Consolidated DoD/Army/Air Force Precedence List

February 9, 2006

This consolidated list uses as its primary source document the DoD Table of Precedence, but includes differences found on the Department of the Army Precedence List and the Department of the Air Force Protocol Precedence List, along with additional entries for local governmental positions not found on the above three lists. Following the listing are notes from the DoD, Army, and Air Force precedence lists (click the *Notes* bookmark to the left).

When several positions are shown on the same line number, precedence is determined as indicated in the parenthetical note on the line.

Army and/or Air Force entries not found on the DoD Order of Precedence are identified by *italicized* entries. Additions made by JMAR Management & Training are indicated in ***italicized, gray type***.

Entries like '(see 3-21)' refer to other lines reflecting a different level of precedence for the same position. Entries such as '(DoD note 5)' refer to the individual precedence lists notes (DoD, Army, Air Force) at the end of this list.

Finding a position or title: use the Search function on the Adobe Acrobat Reader menu bar; select or deselect the 'Case-Sensitive' option, then, in the top fill-in box, type in a word or phrase like, 'ambassador,' 'secretary,' or 'deputy assistant' and click on the 'Search' button. Keep in mind that the more general the term, the more likely a find will occur. Scan the 'find' results for appropriate line entries.

Click on the bookmark to the left titled, "Using this list to determine precedence' for a discussion on using this list and determining precedence.

Numbering convention: each code section contains a reference number to each line. The line number represents the precedence code followed by that line's sequence within that code section. For example, "2-93" represents a position precedence at the Code 2 (four-star level) which is the 93rd line in that section. This numbering convention, we believe, is better than a simple 1 to 250 system in which it is impossible to correlate a basic line number to a specific level of precedence. With the following system, if a line number is "2-93" you know that the position is equivalent to a four-star flag officer.

Code 1

1-1 President of the United States

1-2 Heads of states and reigning royalty

Code 2 (4-star level)

2-1 Vice President of the United States

2-2 Governors in their own state (see 2-41)

2-3 Speaker of the House of Representatives

2-4 Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

2-5 Former Presidents of the United States

2-6 United States Ambassadors when at their post

2-7 United States Secretary of State

2-8 President, United Nations General Assembly (when in session)

2-9 Secretary General of the United Nations

2-10 President, United Nations General Assembly (when not in session)

2-11 Accredited ambassadors of foreign powers

2-12 Widows of former Presidents of the United States

2-13 Accredited foreign ministers and envoys

2-14 Associate Justices of the Supreme Court

2-15 Retired Chief Justices of the Supreme Court

2-16 Retired Associate Justices of the Supreme Court

2-17 Secretary of the Treasury

2-18 Secretary of Defense

2-19 Attorney General

2-20 Secretary of the Interior

2-21 Secretary of Agriculture

2-22 Secretary of Commerce

2-23 Secretary of Labor

2-24 Secretary of Health and Human Services

2-25 Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

2-26 Secretary of Transportation

2-27 Secretary of Energy

2-28 Secretary of Education

2-29 Secretary of Veterans Affairs

2-30 Secretary of Homeland Security

2-31 Administrator, Environment Protection Agency EPA

2-32 Chief of Staff to the President

2-33 Director, Office of Management and Budget OMB

2-34 United States Trade Representative

2-35 Director, National Drug Control Policy

2-36 United States Representative to the United Nations (in session) (see 2-57)

2-37 Chairman, Council of Economic Advisors

2-38 President Pro Tempore of the Senate

2-39 United States Senators (by seniority, then alphabetic)

2-40 Former United States Senators (by date of retirement)

2-41 Governors when not in own state (by date of state entry; when equal, alphabetic) (see 2-2)

2-42 Acting heads of cabinet level departments

2-43 Former Vice Presidents of the United States

2-44 United States Representative (by seniority, then alphabetic)

2-45 Former congressmen (by date of retirement)

2-46 District of Columbia delegate to House of Representatives

2-47 Guam delegate to House of Representatives

2-48 Virgin Islands delegate to House of Representatives

2-49 American Samoa delegate to House of Representatives

2-50 Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico

2-51 Deputy Secretaries and Under Secretaries of Executive Departments (when deputy secretary equivalent – no. 2 position (by date of appointment)

