

Royal Manticoran Naval Officer's Guide

Honor Harrington Novels:
On Basilisk Station
The Honor of the Queen
The Short Victorious War
Field of Dishonor
Flag in Exile
Honor Among Enemies
In Enemy Hands
Echoes of Honor
Ashes of Victory
War of Honor

Re: Honor Harrington Uniforms (Final Update)
Date: 1998/12/23

Since DW has stated that the Mattingly covers accurately represent Manticoran uniform, I decided I would impose on him a bit. He's been kind enough to correspond with me electronically since I got parked in the body shop (and guess what? I get to go home in just seven more weeks! [For a while, anyway]), so I asked him. He e-mailed me the following (partly, I think, because he said someone else had also e-mailed him some questions about it which he regretted that he had been too busy to answer), which is from his tech bible for the series, with the understanding that I would share it with the rest of the group rather than "give those shameless vigilantes at ROMANCE reason to charge you with snerking." At any rate, here it is.

BTW, DW cautions that it is NOT complete in all details; that these are the ones he wrote down to remind himself about points he was afraid he might forget or confuse even more than it is a general description. I suspect he may have fleshed it out a bit more since he started letting other writers play in the Honorverse, however, since this is also from the Sacred Tome that he shares with said other writers to give them the background they need.

Enjoy.

(C) Officer Corps & Rank Structure:

Throughout its history, the RMN has maintained that the proper place for a naval officer to learn his trade is in space. While the Academy is grueling and demanding, a line officer's career truly begins only after graduation, when he may expect to spend at least the next four or five Manticoran years (7-9 Terran years) almost continuously in space in one shipboard assignment after another. By tradition, initiative and independence are encouraged, although, in fact, some senior officers seem to have forgotten that. The hard core of the RMN's officer corps, however, consists of seasoned, highly-experienced ship-handlers who are intimately familiar with their weapons, their personnel, and their mission.

Unfortunately, the RMN is the product of an aristocratic society whose traditional power relationships have changed but slowly over the past five centuries. This system has many good points, including stability, a sense of order, and a feeling of mutual obligations between the classes; it also, however, is prey to the forces of patronage and favoritism, and the Navy has not escaped unscathed. Scions of the aristocracy or those with friends in high places can expect first consideration for choice assignments and are routinely promoted over the heads of those without patrons. The potential for damage this represents would be difficult to over estimate, but the worst abuses of the system are smoothed away by the practice of "half-pay." An officer who has "made list" (that is, has been added to the list of permanent captains) may retain his commission and his seniority while on inactive duty at half-pay. Actually, the pay is considerably less than half, for he loses his various duty allowances and dependent support allowances. Officially, this system was instituted to maintain a large reserve of experienced officers in case of emergency; actually, it is used as a parking orbit for incompetents with powerful friends. Patronage will get an officer a chance to prove his ability and, if he shows himself capable, will get him choice assignments. If, however, he proves himself incompetent he will be promoted to "list" and then quietly shuffled off into the ranks of the half-pay officers and, in all probability, never employed again. Unfortunately, this is also the way an occasionally capricious Board of Admiralty deals with competent officers who have irritated the Powers That Be, and more than one highly qualified captain or admiral has languished on half-pay while praying for a change in political fortune to get him back onto a command deck.

Traditionally, 90% of all officers are Academy graduates, but that percentage has dipped during the recent decades of expansion, with a higher percentage of "mustangs" (an ancient term whose origin is lost in obscurity) or non-commissioned personnel promoted to commissioned rank.

The commissioned ranks are supported by warrant officers and non-commissioned officers who, like the true heart of the officer corps itself, are lifers. The enlisted/noncommissioned rates, from most junior to most senior are:

Rank	Sleeve Insignia	Ground Forces Equiv
-----	-----	-----
3rd class	1 stripe*	Recruit
2nd class	2 stripes	Private
1st class	3 stripes	P 1/c
PO/3rd	1 chevron	Corporal
PO/2nd	2 chevrons	Platoon Sergeant
PO 1st	3 chevrons	Staff Sergeant
Chief Petty Officer	3 chevrons/1 rocker	Master Sergeant
Senior Chief Petty Officer	3 chevrons/2 rockers	Sgt. Major
Master Chief Petty Officer	3 chevrons/3 rockers	Batt. Sgt. Major
Senior Master Chief Petty Officer	3 chevrons/3 rockers/crown*	Rgt.Sgt. Major**

*The SMCP0 is distinguished from the MCP0 by the large crown insignia superimposed upon the uppermost of the three rockers. All branch insignia are centered above the stripe(s) and/or chevron(s) and below the rockers for CPOs and above.

