Commissioned officers (above) include cadets (when on a ship), ensigns (beginning officers), lieutenants (head of detachments such as the disruptors, third engineer shift), commanders (heads of departments), captains (senior captains command cruisers and dreadnoughts; junior captains command destroyers and frigates), and admirals. Royal admirals include only the King-Emperor and sometimes his heir apparent. Officer insignia are silver or red teeth. (Police replace silver with black, ground forces with brown, non-combat support officers with blue.) Red teeth were not added to the rank system until the Four Powers War when the fleet was greatly expanded and non-nobles commanded elements previously commanded only by nobles. Field admirals and duke admirals each command an entire theater, but only one is part of the nobility.

Warrant officers are technical specialists with higher pay and prestige but without command authority. Pilots are a special type of warrant officer, although commissioned officers and sometimes petty officers can serve in the job of pilot. Gunboat crewmen who are officers may be warrant-pilots or commissioned officers.

Enlisted personnel are indicated by claws (petty officers) and scratches (crewmen). Each year at that rank is marked by turning one silver scratch red.