2-52 Assistant to the President for national security affairs

2-53 Assistants and Counsel to the President of the United States

2-54 Charges d'Affaires of foreign powers

2-55 Former US Secretaries of State

2-56 Former members of the President's cabinet

2-57 United States Representative to the United Nations (not in session) (see 2-36)

2-58 Director, Central Intelligence Agency

2-59 Solicitor General of the United States

2-60 Administrator, Agency for International Development AID

2-61 Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency

2-62 Director, US Information Agency USIA

2-63 Under Secretaries of State and counsels

2-64 Under Secretaries of Executive Departments (no. 3 position) (non-DoD agencies) (by date of appointment)

2-65 United States Ambassadors at Large

2-66 Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition (for acquisition matters only) (see 2-73)

2-67 Secretaries of the Army, Navy, Air Force (by date of appointment)

2-68 Postmaster General of the United States Chairman, Federal Reserve System

2-69 Chairman, American Battlefield Monuments Commission

2-70 Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality

2-71 Former Secretaries of the Army, Navy, Air Force

2-72 Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff JCS

2-73 Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition & Technology (see 2-66)

2-74 Under Secretary for Policy

2-75 DoD Comptroller/ Chief Financial Officer

2-76 Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness

2-77 Under Secretary for Intelligence

2-78 Retired Chairmen, Joint Chiefs of Staff JCS

2-79 Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff JCS

2-80 Retired Vice Chairmen, Joint Chiefs of Staff JCS

2-81 Service Chiefs (by date of appointment)

2-82 Commandant, Coast Guard

2-83 Retired Service Chiefs (DoD note 1)

2-84 Combatant Commanders (4-star) (DoD note 2; Army and Air Force notes 2)

2-85 Retired Combatant Commanders (DoD note 2; Army and Air Force notes 2)

2-86 Commander, Multi-National Forces-Iraq

2-87 Director, White House Military Office

2-88 Generals of the Army, Fleet Admirals, Generals of the Air Force

2-89 Lieutenant Governors and acting governors

2-90 Foreign non-accredited persons of ambassador rank

2-91 Secretary General, Organization of American States OAS

2-92 Chairman, Permanent Council of the Organization of American States OAS

2-93 Head of international organizations (NATO, etc.)

2-94 Administrator, General Services Administration GSA

2-95 Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration NASA

2-96 Administrator, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration NOAA

2-97 Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board

2-98 Director, Office of Personnel and Management OPM

2-99 Administrator, Federal Aviation Agency FAA

2-100 Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission

2-101 Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission NRC

2-102 Director of ACTION

2-103 Director of the Peace Corps

2-104 United States ambassadors on official visits in D.C.

2-105 Chief of Protocol, Department of State

2-106 United States ambassadors on official visits in the U.S. outside the District of Columbia

2-107 State secretary of state (in own state)

Code 3 (4-star level)

3-1 Judges, U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal District

3-2 Judges, U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Affairs

3-3 Judges, U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. District

3-4 Cardinals

3-5 Governor of Guam

3-6 Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands

3-7 ***Governor of Puerto Rico***

3-8 Chief/associate judges of a state supreme court

3-9 Mayors of major cities (in own city) (see 4-27) (cities with a population of 1 million or more)

3-10 Mayor of the District of Columbia

3-11 Deputy Director, Central Intelligence Agency CIA

3-12 Deputy Administrator, Agency for International Development USAID

3-13 Deputy Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency

3-14 Deputy Director, U.S. Information Agency USIA

3-15 Deputy Administrator, General Services Administration GSA

3-16 Deputy Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration NASA

3-17 Deputy Director, Office of Personnel Management

3-18 Deputy Director of ACTION

3-19 Deputy Director of the Peace Corps

3-20 Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation FBI

3-21 Deputy assistants to the President

3-22 United States charge d'affaires

3-23 Attorney general of a state

3-24 Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics/Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology

3-25 Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Logistics and Materiel Readiness

3-26 Under Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force (DoD note 3)

3-27 Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy

3-28 Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness

3-29 Director, Defense Research and Engineering

3-30 Assistant secretaries of the Executive Departments, General Counsel, Director of Operational Test and Evaluation (DoD note 3)