**Regimental Sergeant Major is the highest noncom rank of the RMMC. The RSM attached to the staff of a brigade or division CO becomes the brigade/divisional SM. The senior SM of the Corps is referred to Sergeant Major of the Corps (and addressed by ALL RMMC personnel, regardless of rank, as "Gunny." He is attached to the Commandant of the Corps, who always represents the RMMC at the JCS level.

The commissioned ranks, from most junior to most senior, are:

Rank	Collar*	Cuff Rings**	Ground Forces
-----	-----	-----	-----
Ensign	1 white pip	1 white	2nd Lieutenant
Lieutenant (jg)	1 gold pip	1 gold	1st Lieutenant
Lieutenant (sg)	2 gold pips	2 gold	Captain
Lt. Commander	3 gold pips	3 gold; 1 half & 2 full	Major
Commander	4 gold pips	3 gold	Lt. Colonel
Captain (jg)	4 gold pips	4 gold	No Equivalent
Captain (List)	1 gold planet	4 gold	Colonel
Commodore	2 gold panets	4 gold; 3 full & 1 broad	Brigadier
Rear Admiral	1 gold star	2 broad gold	Major General
Vice Admiral	2 gold stars	3 broad gold	Lt. General
Admiral	3 gold stars	4 broad gold	General
Fleet Admiral	4 gold stars	4 broad gold	Field Marshal
Admiral of the Fleet	4 stars around 1 planet	5 broad gold	Marshal of the Army

*All collar insignia are repeated on both sides of collar.

**Cuff rings NA to ground forces

In addition to the ranks listed above, there is an additional division, based on seniority, within each of the flag ranks below Admiral of the Fleet. These are based on the two historical fleet districts, with the junior half of the list assigned to the Gryphon District and the senior half to the Manticore District. Originally, an admiral was actually assigned to the district in question; today it is simply an indication of relative seniority, with a Rear Admiral of Manticore being senior to a Rear Admiral of Gryphon. The Naval Ensign displayed in each district is differenced by a colored border-green for the Manticore District and red for the Gryphon District - so a Rear Admiral of Manticore is usually referred to as a Rear Admiral of the Green, and his flag displays his rank stars on a green field. A Rear Admiral of Gryphon, on the other hand, is referred to as a Rear Admiral of the Red and his flag displays his rank stars on a red field. Commodores display their single planet on a broad pendant with the black field of the RMN Ensign.

(D) Uniform:

The RMN uniform is black and gold. Officer's undress uniform consists of a black, double-breasted tunic (which seals up the right side and has relatively long skirts which fall to the upper thigh), a white blouse, and black trousers. The tunic collar is "Prussian" in style-high and round but loose enough for comfort-and the blouse collar is a turtleneck. Trousers are fairly loose and straight cut to just below the knee, at which point they flare out and are bloused into low-topped space boots. The tunic's tailoring is slightly wasp-waisted (with unfortunate consequences for the portly), and bears thin gold piping up either side of the cross-over front panel. Trousers are untrimmed.

Cuff stripes are bands (usually referred to as "rings") of gold braid. A "normal ring" is two cm wide; half stripes are one cm wide, and broad stripes are 3.8 cm wide. Naval reserve officers's rings use gold lace rather than solid bands to differentiate reservists from regulars. In addition to the cuffs, a matching number of thin gold stripes are carried on the tunic's shoulder board "epaulets." Epaulet stripes run front-to-back, not side-to-side, and work in from the outer end of the epaulet. The background color of the epaulet is red, not black.

The left shoulder of the tunic normally bears the name and hull number of the wearer's current ship (i.e., HMS Fearless, CL-56) in an "upside-down" horseshoe arrangement immediately below the shoulder seam. The right shoulder bears the gold-and-scarlet Manticore badge of the RMN. Collar insignia are worn on the tunic's collar, not the blouse's, but the same insignia are worn on an embroidered patch on the left chest of the blouse, immediately above the pocket. Medal ribbons and qualification badges are worn on the left breast of the tunic. In addition, starship commanders wear one star, embroidered in gold thread, for each hyper-capable command they have held, above their other ribbons. The beret breaks to the right and bears the Kingdom's coat of arms-a golden crown supported by a rampant manticore, sphinx, and gryphon (also gold), all on a scarlet field-as a flash on the left side of the band. Starship commander's berets are white; all others are black.

Dress uniform is similar to undress but is more sharply tailored, made of more expensive (and less utilitarian) materials, uses gold bullion for its insignia and bullion thread for cuff bands, and has gold piping up the outer trouser seams. In addition, the tunic bears false buttons up either side of the double-breasted flap, and the epaulets bear the appropriate collar insignia "inboard" of the gold stripes.

Mess dress follows dress in overall concept, but for officers below the rank of commodore the tunic is replaced by a short-waisted coatee which ends at belt level. Senior grade captains and flag officers wear a longer tunic-indeed, almost a frock coat-and a golden sash. In addition, jacket and trouser seams are picked out in gold piping and a dress sword is a non-optional portion of the uniform for all officer ranks. Mess dress's tunic collar is much tighter than for dress uniform and detested accordingly.

