Department of the Army Protocol Precedence List  
as of 10 December 2010

**VIP Code 1**

1. President of the United States
2. Heads of State/Reigning Royalty

**VIP Code 2 (Four Star Equivalent)**

3. Vice President of the United States
4. Governors in Own State (see #42)
5. Speaker of the House of Representatives
6. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
7. Former Presidents of the United States (by seniority of assuming office)
8. U.S. Ambassadors to Foreign Governments (at post)
9. Secretary of State
10. President, United Nations General Assembly (when in session)
11. Secretary General of the United Nations
12. President, United Nations General Assembly (when not in session)
13. President, International Court of Justice
15. Widows of Former Presidents of the United States
16. Associate Justices of the Supreme Court
17. Retired Chief Justices of the Supreme Court
18. Retired Associate Justices of the Supreme Court
19. Secretary of Treasury
20. Secretary of Defense
21. The Attorney General
22. Secretary of the Interior
23. Secretary of Agriculture
24. Secretary of Commerce
25. Secretary of Labor
26. Secretary of Health and Human Services
27. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
28. Secretary of Transportation
29. Secretary of Energy
30. Secretary of Education
31. Secretary of Veterans Affairs
32. Secretary of Homeland Security
33. Chief of Staff to the President
34. Director, Office of Management and Budget
35. US Trade Representative
36. Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency
37. Director, National Drug Control Policy
38. Director of National Intelligence
39. President Pro Tempore of the Senate
40. United States Senators (by seniority; when equal, alphabetically by State)
41. Former United States Senators (by date of retirement)
42. Governors when not in own State (by State date of entry; when equal alphabetically) (see #4)
43. Acting Heads of Executive Departments
44. Former Vice Presidents of the United States or their Widows
45. United States House of Representatives (by seniority; when equal, alphabetically by State)
46. Former Congressman (by date of Retirement)
47. Delegates to the House of Representatives (Non Voting Members) from Territory of American Samoa, District of Columbia, Territory of Guam, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands (by date of election of delegate)
48. Governors of Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Territory of Guam, Territory of American Samoa, United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (determined by date of entering US jurisdiction, or alphabetically by territory)
49. Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
50. Senior Advisor to the President
51. Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff
52 Assistants to the President (by seniority)
53 Chief of Staff to the Vice President
54 Chairman, Council of Economic Advisors; Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality
55 Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy
56 Chief of Protocol (when at the White House or accompanying The President)
57 Charges d'Affaires assigned to diplomatic missions in Washington, D.C.; Charge d'Affaires ad interim assigned to diplomatic missions in Washington, D.C.
58 Former Members of the President's Cabinet (by seniority of assuming office)
59 Deputy Secretaries and Under Secretaries (When Deputy Secretary Equivalent) of the Executive Departments (Number Two Position)
60 Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations; United States Permanent Representative on the Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (USNATO); Representative of the United States to the European Union (USEU) (at post)
61 Ambassadors at Large
62 Under Secretaries of the Executive Departments (number three position)
63 Secretary of the Army, Navy, Air Force (See Note 1)
64 Former Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force (See Note 1)
65 Postmaster General
66 Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
67 Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve
68 Chairman, Export-Import Bank
69 Director, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)
70 Administrator, Small Business Administration (SBA)
71 Administrator, Agency for International Development
72 Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency
73 Director, US Information Agency
74 Chairman, Federal Reserve System
75 Chairman, American Battle Monuments Commission
76 Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
77 Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (precedes Service Secretaries on acquisition matters)
78 Under Secretary of Defense for Policy
79 Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer
80 Under Secretary for Defense for Personnel and Readiness
81 Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence
82 DOD Deputy Chief Management Officer (see note 6)
83 Retired Chairmen, Joint Chiefs of Staff
84 Vice Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff
85 Retired Vice Chairmen, Joint Chiefs of Staff
86 Chiefs of Services and Commandants of the Marine Corps and Coast Guard (see note 9)
87 Retired Chiefs of Services and Commandants of the Marine Corps and Coast Guard (see note 9)
88 Combatant Commanders (see note 2)
89 Retired Combatant Commanders (see note 2)
90 Chief, National Guard Bureau (see note 15)
91 Commander, U.S. Forces-Iraq (see note 17)
92 Director, White House Military Office
93 Generals of the Army, Fleet Admirals, Generals of the Air Force (5-Star Rank)
94 Lieutenant Governors (when in own State)
95 Permanent Representatives of foreign governments to the United Nations
96 Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS)
97 Chairman, Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS)
98 Representative of the United States to the European Office of the United Nations, Geneva
99 Representative of the United States to the Vienna Office of the United Nations (UNVIE)
100 Permanent Representative of the United States to the Organization of American States (OAS)
101 Permanent Representative of Foreign Governments to the Organization of American States (OAS)
102 Representative of the United States to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (USOECD)
103 Heads of International Organizations including International Monetary Fund, World Bank (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
104 Foreign Non-Accredited Persons of Ambassador Rank
105 Administrator, General Services Administration (GSA)
106 Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
107 Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board
108 Director, Office of Personnel Management (OPM)
109 Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
110 Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission
111 Director of the Peace Corps
112 Deputy Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations
113 Deputy Administrator, Small Business Administration (SBA)
114 Deputy Director, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)
115 US Ambassadors (on State and official visits to the US)
116 Chief of Protocol, at the Department of State or at events outside of the White House
117 Career Ambassadors
118 Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission
119 Director of Action
120 State Secretary of State (In Own State)

