

SECTION I



## Section I Chapter I

### RELATIVE RANKS IN THE SERVICES

1. Commissioned Ranks. Officers of the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force rank with one another according to seniority or date of appointment, as shown in the following table. Commissioned ranks of the United States Air Force are also shown:

<u>Royal Navy</u>	<u>Royal Air Force</u>	<u>Army</u>	<u>US Air Force</u>
Admiral of the Fleet	Marshal of the RAF	Field Marshal	General of the Air Force
Admiral	Air Chief Marshal	General	General
Vice Admiral	Air Marshal	Lieutenant General	Lieutenant General
Rear Admiral	Air Vice Marshal	Major General	Major General
Commodore	Air Commodore	Brigadier	Brigadier General
Captain	Group Captain	Colonel	Colonel
Commander	Wing Commander	Lieutenant Colonel	Lieutenant Colonel
Lieutenant Commander	Squadron Leader	Major	Major
Lieutenant	Flight Lieutenant	Captain	Captain
Sub Lieutenant	Flying Officer	Lieutenant	First Lieutenant
Acting Sub Lieut	Pilot Officer	2nd Lieutenant	2nd Lieutenant

2. Commissioned officers of the Royal Marines rank at all times when serving on shore, according to seniority, with Army officers of the same titles. When serving afloat a Major RM, ranks with a Commander, a Captain RM, with twelve years service from his First Commissioned ranks with a Lieutenant Commander RN, and a Lieutenant RM, with four years service, ranks with a Lieutenant RN.

3. Classification of Officers. Officers of the three services may be divided into three main groups: junior, senior, and air, flag or general, officers.

a. Junior officers are those below the rank of Squadron Leader or the equivalent rank in the Navy or Army.

b. Senior officers rank from Squadron Leader to Group Captain or their equivalents in the other services. In the Army senior officers are known as field officers.

c. Officers of the rank of Air Commodore and above or their equivalents are known as air officers, flag officers or general officers, in the Royal Air Force, Royal Navy and Army respectively.



4. WRAF and PMRAFNS. The officer ranks of the Women's Royal Air Force and Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service and their RAF equivalent are listed below:

<u>RAF/WRAF Rank</u>	<u>PMRAFNS Rank</u>
Air Commodore	Air Commandant
Group Captain	Group Officer
Wing Commander	Wing Officer
Squadron Leader	Squadron Officer
Flight Lieutenant	Flight Officer
Flying Officer	Flying Officer
Pilot Officer	

5. Distinguishing Flags and Star Plates

a. Station Commanders of the rank of wing commander and above may fly a distinguishing flag on their service motor car when it is being used within the bounds of their station. This flag consists of the RAF roundel on a light blue background.

b. Other senior officers and air officers may fly distinguishing flags depending on the appointment they hold. Full information is given in Queen's Regulations Chapter 5, and illustrations are given in Air Ministry poster No 137.

c. The distinguishing star plate of air officers is carried on the front and rear bumpers of their service motor cars on all official occasions, the stars are arranged as follows:

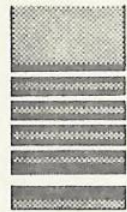
- (1) Five stars in a circle - Marshal of the Royal Air Force
- (2) Four stars in a horizontal line - Air Chief Marshal
- (3) Three stars in a horizontal line - Air Marshal
- (4) Two stars in a horizontal line - Air Vice Marshal
- (5) One star - Air Commodore

6. Non-Commissioned Ranks. Non-commissioned ranks of the Army, the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy are shown in the following table. The Army and the Royal Navy have less ranks than the Royal Air Force. The ranks, therefore, do not exactly equate.

<u>Army</u>	<u>Royal Air Force</u>	<u>Royal Navy</u>
(Private - Infantry Sapper - Royal Engineers Gunner - Royal Artillery)	Aircraftman	Ordinary Seaman
	Leading Aircraftman	Able Seaman
	Senior Aircraftman	
Lance Corporal	Junior Technician	
Corporal	Corporal	Leading Seaman
Sergeant	Sergeant	Petty Officer
	Chief Technician	
Staff Sergeant	Flight Sergeant	Chief Petty Officer
Warrant Officer II		
Warrant Officer I	Warrant Officer	Fleet Officer