Enlisted undress uniform is considerably simpler than officer's uniform, consisting of a tailored, one-piece coverall in standard Navy black and gold. Name and rank insignia are worn on the left breast. The same basic uniform is worn by noncoms, but the trouser seams of noncoms' uniforms are picked out in piping color-coded by branch: red for tactical, green for medical, yellow for communications, white for engineering and electronics, brown for logistics, etc. Additional specialist insignia (such as a missile for gunnery noncoms) is worn on the upper left sleeve as a shoulder patch under the unit name for all ratings and noncoms.

Dress uniform for both enlisted and noncomissioned ranks is a simplified version of officer's dress uniform, with the addition of trouser piping color-coded as for undress uniform. There is no "mess dress" uniform for enlisted or noncomissioned ranks.

Royal Manticoran Navy Awards



Parliamentary Medal
of Valor



Manticore Cross



Saganami Cross



Order of Gallantry



Conspicuous Gallantry
Medal



Distinguished Service
Order

Star Kingdom of Manticore Awards



Order of the Star
Kingdom

Order of Merit

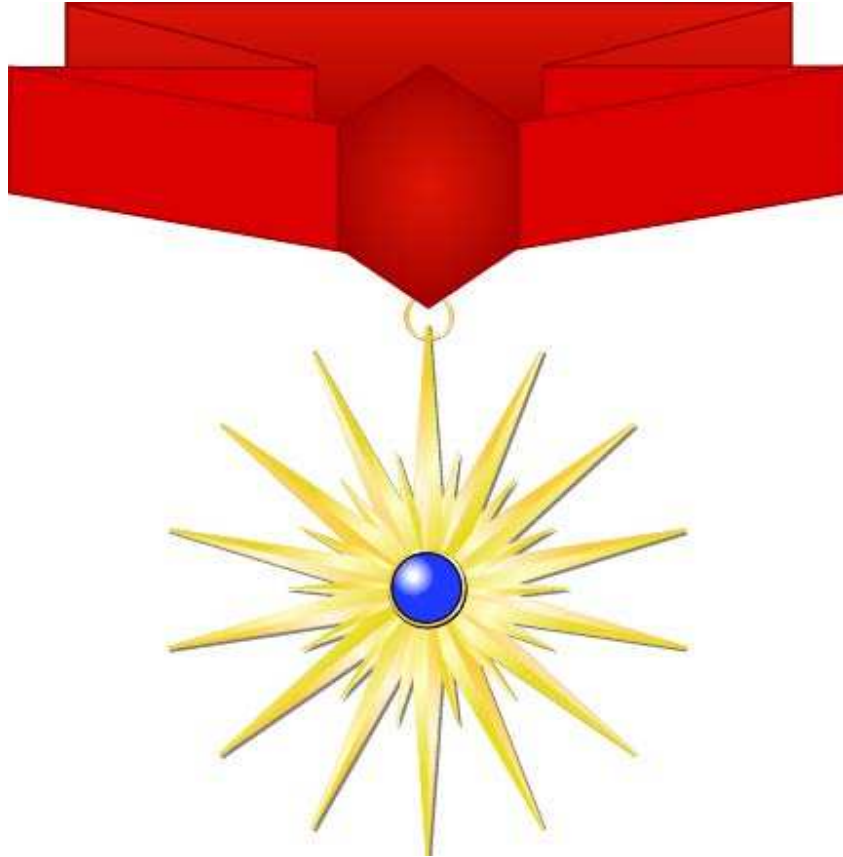


Knight Grand Cross of
the Order of King Roger

Knight Commander
of the Order of
King Roger

Companion of the Order
of King Roger

Foreign Awards



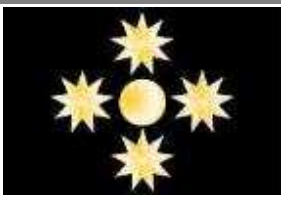
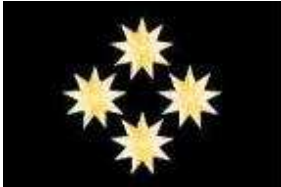
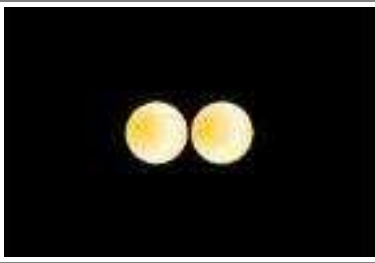
Star of Grayson



