

Enlisted Marine Corps Ranks



http://www.military.com/join-armed-forces/enlisted-marine-corps-ranks.html#disqus_thread

- Enlisted Marine Corps ranks are broken down into three levels, Junior Enlisted, Non-Commissioned Officers, and Staff Non-Commissioned Officers. As a Marine moves up the ladder his or her responsibility and contribution to the mission increases. This also means that those who have earned higher rank have a special responsibility to look out for the welfare of their subordinates.

Marine Corps Junior Enlisted Ranks (E-1 through E-3)

Private

Upon graduating from basic training young Marines earn the rank of Private (E-1). Most enlisted Marines hold this rank for 6 months before they are promoted to Private First Class.



Private First Class (PFC)

Private first class is the second enlisted rank in the Marine Corps. The rank of PFC was established in 1917 to mirror a similar rank added to the Army structure.



Lance Corporal (LCpl)

Lance Corporal is the third enlisted rank (E-3) in the Marine Corps. The rank of Lance Corporal was permanently established in 1958, but the term dates back to the early 1800's. Score competition, which is intended to promote the best qualified candidates.

Marine Corps Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) Ranks (E-4 through E-5)

- The Marine Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO), the Marine Corps ranks of Corporals and Sergeants, hold a special position in the Corps. NCOs are responsible for the lives of their men in or out of combat situations



Corporal (Cpl)

Corporal (E-4) is the most junior of the non-commissioned officer NCO ranks



Sergeant (Sgt)

The Marine Corps rank of Sergeant (E-5) closely parallels that of the Corporal in duties and responsibilities

Marine Corps Staff Non-Commissioned Officer (SNCO) Ranks (E-6 through E-9)



Staff Sergeant (SSgt)

The rank of Staff Sergeant (SSgt) is the entry point to the Staff NCO ranks.



Gunnery Sergeant (GySgt)

- The rank of Gunnery Sergeant is considered the backbone of the Marine Corps Staff NCO (SNCO) ranks
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Moving up the Ranks: Eligible Gunnies must indicate on their "fitness reports" whether they wish to be considered for promotion to Master Sergeant or First Sergeant.

First Sergeant (1stSgt) and Master Sergeant (MSgt)

Although they share the same pay grade (E-8), they have different roles and responsibilities. The First Sergeant has a command advisory responsibility while the Master Sergeants has more technical responsibilities.

The Marine Corps **First Sergeant** is the principal enlisted advisor to the unit commander

The **Master Sergeant** is the technical expert in their field.

Moving up the Ranks: A First Sergeant is eligible to be promoted to a Sergeant Major while a Master Sergeant would be on the promotional track for Master Gunnery Sergeant.

Like the ranks of Master Sergeant (MSgt) and First Sergeant (1stSgt), Master Gunnery Sergeants (MGySgt) and Sergeant Majors (SgtMaj) are paid the same; however, they have significantly different roles.



Master Gunnery Sergeant (MGySgt)

The MGySgt is the technical expert their MOS. The Master Gunny's primary prerequisite is an outstanding proficiency in the assigned MOS



Sergeant Major (SgtMaj)

The Sergeant Major is the principal enlisted advisor to Marine Commanders., technical, and tactical requirements of your occupational specialty.



Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps

The post of Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps was established in 1957, as the senior enlisted advisor to the Commandant of the Marine Corps. The Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps acts as the Commandant's eyes and ears when it comes to enlisted affairs and other leadership matters. The Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps is selected by the Commandant of the Marine Corps and normally serves a four-year term with them.