

**Suggested Rank and Titles for the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff**

by CSM Daniel K. Elder, U.S. Army (8/20/05)

*Military rank is more than just who salutes whom. Military rank is a badge of leadership. Responsibility for personnel, equipment, and mission grows with each increase in rank.*  
**(DefenseLink)**

As the new position establishing a senior enlisted soldier at the Department of Defense is announced, it is of extreme importance to our service members that we somehow identify this similar, but unique, position of pride for the enlisted force and immense responsibility for the Joint Chief of Staff.

Each rank below retains many of the characteristics of the current senior grade for each service. The predominate feature included all four ranks is the 5-pointed star. On three of four ranks, two 5-point stars indicate the most senior enlisted soldier of that service, and the fourth uses three 5-point stars.

It is my suggestion that an effort be made not to duplicate any standing insignia to avoid confusion among the ranks. Each service senior noncommissioned officer is established and well known and understood. Allowing the service member who holds the new position to also wear the same insignia of the senior soldier of the separate services would be detrimental.

I suggest an entire line of insignia be developed by the four services, which will be similar, but distinct. Though each service is responsible for its own uniform policy, it is important that no one service develop an insignia that would hinder development for another. An example would be that if the Army developed insignia by using three 5-pointed stars, it would preclude the Navy using a similar insignia, as a rank with three stars is already in use.

With the recent announcement of the first enlisted person to hold this important position, I strongly suggest that these recommendations be considered and approved in advance of formal assumption of duties by the incoming noncommissioned officer.

<b>Current Senior Rank</b>	<b>Proposed New Rank</b>
<p style="text-align: center;">Army</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Sergeant Major of the Army (SMA)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Army</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Sergeant Major of the Joint Chief Of Staff (SMJCS)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Navy</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Navy</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Master Chief Petty Officer of the Joint Chief of Staff (MCPJCS)</p>

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<p>Marines</p>  <p>Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps (SgtMajMC)</p>	<p>Marines</p>  <p>Sergeant Major of the Joint Chief Of Staff (SMJCS)</p>
<p>Air Force</p>  <p>Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force (CMSAF)</p>	<p>Air Force</p>  <p>Chief Master Sergeant of the Joint Chief of Staff (CMSJCS)</p>

**Suggested Insignia for the Senior Enlisted  
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**Shield and Insignia, Sergeant Major of the Joint Chief of Staff**



Shield with the base divided diagonally from the upper left to the lower right. The upper part of the insignia is blue and the lower part is white. The shield bears a gold-colored eagle between two white five-pointed stars at the top and two blue five-pointed stars at the base.

**Shield and Insignia, Sergeant Major of the Joint Chief of Staff**



The shield, 3/4 inch in height, with the base divided diagonally from the upper left to the lower right. The upper part of the insignia is blue and the lower part is white. The shield bears a gold-colored eagle between two white five-pointed stars at the top and two blue five-pointed stars at the base, centered on a 1-inch disk in gold-colored metal

**Joint Chief of Staff Identification Badge**



According to CJCSI 1310.01C, Personnel are authorized to wear the JCS ID Badge during their permanent assignment [to an approved organization]. For permanent award of the badge,

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personnel must have been assigned to a qualifying position for at least 365 consecutive days and have been approved by their respective organization approval authorities.

**Positional Flag**

*RE: CJCSI 1120.01B*



A 4'4" x 5'6" flag divided diagonally from upper left to lower right, the upper part blue and the lower part white and fringed in yellow.

Positional flags are authorized to indicate the official status or rank of certain civilian and military officials of the federal government. Positional flags within the joint arena will be 4'4" X 5'6".