

## Letter to the Editor

Sir,

### LAPEL STARS – THE BRIGADIER'S RANK

**A**fter having followed the British pattern for 150 years, of having all our rank insignia on shoulder tabs, we have now introduced, in addition, stars to be worn on our collar lapels, as the American Army does for its General Officers.

Having introduced stars on our collar lapels, the natural thing would be to follow the American designation of one star, two star, three star and four star Generals. This will be in keeping with the Brigadier General's rank of World War I, and that followed by all European armies, not to mention the Russian Army, where they even have a Colonel General. Let us either follow the old, and still existing British system or the American one, but not a hotch-potch of in-between both. Ours is the only army that I know of, where a Brigadier wears 3 stars on his shoulder tabs, but only one star on his collar lapels – nothing can be more incongruous.

40 years ago, I remember flying from Washington to Anchorage (Alaska) in the economy class. As I was wearing a Brigadier's uniform, the American air-hostess asked me to come up in the first class, where General Officers travel in. Even today in the USA, any Brigadier, including an Indian one, is introduced as a General. Besides, in that country, when any General Officer, which includes a Brigadier, is introduced to an audience at a parade or conference, he is always introduced as General X, unlike in our country, where he is introduced not as General X, but as Major General or Lieutenant General X, and of course, with all his decorations like, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, and so on, each time his name is mentioned.

Yours Faithfully,

*Brigadier N B Grant, AVSM (Retd)*