3-31 Inspectors General of the Executive Departments (by date of appointment)

3-32 Assistant Secretary General, Organization of American States

3-33 Assistant Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development USAID

3-34 Comptroller General of the United States

3-35 Chief Judges and Judges, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces

3-36 Members, Council of Economic Advisors

3-37 Active or designate United States Ambassadors

3-38 Archbishops

3-39 Ministers of career rank when in the United States

3-40 Permanent representatives to the Organization of American States OAS

3-41 Vice Chiefs of Services (DoD note 3); Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard

3-42 *Assistant Secretaries of the Army (Army- at Army events only; by date of appointment)*

3-43 Generals and Admirals (4-star rank)(DoD note 4)

3-44 Assistant secretaries of the services and Service general counsels (DoD note 3)

3-45 Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Defense Programs

3-46 Retired Generals and Admirals (4-star)

3-47 Director of Selective Service System

3-48 *Chief of Staff to Secretary of Defense* (Army/Air Force lists only)

3-49 *Assistant Chief of Staff to the Secretary of Defense* (Army/Air Force lists only)

3-50 The Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense

3-51 The Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense

3-52 Assistants to the Secretary of Defense; including Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense; Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense; Assistant to Secretary of Defense for Intelligence Oversight; Director, Joint Iraq Afghanistan Planning Group; other assistants as may be designated be the Secretary or Deputy Secretary of Defense (DoD note 5)

3-53 *The Executive Assistant to Secretary of Defense* (Army list only)

3-54 *The Executive Assistant to Deputy Secretary of Defense* (Army list only)

3-55 Director, OSD Administration and Management

3-56 Director, OSD Program Analysis and Evaluation

3-57 Director of Net Assessment

3-58 Director, Force Transformation

3-59 Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Comptroller/Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Management Reform (a dual-hat position in the current administration)

3-60 Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence

3-61 Defense Advisor to the U.S. Mission to NATO, Secretary of Defense Representative to Europe

3-62 Chairman, Defense Policy Advisory Committee; Defense Science Board; and the Reserve Forces Policy Board and the Defense Business Board (DoD note 5)

Code 4 (3-star level)

4-1 Deputy Under Secretaries of Defense (non-statutory) (DoD note 5)

4-2 Directors of Defense agencies (DoD note 6)

4-3 Directors of DoD Field Agencies (see note 10)

4-4 Deputy Director of Defense, R&E

4-5 Principal Assistant Deputy Under Secretaries of Defense (DoD note 5)

4-6 Principal Deputy Assistant Secretaries of Defense, Principal Deputy DoD General Counsel, and Principal Deputy Director, Operational Test and Evaluation (for non-statutory positions)(DoD note 5)

4-7 Principal Deputy Inspector General of DoD

4-8 *Director of Defense Procurement* (Army list only)

4-9 *Director of DoD Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization* (Army/Air Force lists only)

4-10 Administrative Assistants, Army, Navy, Air Force

4-11 *Director of the Army Staff* (Army list only)
Assistant Vice Chief of Staff Air Force (Air Force list only)

4-12 Joint Staff and Service senior enlisted advisors (DoD notes 7 and 9; Army & Air Force notes 5)

4-13 *Former service senior enlisted advisors* (note 5) (For Army, use for Army events only) (see 8-11)

4-14 Treasurer, comptroller, or auditor of a state

4-15 *Special assistants to the Secretaries of the Army, Navy, Air Force* (Army list only)

4-16 Lieutenant Generals and Vice Admirals (DoD note 4)

4-17 Retired Lieutenant Generals and Vice Admirals

4-18 Chairman, US Section of the Permanent Joint Board of Defense, US-Canada

4-19 President of the senate of a state

4-20 State senators in their own state

4-21 Chairman of the American Red Cross

4-22 Bishops of Washington

4-23 Principal Deputy Assistant Service Secretaries and Principal Deputy General Counsels of Army, Navy, Air Force (for non-statutory positions)(DoD note 5)

4-24 Permanent observers to the Organization of American States OAS

4-25 Former United States ambassadors

4-26 *Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army* (Army list only)