VIP Code 3 (Four Star Equivalent)

121 Judges, US Court of Appeals, Federal District
122 Solicitor General
123 Judges, US Court of Appeals, District Courts
124 Judges, U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims
125 Cardinals
126 Chief/Associate Judges of a State Supreme Court
127 Mayors of Major Cities and the District of Columbia (in Own City) (see #139)
128 American Charge d'Affairs (at post)
129 Under Secretaries of the Army, Navy and Air Force (see note 1)
130 Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (see note 16)
131 Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy
132 Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness
133 Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) (see note 16)
134 Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence (see note 16)
135 Director, Defense Research and Engineering
136 Assistant Secretaries of Defense (see list in note 18) and Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs (see note 19) (note 1 applies to all)
137 DOD General Counsel; Director of Operational Test and Evaluation; and Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation (see note 21) (note 1 applies to all)
138 Inspector Generals of the Executive Departments
139 Mayors of Major Cities and the District of Columbia (when not in own city) (see #127)
140 Deputy Assistants to the President
141 Deputy Administrator, Agency for International Development
142 Under Secretaries General of the United Nations
143 Administrator, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
144 Deputy Director, General Services Administration
145 Deputy Director, NASA
146 Deputy Director, Office of Personnel Management
147 Deputy Director, US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency
148 Deputy Director, US Information Agency
149 Deputy Director of Action
150 Deputy Director of the Peace Corps
151 Attorney General of a State
152 Chief Judges and Judges of the US Court of Military Appeals for the Armed Forces
153 Assistant Administrator, Agency for International Development; Assistant United States Trade Representative
154 Comptroller General of the U.S.
155 Members of the Council of Environmental Quality
156 Members, Council of Economic Advisors (ranked alphabetically)
157 American Ambassadors-designates (in the United States under normal orders, or on leave)
158 Archbishops
159 Ministers of Career Rank when in the U.S.
160 Vice Chiefs of Services, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, and Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard (see note 9)
161 Former Vice Chiefs of Services, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, and Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard (by date of retirement)
162 Assistant Secretaries of the Army, Navy and Air Force, and Service General Counsels (see note 1)
163 Generals and Admirals (4-Star Rank)
164 Director of Operational Energy Plans and Programs (see note 20)
165 Officers of the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives
166 Executive Secretary, National Security Council (NSC)
167 Retired General and Admirals (4-Star Rank)
168 Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction
169 Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction
170 Director of Developmental Test and Evaluation and Director of Systems Engineering (see notes 3 and 21)
171 Director, Selective Service System
172 The Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense and Deputy Secretary of Defense
173 The Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense
174 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 for Intelligence Oversight, and other Assistants as may be designated) (see note 3)
175 Director, Administration and Management
176 Director of Net Assessment
177 (DOD) Assistant Deputy Chief Management Officer
178 Defense Advisor U.S. Mission NATO, Secretary of Defense Representative to Europe
180 National Chairman, National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (NCESGR)

VIP Code 4 (Three Star Equivalent)

181 Deputy Under Secretaries of Defense (see note 3)
182 Directors of Defense Agencies (see note 4)
183 Directors of DoD Field Activities (see note 4)
184 Deputy Director of Defense, Research and Engineering
185 Principal Assistant Deputy Under Secretaries of Defense (see note 3)
186 Principal Deputy Assistant Secretaries of Defense (see note 3)
187 Principal Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs (see notes 3 and 19)
188 Principal Deputy General Counsel (DOD) (see note 3)
189 Principal Deputy Director Operational Test and Evaluation (see note 3)
190 Deputy Director for Cost Assessment and Deputy Director for Program Evaluation (see notes 3 and 21)
191 Principal Deputy Inspector General (DOD)
192 The Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Army, Navy and Air Force (see note 3)
193 Administrative Assistants of the Army and Air Force and Assistant for Administration to the Under Secretary of the Navy (see note 3)
194 Director of the Army Staff
195 Deputy Under Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force (see note 3)
196 Service Senior Enlisted Advisor (see note 5)
197 Former Service Senior Enlisted Advisors (see note 5)
Treasurer, Comptroller or Auditor of a State

