



PLA Rank, Grade & Ribbons

What do
they mean?





PLA Officer Ranks

GEN		上将	将官 General Officers	上将		GEN	
LTG		中将		中将		LTG	
MG		少将		少将		MG	
				准将		BG	
SCOL		大校	校官 Field Grade Officers	上校		COL	
COL		上校		中校		LTC	
LTC		中校				MAJ	
MAJ		少校		少校			
CPT		上尉	尉官 Company Grade Officers	上尉		CPT	
1LT		中尉		中尉		1LT	
2LT		少尉		少尉		2LT	



PLA Officer Grades



军委副主席

Vice Chairman, CMC



军委委员

CMC Member



正战区职

Full Theater Grade



副战区职

Deputy Theater Grade



正军职

Full Corps Grade



副军职

Deputy Corps Grade



正师职

Full Division Grade



副师职

Dpty Division Grade



正团职

Full Regiment Grade



副团职

Dpty Regiment Grade



正营职

Full Battalion Grade



副营职

Dpty Battalion Grade



正连职

Full Company Grade



副连职

Dpty Company Grade



排职

Platoon Grade



未定职

Grade Unassigned



Grade Ribbon

The top-center ribbon indicates the officer's grade.



For the PLA, grade is NOT synonymous with rank, they are two separate concepts. Officers of a certain grade can be of two or three different ranks. PLA officers advance in rank and grade, separately.



Service Longevity Ribbons



1年章

1 Year



2年章

2 Years



3年章

3 Years



4年章

4 Years



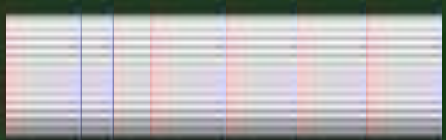
5年章

5 Years



10年章

10 Years



0 Years, place holder

All ribbons (except the top-center ribbon) simply add up to tell total service longevity, usually including 4 years of military school.



$1+2+3+4+0 = 10\text{yrs of service}$



Rows also indicate grade



2 rows = Battalion Grade
Blue 1 star = Deputy BN Grade
 $1+2+3+4+0 = 10$ years service



4 rows = Division Grade
Red 2 star = Full Division Grade
35 years service



5 rows = Corps Grade
Gold 2 star = Full Corps Grade
39 years service

- 1 row = Platoon and Company Grade
- 2 rows = Battalion Grade (正 and 副)
- 3 rows = Regiment Grade (正 and 副)
- 4 rows = Division Grade (正 and 副)
- 5 rows = Corps Grade (正 and 副)
- 6 rows = Theater Grade (正 and 副)
- 7 rows = CMC Grade (VC and Member)



7 rows = CMC Grade
Yellow 1 star w/ wreath = CMC Grade
46 years service



Deputy Division Grade
副师职
(Navy) Senior Colonel
(Senior Captain)
(海军) 大校
28 Years of Service





Reading a PLA Uniform



Example #1



Reading a PLA Uniform

Example #1

General

Central Military Commission



Top Center Ribbon = CMC Member Grade
7 Rows = CMC Grade
Longevity Ribbons indicate 46 years of service



