

UK-German Rank Comparison



The ranks within the police service are, in descending order of seniority:



Commissioner* / General
Inspekteur der Bundespolizei
Präsident der Bundespolizeipräsidiums



Chief Constable / Lieutenant-General
Landes-/ Polizeipräsident



Deputy Chief Constable / Major-General
Landespolizeidirektor
Inspekteur der Polizei



Assistant Chief Constable
Leitender Polizeidirektor = Brigadier
Polizeidirektor = Colonel



Chief Superintendent / Lt. Colonel
Polizeiobererrat



Superintendent / Major
Polizeirat



(Senior) Chief Inspector
Erster Polizeihauptkommissar = Staff Captain
Polizeihauptkommissar = Captain



Inspector / Assistant Inspector
Polizeioberkommissar = 1st Lieutenant
Polizeikommissar = 2nd Lieutenant



Polizeihauptmeister = Senior Sergeant
Polizeiobermeister = Sergeant



Polizeimeister = Constable / Officer

* Metropolitan and City of London Police

Rank comparisons between the UK and Germany should only be viewed as a guide as both organisations operate under differing structures. Both ranks systems were originally based on military structures, however position-based ranks in Germany differ considerably from its UK counterparts. Investigators holding a rank up to Chief Superintendent have the prefix "Detective" before their rank e.g. Detective Inspector (DI).

All International Police Missions once operated under a military command structure, therefore military-style ranks/positions are still often used in UN/EU job/role descriptions.