

















CHAPTER 8






BASIC NAVAL PROTOCOL

USSC OUTBOUND
HOPE HANDBOOK























USSC AND USOM RANKING

ENLISTED RANKS AND INSIGNIA			
USSC		USOM	
	Private		Private
	Private 1st Class (PFC)		Lance Corporal (LCpl)
	Corporal (CPL)		Corporal (CPL)
	Petty Officer 2nd Class (PO2)		Sergeant (Sgt)
	Petty Officer 1st Class (PO1)		Staff Sergeant (SSgt)
	Chief Petty Officer (CPO)		Gunnery Sergeant (GySgt)
	Senior Chief Petty Officer (SCPO)		First Sergeant (1Sgt)
	Master Chief Petty Officer (MCPO)		Sergeant Major (SgtMaj)

WARRANT OFFICERS				
Warrant Off. 1 (WO1)	Chief Warrant Off. 2 (CW02)	Chief Warrant Off. 3 (CW03)	Chief Warrant Off. 4 (CW04)	Chief Warrant Off. 5 (CW05)
				

OFFICER RANKS AND INSIGNIA

		USSC	USOM
		Ensign (ENS)	Second Lieutenant (2ndLt)
		Lieutenant Junior Grade (LTJG)	First Lieutenant (1stLt)
		Lieutenant (LT)	Captain
		Lieutenant Commander (LCDR)	Major
		Commander (CDR)	Lt. Colonel
		Captain (CAPT)	Colonel
		Rear Admiral Lower Half (RDML)	Brigadier General
		Rear Admiral Upper Half (RDML)	Major General
		Vice Admiral (VADM)	Lt. General
		Admiral (ADM)	General

OFFICERS AND ENLISTEES

While theoretically any officer outranks any enlistee, the truth is often far more complicated. Lower-rank officers tend to lack significant experience, while non-commissioned officers often have decades of it behind them. Though they're certainly welcome to try, an Ensign would have a hard time earning the unconditional respect of a long-serving Petty Officer.

MILITARY SALUTES

- Salutes are made with the right hand facing down, with all fingers pointed toward the brow.
- When reporting to the Admiral or Captain, a salute is preferred. It is optional when reporting to other superior officers. Salutes should be held until the superior rank ends their own salute.
- All USSC or USOM personnel "Under Arms" (carrying a firearm or other weapon) should salute when an officer is present.

ADDRESSING PERSONNEL

- An Admiral is always addressed as Admiral or "sir" (gender-neutral).
- A Captain of a USSC vessel is always addressed as Captain or "Sir" (gender-neutral). If they are admired, they may also be referred to as "Skipper."
- The Executive Officer (XO) is always referred to as "sir" (gender-neutral) from subordinates and "XO" from the Captain and Admiral.
- Superior officers are always to be addressed as "sir" (gender-neutral). Subordinate officers are addressed by their rank, position, or surname.
- Officers may address other officers of the same rank either by rank or surname.
- Ensigns should always address everyone by both rank and surname – including enlisted personnel.
- Senior non-commissioned officers should be addressed by their rank (Chief, Senior Chief, Master Chief, etc.).

- Superior enlisted personnel should be addressed as “sir” (gender-neutral) or by their rank. Inferior enlisted personnel are addressed by their surname.
- Hospital Corpsmen may be addressed as “Doctor.”

COMMON PHRASES/TERMS

- **“You (or Name/Position of Officer) have the Conn!”**
Phrase spoken when the most senior officer leaves the Bridge, establishing a clear Chain of Command. Typically, the Captain will defer to the XO, and the XO to the Chief Navigator, but there are instances when this chain-of-command may be circumvented. The selected officer then takes command of the ship.
- **“Admiral/Captain on Deck!”**
Phrase spoken by the most senior officer or, alternatively, the individual closest to the door when the Admiral or Captain enters the room. At this point, all personnel should stand at attention and await further command. Note that this formality is not required when personnel are at action stations.
 - ⇒ **“At Ease!”**
Phrase spoken by the Admiral or Captain after “Admiral/Captain on Deck” has gathered personnel present to attention. This typically implies the desire to address the personnel present. Personnel may assume a more relaxed — though still attentive — posture.
 - ⇒ **“As You Were!”**
Phrase spoken by the Admiral or Captain after “Admiral/Captain on Deck” has gathered personnel present to attention. This returns all personnel present to their previous duties. Often used when the Admiral or Captain is merely passing through or monitoring the situation.
- **“Aye, Sir/Chief!”**
An acceptable response to any order from a superior officer that doesn’t violate a law.
- **“Action Stations!”**
Phrase announced by the superior officer on the bridge (and echoed by

