

Rank, Rating & Rate

GRADES 3-8



Overview

This activity is geared toward participants in grades 3-8. The estimated amount of time to deliver this lesson is 45 minutes.

The Navy consists of crew members of several ranks, rates and ratings. In this lesson, participants will investigate different markings signifying ranks and rates to learn about various positions in the Navy. Navy personnel would have to learn the different markings to be able to identify who to report to at any given time.

Photos of rank markings and touch collections can be set out for participants to explore and determine how different ranks can be identified. The program will culminate with a game where participants will put their knowledge to the test.



Objective

Participants will be able to identify considerations one should take when analyzing artifacts to learn about the past.



Materials

- Four photographs showing a mixture of different ranks and rates
 - Navy Rank and Rate Chart
 - The Bluejacket's Manual* Excerpt: "Saluting Correctly"
 - Rank Marking Cards
 - Bowl
- Optional:
- Rank/rating markings in touch collection, attached or detached from a uniform



Set Up

- Have touch objects and/or photographs of materials laid out on table or cart for participant investigation.
- Print Rank Marking Cards one-sided; cut along dotted lines and fold on solid lines. Folded cards can be glued shut.



Inquiry

Have participants look at four different photographs and identify the person in charge.

- How can you tell who is in charge in each photo?
- Why might it be important in the Navy to tell who is in charge?
- What about a uniform makes someone look more in charge?

Answers can include how others are interacting with those in the photos or by what someone is wearing. Share that you will be investigating different positions in the Navy for both enlisted personnel and commissioned officers.



Investigation

Have participants investigate images of rating badges and shoulder boards. Define the difference between rank, rating and rate for participants.

Have participants investigate different markings on the Rank Marking Cards and attempt to put them in order of lowest rank to highest rank. If using touch objects, please make sure to note the rank connected to each marking for the program facilitator. The facilitator can use the Rank and Rate Chart as reference or have participants look through the chart as they look through different rank markings.

- What makes you think one rank might be higher than the other just by looking at their marking?
- What colors do you associate with a higher rank? What symbols do you associate with a higher rank?

Uniforms can be divided into working, service and dress uniforms. Have participants compare dress uniforms to identify differences between Navy positions.

- What makes you say a uniform fits into a certain category? What is your equivalent to a working uniform? A service uniform? A dress uniform?

Have participants look at *The Bluejacket's Manual* page on saluting higher rank.



Activity

Have participants play “Who’s in Charge Here?” Have up to six participants sit or stand in a circle, and select one Rank Marking Card out of a bowl at random. Once a player selects a card, have them glance at the card without letting anyone else see their card. On the count of three, have each player display the rank title in front of them for all to see. The person who thinks they have the highest position has to say “I’m in charge!”

If the person claiming they are in charge is incorrect or someone else identifies them as the highest rank by pointing and saying, “You’re in charge,” they do not make it to the next round. If someone incorrectly identifies someone as being in charge, they also do not make it to the next round. The highest title each round is removed once identified. This is played until there is one player left standing!



Lesson Connection

Explore how the different ratings, or jobs are seen in the Navy and how that has changed over time in our lesson: **Jobs in the Navy.**



Background

A sailor's letter and number represent their rank (for officers) or rate (for enlisted), title and pay grade. Sailors wear markings on their uniforms in different locations that designates their rank, rate or rating. The location of these markings depend on the uniforms the sailors are wearing or the sailor's position in the Navy.

- Pay grade: Pay grades are administrative classifications used primarily to standardize compensation across the military services. The "E" in E-1 stands for "enlisted" while the "1"

indicates the pay grade for that position. The other pay categories are "W" for warrant officers and "O" for commissioned officers.

