

U.S. ARMY

Corporal / CPL

PAY GRADE	CLASSIFICATION
E-4	Enlisted / Noncommissioned officer

KNOW THE INSIGNIA

Two chevrons. Unlike the Marine corporal device, the Army corporal device does not include crossed rifles.

REMEMBER THIS

Corporal and specialist share the E-4 pay grade, but corporal is a noncommissioned officer rank.

UNIFORM REFERENCE

Rank appears in different forms on service and combat uniforms. Use the Army uniform guide for the correct material, color and placement.

OFFICIAL RESOURCES - CLICK TO OPEN

[Ranks & responsibilities](#)

[Uniforms & insignia wear](#)

Study notes

E = enlisted; W = warrant officer; O = commissioned officer. A pay grade is not a salary amount. Rank titles and insignia may differ between services.

These are military service ranks, not JROTC cadet ranks. Follow your program handbook and instructor for cadet uniform requirements. This preview guide covers six featured ranks; use the official links for the full rank structures and current uniform guidance.

U.S. NAVY

Ensign / ENS

PAY GRADE	CLASSIFICATION
O-1	Commissioned officer / Junior officer

KNOW THE INSIGNIA

One gold bar on the applicable collar or shoulder device. Sleeve and shoulder-board designs differ from metal devices.

REMEMBER THIS

An ensign is O-1. A Navy lieutenant is O-3, the same pay grade as a captain in the Army, Marine Corps, Air Force or Space Force.

UNIFORM REFERENCE

Navy officer insignia can show both grade and line or staff-corps identification. Check the uniform-specific illustrations in Chapter 4.

OFFICIAL RESOURCES - CLICK TO OPEN

[Rank, rate & uniform insignia](#)

[Officer shoulder insignia](#)

[Officer rank / pay-grade chart \(PDF\)](#)

Study notes

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U.S. MARINE CORPS

Corporal / Cpl

PAY GRADE	CLASSIFICATION
E-4	Enlisted / Noncommissioned officer

KNOW THE INSIGNIA

Two chevrons above crossed rifles. Compare this with the Army corporal's two-chevron insignia.

REMEMBER THIS

Marine corporals and Army corporals are both E-4, but the Marine corporal insignia includes crossed rifles.

UNIFORM REFERENCE

Marine service and utility uniforms use different insignia versions and placement. Consult the Marine Corps uniform regulations for the specific uniform.

OFFICIAL RESOURCES - CLICK TO OPEN

[Ranks & pay grades](#)

[Uniform regulations \(PDF\)](#)

[Insignia study reference \(PDF\)](#)

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U.S. AIR FORCE

Staff Sergeant / SSgt

PAY GRADE	CLASSIFICATION
E-5	Enlisted / Noncommissioned officer

KNOW THE INSIGNIA

Four stripes in the Air Force chevron design, with a central star. Use the official graphics to compare the full shape.

REMEMBER THIS

Air Force staff sergeant is E-5. Marine Corps staff sergeant is E-6: the same rank title does not always mean the same pay grade.

UNIFORM REFERENCE

Insignia color and format depend on the uniform. Current dress-and-appearance guidance and its updates govern placement and wear.

OFFICIAL RESOURCES - CLICK TO OPEN

[Enlisted insignia graphics](#)

[Officer insignia graphics](#)

[Dress & appearance updates](#)

[Airman handbook \(PDF\)](#)

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U.S. COAST GUARD

Lieutenant / LT

PAY GRADE	CLASSIFICATION
O-3	Commissioned officer / Junior officer

KNOW THE INSIGNIA

Two silver bars on the applicable metal device. Dress sleeve and shoulder insignia use two gold stripes and the Coast Guard shield.

REMEMBER THIS

A Coast Guard lieutenant is O-3, equivalent in pay grade to a Navy lieutenant and an Army captain.

UNIFORM REFERENCE

Metal devices and sleeve or shoulder-board insignia are different ways of showing grade. Match the example to the uniform in the official reference.

OFFICIAL RESOURCES - CLICK TO OPEN

[Rates & ranks pocket guide \(PDF\)](#)

[International training handbook \(PDF\)](#)

[Uniform regulations directory / M1020.6K](#)

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U.S. SPACE FORCE

Captain / Capt

PAY GRADE

O-3

CLASSIFICATION

Commissioned officer / Company grade

KNOW THE INSIGNIA

Two silver bars in the officer grade system. The same grade symbol is used for captains in the Army, Marine Corps and Air Force.

REMEMBER THIS

Space Force captain is O-3. The Space Force officer rank structure follows the same titles as the Army, Marine Corps and Air Force.

UNIFORM REFERENCE

Space Force service-dress guidance has its own transition policies. Use the branch-specific update when checking current wear requirements.

OFFICIAL RESOURCES - CLICK TO OPEN

[Space Force 101 / ranks & roles \(PDF\)](#)

[Service dress & transition guidance](#)

[Enlisted rank names & pay grades](#)

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