4-27 Mayors of cities of less than 1 million (in own city) (see 3-9)

4-28 Speaker of the house of representatives, assembly, or delegates of a state

4-29 Treasurer of the United States

4-30 Director of the Mint

4-31 Chairman, Federal Communications Commission

4-32 Chairman, United Services Organization USO

4-33 Director, National Institute of Standards and Technology

4-34 Librarian of Congress

4-35 Vice Chairman and Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System

4-36 State representative, assemblyman, or delegate

4-37 Chairman, District of Columbia Council

4-38 County judges, district court judges (county)

4-39 Deputy Chief of Protocol, Department of State

4-40 Special assistants to the President

4-41 Commissioner, United States Customs Service

4-42 Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service IRS

4-43 Deputy Assistant Secretaries of Defense, Deputy General Counsels, and Deputy Directors Operational Test & Evaluation (DoD note 5)

4-44 Deputy DoD Inspectors General (DoD note 5)

4-45 Deputy DoD Comptrollers (for non-statutory positions)(DoD note 5)

4-46 Assistant Inspectors General of DoD (DoD note 5)

4-47 *Secretary of Defense representatives to international negotiations* (Army list only)

4-48 Deputy under secretaries, Army, Navy, Air Force

4-49 Deputy Defense Advisor, U.S. Mission to NATO

4-50 Members, Secretary of Defense Boards (Defense Policy Advisory Committee; Defense Science Board; Reserve Forces Policy Board; and Defense Business Board)

4-51 Counselors of embassies

4-52 Consuls general of foreign powers (legations)

4-53 The Auditors General of the Army, Navy, Air Force for non-statutory positions (DoD note 5)

4-54 Senior Executive Service SES members (Code 4)

4-55 Chairman, Board of Contract Appeals (CA-1)

Code 5 (2-star level)

5-1 Assistant Deputy Under Secretaries and Principal Directors (DoD note 5)

5-2 Major Generals and Rear Admirals (upper half) (DoD note 4)

5-3 Retired Major Generals and Rear Admirals (upper half)

5-4 Surgeon General of the United States

5-5 Deputy Surgeon General of the United States

5-6 Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency

5-7 Deputy Assistant Secretaries and Deputy General Counsels of the Army, Navy, Air Force (for non-statutory positions)(DoD note 5)

5-8 Deputy Assistants to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs (for non-statutory positions)(DoD note 5)

5-9 Deputy Directors Program Analysis & Evaluation, Net Assessment and Force Transformation (DoD note 5)

5-10 The Deputy or Principal Deputy Director for a Defense Agency (see DoD note 6)

5-11 The Deputy or Principal Deputy Director for a DoD Field Activity (see DoD note 10)

5-12 City managers

5-13 OSD Historian

5-14 State chair, National Committee for Employer Support of the National Guard and Reserve ESGR

5-15 United States attorneys

5-16 District attorneys

5-17 County sheriffs

5-18 Board president and county commissioners

5-19 Senior Executive Service members (Code DoD notes 8 & 9)

5-20 Vice chairman, Board of Contract Appeals (CA-2)

5-21 Congressional staffers

5-22 *United States Army Reserve USAR ambassadors* (Army list only)

Code 6 (1-star level)

6-1 Brigadier Generals and Rear Admirals (lower half) (DoD note 4)

6-2 Retired Brigadier Generals and Rear Admirals (lower half)

6-3 County clerks

6-4 City council members

6-5 Assistant Surgeon General (Public Health Service)

6-6 ***Presidents/chairpersons of county or district boards of education and school boards***

6-7 ***County or district superintendent of schools***

6-8 United States Consuls General

6-9 Assistant chiefs of protocol, Department of State

6-10 Secretary of the Senate

6-11 Doorkeeper of the House

6-12 Chaplain of the Senate

6-13 Indorsing agents for military chaplains

6-14 Assistant Deputy Under Secretaries of Defense and principal directors (for non-statutory positions, by date assigned-DoD note 6)City attorneys

6-15 Other members of the Senior Executive Service and Defense Intelligence Senior Executive Service (See DoD notes 8 & 9)

6-16 Scientific and Professional (ST); Senior Level (SL)