- Rate: A sailor's rate, or grade, signifies the pay grade of that sailor, meaning the level of compensation (or how much they get paid) one receives for the work they do. Rate can be thought of as rank for enlisted personnel. A sailor's rate can be identified by the chevrons on their rating badge.
- Rating: A sailor's rating identifies one's job specialty. A sailor's rating can be identified by the symbol above the chevrons.
- Rank: Ranks identify commissioned officers and warrant officers. Commissioned officers do not enlist. Instead, they have a minimum four-year college or university degree and have gone through Officer Training. Warrant officer positions require applying technical and leadership skills instead of primarily management roles. The Warrant Officer Program is open to all enlisted Navy people with the rank of chief petty officer or above and have completed at least 12 years of naval service. Warrant officers are senior to all enlisted chief petty officers and junior to all ensign. Warrant officers are not eligible for command at sea.

Types of uniforms:

- Working Uniforms: For use when clothing is likely to get dirty or other uniforms may not function well for whatever task a sailor needs to perform.
- Service Uniforms: For use in office environments, when interacting with the public, and when on watch.
- Dress Uniforms: For formal occasions such as formal dinners, meeting officials, etc.
- Markings for enlisted personnel: A rating badge can be seen on the left upper sleeve of all uniforms of Petty Officer Third Class to Petty Officer First Class. Instead of a rating badge, Seaman Recruit to Seaman, has color-coded group rate marks based on their occupation. Group rate marks can be found on dress uniforms only, while Seaman recruits do not wear group rate marks. Chief Petty Officers (E-7 through E-9) wear collar devices on their white and khaki uniforms, and rate badges on their service dress blues.
- Markings for commissioned officers: Navy officers wear markings of their rank on different parts of their uniform depending on which uniform they are wearing. For their working uniform (khakis), rank is shown on pins on their collar and garrison cap. For their whites, bridge coats, and reefer jackets, stripes on shoulder boards show their rank. On their dress blues, rank can be identified by stripes sewn on their sleeves. Line officers wear a star above the stripes of the shoulder boards and sleeves, while staff and warrant officers wear specialty insignia instead of stars.

Enlisted sailors who want to be officers have to apply to programs or schools to make the switch. Personnel who started as enlisted but later join the officer ranks are called mustangs. All commissioned officers outrank enlisted personnel.

- Enlisted personnel in the Navy are members of the Navy or Navy Reserve who serve in an occupational specialty that requires a high school diploma (or GED) as a minimum educational requirement. Their responsibilities range from entry-level roles to supervisory roles.

- Commissioned officers are members of the Navy or Navy Reserve who have a degree from a four-year college or university as a minimum educational requirement and have gone through Officer Training. There are exceptions to the degree requirement depending on the service experience of the applicant. Officer responsibilities range from low-level management to the highest levels of command. Commissioned officers include flag officers, which are officers senior enough that a flag marks their position when they are in command.



Additional Resources/References

More information on rank and rate:

<https://www.defense.gov/Resources/Insignia/>



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Full Muster: Inclusive Histories on Historic Naval Ships has been made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom.

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Documents and Images



Credit: Collection of the Intrepid Museum



Credit: Collection of the Intrepid Museum, 1971, USS *Intrepid* cruise book.



Credit: Collection of the Intrepid Museum. Gift of Olga Clark in memory of Admiral Joseph James "Jocko" Clark. P00.2011.046.41



Credit: Collection of the Intrepid Museum. Gift of Olga Clark in memory of Admiral Joseph James "Jocko" Clark. P00.2011.046.09

