Rassán I’s Army

**Organization**

The basic unit was the *banner*, essentially a rectangle of 16x16 to 20x20 men,  
¾ of them spearmen and ¼ archers, commanded by a *count* and aided by a *curator*. Banner officers included a chaplain, a cook, a clerk, a standard-bearer,   
2 musicians, 3-4 *centenaries* commanding “blocks” of 80-100 men (also doubling as drill instructors) and 16 to 20 *vintenaries* commanding each file of men, assisted by 32 to 40 *deans* in charge of tent groups of 8-10 soldiers – for a gross total of ca. 250-400 men.

Rank distinctions within a banner:

* Regular soldiers wore a chainmail and a simple leather helmet
* The musicians, the chaplain, the cook, the clerk and the standard-bearer were recognized by not carrying arms, and by their special equipment
* **Deans** wore a white sash across their waist, and had metal helmets
* **Vintenaries** had a red sash and a metal helmet
* **Centenaries** had a small metal crest on their helmets
* **Curators** had similar crested helmets, but gilded
* **Counts** had a more fancy-looking armor, a short red cape, and a crested helmet with a red plume of horsehair

Cavalry banners were smaller, counting 50-100 riders, and had no centenaries.

A standard *legion*, of which the Empire initially had 28 (including the navy, see next),included 12-15 infantry and 2-4 cavalry banners, and was commanded by a *duke*, aided by a *camp prefect* responsible for training and logistics, and had 4-8 staff officers called *tribunes*, who could double as commanders of thirds of the legion, e.g. when forming in three lines of battle. Total size was circa 5,500.

Rank distinctions within a legion:

* **Tribunes** wore a short white or gold cape, and the same armor and helmet as counts, but with a larger crest
* **Camp prefects** wore a longer, blue cape, with a broad diagonal sash across their chest and a similar helmet to tribunes
* **Dukes** wore rich gilded armor, a long red cape and a gilded helmet crested with white ostrich plumage

At the top of the command chain were **princes** – commanding the 7 provinces of the Empire – who wore a long red cape lined with ermine or mink fur, and a gilded crowned helmet, at times with jewelry.

**Navy organization**

Organization at sea was similar to land. The basic ship type was the *dromon* – a large galley operated by 120-200 oarsmen and 40-80 marines. The officers on board of a ship were mostly the same as in an infantry banner, and also similarly dressed and equipped. The main differences were the lack of spears, with marines being armed with sabers instead, and the lack of armor for the rowers. The ship’s 2nd in command was called the **ship’s master** instead of a curator, and was often the actual skipper, whereas the count’s main role was commanding attacks and boardings of enemy ships.

Similarly, a maritime duke’s 2nd in command was named a **fleet prefect**. The three maritime legions consisted of 20-50 dromons each and a similar number of small craft – and thus were somewhat larger than their land counterparts.

**List of legions**

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| CALDRIA – under *Rassán*, the Red Prince (the Emperor’s eldest son) | |
| I Strátian Legion | XX Royal Guard Legion |
| II Felicitán Legion | XXIV Second Strátian Legion |
| VII Stocmýrian Legion | XXV Geráican Legion |
| ALBREDONA – under the Golden Prince (the Emperor’s second son) | |
| III Chélmis Maritime Legion | XIIX Black Legion |
| IX Lýstrian Legion | XXI Royal Cavaliers Legion |
| XII Lympórean Legion | XXVI Dhogásian Legion |
| ASPRA – under the White Prince | |
| IV Desert Mounted | XXVII Áspran Militia |
| XVII Desert Slingers |  |
| TANJIA – under the Blue Prince | |
| V Molnyéran Legion | XV Mounted Eastern Legion |
| VIII Selsibórgean Maritime Legion |  |
| AMBRIA – under the Yellow Prince | |
| VI Gonarbásian Legion | XXIII Sylvan Legion |
| XXII Gonarbásian Maritime Legion | XXIIX Ámbrian Victorious Legion |
| FRILLIA – under the Purple Prince | |
| XI Celmýrian Legion | XVI Second Fríllian Legion |
| BERGIA – under the Green Prince | |
| X Legion of the Strait | XIV Royal Western Legion |
| XIII Delvíne Legion | XIX Mountain Legion |

**Total:** 28 legions; about 170 thousand men and officers