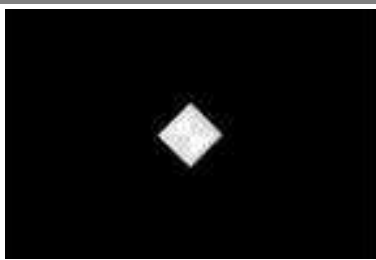
Sidemore Presidential Medal

Officer Rank

Pay Grade	Rank	Sleeve	Shoulder Board	Collar
-----------	------	--------	----------------	--------

O-9	Admiral of the Fleet			
	Fleet Admiral			
	Admiral			
O-8	Vice Admiral			
O-7	Rear Admiral			
	Commodore			

O-6	Captain (Senior Grade)			
	Captain (Junior Grade)			
O-5	Commander			
O-4	Lieutenant Commander			
O-3	Lieutenant (Senior Grade)			
O-2	Lieutenant (Junior Grade)			

O-1	Ensign			
-----	--------	---	---	--

Flag Officers are split into two divisions according to seniority in grade. Senior Officers are "of the Green", or "Manticore" division; junior officers "of the Red", or "Gryphon division."

Captain (SG) is also known as "Captain of the List".

Lieutenants (JG) and Lt. Commanders are known socially as "Lieutenant" and "Commander", respectively.

There is only one Captain on a ship, and that is the Commanding Officer, regardless of his or her rank. If another naval O-6 / O-7 grade visits aboard ship, they are given the courtesy rank of "Commodore." If they are assigned to the ship's company, e.g. the embarked LAC group, they may be addressed by rank and surname. Royal Manticoran Marine and Royal Manticoran Army Captains are given the courtesy rank of "Major."

Billets

Billets such as sailing master, astrogator or communications officer are not ranks, but jobs and/or specialties assigned to members of the ship's company.

Warrant Officer Rank

Pay Grade	Rank	Sleeve	Collar
-----------	------	--------	--------

W-5	Master Chief Warrant Officer		
W-4	Senior Chief Warrant Officer		
W-3	Chief Warrant Officer		
W-2	Warrant Officer First Class		
W-1	Warrant Officer		

Enlisted Rates

Pay Grade	Rate	Sleeve
-----------	------	--------

E-9	Senior Master Chief Petty Officer	
	Master Chief Petty Officer	
E-8	Senior Chief Petty Officer	
E-7	Chief Petty Officer	
E-6	Petty Officer 1st Class	
E-5	Petty Officer 2nd Class	
E-4	Petty Officer 3rd Class	
E-3	Spacer 1st Class	

E-2	Spacer 2nd Class	
E-1	Spacer 3rd Class	

Enlisted personnel do not have ranks. Instead, the term is "rating". This is depicted in their insignia by the number of stripes and/or arcs displayed.

Their specialty. i.e. "Gravitics Technician", is known as their "rate", and is depicted on their insignia by the device centered over their rating stripes. A [chart](#) of these devices can be seen on the "[Ratings](#)" page.

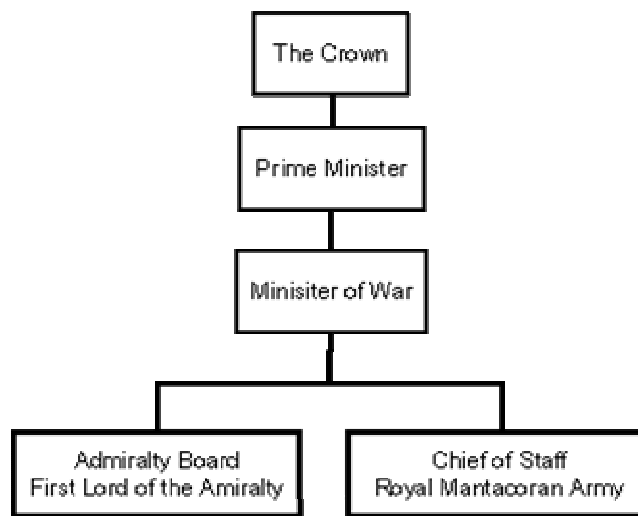
E-1 to E-3 ratings are referred by their rates, i.e. "Electronics Tech First Wanderman." E-4 to E-6 Petty Officers are referred to as "mates", i.e. "Gunner's Mate Harkness."

Command Structure

Civil Authority

In order to function, any large assemblage needs to have a organization or command structure. The Royal Manticoran Navy is no different. As with many successful governments of the past the Star Kingdom believes that the military functions best when placed under the control of civil authority--in this case, supreme command rests with the monarchy. The Crown , in conjunction with the Prime Minister, makes policy decisions and provides overall goals and objectives. These, in turn are passed to the Minister of War, and then to Admiralty Board and the Chief of Staff of the Army, the civilian leadership of the RMN and the Royal Manticoran Army, respectively.

