsee note Warrant Officer Class TwoWO2see note NOTE: The Army rank of Warrant Officer Class Two (WO2) is equivalent to boththe RAN rank of Chief Petty Officer (CPO) and the RAAF rank of Flight Sergeant (FSGT). Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) AIR FORCE (RAAF)ARMYNAVY (RAN) Flight SergeantFSGTsee note Chief Petty OfficerCPO… Staff SergeantSSGT… SergeantSGTSergeantSGTPetty OfficerPO CorporalCPLCorporalBombardierCPLLBDRLeading SeamanLS… Lance CorporalLance BombardierLCPLLBDR… Other Ranks AIR FORCE (RAAF)ARMYNAVY (RAN) Leading Aircraftman Leading AircraftwomanLACLAC W…Able SeamanAB Aircraftman AircraftwomanACAC WPrivate PTEBandsman Craftsman CFNGunner GNRSapper SPRSignaller SIGTrooper TPRSeamanSMN Other Information An enlistee in the RAAF is referred to as an Aircraftman / Aircraftwoman Recruit (ACR / ACWR) and remains as such until graduation from basic training (1RTU). On completion of basic training, the graduate is reclassified to the rank of Aircraftman / Aircraftwoman (AC/ACW). The term “Australian Defence Force” is singular and is the only correct term that should be used. “Australian Defence Forces” with an “s” is wrong. The following terms are also wrong and should not be used: “armed services” and “armed forces”. “Australian Army” is the correct title that should be used, NOT the “Royal Australian Army”. More Information Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. This article lists the ranks of officers and enlisted personnel in the Australian Defence Force's (ADF) three service branches. The ADF comprises the: The three Australian services 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 PACMAN, ADF Pay and Conditions Manual, Vol.2, Chap.1, Part.4, pg.1, sections 1.4.1 and 1.4.2, Edition AL13 (November 2009), People Strategies and Policy, Australian Department of Defence.[1] "Equivalent rank" means the corresponding rank set out under Regulation 8 of the Defence Force Regulations 1952.[2] Commissioned Officer ranks[] References:[1][3] Warrant Officer ranks[] NATOCode Aus/USCode Navy Army RAAF Warrant officers 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 to 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).[1] Non-commissioned officer ranks[] NATOCode Aus/USCode NAVY ARMY RAAF Senior non-commissioned officers OR-8 E-8 Chief petty officer — Flight sergeant OR-7 E-7 — Staff sergeant[1][8] — OR-6 E-6 Petty officer Sergeant Sergeant Junior non-commissioned officers OR-4 E-5 Leading seaman Corporal/bombardier Corporal OR-3 E-4 — Lance corporal/Lance bombardier — Enlisted ranks[] NATOCode Aus/USCode Navy Army RAAF Enlisted OR-3 E-3 Able seaman Private proficient[1][9] Leading aircraftman/woman OR-2 E-2 Seaman Private Aircraftman/woman See Australian Army enlisted rank insignia for ranks used by some Corps in place of private. See also[] References and notes[] ↑ 1.0 1.1 1.2 1.3 1.4 PACMAN, ADF Pay and Conditions Manual, Vol.2, Chap.1, Part.4, pg.1, sections 1.4.1 and 1.4.2, Edition AL13 (November 2009), People Strategies and Policy, Australian Department of Defence. (Online at ↑ Defence Force Regulations 1952. ↑ Badges of Rank and Special Insignia. Commonwealth of Australia - Department of Defence. September 2003. pp. 2–3. ↑ 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. ↑ 7.0 7.1 7.2 7.3 7.4 7.5 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.[citation needed] ↑ "Private proficient" (PTE(P)) is not a separate formal ADF rank and does not 'outrank' private; it is a salary proficiency point (pay grade) which is "automatically" granted after 12 months service as a private - refer and . The same holds with seaman being re-classified as able seaman, and aircraftman/woman being re-classified leading aircraftman/woman after 12 months; the requirements are the same for all three services. Thus, able seaman and leading aircraftman/woman do not outrank private, seaman or aircraftman/woman. The relevant regulations are: External links[] ADF Badges of rank (copyright) The most basic organisation in the armed forces is that of rank. Rank is the lawful authority given to a sailor, soldier, or an airman to command others. The higher the rank, the more people he or she has to command and is responsible for. There are four broad categories of rank. On enlistment into the armed forces a person usually has no rank. Officially this person is responsible for no one but themselves but practically they are responsible for their mates as well. These personnel are known as the "rank and file" by virtue of the fact that on parade they fill out the ranks and files. Non-commissioned Non-commissioned officers (NCOs) form the largest rank group in the armed forces. They are responsible for small groups of people, usually numbering no more than about 15, but a platoon sergeant or equivalent is responsible for the discipline of 30 to 40 soldiers. An NCO's authority to command is vested in them by their commanding officer as a representative of the commander of their service, as opposed to an officer, whose authority derives from a commission from the head of state. Warrant Those with warrant rank are known collectively as warrant officers and within a military organisation are generally responsible for the maintenance of discipline. Their authority is derived from the warrant that they hold. When originally instituted, sometime prior to the 1800s, officers could issue