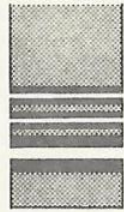
ROYAL AIR FORCE worn on shoulder/sleeve



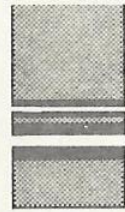
MARSHAL  
OF THE  
ROYAL AIR  
FORCE



AIR CHIEF  
MARSHAL



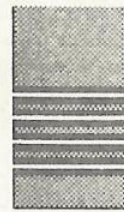
AIR  
MARSHAL



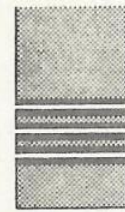
AIR-VICE  
MARSHAL



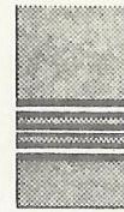
AIR  
COMMODORE



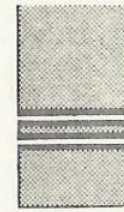
GROUP  
CAPTAIN



WING  
COMMANDER



SQUADRON  
LEADER



FLIGHT  
LIEUTENANT



FLYING  
OFFICER



PILOT  
OFFICER

ROYAL NAVY worn on sleeve



ADMIRAL  
OF THE  
FLEET



ADMIRAL



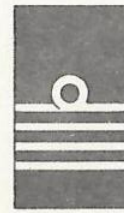
VICE -  
ADMIRAL



REAR -  
ADMIRAL



COMMODORE



CAPTAIN



COMMANDER



LIEUTENANT-  
COMMANDER



LIEUTENANT



SUB -  
LIEUTENANT



NO SLEEVE  
BADGE  
GORGETS  
WORN ON  
LAPELS

MIDSHIPMAN  
Junior to  
Army & Air  
Force ranks

ARMY worn on shoulder



FIELD  
MARSHAL



GENERAL



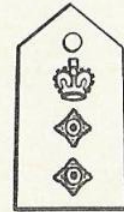
LIEUTENANT  
GENERAL



MAJOR  
GENERAL



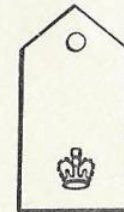
BRIGADIER



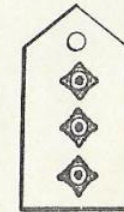
COLONEL



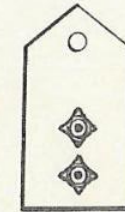
LIEUTENANT  
COLONEL



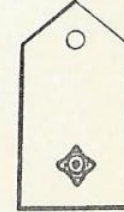
MAJOR



CAPTAIN



LIEUTENANT



SECOND  
LIEUTENANT



# BADGES OF RANK OF AIRMEN OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE



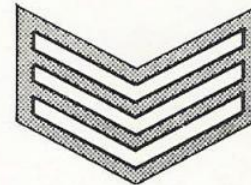
WARRANT OFFICER



FLIGHT SERGEANT



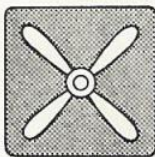
CHIEF TECHNICIAN



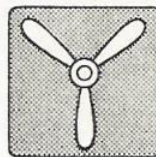
SERGEANT



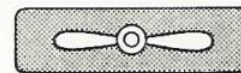
CORPORAL



JUNIOR TECHNICIAN



SENIOR AIRCRAFTSMAN



LEADING AIRCRAFTSMAN

## Aircrew Badges



MASTER PILOT M.SIGNALLER  
M.NAVIGATOR M.ENGINEER



FLIGHT SERGEANT AIRCREW



SERGEANT AIRCREW



SALUTING

INTRODUCTION

1. Throughout the ages, in all parts of the world, when leaders of men have been selected and appointed, their followers have demonstrated their loyal support by some form of salute. The salute today is a service form of greeting and a sign of respect and loyalty between officers and men. It is also a mark of respect to the authority of Her Majesty the Queen, whose commission the officer bears. There is nothing servile or derogatory in saluting.

GENERAL RULES

2. a. All airmen salute all officers at all times.
- b. All junior officers (Flight Lieutenant and below) salute all senior officers (Squadron leaders and above).
- c. All senior officers salute all officers senior to themselves in rank.
- d. When not a member of a parade, all officers salute:
  - (1) When passing uncased colours in the charge of troops.
  - (2) The coffin of a military or civil funeral.
  - (3) The quarter deck of Her Majesty's ships when boarding or leaving.
  - (4) A Service staff car flying a flag or carrying star plates.
- e. When entering or leaving someone's office, an officer always salutes a colleague senior in rank and, as a courtesy, his equal in rank.
- f. On parade junior officers salute their superiors before and after addressing them or upon being addressed by them.
- g. When the Royal Air Force Ensign is being hoisted or lowered all ranks within view of the Ensign should stand to attention and face the flag staff until the hoisting or lowering is completed.
- h. When the National Anthem, or a foreign national anthem, is played all ranks stand to attention and officers salute. If indoors stand to attention and remove headgear.
- j. When a group of officers are together the Senior officer will return all salutes. This does not prevent a junior officer in such a group acknowledging a salute if he thinks the senior officer has not seen it.
- k. Cars in which senior officers are travelling, indicated by the car flying a flag or pennant, should be saluted by those junior in rank.



l. At a Service funeral only officers salute at the sounding of the "Last Post".

m. When in plain clothes one pays compliments by raising one's hat, otherwise the rules are exactly the same. One useful point: in civilian clothes you greet a lady by raising your hat and if you are in uniform wearing headdress you salute.

n. When riding a bicycle or driving a vehicle you do not salute.

o. Salutes are normally not given or returned inside a building.

3. The rules on saluting apply equally to the Royal Navy, the Army, and Allied Services. Officers of other services are entitled to the same compliments as Royal Air Force officers, according to relative rank. On your own station, if you meet officers of other services, you should initiate the salute regardless of rank as a sign of greeting and hospitality.

4. The rules for saluting should be interpreted with common sense. You should not attempt to salute if it is largely unpractical to do so, for instance on a crowded railway station, nor should you salute if without head-dress.

5. The manner in which salutes are given and returned is one of the outward and visible signs of the general tone and spirit of a service. A salute should be given smartly and in good time for it to be observed. An officer should return every compliment paid by his juniors in rank and acknowledge it with a proper full salute - there is only one kind of salute and it is the same for officers as for those in the ranks.

#### CONCLUSION

6. The salute today is a service form of greeting and a sign of respect and loyalty between officers and men. It is also a mark of respect to the authority of Her Majesty the Queen. A salute should be given correctly, smartly and willingly.