Civil Authority



The Space Lords

The command structure of the RMN itself can seem quite byzantine to the uninitiated, especially if one attempts to grasp it as a single monolithic whole. Strategic control runs down one path, administrative another, logistics a third, training a fourth, and so on. For now, we'll consider just the Strategic chain.

Administrative control of the RMN is vested in seven offices known as the Space Lords. The First Space Lord is Chief of Naval Operations and has overall command of the RMN. The First Space Lord exercises this control through his deputies, the remain Space Lords, each of whom have their specific areas of responsibility.

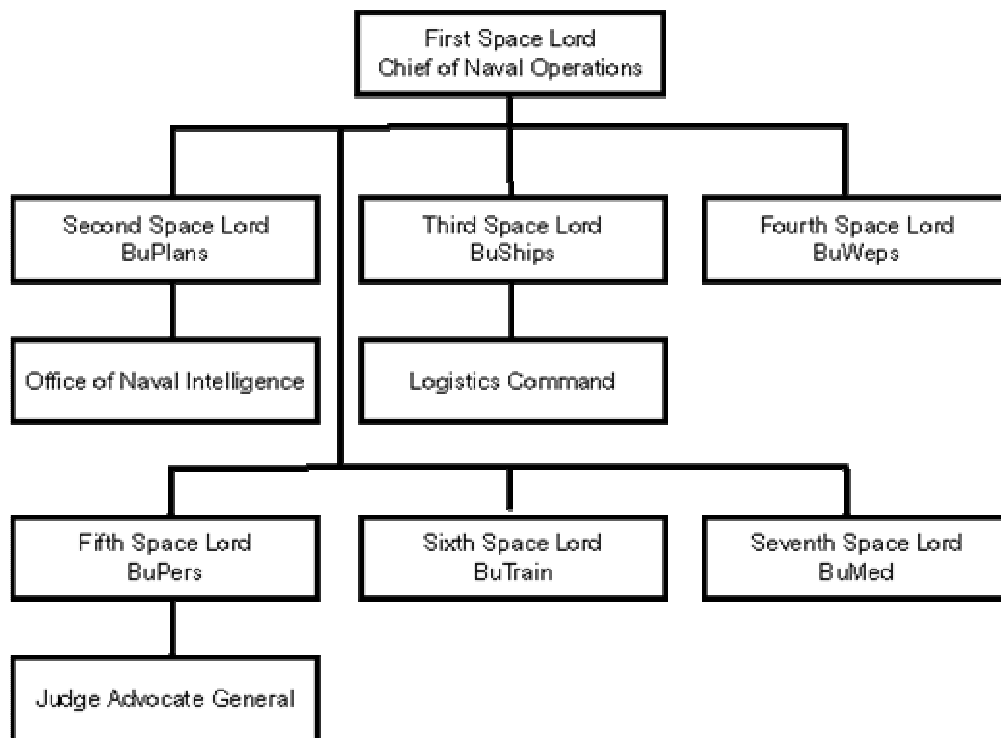
The Second Space Lord is in charge of operational planning and heads BuPlans, or the Buerau of Planning. The Office of Naval Intelligence reports to BuPlans and the Second Space Lord.

The Third Space Lord heads the Bureau of Shipbuilding, or BuShips. His perview also covers Logistics Command and the Yards and Docks system.

The Fourth Space Lord heads up the Bureau of Weapons.

The Fifth Space Lord's Bureau of Personnel (BuPers) umbrella also serves to cover the Judge Advocate General corps, while the Sixth and Seventh head Bureau of Training (BuTrain) and the Bureau of Medicine (BuMed), respectively.

