

DoD Order of Precedence -- Relationships Between Principals and Subordinates

* Code 2 order primarily derived from title 10 United States Code (U.S.C.) and Presidential Executive Order (E.O.).

** While a subordinate's precedence should mimic the precedence relationships of those to whom they report (as indicated by some italicized text), some ordering exceptions emanate from historical listing (e.g., the precedence relationship between the Secretaries of the Military Departments and their Assistant Secretaries and General Counsels).

Shaded blocks indicate existing order.

Appointment Type	Code 2* (derived from title 10 U.S.C. and E.O.s)		Code 3** (immediately follows Code 2)		Code 4** (Immediately follows Code 3)		Code 4 (continued) (Immediately follows Code 4)	
	PAS, JCS, and COCOM CDRs		PAS, PSAs, 4-Stars, PAs, SD/DSD SAs, ATSDs, or Direct Reports to MilDep Secretaries or Service Chiefs		DoD Component Heads, Non-PAS PSA 1st Assistants, and Non-PAS MilDep Secretary Direct Reports		Direct Reports to PAS, Service Chiefs, or PSAs and MilDep Non-PAS 1st Assistants	
	DoD	MilDep	DoD	MilDep	DoD	MilDep	DoD	MilDep
Civilian and Military	SD ¹				Dirs, Defense Agencies			
	DSD ²				Dirs, DoD Field Activities			DUSs
		Service Secretaries ³		Under Secretaries ³				
Civilian	CJCS ⁴							
	USDs ⁵		PDUSDs ¹⁴		ADCMO		DCFO, SCOs	
	DCMO ⁶				PDs to Specified Officials		Deputies to Specified Officials	
Military			ASDs ¹³		PDASDs		ES DoD	
	VCJCS ⁷				PD ATSD(PA)		DASDs, DATSDs	
	CNGB ⁹	Service Chiefs ⁸		Service Vice Chiefs ⁸	DJS		DATSDs	
	CCG ¹⁰		VCNGB ⁹					CJCS SEA, Service SEAs, CNGB SEA ¹⁵
	Ccdrs ¹¹		VCCG ¹⁰					3-Star GO / FO
	CDR ISAF Afghanistan ¹²							
Civilian and Military	Specified Officials (GC, DoD; DCAPE; IG, DoD; DOT&E; CIO, DoD) ¹³			Assistant Secretaries / GC	PDs to Specified Officials		Deputies to Specified Officials	
				4-Star GO / FO		PDAs / PD GCs		PDAs / PD GCs
			Chief Judge U.S. Court of Appeals			3-Star GO / FO	Chairman, U.S. Section of the Permanent Joint Board of Defense, U.S.-Canada	
			U.S. Court of Appeals Judges				Deputy Defense Advisor, U.S. Mission NATO	
			Special IG for Afghanistan		DSCRO for the DoD			
					DCFOS, SCOs, USD DSCROs			
			CoS to S/DSD (TSA)			TSAs to MilDep Secretaries	SD Representatives to International Negotiations	
			DCoS S/DSD					
			ATSD(PA)		PD ATSD(PA)		DATSD	Auditors General
			Director, Net Assessment			AAs to MilDep Secretaries		Special Assistants
			Assistants to SD / DSD					
			NATO Defense Advisor				SES Tier 3	SES Tier 3

Notes

- Code 2**
 1: § 113(b)
 2: § 132(d)
 3: E.O. 13533
 4: § 152
 5: § 133-137
 6: § 132a
 7: § 154
 8: § 5033
 9: § 10502
 10: 37 U.S.C. § 414
 11: § 164
 12: Temporary elevation for travel only
 13: § 138, P.L. 113-291 § 901

- Code 3**
 13: § 138
 14: § 137a
- Code 4**
 15: § 1406

Abbreviations and Acronyms

- Code 2**
 SD - Secretary of Defense
 DSD - Deputy Secretary of Defense
 CJCS - Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
 USD - Under Secretary of Defense
 DCMO - Deputy Chief Management Officer
 VCJCS - Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
 CNGB - Chief of the National Guard Bureau
 Ccdr - Combatant Command Commander
 CCG - Commandant of the Coast Guard
 CDR ISAF - Commander, International Security Assistance Force
 IG, DoD - Inspector General of the DoD
 GC, DoD - General Counsel of the DoD
 DOT&E - Director, Operational Test and Evaluation
 DCAPE - Director, Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation

Code 3

- PDUSD - Principal Deputy USD
 ASD - Assistant Secretary of Defense
 ACMC - Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps
 VCNGB - Vice CNGB
 VCCG - Vice CCG
 TSA - The Special Assistant to the SD and DSD
 SA to DSD - Special Assistant to the DSD
 ATSD(PA) - Assistant to the SD for Public Affairs
 CIO, DoD - Chief Information Officer, DoD
 DA&M - Director, Administration and Management
 ATSD(IO) - Assistant to the SD for Intelligence Oversight
 Assistants to SD/DSD - Assistants to the SD and/or DSD

Code 4

- ADCMO - Assistant DCMO
 PD - Principal Deputy
 DCFO - Deputy CFO
 SCO - Senior Career Official
 DDA&M - Deputy DA&M
 DASD - Deputy ASD
 DCIO - Deputy CIO
 DUS - Deputy Under Secretary
 DAS - Deputy Assistant Secretary
 SEA - Senior Enlisted Advisor
 PDAS - Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
 TSA - The Special Assistants to MilDep Secretaries
 AAs - Administrative Assistants to MilDep Secretaries

Miscellaneous

- CFO - Chief Financial Officer
 DoD - Department of Defense
 DSCRO - Designated Senior Career Reserved Official
 MilDep - Military Department
 NATO - North Atlantic Treaty Organization
 OSD - Office of the Secretary of Defense
 PA - Presidential Appointee
 PAS - Presidential Appointee, Senate-confirmed
 PSA - Principal Staff Assistant
 SES - Senior Executive Service
 4-Stars - 4-Star General Officers/Flag Officers
 3-Stars - 3-Star General Officers/Flag Officers

Note: Coded officials arranged according to precedence listing. Miscellaneous acronyms arranged alphabetically.