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Non-commissioned Officers

## **NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS**

A Working Bibliography of MHI Sources

### **CONTENTS**

General Sources.....p.1  
Pre-20<sup>th</sup> Century.....p.2  
1900-1940.....p.3  
Since 1941.....p.3  
NCO Promotions.....p.5  
Shake 'n Bake NCOs.....p.6

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## **Non-Commissioned Officers**

**p.2**

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## Non-Commissioned Officers

p.4

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**NCO PROMOTIONS**

In the "old days," the authority to appoint and promote noncommissioned officers lay within the regiment. The regimental commander appointed the NCOs of staff and band, and he also appointed the other sergeants and corporals on recommendation by company commanders. Captains of companies selected their own first sergeants from among the other sergeants without recourse to higher authority. (Source: US Army Regulations 1889, Para 232, 250-253 and 1825 Regulations, Para 127.)

NCOs on the post staff were appointed by the Sec of War, according to basic criteria described in Paragraphs 91-96 of 1895 Regulations. Para 257, same regulation, permitted company commanders to appoint lance corporals with the regimental commander's approval.

After World War I, AR 615-15 (13 Dec 1923) elevated the appointing authority for First Sergeant to the regimental commander. Commanders of separate battalions and companies could appoint NCOs but the eligibility requirements became more stringent and included character, proficiency, seniority, competitive exams, etc.

After WWII, Special Regulation 615-5-1, dated 21 Jul 1949 authorized commanders of regiments and equivalent organizations to promote NCOs (up to master Sgt) who were not already classified into career fields. (See also AR 615-5, 23 Sep 1946 & 21 Jul 1949.) AR 624-200, (31 May 1955) authorized company commander to appoint E3 and E4. Regimental commanders (or lt. cols. of separate organizations) could appoint E5-E7.

Although, AR 624-200 (3 Jul 1962) allowed E8s & E9s to be appointed by commanders of regiments or separate battalions, AR 600-200, (Mar 1965) provided E7 thru E9s will be promoted by HQ, DA. Field grade commanders only can appoint E5 & E6. Company commanders can appoint E2-E4.

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