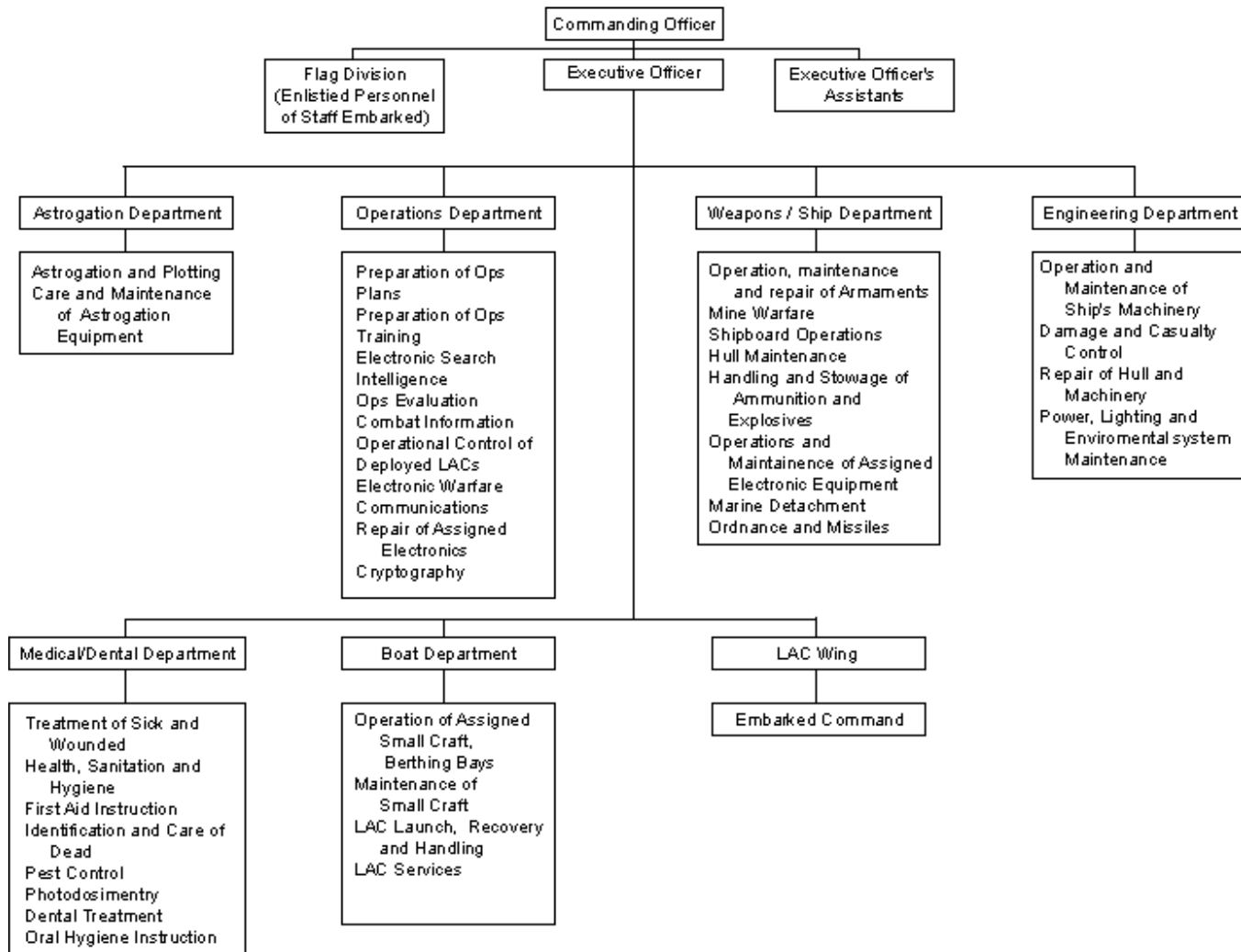
The Space Lords



Shipboard Organization

Underway, each ship is naturally under the command of its captain who has his own chain of command. While the Commanding Officer is in overall command, the Executive Officer serves as tactical deputy and exercises administrative command over the various shipboard departments: astrogation, operations, weapons/ship department, engineering, medical/dental, boat and Light Attack Craft wing.

Shipboard Organization



Royal Manticoran Navy Uniforms

The RMN uniform is black and gold. Officer's undress uniform consists of a black, double-breasted tunic (which seals up the right side and has relatively long skirts which fall to the upper thigh), a white blouse, and black trousers. The tunic collar is "Prussian" in style-high and round but loose enough for comfort-and the blouse collar is a turtleneck. Trousers are fairly loose and straight cut to just below the knee, at which point they flare out and are bloused into low-topped space boots. The tunic's tailoring is slightly wasp-waisted (with unfortunate consequences for the portly), and bears thin gold piping up either side of the cross-over front panel. Trousers are untrimmed.

[Cuff stripes](#) are bands (usually referred to as "rings") of gold braid. A "normal ring" is two cm wide; half stripes are one cm wide, and broad stripes are 3.8 cm wide. Naval reserve officers's rings use gold lace rather than solid bands to differentiate reservists from regulars. In addition to the cuffs, a matching number of thin gold stripes are carried on the tunic's [shoulder board](#) "epaulets." Epaulet stripes run front-to-back, not side-to-side, and work in from the outer end of the epaulet. The background color of the epaulet is red, not black.

The [left shoulder](#) of the tunic normally bears the name and hull number of the wearer's current ship (i.e., HMS Fearless, CL-56) in an "upside-down" horseshoe arrangement immediately below the shoulder seam. The [right shoulder](#) bears the gold-and-scarlet [Manticore badge](#) of the RMN. [Collar insignia](#) are worn on the tunic's collar, not the blouse's, but the same insignia are worn on an embroidered patch on the left chest of the blouse, immediately above the pocket. [Medal ribbons](#) and qualification



Officer's Uniform



**Left
Shoulder**



**Right
Shoulder**

badges are worn on the left breast of the tunic. In addition, starship commanders wear one star, embroidered in gold thread, for each hyper-capable command they have held, above their other ribbons. The beret breaks to the right and bears the Kingdom's coat of arms-a golden crown supported by a rampant manticore, sphinx, and gryphon (also gold), all on a scarlet field-as a flash on the left side of the band. Starship commander's berets are white; all others are black.