6-17 Members, Board of Contract Appeals (CA-3)

6-18 Administrative Law Judges (AL)

Code 7

7-1 Colonels, Captains (USN/CG); GS-15

7-2 United States Consuls

7-3 Medical director Public Health Service PHS

7-4 Justices of the peace

7-5 ***Members of county or district boards of education***

7-6 ***Count or district deputy or assistant superintendent of schools***

7-7 ***Township chairpersons and board members***

7-8 ***City chiefs of police***

7-9 City clerks

Not ranked

8-1 GS-14

8-2 Lieutenant Colonels; Commanders (USN/CG)

8-3 Majors; Lieutenant Commanders (USN/CG)

8-4 GS-11

8-5 Captains (O3); Lieutenant (USN/CG); GS-10

8-6 United States Vice Consuls

8-7 First Lieutenants; Lieutenants junior grade; GS-9

8-8 GS-8

8-9 Second Lieutenants; Ensigns; GS-7

8-10 Warrant officers by grade

8-11 Retired and former service senior enlisted advisors (DoD and Air Force: use for all occasions; for Army, use this for joint service events. At Army events, placement is after currently serving SMA) (see 4-13)

8-12 Command sergeants major and sergeants major; master gunnery sergeants; master chief petty officers; chief master sergeants

8-13 Other noncommissioned officers, civilians by rank or grade

Notes from the DoD Order of Precedence dated November 14, 2005

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.

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), 2006; Defense Commissary Agency (DCMA), 2000; Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), 1990; Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA), 1960; Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), 1961; Defense Legal Service 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. 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 service 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 who 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 OSD components, Defense Agencies and DoD Field Activities who 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 who 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 thos 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."

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.

Notes from the Army Precedence List

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

2. **Combatant Commanders/Retired Combatant Commanders**- At Multi or Joint service events ONLY, order is by date of appointment; for Commanders who previously held a confirmed position (i.e. CJCS, VCJCS, Service Chief, or previous Combatant Command) use the initial date of appointment to that position. At Army exclusive events, Army Combatant Commanders are ranked by date of rank with other Army 4-Stars.

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

4. Precedence for Defense Agency Directors is determined by the date of establishment of the organization.

5. **The Director of the Army Staff**, **Sergeant Major of the Army**, **and other service equivalents**: Within the Army, the DAS and SMA are accorded special status. In the NCR, the DAS and SMA have precedence over all other LTGs, and outside the NCR, the DAS is ranked with LTGs while the SMA may be positioned after the senior general officer present. Former Service Senior Enlisted Advisors are ranked immediately following the currently serving Service Senior Enlisted Advisors at Army exclusive events ONLY. Former Service Senior Enlisted Advisors should be placed in front of other retired members of the same grade (E-9) at Multi or Joint service events.

6. **Assistant Secretaries of the Army** are ranked above **4-Star General Officers** for Army exclusive functions ONLY. At Multi or Joint service events 4-Star Flag Officers precede Assistant Service Secretaries as reflected in the current order of precedence established by the President and used by the State Department and OSD for protocol purposes.

7. On 9 May 2003, the President of the United States appointed Mr. L. Paul Bremer to serve as his Presidential Envoy to Iraq, reporting through the Secretary of Defense. Pursuant to that appointment, on 13 May 2003, the Secretary of Defense designated Mr. Bremer as the head of the Coalition Provisional Authority, with the title of Administrator. In this position, he is responsible for the temporary governance of Iraq.

8. **SES**. Effective with this update, previous guidance pertaining to determine the precedence for members of the Senior Executive Service (SES) had to be revised due to the implementation of the New Performance-Based Pay System for the SES. The provisions for the new pay system were included in the National Defense Authorization Act (Public Law 108-136, 24 November 2003). Among the changes, this new system eliminates the six Executive Schedule pay levels in favor of one pay range. Implementation regulations are forthcoming. These changes took effect on 11 January 2004. The revised guidance is as follows:

Precedence for members of the SES 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 SES-type systems authorized by law for certain law enforcement or intelligence programs. The following general guidance pertains to members of the SES whose positions are not specifically listed in the DOD Order of Precedence list; their precedence will be either Code 5 or Code 6. Refer to the SES Roster or contact the Army SES Office at (703) 693-1120 to determine precedence. For non-Army SES members, contact the member's agency/office for precedence.

