



Finnish military ranks

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Finnish military ranks form a system that incorporates features from Swedish, German, and Russian armed forces. In addition, the system has some typically Finnish characteristics that are mostly due to the personnel structure of the Finnish Defence Forces. The ranks have official names in [Finnish](#) and [Swedish](#) languages and official English translations. The Swedish forms are used in all Swedish-languages communications in Finland, e.g. in Swedish-speaking units of Finnish Defence Force. The system of ranks in the [Swedish Armed Forces](#) is slightly different.

Finland practices universal [conscription](#) of men (c. 80% of each age cohort), and maintains only a cadre of paid personnel for training and maintaining military readiness. Most of lower ranks are conscripts, and leave service as *sotamies* (Private) or *korpraali* (Private 1st Class). Junior leaders, about 20% of age cohort, serve 12 months and leave service as *alikersantti* (Corporal) or *kersantti* (Sergeant). 10% of conscripts are trained as [reserve officers](#), serving 12 months, and leave service usually as *vänrikki* (2nd Lieutenant) or in the Navy as *aliluutnantti* (Ensign). In principle, there should be no distinction between reserve and active ranks, and NCOs and reserve officers can be promoted in reserve, up to *everstiluutnantti* (Lieutenant Colonel). During peace time, reservists are inactive, i.e. they do not receive pay or have a position in the [chain of command](#). Reservists are in duty only when mobilized during a crisis or when attending mandatory or voluntary refresher exercises. Nevertheless, reserve NCO or officer ranks are an entrance requirement to a military or [border guard](#) career.

Rank and file and non-commissioned officers are promoted to their ranks by the commander of a brigade or equivalent, with the exception of the highest NCO ranks of *ylivääpeli* (Master Sergeant) and *sotilasmestari* (Sergeant Major), who are promoted by the service commander and Chief of Staff of the [Defence Command](#), respectively. All officers from *vänrikki* (2nd Lieutenant) and higher are promoted to their ranks and [commissioned](#) to their offices by the [President of Finland](#).^[1] Professional officers are trained at the [Finnish National Defence University](#). Career officers graduate first as *sotatieteen kandidaatti* (Bachelor of Military Science), with an automatic promotion to *luutnantti* (Lieutenant), then work for 3–4 years' work as temporary officers. After this, they continue their studies to *sotatieteen maisteri* (Master of Military Science) and are promoted to *yliluutnantti* (1st Lieutenant). After graduation, they are promoted to *kapteeni* (Captain) and a commission to a permanent office.

Table of ranks

The ranks currently used by the Finnish Defence Forces are (Finnish name above, and Swedish name below):^[2]

Army and air force operational ranks

Equivalent												
NATO code	OF-10	OF-9	OF-8	OF-7	OF-6	OF-5	OF-4	OF-3	OF-2		OF-1	
Finland (Edit)	No equivalent											
		Kenraali	Kenraaliluutnantti	Kenraalimajuri	Prikaatikenraali	Eversti	Everstiluutnantti	Majuri	Kapteeni	Yliluutnantti	Luutnantti	Vänrikki
		General	Generallöjtnant	Generalmajor	Brigadgeneral	Överste	Överstelöjtnant	Major	Kapten	Premiärlöjtnant	Löjtnant	Fänrik

							
Finland (Edit)		Sotilasmestari <i>Militärmästare</i>	Ylivääpeli <i>Överfältväbel</i>	Vääpeli <i>Fältväbel</i>	Ylikersantti <i>Översergeant</i>	Kersantti <i>Sergeant</i>	Alikersantti <i>Undersergeant</i>
Equivalent NATO code		OR-9	OR-8	OR-7	OR-6	OR-5	OR-4

Equivalent NATO code	OF-10	OF-9	OF-8	OF-7	OF-6	OF-5	OF-4	OF-3	OF-2		OF-1	
 Finland (Edit)	No equivalent											
		Kenraali General	Kenraaliluutnantti Generallöjtnant	Kenraalimajuri Generalmajor	Prikaatikenraali Brigadgeneral	Eversti Överste	Everstiluutnantti Överstelöjtnant	Majuri Major	Kapteeni Kapten	Yliluutnantti Premiärlöjtnant	Luutnantti Löjtnant	Vänrikki Fänrik
 Finland (Edit)												
		Sotilasmestari <i>Militärmästare</i>		Ylivääpeli <i>Överfältväbel</i>	Vääpeli <i>Fältväbel</i>		Ylikersantti <i>Översergeant</i>			Kersantti <i>Sergeant</i>		Alikersantti <i>Undersergeant</i>
Equivalent NATO Code		OR-9		OR-8	OR-7		OR-6			OR-5		OR-4

Navy operational ranks

Equivalent NATO code	OF-10	OF-9	OF-8	OF-7	OF-6	OF-5	OF-4	OF-3		OF-2		OF-1	
	No equivalent												
Finland (Edit)		Amiraali	Vara-amiraali	Kontra-amiraali	Lippueamiraali	Kommodori	Komentaja	Komentajakapteeni		Kapteeniluutnantti	Yliluutnantti	Luutnantti	Aliluutnantti
													
Finland (Edit)		Sotilasmestari Militärmästare		Ylipursimies Överbåtsman	Pursimies Båtsman		Ylikersantti Översergeant			Kersantti Sergeant		Alikersantti Undersergeant	
Equivalent NATO code		OR-9		OR-8	OR-7		OR-6			OR-5		OR-4	

Army training ranks

Rank	Translation	Equivalent rank	Collar insignia	M/05 field insignia
Kadetti				
Kadet	Cadet	Senior to 2nd lieutenant		
Upseerikokelas				
Officersaspirant	Officer candidate	Senior to conscript sergeant		