Dress uniform is similar to undress but is more sharply tailored, made of more expensive (and less utilitarian) materials, uses gold bullion for its insignia and bullion thread for cuff bands, and has gold piping up the outer trouser seams. In addition, the tunic bears false buttons up either side of the double-breasted flap, and the epaulets bear the appropriate collar insignia "inboard" of the gold stripes.

Mess dress follows dress in overall concept, but for officers below the rank of commodore the tunic is replaced by a short-waisted coatee which ends at belt level. Senior grade captains and flag officers wear a longer tunic-indeed, almost a frock coat-and a golden sash. In addition, jacket and trouser seams are picked out in gold piping and a dress sword is a non-optional portion of the uniform for all officer ranks. Mess dress's tunic collar is much tighter than for dress uniform and detested accordingly.

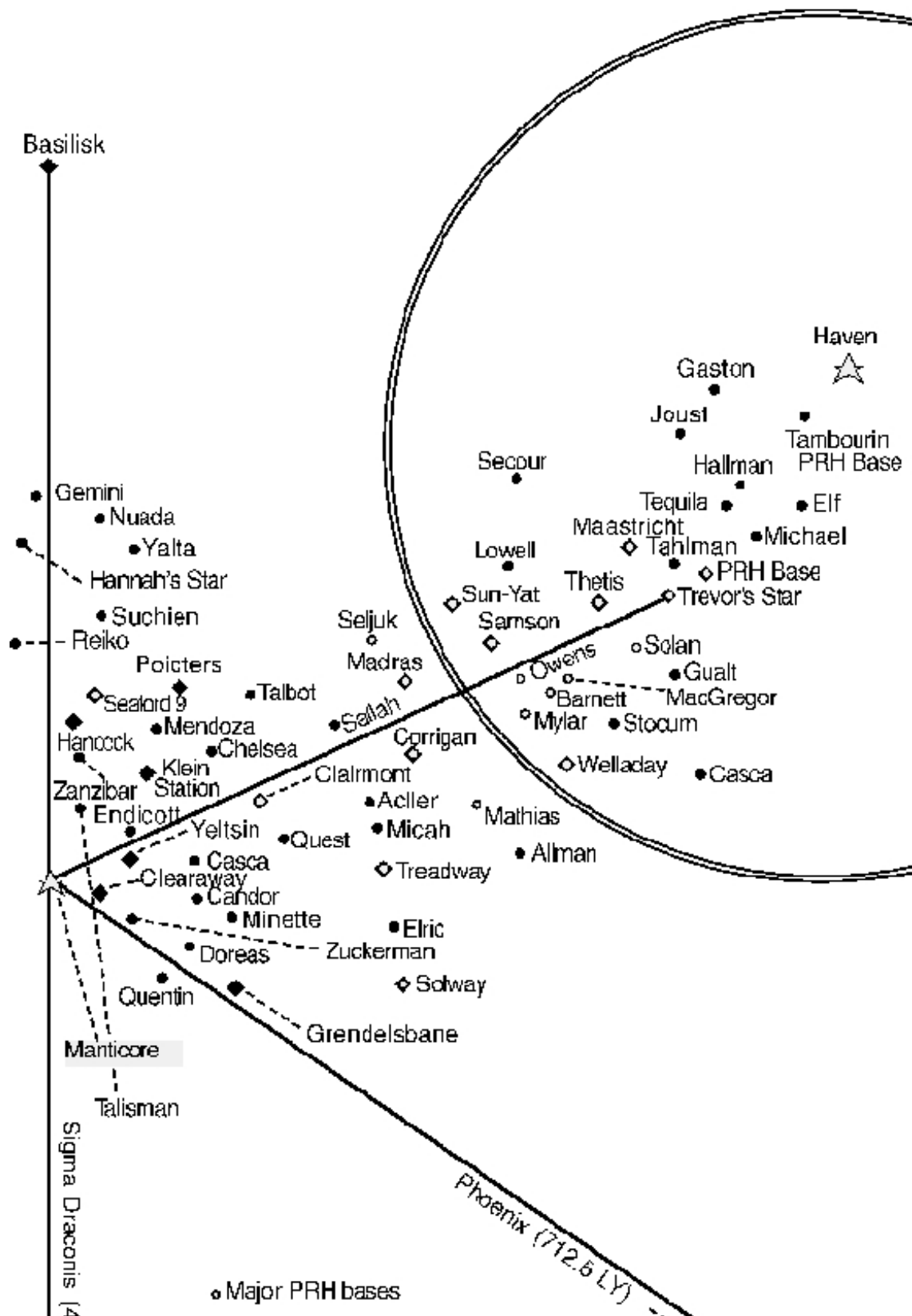
Enlisted undress uniform is considerably simpler than officer's uniform, consisting of a tailored, one-piece coverall in standard Navy black and gold. Name and rank insignia are worn on the left breast. The same basic uniform is worn by