Reading a PLA Uniform

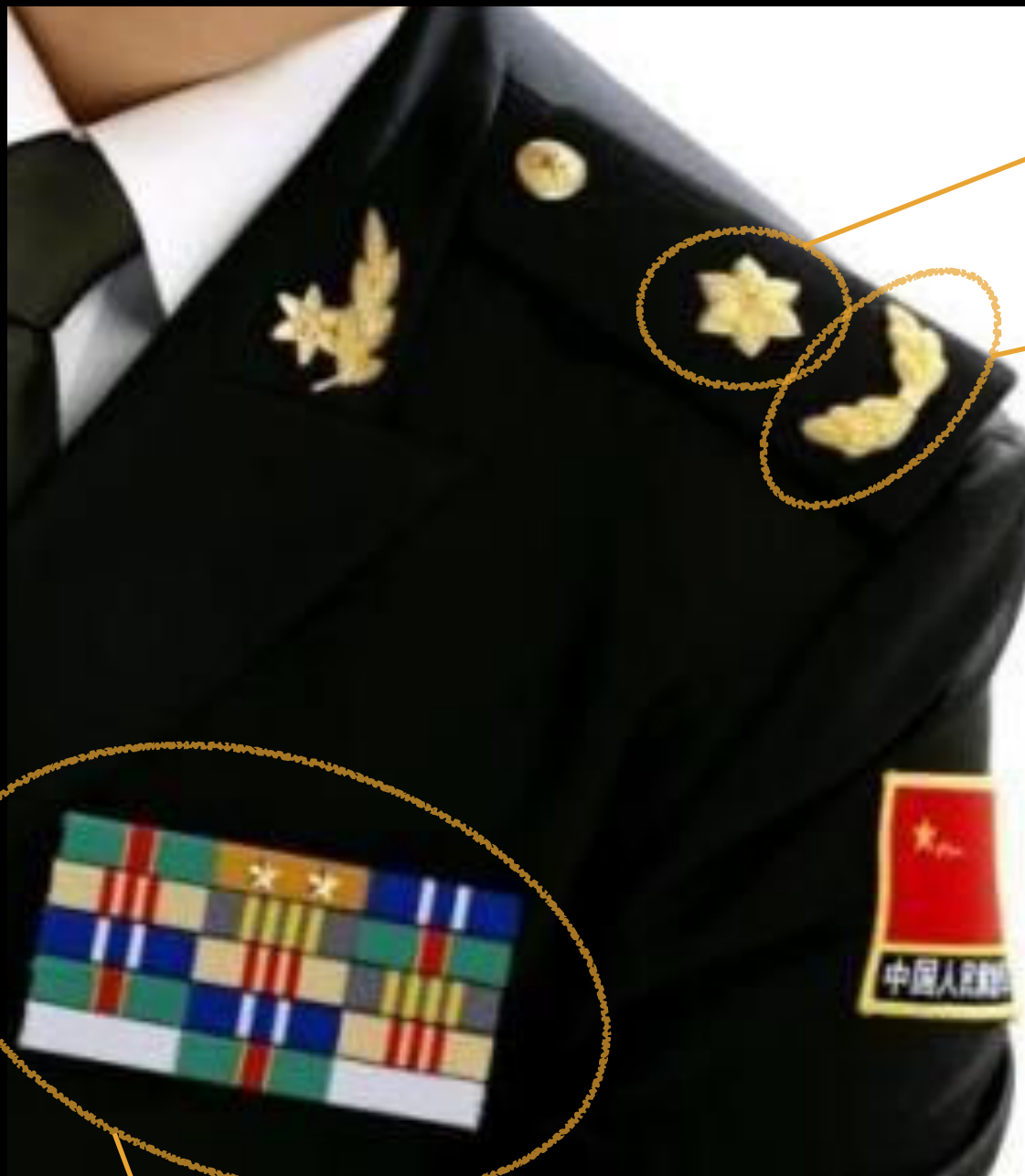
Example #2





Reading a PLA Uniform

Example #2

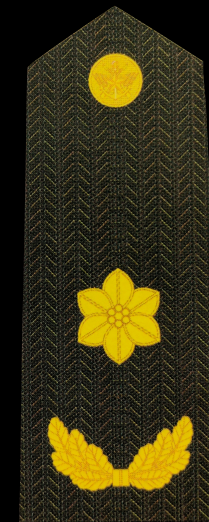


6 point flower,
NOT a Major General's star!

Senior "Uniformed Civilian"

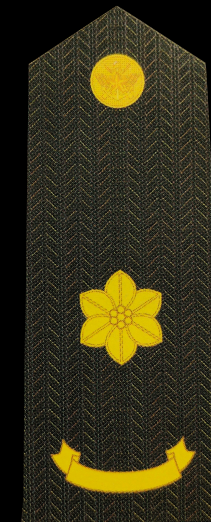
Wenzhi Guan 文职官

Senior
Civil Cadre



文职干部
三级以上

Junior
Civil Cadre



文职干部
四级以下

Top Center Ribbon = Full Corps Grade
5 Rows = Corps Grade
Longevity: 27 years of service



Quiz

QQ#1



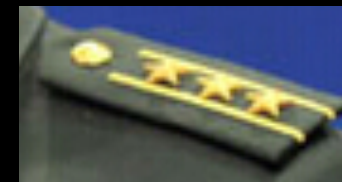
Rows = _____ Grade
Top Center Ribbon = _____
Years in Service = _____ yrs
Extra Credit: What Service? _____

QQ#2



Rows = _____ Grade
Top Center Ribbon = _____
Years in Service = _____ yrs
Extra Credit: What Service? _____

QQ#3



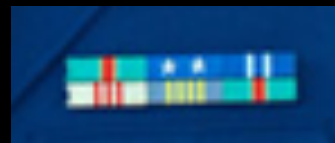
Rows = _____ Grade
Top Center Ribbon = _____
Years in Service = _____ yrs
Extra Credit: What Service? _____

QQ#4



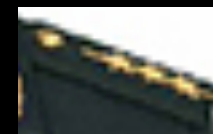
Rows = _____ Grade
Top Center Ribbon = _____
Years in Service = _____ yrs
Extra Credit: What Service? _____

QQ#5



Rows = _____ Grade
Top Center Ribbon = _____
Years in Service = _____ yrs
Extra Credit: What Service? _____

QQ#6



Rows = _____ Grade
Top Center Ribbon = _____
Years in Service = _____ yrs
Extra Credit: What Service? _____



Conclusion

Questions?

Back-Up Slides: Print-Friendly version of the Ranks and Grades Charts



PLA Officer Ranks

GEN		上将	将官 General Officers	上将		GEN	
LTG		中将		中将		LTG	
MG		少将		少将		MG	
				准将		BG	
SCOL		大校	校官 Field Grade Officers	上校		COL	
COL		上校		中校		LTC	
LTC		中校				MAJ	
MAJ		少校		少校			
CPT		上尉	尉官 Company Grade Officers	上尉		CPT	
1LT		中尉		中尉		1LT	
2LT		少尉		少尉		2LT	



PLA Officer Grades



军委副主席

Vice Chairman, CMC



军委委员

CMC Member



正战区职

Full Theater Grade



副战区职

Deputy Theater Grade



正军职

Full Corps Grade



副军职

Deputy Corps Grade



正师职

Full Division Grade



副师职

Dpty Division Grade



正团职

Full Regiment Grade



副团职

Dpty Regiment Grade



正营职

Full Battalion Grade



副营职

Dpty Battalion Grade



正连职

Full Company Grade



副连职

Dpty Company Grade



排职

Platoon Grade



未定职

Grade Unassigned