Lieutenant Generals and Vice Admirals

Retired Lieutenant Generals and Vice Admirals

Chairman, U.S. Section of the Permanent Joint Board of Defense, US-Canada

President of the Senate of a State

State Senators and Representatives (In their own State)

Bishops of Washington

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretaries and Principal Deputy General Counsels of the Army, Navy, and Air Force (see note 3)

Former American Ambassadors/Chiefs of Diplomatic Missions (in order of presentation of credentials at first post)

Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Delegates or Assembly of a State

President, Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC)

Treasurer of the U.S.

Director of the Mint

Chairman, Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

Director, National Bureau of Standards

Other Chairman of Bureaus, Boards and Commissions not previously listed

Librarian of Congress

Vice Chairman and Members Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System

Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution

Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities

Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts

Director, National Science Foundation

Surgeon General, United States Public Health Service

Heads of independent agencies not mentioned previously (by date of establishment of the agency)

Chairman, United Services Organization, INC.

Director, National Institute of Standards and Technology

State Representatives (i.e., Assemblyman, Delegate)

Chairman, D.C. Council

County Judges, District Court Judge (County)

Chairman, American Red Cross

Ministers of foreign governments assigned to diplomatic missions in Washington, D.C.

Deputy Chief of Protocol, Department of State

Commissioner, U.S. Customs Service

Commissioners (level IV Executives)

Director of Defense Procurement; Director, Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (DOD)

Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service

Deputy Assistant Secretaries of Defense; Deputy Assistants to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs; Deputy General Counsels (DOD); Deputy Directors Operational Test and Evaluation (see note 3)

Deputy IG (DOD) (See Note 3)

VIP Code 5 (Two Star Equivalent)

Assistant Deputy Under Secretaries and Principal Directors (DOD) (see note 3)

Major Generals and Rear Admirals (Upper Half)

Retired Major Generals/Rear Admirals (Upper Half)

Counselors of foreign governments assigned to diplomatic missions in Washington, D.C.

Counsels General (US and Foreign Governments)

Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency

Deputy Assistant Secretaries and Deputy General Counsels of the Army, Navy, and Air Force (see note 3)

Judges, United States Court of International Trade (formerly Customs)

Judges, United States Court of Claims

Judges, United States Tax Court

City Managers

OSD Historian

State Chair, National Committee for Employer Support of the National Guard and Reserve

United States Attorneys

District Attorneys

County Sheriffs

Board President and County Commissioners

Deputy Director Net Assessment

SES Members (PC 5)

Vice Chairman, Board of Contract Appeals (CA-2)

Congressional Staffers

USAR Ambassadors

VIP Code 6 (One Star Equivalent)

Brigadier Generals and Rear Admirals (Lower Half)

Retired BG’S and Rear Admirals (Lower Half)

County Clerks (In Their Own Area)
City Council Members
Assistant Surgeon General (Public Health Service)
Secretary of the Senate
Doorkeeper of the House
Chaplain of the Senate
Endorsing Agents for Military Chaplains
City Attorneys
SES Members (PC 6)
Personnel in Senior Level (SL), Scientific and Professional (ST), and Defense Intelligence Senior Level (DISL) positions (see note 9 and 13)
Appointees as Highly Qualified Experts (HQE) (see note 9 and 14)

VIP Code 7
Colonels; Captains (USN/USCG); GS-15; U.S. and Foreign Consul, Medical Director (Public Health Services)
Justices of the Peace (In Their Own Area)
City Clerks

VIP Code 8 (Not Ranked)
GS-14
Lieutenant Colonels; Commanders; GS-13
Majors; Lieutenant Commanders; GS-12
GS-11
Captains; Lieutenants (USN/USCG); GS-10; U.S. Vice Consul
First Lieutenants, Lieutenants Junior Grade; GS-9
GS-8
Second Lieutenants; Ensigns; GS-7
Warrant Officers (by Grade)
Command Sergeants Major; Sergeants Major; Master Chief Petty Officers; Chief Master Sergeants; Master Gunnery Sergeants
Other Non-Commissioned Officers, Civilians by Rank
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 statutory and non-statutory positions within a group, as applicable, precedence is by date of assignment to the position.