the ship's S.A.I.) signaling an immediate emergency situation. All personnel should immediately report to their appropriate action stations.

■ **“Per Aspera!”**

A Latin phrase meaning “Out of Hardship,” and usually a rallying cry of the USSC. The proper response is “Ad Astra!” (or “To the Stars!”). Together, the phrase represents the USSC’s determination to triumph over adversity, a theme reflective in the history of the United States since the US collapse of the 21st century.

■ **“Set Condition ___ Throughout The Fleet!”**

Usually ordered by the Admiral but directed through the ship’s S.A.I., this command informs personnel and passengers of an important change to fleet status. See the page 41 for specifics.

COMMON ABBREVIATIONS

- **354-PA:** Star System 354 of the Perseus Arm (Destination of the OHM)
- **AAR:** After-Action Report
- **ACA:** Anti-Colonial Alliance
- **AIE:** Advanced Ion Engines
- **CO:** Commanding Officer
- **DCA:** Department of Colonial Affairs (US)
- **GD:** Gravitational Drive
- **HADTU:** Handheld Augmented Diagnostic and Treatment Unit
- **IPU:** Interplanetary Press Union
- **LSD:** Linear Skip Drive
- **MC:** Martian Collective
- **MCRF:** MC Research Fleet
- **NICE:** Neural Integration Combat Enhancement
- **NCO:** Non-Commissioned Officer
- **OHM:** Outbound Hope Mission
- **SAI:** Systems Artificial Intelligence
- **UKS:** Unidentified Kuiper Structure (Bifröst Station)
- **USOM:** United States Orbital Marines
- **USSC:** United States Space Command
- **WSS:** Windfall Starship Systems, Inc.
- **XO:** Executive Officer

STATUS CONDITIONS

In order to properly protect the Outbound Fleet, the Admiral will have the ability to set various readiness conditions that apply to the flagship (*Ascendant Dawn*), other USSC vessels, and the fleet at large. When declared, these commands will be echoed via an automatic, fleet-wide broadcast by the flagship's SAI unit.

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">RED IMMINENT THREAT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ FLEET MOVES TO DEFENSIVE/RETREAT POSITIONS. ■ SAI unlocks shield and weapon systems. ■ All crew members prepare for imminent battle. ■ Marine teams mobilize to repel possible boarders. ■ Medical crew act within priority-based triage. ■ Civilians move to designated safety zones ONLY. ■ Ship-to-ship travel is restricted unless authorized.
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">YELLOW POSSIBLE THREAT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ FLEET MOVES IN TIGHT FORMATION WITH ESCORTS. ■ SAI activates shield systems. ■ Crew engages in standard shift schedule rotation. ■ Marine teams stand outfitted and ready to be called. ■ Medical crew on standby to assist injured personnel. ■ Civilians not allowed on Level 2 but permitted elsewhere. ■ Ship-to-ship travel is restricted under flagship supervision.
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">GREEN NO THREATS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ FLEET MOVES IN LOOSE FORMATION WITH ESCORTS. ■ SAI deactivates all combat systems. ■ Crew engages in standard shift schedule rotation. ■ Marine teams stand down. ■ Medical crew operates on as-needed basis. ■ Civilians given full access to ship (within standard limits). ■ Ship-to-ship travel is unrestricted.
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">BLUE SHIP IS DOCKED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ SHIP-STATUS ONLY, DOES NOT APPLY TO FLEET. ■ <i>Implies the ship is docked and unable to respond.</i> ■ All combat systems disabled. ■ Docking status may prevent movement or ability to move out of Condition Blue.