OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1950 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1950

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ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
ASSISTANTS TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
DIRECTOR, PROGRAM ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION
DIRECTOR, NET ASSESSMENT
DIRECTOR, FORCE TRANSFORMATION
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Revised Department of Defense (DoD) Order of Precedence

This memorandum updates the order of precedence published January 3, 2005. This update reflects all organizational changes, as well as recommended and approved changes that have occurred since then. The attached list provides the relative protocol precedence for members within DoD. This list will be updated and published, as required.

The precedence code is used to determine the order of precedence for the following:

(1) official visit activities;
(2) assignment of government quarters;
(3) travel status on government aircraft and surface transportation (when mission essential) to include seating; and
(4) seating arrangements and similar requirements at official functions and other activities requiring precedence decisions.

Requests for changes to this list should include detailed justification. Requests should be forwarded through the organizational chain of command to: Director, Washington Headquarters Services, ATTN: Director, Executive Services, 1155 Pentagon, Room 3C975, Washington DC 20301-1155, phone (703) 693-7965. The Director, Administration and Management will be the final approval authority for each request.

Michael B. Donley
Director

Attachment:
as stated

OSD 22346-05

ORDER OF PRECEDENCE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
As of November 10, 2005

(CODE 2)

Secretary of Defense
Deputy Secretary of Defense
Secretary of the Army
Secretary of the Navy
Secretary of the Air Force
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (precedes Service Secretaries on acquisition matters)
Under Secretary of Defense for Policy
Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer
Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness
Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence
Retired Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
Retired Vice Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
Chief of Staff, Army, Chief of Naval Operations, Chief of Staff, Air Force and Commandant of the Marine Corps (see note 1)
Commandant of the Coast Guard
Retired Chiefs of Staff, Army, Chiefs of Naval Operations, Chiefs of Staff, Air Force, Commandants of the Marine Corps, and Commandants of the Coast Guard (see note 1)
Combatant Commanders (see note 2)
Retired Combatant Commanders (see note 2)
Commander, Multi-National Forces-Iraq

(CODE 3)

Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics/Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology
Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Logistics and Materiel Readiness
Under Secretaries of the Army, Navy and Air Force (see note 3)
Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy
Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness
Director of Defense Research and Engineering
Assistant Secretaries of Defense, General Counsel of the Department of Defense and Director of Operational Test and Evaluation (see note 3)
(continued)

CODE 3 (cont)

Inspector General of the Department of Defense
Chief Judges and Judges on the U.S. Court of Appeals of the Armed Forces
Army and Air Force Vice Chiefs, Vice Chief of Naval Operations and Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps (see note 1)
Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard
Generals and Admirals (4-star) (see note 4)
Assistant Service Secretaries and General Counsels of the Army, Navy, and Air Force (see note 3)
Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs
Retired Generals and Admirals (4-star)
The Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense and Deputy Secretary of Defense
The Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense
Assistants to the Secretary of Defense (includes Special Assistants to the Secretary of Defense and Deputy Secretary of Defense, Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Intelligence Oversight), Director, Joint Iraq Afghanistan Planning Group and other assistants as may be designated from time to time by the Secretary or Deputy Secretary of Defense) (see note 5)
Director, Administration and Management
Director, Program Analysis and Evaluation
Director of Net Assessment
Director, Force Transformation
Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)
Defense Advisor U. S. Mission NATO, Secretary of Defense Representative to Europe
Chairmen of the Defense Policy Advisory Committee, Defense Science Board, Reserve Forces Policy Board and the Defense Business Board (see note 5)

(CODE 4)

Deputy Under Secretaries of Defense (see note 5)
Directors of Defense Agencies (see note 6)
Directors of DoD Field Activities (see note 10)
Deputy Director of Defense Research and Engineering
Principal Assistant Deputy Under Secretaries of Defense (see note 5)
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretaries of Defense, Principal Deputy General Counsel of the Department of Defense and Principal Deputy Director Operational Test and Evaluation (see note 5)
Principal Deputy Inspector General of the Department of Defense
Administrative Assistants to Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force
Senior Enlisted Advisors (Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; Sergeant Major of the Army; Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy; Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force; Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps; and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard) (see notes 7 and 9)

(continued)

CODE 4 (cont)
Lieutenant Generals and Vice Admirals (3-star) (see note 4)
Retired Lieutenant Generals and Vice Admirals (3-star)
Chairman, US Section of the Permanent Joint Board of Defense, US-Canada
Principal Deputy Assistant Service Secretaries and Principal Deputy General Counsels of the Army, Navy, and Air Force (see note 5)
Deputy Assistant Secretaries of Defense, Deputy General Counsels of the Department of Defense and Deputy Directors Operational Test and Evaluation (see note 5)
Deputy Inspectors General of the Department of Defense (see note 5)
Deputy Comptrollers of the Department of Defense (see note 5)
Assistant Inspectors General of the Department of Defense (see note 5)
Deputy Under Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force (see note 5)
Deputy Defense Advisor, U.S. Mission NATO
Members of Secretary of Defense Boards (Defense Policy Advisory Committee; Defense Science Board; Reserve Forces Policy Board; and Defense Business Board)
The Auditor Generals of the Army, Navy and Air Force (see note 5)

