Within the non-commissioned officer corps, the Armed Forces have introduced a system in which the NCO with the longest continuous service holds a superior position in his or her unit (i.e. military branch, vessel, station, base). This function is called Command Sergeant Major in the Army, Command Chief Master Sergeant in the Air Force, and Command Master Chief Petty Officer in the Navy. Only one can hold this position in each department, and personnel from OR6 to OR9 only can be appointed the position.

The Command Sergeant Major insignia has a star button between the chevrons and the rounded bars. The corresponding Navy insignia, the anchor above the chevrons, has a laurel wreath around it.