Answer Key

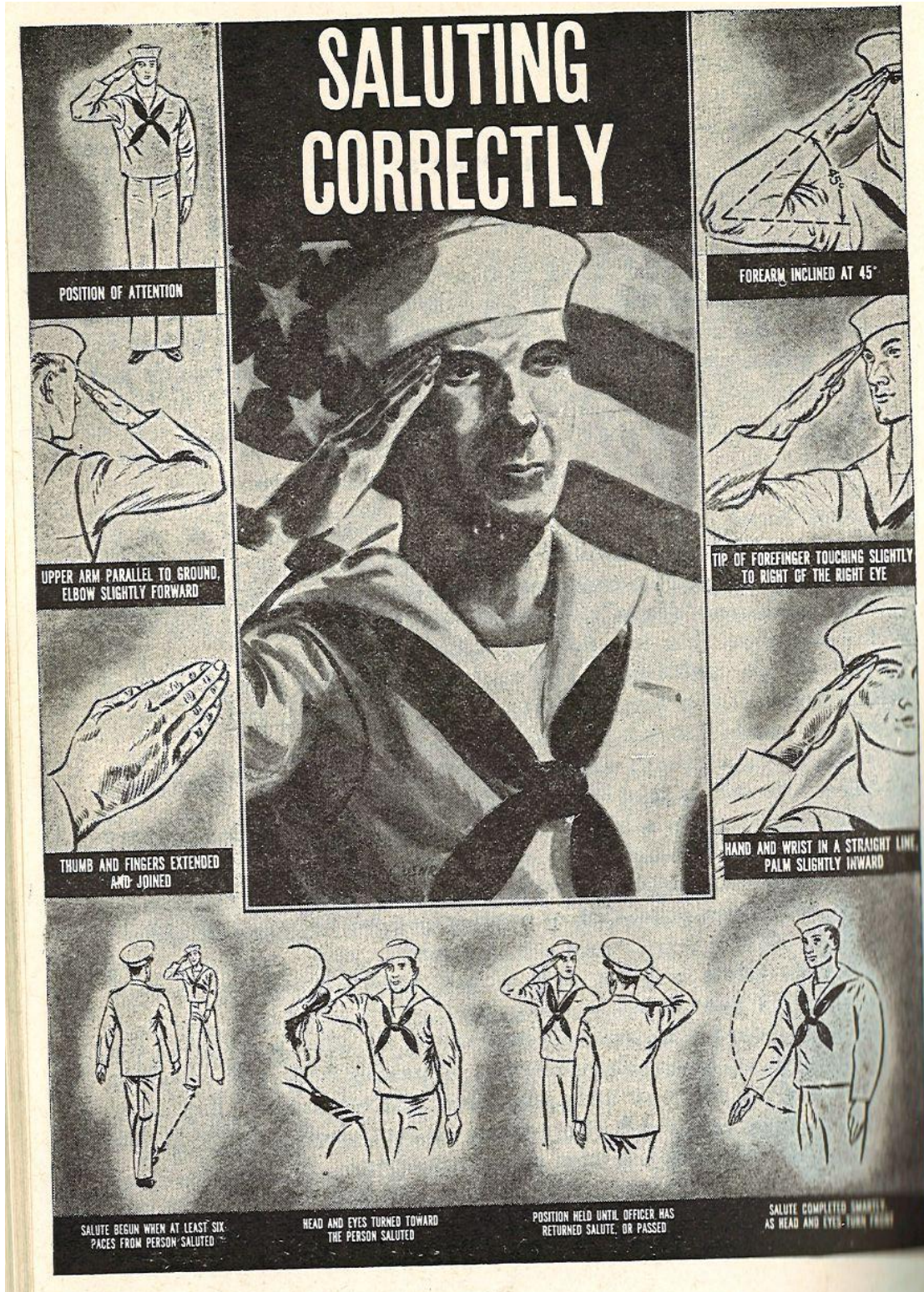
Top left: Man on right of photo with rank of petty officer third class

Top right: Man second to the left

Bottom left: Man in center of photograph with rank of four star admiral

Bottom right: Man on left with rank of admiral. Man fourth from the left has the rank of captain.