(CODE 5)

Assistant Deputy Under Secretaries and Principal Directors (see note 5)
Major Generals and Rear Admirals of the upper half (2-star) (see note 4)
Deputy Assistant Service Secretaries and Deputy General Counsels of the Army, Navy, and Air Force (see note 5)
Deputy Assistants to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs (see note 5)
Deputy Directors Program Analysis and Evaluation, Net Assessment and Force Transformation (note 5)
The Deputy or Principal Deputy Director for a Defense Agency (see note 6)
The Deputy or Principal Deputy Director for a DoD Field Activity (see note 10)

(CODE 6)

Brigadier Generals and Rear Admirals of the lower half (1-star) (see note 4)
Other Members of the Senior Executive Service and Defense Intelligence Senior Executive Service (see notes 8 and 9)

NOTES:

1. Precedence is established by the date of appointment to the position.

2. Precedence is established by the date of appointment as a Combatant Commander. However, if a Combatant Commander was previously appointed to one of these positions, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Service Chief, or a previous Combatant Commander position, then the initial date of appointment to the previously held position will be used.
(continued)

NOTES (continued)

3. Within a group listed on a line under a code, precedence for Senate confirmed civilian positions is established by date of appointment.

4. Precedence is by date of rank in the serving grade.

5. For non-statutory positions within a group, precedence is by date assigned to the position.

6. Precedence for Directors and the Principal Deputy Directors of Defense Agencies is determined by the establishment date of the organization. The Defense Agencies are listed alphabetically as follows: Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), 1958; Defense Business Transformation Agency (BTA) 2005; Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA), 1990; Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA), 1965; Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA), 2000; Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), 1990; Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA), 1960; Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), 1961; Defense Legal Services Agency (DLSA), 1981; Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), 1961; Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA), 1971; Defense Security Service (DSS), 1972; Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), 1959; Missile Defense Agency (MDA), 1984; National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), 1972; National Security Agency(NSA)/Central Security Service (CSS) 1952; Pentagon Force Protection Agency (PFPA), 2002.

7. Code 4 precedence applies only to the currently serving Senior Enlisted Advisor (SEA) to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Service Senior Enlisted Advisors. Certain protocol functions may require a deviation from the established precedence. Order of precedence within this group is the SEA to the Chairman, JCS, followed by the SEA in order by date of Service establishment. Retired senior enlisted advisors should be placed in front of other retired members of the same grade (E-9).

8. Precedence for members of the Senior Executive Service (SES) and Defense Intelligence Senior Executive Service (DISES) is established by the position held (the SES includes various executive and managerial positions and excludes non-managerial, Senior Level (SL) and Scientific and Professional (ST) positions as well as Defense Intelligence Senior Level Professional positions). It is not possible to identify and list the title for each SES position within the Department on this order of precedence list. To the extent possible, this update reflects the principal positions held by members of the SES. The principal factor for determining the precedence for SES whose positions are not specified on the order of precedence is where their positions are in their organization's hierarchy. For those members of the SES/DISES within the OSD components, Defense Agencies and DoD Field Activities whose positions are not specifically identified, their positions are in Code 6, under "Other members of the Senior Executive Service." It is recognized that within the Military Departments and on the Joint Staff there are members of the SES whose positions may be comparable to General/Flag Officers of the 2 and 3 star rank but those positions are not addressed on this list (e.g. Deputy Chiefs of Staff on an Army major command staff). The Protocol and or Executive Personnel Offices for the Military Departments and the Joint Staff may issue supplementary guidance in order to establish the appropriate precedence for the members of the SES in positions at those levels within their respective organization; their remaining SES will be in Code 6, "Other members of the Senior Executive Service and Defense Intelligence Senior Executive Service." (continued)

NOTES (continued)

9. For Joint Staff and Service-related functions and activities, when appropriate to do so, the Joint Staff and the Military Departments may adjust the established order of precedence as necessary. Contact the appropriate Joint Staff or Service Protocol Office for further information and guidance.

10. Precedence for Directors and Principal Deputy Directors of the DoD Field Activities is determined by the establishment date of the organization. The Defense Field Activities are listed alphabetically as follows: Armed Forces Information Service (AFIS), 1980; Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO), 1993; Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC), 2004; Defense Technology Security Administration (DTSA), 2001; DoD Counterintelligence Field Activity, 2002; DoD Education Activity (DoDEA), 1992; DoD Human Resource Activity (HRA), 1996; DoD Test Resources Management Center (TRMC), 2002; TRICARE Management Activity, 1998; Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA), 1978; and Washington Headquarters Services (WHS), 1977.

11. Except as noted herein, the provisions of this memorandum are not applicable to former civilian officials of the Department as they do not retain the precedence associated with their position upon departure from that position. In recognition of their past service in the Department, courtesies and recognition may be extended to them as appropriate. Precedence is retained, however, by former Secretaries of Defense due to their status as presidential cabinet members, and by retired members of the military since they retain the rank in which they were retired.