

**Grade Structure 1958-1959<sup>1</sup>**

In May 1958, Congress enacted Public Law 85-422 which established two additional senior enlisted pay grades (E-8 and E-9). Each service was allowed to define the two new pay grades and the Army began to restructure its rank insignia and titles of grade in that year.

<u>Pay Grade</u>	<u>Noncommissioned Officers</u>	<u>Specialists</u>	<u>Privates</u>
E-9	Sergeant Major <sup>2</sup>	Specialist Nine†	
E-8	First Sergeant or Master Sergeant <sup>3</sup>	Specialist Eight†	
E-7	Platoon Sergeant or Sergeant First Class*	Specialist Seven	
E-6	Staff Sergeant*	Specialist Six	
E-5	Sergeant*	Specialist Five††	
E-4	Corporal	Specialist Four††	
E-3			Private First Class
E-2			Private
E-1			Recruit

\* Noncommissioned officers in grades E-5, E-6, and E-7 on 31 May 1958 were authorized to wear the insignia and utilize titles appropriate to their grades on that date, unless promoted or reduced.<sup>4</sup>

† Authorized in 1958 but never used,<sup>5</sup> Specialist Nine and Specialist Eight were officially eliminated on 1 September 1965 in what was called a “paper” change.<sup>6</sup>

†† Insignia wear was deferred until Oct 1, 1960 with final conversion from insignia formerly authorized for specialist, second class and specialist, third class. The conversion was completed by 1 Oct 1961.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> As published in DA Circular 600-13, 23 June 1958, DSCPER Annual Summary, FY 1958, pp. 172-73 (as reported in “Enlisted Grade Structure Study, Volume VI, Annex E, pg. E-54. Department of the Army, Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, July 1967).

<sup>2</sup> First promotions to E-9 were not until April, 1959, as reported in Army Information Digest, “Steps Towards Stripes,” May 1966, pg. 35.

<sup>3</sup> First promotions to E-8 were not until July 1958 reported in Army Information Digest, “Steps Towards Stripes,” May 1966, pg. 34.

<sup>4</sup> By restructuring the ranks in 1958 roughly 192,000 men were faced with losing a stripe (but not pay). In response, the Army allowed soldiers to continue to wear the rank of the next higher grade unless a personnel action changed it (promotion or demotion). That policy was initially scheduled to end 30 June 1962, then 1 September 1965, but was extended until 17 May 1968 when C3, AR 600-200 finally ended the practice.

<sup>5</sup> Enlisted Grade Structure Study, Volume VI, Annex E, pg. E-63, Table 1, July 1967. Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel.

<sup>6</sup> As published in “Sergeants Major get new Insignia,” Army Times, 24 February 1965, pg. 18.

<sup>7</sup> As published in AR 670-5, Uniform and Insignia, Male Personnel, 28 Sept 1959, pg. 55.

Enlisted Titles of Grade from 1958-2011  
CSM (Ret) Dan Elder & Dr. Robert Bouilly

**Grade of Rank, 3 July 1962<sup>8</sup>**

<u>Pay Grade</u>	<u>Noncommissioned Officers</u>
E-9	Sergeant Major <sup>9</sup>
E-8	First Sergeant and master sergeant
E-7	Platoon Sergeant and sergeant first class and master sergeant*
E-6	Staff sergeant and sergeant first class*
E-5	Sergeant
E-4	Corporal
<u>Pay Grade</u>	<u>Specialists<sup>10</sup></u>
E-7	Specialist seven
E-6	Specialist six
E-5	Specialist five
E-4	Specialist four
<u>Pay Grade</u>	<u>Privates</u>
E-3	Private first class
E-2	Private
E-1	Private E-1 <sup>11</sup>

\* Transitional title for those who held this grade continuously since 31 May 1958.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> As published in AR 600-20, Army Command Policy, published 3 July 62.

<sup>9</sup> The grade of rank "Sergeant Major" for pay grade E-9 was superseded by C1 to DA 600-200, Army Command Policy, 10 August 1962, and remained in effect through C8, published 27 October 1965.

<sup>10</sup> The order of precedence in the 3 July 1962 edition of AR 600-20 Army Command Policy, listed Specialists grades of rank after the Corporal rank.

<sup>11</sup> Title of Recruit replaced with the title of Private.

<sup>12</sup> Noncommissioned officers in grades E-5, E-6, and E-7 on 31 May 1958 were authorized to wear the insignia and utilize titles appropriate to their grades on that date, unless promoted or reduced.

Enlisted Titles of Grade from 1958-2011  
CSM (Ret) Dan Elder & Dr. Robert Bouilly

**Grade of Rank, 1 August 1969<sup>13</sup>**

<u>Pay Grade</u>	<u>Noncommissioned officers and specialists</u> <sup>14</sup>	<u>Privates</u>
E-9 <sup>15</sup>	Sergeant Major of the Army <sup>16</sup> Sergeant Major* <sup>17</sup> Staff Sergeant Major†	
E-8	First Sergeant Master Sergeant	
E-7	Platoon Sergeant and Sergeant First Class Specialist Seven	
E-6	Staff Sergeant Specialist Six	
E-5	Sergeant Specialist Five	
E-4	Corporal Specialist Four	
E-3		Private First Class††
E-2		Private††
E-1		Private

\* Personnel formally selected by DA for participation in the Command Sergeants Major Program.

† All E-9's not formally selected for the Command Sergeants Major Program.

†† A new insignia was authorized for Private First Class on 28 May 1968, which consisted of one chevron above one arc, announced in DA Message 868848. The insignia consisting of a single chevron, which was previously authorized for private first class, was then authorized for Privates E2.