9. **INSTALLATION/AGENCY COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR OR SERGEANT MAJOR.** The Installation or Agency Command Sergeant Major or Sergeant Major should be afforded ceremonial precedence at their Installation or Agency and should be ranked following the Installation/Agency Chief of Staff. This special precedence may be used for internal Installation or Agency exclusive functions ONLY.

10. **FORMER and RETIRED** officials are normally placed with BUT after the actively serving officials of the same position, UNLESS their precedence is separately listed on the Precedence List. For example, Presidents of the United States and Retired Chief Justices of the Supreme Court are listed separately. The accepted way to rank several of these former officials is by recency. This means that each official is placed ahead of his or her predecessor. There may be reason to do it the other way with the "oldest" outranking the "youngest", but we follow the norm set by the State Department for handling Former Presidents. DOD Regulation 4515.13R, para. 2-4W, defines "retired military" as holding a DD Form 2 (blue or gray) and eligible for retired or retainer pay.

11. **STATE and LOCAL** officials are difficult to rank. There are no fixed rules, but McCaffree and Innis in their book *Protocol*, state that in "planning a seating arrangement [you] should consider the purpose of the function, the level of all

guests, and any political significance." Simply try to apply the basic rules of precedence demonstrated in the preceding list and notes, and be consistent.

12. **ORDER OF PRECEDENCE – ARMED FORCES**. (Title 10, United States Code 113b; DOD Directive 1005.8 dated 31 Oct 77 and AR 600-25, when in formation and for flags displayed together)

Order of Service and Component Precedence
Cadets, United States Military Academy
Midshipmen, United States Naval Academy
Cadets, United States Air Force Academy
Cadets, United States Coast Guard Academy *
Midshipmen, United States Merchant Marine Academy
United States Army
United States Marine Corps
United States Navy
United States Air Force
United States Coast Guard *
Army National Guard of the United States
Army Reserve
Marine Corps Reserve
Naval Reserve
Air National Guard of the United States
Air Force Reserve
Coast Guard Reserve *
Other training organizations of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard in that order.
* Provided that during any period when the United States Coast Guard shall operate as part of the Navy; the Cadets, United States Coast Guard Academy, the United States Coast Guard, and the Coast Guard Reserve shall take precedence after the Midshipman, United States Naval Academy, the United States Navy, and Naval Reserve.

Notes from the Department of the Air Force Protocol Precedence List
1. Within a group listed on a line under a code, precedence for Senate confirmed positions is established by date of appointment.

2. **Combatant Commanders/ Retired Combatant Commanders -** At Multi or Joint service events ONLY, order is by date of appointment; for Commanders who previously held a confirmed position (i.e. CJCS, VCJCS, Service Chief, or previous Combatant Commander) use the initial date of appointment to that position. At Air Force exclusive events, Air Force Combatant Commanders are ranked by date of rank with other Air Force 4-Stars.

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

4. Precedence for Defense Agency Directors is determined by the date establishment date of the organization.

5. **Air Force Administrative Assistant, Air Force Vice Chief of Staff, CMSAF:** The Air Force SAF/AA, CVA, and CMSAF are accorded special status. The SAF/AA and CVA have precedence over all other Lt Gens. In addition, in the NCR (National Capital Region) the CMSAF comes immediately after the AF/CVA. The CMSAF may be positioned after the senior general officer present. Former Service Senior Enlisted Advisors should be placed in front of other retired members of the same grade (E-9).

6. **SES:** Precedence is established by the position held, and DV code given that position. SES pay does not affect precedence. For those members not in positions identified in the precedence list, contact the SLMO Office at DSN 664-8126.

7. **FORMER and RETIRED:** Officials are normally placed with BUT after actively serving officials of the same position, UNLESS their precedence is separately listed on the Precedence List. For example, Presidents of the United States and Retired Chief Justices of the Supreme Court are listed separately. The accepted way to rank several of these former officials is by recency. This means that each official is placed ahead of his of her predecessor. There may be reason to do it the other was with the "oldest" outranking the "youngest", but we follow the norm set by the State Department for handling Former Presidents. DOD Regulation 4515.13R, para. 2-4W, defines "retired military" as holding a DD form 2 (blue or gray) and eligible for retired or retainer pay.