Excerpt From *The Bluejacket's Manual, 1944*



Credit: Naval Institute Press (U.S. Naval Institute)

Rank and Rating Chart: Navy Enlisted Personnel			
Pay Grade	Rate	What does work look like?	How do you move up?
E-1	Seaman Recruit	This is the entry level rate in the U.S. Navy.	Six months in service.
E-2	Seaman Apprentice	Applying and developing the skills learned in basic training and beginning training for your future career in the Navy.	Commanding officer's approval, 12 months in service and nine months in rate. Some units require exams or qualifications.
E-3	Seaman	Duties include operation and maintenance of equipment, participating in naval ceremonies and carrying out tasks ordered by superiors.	Promotions to the rates of Petty Officer Third Class (E-4) through Chief Petty Officer (E-7) are based on a limited number of vacancies. Commanding officer recommendation, time in rate and results in the Navy-wide Advancement-in-Rate Competition are all factors.
E-4	Petty Officer Third Class	Shifts from being led to leading others, from one who has been led, to one who must lead. As one moves up to higher ranks, they become responsible for managing more resources and personnel.	
E-5	Petty Officer Second Class		
E-6	Petty Officer First Class		
E-7	Chief Petty Officer	Accountable for developing and leading enlisted and junior officer sailors in accordance with Navy values.	Commanding officer's approval, 11 years in service, three years in rate, completion of various courses, Navy-wide Final Multiple Score (FMS) and a promotions board.
E-8	Senior Chief Petty Officer	Supervising and training enlisted personnel rather than individual unit work.	Commanding officer's approval, 16 years of service, three years in rate and the approval of a selection board.
E-9	Master Chief Petty Officer	Help forming and executing policy within one's occupational field or across the entire Navy.	Commanding officer's approval, 19 years of service, three years in rate and the approval of a selection board.
E-9	Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy	Serve as a spokesperson for enlisted personnel to communicate needs of enlisted personnel to the highest positions in the Navy.	Appointed by the chief of naval operations.

Rank and Rating Chart: Restricted Line Officers			
Pay Grade	Rank	What does work look like?	How do you move up?
W-1	Warrant Officer	Serving as specialists and experts in certain military technologies or capabilities.	
W-2 to W-5	Chief Warrant Officer	Performing knowledge and skills of a specific occupational field at a level beyond what is normally expected of a Master Chief Petty Officer.	Most often promoted from Master Chief Petty Officer Of The Navy, although promotion from lower pay grades may occur with sufficient display of leadership and experience. One can then be chosen for promotion after showing exceptional service and experience.

Rank and Rating Chart: Navy Commissioned Officers			
Pay Grade	Rank	What does work look like?	How do you move up?
O-1	Ensign	Most ensigns are in various schools training for their respective warfare or staff specialties. Those serving in the fleet are division officers. Can serve as platoon leaders on SEAL teams.	Promotion occurs approximately two years after commissioning as an ensign.
O-2	Lieutenant Junior Grade	Can serve as platoon leaders on SEAL teams.	Promotion occurs approximately after two years in service at that rank.
O-3	Lieutenant	Division officers on ships, in aircraft squadrons, submarines, and ships. In some commands, senior lieutenants are department heads. Can serve as platoon leaders on SEAL teams.	Promotion occurs approximately 11 years in service and three years in grade.

O-4	Lieutenant Commander	Department heads or executive officer on a ship, aircraft squadron or submarine. Can serve as executive officers on SEAL teams. Some officers serve as a commanding officer of a minesweeper or a patrol craft.	Promotion occurs approximately 15-17 years in service and three years in grade.
O-5	Commander	May command a frigate, destroyer, fast-attack submarine, smaller amphibious ship, aviation squadron, SEAL team or shore installation.	Officer promotions based on vacancies in advanced officer rates.
O-6	Captain	Commanding officers of major commands such as aircraft carriers, amphibious assault ships, cruisers, destroyer squadrons, carrier air wings, ballistic missile submarines, submarine squadrons, SEAL groups and major shore installations.	Commanding officer's approval, 19 years of service, 36 months in rate, and the approval of a selection board.
O-7	Rear Admiral (Lower Half)	Commands an amphibious group, carrier-cruiser group, carrier or expeditionary strike group. May be assigned as deputies to larger commands.	The Navy can have only 160 active-duty flag officers at any given time. Placed on a list by a selection board, which is then approved by the Secretary of the Navy, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Secretary of Defense before the final nomination is made by the President of the United States and approved by Congress.
O-8	Rear Admiral (Upper Half)	Commands an amphibious group, carrier-cruiser group, carrier or expeditionary strike group. May be assigned as deputies to larger commands.	
O-9	Vice Admiral	Commands numbered fleets and holds positions as deputies for regional commands.	
O-10	Admiral	Commanders of regional commands, joint commands, chief of naval operations and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.	