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<sup>13</sup> As published in C4 AR 600-20, Army Command Policy, 1 August 1969.

<sup>14</sup> C4 AR 600-20, effective 1 August 1969 changed the categories from three to two.

<sup>15</sup> After the creation of the Command Sergeants Major Program on 13 July 1967 the rank tiles for the personnel formally selected for the CSM program and those not selected changed four times between 3 April 1968 and 4 November 1969.

<sup>16</sup> Sergeant Major of the Army duty position was established effective July 4, 1966 by GO 29, however a rank was not authorized until 26 September 1978. That rank was redesigned, effective date of wear was 17 October 1994.

<sup>17</sup> The duty title command sergeant major existed soon after promotions to E-9 began. The Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Program was approved by the Chief of Staff of the Army on 13 July 1967 and the first promotions to CSM were effective 1 February 1968.

Enlisted Titles of Grade from 1958-2011  
CSM (Ret) Dan Elder & Dr. Robert Bouilly

**Grade of Rank, 28 April 1971<sup>18</sup>**

<u>Pay Grade</u>	<u>Senior noncommissioned officers and specialists<sup>19</sup></u>	<u>Junior noncommissioned officers and specialists</u>	<u>Privates</u>
E-9	Sergeant major of the Army Command sergeant major <sup>20</sup> Sergeant major <sup>21</sup>		
E-8	First sergeant Master sergeant		
E-7	Platoon sergeant and Sergeant first class Specialist seven*		
E-6		Staff sergeant Specialist six†	
E-5		Sergeant Specialist five†	
E-4		Corporal Specialist	
E-3			Private First Class
E-2			Private
E-1			Private

\* During implementation of the Enlisted Personnel Management System (EPMS), Specialist Seven ranks were discontinued by career management fields. Phasing out of Specialist seven began in October 1975 and the final five career fields completed the conversion on 1 March 1978.<sup>22</sup>

† The ranks Specialist five and Specialist six were discontinued effective 1 October 1985.

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<sup>18</sup> As published in AR 600-20, Army Command Policy, 28 April 1971.

<sup>19</sup> C5 to AR 600-20, effective 1 November 1969 changed the categories to the three categories.

<sup>20</sup> Distinct rank insignia for soldiers selected for the Sergeant Major (CSM) Program was authorized on 28 May 1968.

<sup>21</sup> All E-9's not formally selected for the Command Sergeants Major Program. This is a rank title change from Staff Sergeant Major to Sergeant Major, effective 1 November 1969, as published in C5 AR 600-20, Army Command Policy.

<sup>22</sup> Army Times, "SP7 Rank gets Axe," 13 March 1978, pg. 3.

Enlisted Titles of Grade from 1958-2011  
 CSM (Ret) Dan Elder & Dr. Robert Bouilly

**Grade of Rank, 20 August 1986<sup>23</sup>**

<u>Pay Grade</u>	<u>Senior Noncommissioned officers</u> <sup>24</sup>	<u>Junior Noncommissioned officers and Specialist</u>	<u>Privates</u>
E-9	Sergeant Major of the Army Command Sergeant Major <sup>25</sup> Sergeant Major <sup>26</sup>		
E-8	First Sergeant Master Sergeant		
E-7	Platoon Sergeant and Sergeant First Class		
E-6		Staff Sergeant	
E-5		Sergeant	
E-4		Corporal Specialist four* <sup>27</sup>	
E-3			Private First Class
E-2			Private
E-1			Private

\* The Specialist Four rank was re-titled "Specialist," however Army automation equipment would continue to refer to the previous designation until appropriate upgrades brought it in to compliance with the rank structure. It was correctly titled by 29 April 1988 in AR 600-20, Army Command Policy.

<sup>23</sup> As published in AR 600-20, Army Command Policy, 20 August 1986.

<sup>24</sup> The categories were changed reflecting the elimination of Specialist seven through Specialist five leaving only Specialist Four, as published in AR 600-20, Army Command Policy,

<sup>25</sup> Personnel formally selected by DA for participation in the Command Sergeants Major Program.

<sup>26</sup> All E9s not formally selected for the Command Sergeants Major Program.

<sup>27</sup> Specialist Four will rank immediately below Corporal.

Enlisted Titles of Grade from 1958-2011  
CSM (Ret) Dan Elder & Dr. Robert Bouilly

**Grade of Rank, 18 March 2008<sup>28</sup>**

<u>Pay Grade</u>	<u>Enlisted<sup>29</sup></u>
E-9	Sergeant Major of the Army Command Sergeant Major <sup>30</sup> Sergeant Major <sup>31</sup>
E-8	First Sergeant Master Sergeant
E-7	Sergeant First Class*
E-6	Staff Sergeant
E-5	Sergeant
E-4	Corporal Specialist†
E-3	Private First Class
E-2	Private
E-1	Private

\* Grade of rank changed from "Platoon Sergeant and Sergeant First Class" to "Sergeant First Class."<sup>32</sup>

† Rank title changed from "Specialist Four" to simply "Specialist."<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> As published in AR 600-20, Army Command Policy, 18 March 2008.

<sup>29</sup> Category changed to one single category "Enlisted" with the publishing of AR 600-20, Army Command Policy, 15 July 1999.

<sup>30</sup> Personnel formally selected by DA for participation in the Command Sergeants Major Program.

<sup>31</sup> All E-9s not formally selected for the Command Sergeants Major Program.

<sup>32</sup> As published in AR 600-20, Army Command Policy, 30 March 1988.

<sup>33</sup> As published in AR 600-20, Army Command Policy, 30 March 1988.