8. **State and Local:** Officials are difficult to rank. There are no fixed rules, but McCaffree and Innis in their book *Protocol,* state that in "planning a seating arrangement [you] should consider the purpose of the function, the level of all guests, and any political significance." Simply try to apply the basic rules of precedence demonstrated in the preceding list and notes, and be consistent.

Using this listing to determine precedence: First and foremost, all precedence lists are guides; not absolutes. In most cases, the precedence shown will prevail; however, under some circumstances, you may have to adjust the precedence. Precedence is based primarily on an official's position. First, obtain the position title of the official; then review the precedence list to find an exact or like title (an Assistant Secretary of the Navy will be listed as "Assistant secretaries of the services" as shown on line 153 above). If you cannot find the position title or a similar title, attempt to find out that official's relative position in his or her agency. Compare their relative position to those positions above and below and attempt to determine a level precedence. If you are not able to do so, use the lowest code for precedence (Code 7 which is equal to a colonel or Navy captain). If you feel the official has at least flag/general officer status, assign precedence at the Code 6 (brigadier general/rear admiral lower half). If additional information is received to clarify the official's position and precedence, modify accordingly.

For Senior Executive Service (SES) members, the New Performance-Based Pay System implemented in January 2004, limits SES precedence to the Code 5 (2-star) and Code 6 (1-star) level (see DoD notes 7 and 9 and Army note 8, above). In a few cases, however, SES members who previously held precedence at the Code 4 (3-star) level have retained that precedence. This applies to SES members filling Code 4 positions specifically listed on this precedence list only. This is because, as stated earlier, precedence is based on position.

Military personnel take precedence based on their military pay grade and rank regardless of position, with some exceptions. Those exceptions apply mainly to military personnel assigned to positions above their current rank. For example, an Air Force first lieutenant (pay grade O-2) filling a captain's position (pay grade O-3) will normally be accorded precedence based on his or her current rank. There may be, however, an occasion in which precedence is accorded based on his or her filling a captain's position (an event attended by a number of officers filling captain positions where everyone in attendance is treated equally regardless of actual rank). Other exceptions, though not universal, are the conferring of higher precedence based on certain positions held such as an agency chief of staff or a deputy installation commander. These are, for the most part, local decisions.

Unusual situations:
(1) A civilian employee with higher list precedence higher than a superior. A Code 6 (1-star) SES member who is serving as the civilian executive officer in an agency with a colonel/Navy captain (O-6) as the agency head. The precedence list tell us that the SES member takes precedence over the colonel/captain; however, since the colonel/captain is the agency head, that position takes precedence over all other positions in the agency. Which is correct? Both and neither; it depends on the situation. Certainly, for agency activities, the agency head will take precedence in all cases, regardless of the rank or grade of other agency employees. At some events outside the agency, however, the SES member may have precedence. As an example, the agency head and SES member are attending a worldwide operations conference. At the conference, seating is done based on rank or grade. At this conference the SES member will likely be placed ahead of the colonel/captain. Another example: using the same situation, the two are staying in government lodging. Use of the local Distinguished Visitors Quarters (DVQ) is authorized only for general/flag officer rank officials. The SES member likely would be authorized to use the DVQ while the colonel/captain would not.

(2) The State of South Tennessee National Guard has as its Adjutant General an Air Guard brigadier general who has not yet been promoted to or recognized in the grade of major general which is the authorized rank for state adjutants general. The National Guard infantry division of the state is commanded by an Army National Guard major general. The division is part of the state National Guard structure and command. Who takes precedence: the major general or the brigadier general? Clearly, at division events which the Adjutant General is not attending, the division commander – the major general – would take precedence over other members of the division. At state functions, however, the brigadier general, because he or she is the head of the state National Guard should take precedence even when the major general is in attendance. Would the major general ever take precedence over the brigadier general in other situations? Using the worldwide conference example shown in (1) above, the major general might be placed ahead of the brigadier general because of rank.