4. Precedence for Directors and Principal Deputy Directors of Defense Agencies and DOD Field Activities is determined by the date of establishment of the organization.

5. **The Sergeant Major of the Army and other service equivalents**: Within the Army the SMA is accorded special status. For Army exclusive events only, the SMA has precedence over all other LTGs except the Director of the Army Staff. Outside the NCR, 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.


7. **Organization/Agency Precedence.** The head of an Agency or Organization may afford higher precedence to positions for organizational purposes (e.g., deputies may be afforded higher precedence than other similarly ranked members of the staff.) for Agency/Organization exclusive functions ONLY.

8. **SES.** Precedence for members of the SES is established by the position held and the date the executive entered SES. 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 Code 4, Code 5, or Code 6. Refer to the Executive Roster at [https://www.cslmo.army.mil](https://www.cslmo.army.mil) or contact the Army Civilian Senior Leader Management Office at (703) 697-3078 to determine precedence. For non-Army SES members, contact the member’s agency/office for precedence.

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

10. **FORMER and RETIRED** officials are normally placed (by date of rank) 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. 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)

Cadets, US Military Academy  
Midshipman, US Naval Academy  
Cadets, US Air Force Academy  
Midshipman, US 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, and the Coast Guard Reserve shall take precedence after the Midshipman, United States Naval Academy, the United States Navy, and Naval Reserve.

13. SL, ST, and DISL personnel serve in positions that are classified above the Pay Band 03/GS-15 level. Although not members of the Senior Executive Service (SES) or Defense Intelligence Senior Executive Service (DISES), the level of duties and responsibilities of SL/ST/DISL personnel warrant that they should be recognized as serving, at a minimum, at the Code 6 level. It is not possible to identify and list the title for each LS/ST/DISL position within the Department on this order of precedence list. The principal factor for determining whether the precedence for an SL/ST/DISL member should be in a higher code is dependent on that member’s position within their organization’s hierarchy.

14. Under the authority of Section 9903, USC 5, the Department of Defense has the ability to attract and hire eminent experts from outside the civil service and uniformed services with State-of-the Art knowledge in fields of critical importance to the Department. The individuals who are hired under this authority are referred to as HQE. Due to the level of duties and responsibilities of HQE, they warrant recognition at the Code 6 level.

15. Under the provisions of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, Public Law No. 110-181, 10 U.S.C. 10502 was amended to specify that the Chief of the National Guard Bureau would be appointed in the grade of General.
16. Under the provisions of Section 906 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, Public Law No. 111-84, the positions of Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology and Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Logistics and Materiel Readiness were eliminated. New positions for the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics; the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Acquisition; and the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Logistics and Materiel Readiness were established by Section 906. In addition, Section 906 created the positions of Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) and Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, and these positions will become Presidentially Appointed, Senate-confirmed (PAS) positions the first time that the Senate confirms and the President appoints individuals to serve in the positions.


18. The current designations of the twelve Assistant Secretaries of Defense are (listed alphabetically): Acquisition (see note 16), Asian and Pacific Security Affairs, Global Strategic Affairs, Health Affairs, Homeland Defense and Americas’ Security Affairs, International Security Affairs, Legislative Affairs, Logistics and Materiel Readiness (see note 16), Networks and Information Integration, Public Affairs, Reserve Affairs, and Special Operations/Low Intensity Conflict and Interdependent Capabilities.

19. Under the provisions of Section 905 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009, Public Law No. 110-417, 10 U.S.C. 142 was amended to direct that the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs shall be considered an Assistant Secretary of Defense for the purpose of precedence.

20. Under the provisions of Section 902 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009, Public Law No. 110-417, the position of the Director of Operational Energy Plans and Programs was codified at 10 U.S.C. 139b as a PAS position. While the Executive Schedule Level (ESL) for this position has not been determined, since it is a PAS position it will be in Code 3. This placement may be changed once the ESL is determined.

21. Under the provisions of the Weapon Systems Acquisition Reform Act of 2009, Public Law No 111-23, the position of Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation was codified at 10 U.S.C. 139c as a PAS position. The position of Director, Program and Analysis and Evaluation was eliminated. Additionally, the positions of Deputy Director for Cost Assessment and Deputy Director for Program Evaluation were also provided for in 10 U.S.C. 139c, and the positions of Director of Developmental Test and Evaluation and Director of Systems Engineering were established at 10 U.S.C. 139d.

22. 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.