GROUP
RATE
MARK

Enlisted Personnel

From Seaman Recruit to Seaman, enlisted personnel have color coded group rate marks based on their occupation. These group rate marks can be found on dress uniforms. Seaman recruits do not wear group rate marks.



RATING
BADGE

A rating badge can be seen on the left upper sleeve of all uniforms of Petty Officer Third Class to Petty Officer First Class.

Chief petty officers (E-7 through E-9) wear collar devices on their white and khaki uniforms, and rate badges on their service dress blues.



PIN



SHOULDER
BOARD

Commissioned Officers

Commissioned officers wear markings of their rank on different parts of their uniform depending on which uniform they are wearing.

For their working uniform (khakis), rank is shown on pins worn on their collar and garrison cap.

For their whites, bridge coats, and reefer jackets, stripes on shoulder boards show their rank.

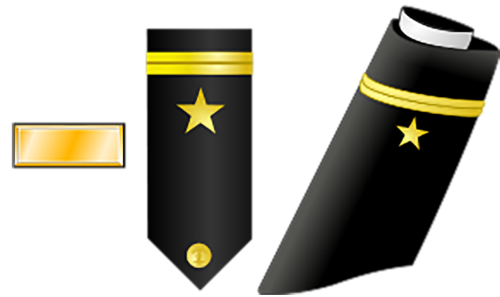
On their dress blues, rank can be identified by stripes sewn on their sleeve.



SLEEVE

RANK MARKING CARDS

Ensign



Lieutenant
Junior Grade



Lieutenant



Lieutenant
Commander



Captain



Rear Admiral
(Lower Half)



Rear Admiral
(Upper Half)



Vice Admiral



Commander



Seaman
Apprentice



Petty Officer
Third Class



Chief Petty
Officer



Admiral



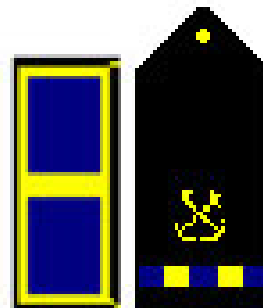
Petty Officer
First Class



Master Chief
Petty Officer



Warrant Officer



Credit: U.S. Department of Defense

HOW TO PLAY: “WHO’S IN CHARGE HERE?”

Recommended # of Players: 3-6

Goal: Say “I’m in charge,” if you have the highest rank or identify the person with the highest rank by pointing and saying, “You’re in charge!” Be the last one standing!

How to Play:

1. Jumble the Rank Cards in a bowl.
2. The youngest person gets to draw the first rank card. The next person to draw will be on the left. Continue until everyone has a card.
3. Once a player selects a card, glance at the card without letting anyone else see your card.
4. On the count of three, have each player display the rank title in front of them for all to see. The person who thinks they have the highest position has to say, “I’m in charge!”
5. If the person claiming they are in charge is incorrect, they do not make it to the next round. If someone else identifies them as the highest rank before they say “I’m in charge” by pointing and saying, “You’re in charge,” they do not make it to the next round.
6. If someone incorrectly identifies someone as being in charge, they also do not make it to the next round.
7. Place the highest rank identified each round in a discard pile separate from the bowl.
8. Play until there is one player left standing!
9. Once the game is over, groups can play again by adding the discarded cards back to the bowl.

Increased Difficulty: Play the game by only showing the insignia, not the title