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 mimick 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			
		Service Secretaries [3]		Under Secretaries [3]				DUSs
	CJCS [4]							
Civilian	USDs [5]		PDUSDs [14]				*DCFO, SCOs*	
	DCMO [6]				ADCMO			
					PDs to Specified Officials		Deputies to Specified Officials	
			ASDs [13]		PDASDs		DASDs, DATSDs	
					PD ATSD(PA)		*DATSDs*	
Military	VCJCS [7]				*DJS*			
	CNGB [9]	Service Chiefs [8]		Service Vice Chiefs [8]				CJCS SEA, Service SEAs, CNGB SEA [15]
			VCNGB [9]					
	CCG [10]		VCCG [10]					
	CCDRs [11]							3-Star GO / FO
	CDR ISAF Afghanistan [12]							
Civilian and Military	Specified Officials (GC, DoD; DCAPE; IG, DoD; DOT&E; CIO, DoD) [13]				*PDs to Specified Officials*		*Deputies to Specified Officials*	
				Assistant Secretaries / GC		*PDASs / PD GCs*		PDASs / PD GCs
				4-Star GO / FO		*3-Star GO / FO*	Chairman, U.S. Section of the Permanent Joint Board of Defense, U.S.-Canada	
			Chief Judge U.S. Court of Appeals				Deputy Defense Advisor, U.S. Mission NATO	
			U.S. Court of Appeals Judges					
			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					
			Director, Strategic Capabilities Office					
			Assistants to SD / DSD			AAs to MilDep Secretaries		*Special Assistants*
			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 - Presidentially Appointed
PAS - Presidentially Appointed, 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.