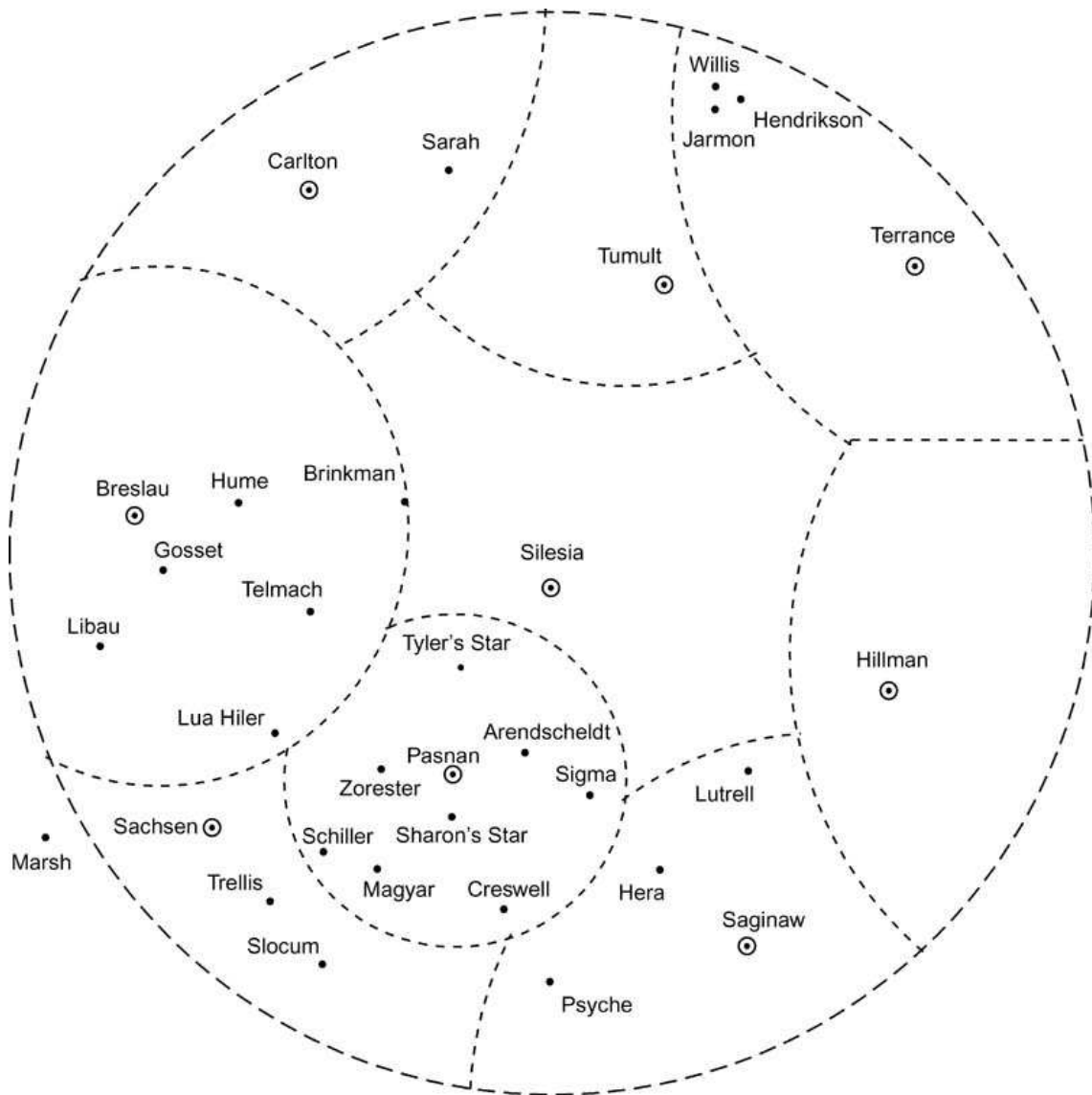


Enlisted

noncoms, but the trouser seams of noncoms' uniforms are picked out in piping color-coded by branch: red for tactical, green for medical, yellow for communications, white for engineering and electronics, brown for logistics, etc. Additional specialist insignia is worn on the upper left sleeve as a shoulder patch under the unit name for all ratings and noncoms.

Dress uniform for both enlisted and noncomissioned ranks is a simplified version of officer's dress uniform, with the addition of trouser piping color-coded as for undress uniform. There is no "mess dress" uniform for enlisted or noncomissioned ranks.





1" = 15 LY