warrants to selected personnel to help them carry out their tasks; once these duties were fulfilled the warrant was withdrawn. In 1879 the British Army introduced a permanent warrant to define the authority of its most senior NCOs and these soldiers become known as warrant officers. In Australia a warrant is issued under the authority of the Defence Act of 1903. All personnel up to and including warrant officers are known collectively as other ranks. Commissioned Those with commissioned rank are known as officers. Their authority to command is vested in them by the head of state, in Australia's case the sovereign, and this authority is known as their commission. Officers are usually responsible for around 30 people at the most junior levels of command, up to hundreds of thousands at the highest levels. Once granted, a commission is held up for life and can only by withdrawn in the case of serious misconduct. The following table lists equivalent ranks in the Royal Australian Navy (RAN), Australian Army, and Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). Current ranks are listed in plain text and those no longer used are listed in italics. Other ranks RAN Army RAAF Boy 2nd Class Boy 1st Class SeamanCook Musician Signalman Stoker 2nd and 3rd Class Telegraphist Private Bandsman CraftsmanDriver GunnerPioneer Sapper Signaller Trooper Aircraftman/woman Able SeamanSteward Stoker 1st Class Writer Leading Aircraftman/woman Non-commissioned officers RAN Army RAAF Lance Corporal Lance Bombardier Leading SeamanLeading Cook Leading Signalman Leading Steward Leading Stoker Leading Telegraphist Leading Writer Corporal Bombardier Corporal Lance Sergeant Petty OfficerYeoman of Signals Bandmaster Sergeant Sergeant Staff Sergeant Chief Petty Officer*Chief Stoker Flight Sergeant* *Flight Sergeants and Chief Petty Officers hold an equivalent position in the rank hierarchy to Army Warrant Officers Class Two but do not possess a warrant issued under the authority of The Defence Act. Warrant officers RAN Army RAAF Warrant Officer Class 2 Warrant Officer Warrant Officer Class 1 Warrant Officer Commissioned officers RAN Army RAAF Cadet Midshipman Second Lieutenant Pilot Officer Sub-Lieutenant Lieutenant Flying Officer Lieutenant Captain Flight Lieutenant Lieutenant Commander Major Squadron Leader Commander Lieutenant Colonel Wing Commander Captain Colonel Group Captain Commodore Brigadier (General) Air Commodore Rear Admiral Major General Air Vice Marshal Vice Admiral Lieutenant General Air Marshal Admiral General Air Chief Marshal Admiral of the Fleet Field Marshal Marshal of the RAAF The following table displays ranks as in the Australian Defence Force in 2002. The ranks have remained unchanged, except for minor variations, since the earliest days of the ADF. The services are ranked in columns from left to right, that on the left being the senior service. Within services, seniority is indicated by reading from top to bottom, the most senior being at the column top. Equivalence in ranks between the services is indicated by reading horizontally across rows but note that this does not indicate relative seniority (e.g. A Lieutenant in the RAN is not necessarily senior to a Captain in the Army, but could be, depending on the date of rank; both would be senior to a Flying Officer in the RAAF.) Royal Australian Navy Australian Army Royal Australian Air Force Admiral of the Fleet Field Marshal Marshal of the Air Force Admiral General Air Chief Marshal Vice Admiral Lieutenant General Air Marshal Rear Admiral Major General Air Vice Marshal Commodore Brigadier Air Commodore; Captain Colonel Group Captain Commander Lieutenant Colonel Wing Commander Lieutenant Commander Major Squadron Leader Lieutenant Captain Flight Lieutenant Sub Lieutenant Lieutenant Flying Officer Midshipman Second Lieutenant Pilot Officer Warrant Officer Warrant Officer Class 1 (or Regimental Sergeant Major) Warrant Officer Chief Petty Officer Warrant Officer Class 2 (or Company Sergeant Major) Flight Sergeant Staff Sergeant Petty Officer Sergeant Sergeant Leading Seaman Corporal (Bombardier in Artillery) Corporal Lance Corporal (Lance Bombardier in Artillery) Leading Aircraftman Able Seaman Private (Trooper in Armoured Corps) (Gunner in Artillery) (Sapper in Engineers) (Signalman in Signals) Aircraftman Forms of address for members of the Australian Defence ForceIn formal correspondence, officers in the Australian Defence Force are addressed by their rank, given name or initials, family name and any post nominals; thus, Rear Admiral Felix Lewis, AO. In informal correspondence, officers of the rank of Army lieutenant, Navy sub lieutenant and Air Force flying officer and below are given conventional title (Mr, Ms, Mrs or Miss). Officers of the rank of colonel and above can be addressed by their rank alone, without their name. Non commissioned officers and other ranks are addressed by their rank and family name, not by their given name - thus Private Johnson.Post nominals for honours and awards are shown immediately after the family name and before abbreviations that indicate service or regiment.Military ranks consisting of more than one word do not take a hyphen - for example, Lieutenant Colonel. A military rank precedes other titles. Chaplains have military rank but they are addressed with their ecclesiastical title only (i.e. Father O'Malley, Reverend Thomas).