

# ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

## 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 THEIR 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
- 8 US AMBASSADORS WHEN AT POST
- 9 SECRETARY OF STATE
- 10 PRESIDENT, UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (IN SESSION)
- 11 SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS
- 12 PRESIDENT, UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY (NOT IN SESSION)
- 13 ACCREDITED AMBASSADORS OF FOREIGN POWERS
- 14 WIDOWS OF FORMER PRESIDENTS
- 15 ACCREDITED FOREIGN MINISTERS AND ENVOYS
- 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 THE 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 DIRECTOR, NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY
- 33 US REPRESENTATIVE TO THE U.N. (IN SESSION) (SEE #58)
- 34 ADMINISTRATOR, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
- 35 US TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
- 36 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
- 37 CHAIRMAN, COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISORS
- 38 CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE PRESIDENT
- 39 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE
- 40 U. S. SENATORS (BY SENIORITY; WHEN EQUAL, BY ALPHA)
- 41 FORMER U. S. SENATORS (BY DATE OF RETIREMENT)
- 42 GOVERNORS NOT IN THEIR OWN STATE (BY STATE DATE OF ENTRY; WHEN EQUAL, BY ALPHA)  
(SEE #4)
- 43 ACTING HEADS OF CABINET LEVEL DEPARTMENTS
- 44 FORMER VICE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES
- 45 US REPRESENTATIVES (BY SENIORITY; WHEN EQUAL, ALPHABETICALLY)
- 46 FORMER U. S. REPRESENTATIVES (BY DATE OF RETIREMENT)
- 47 DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DELEGATE TO THE HOUSE OF REP
- 48 GUAM DELEGATE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
- 49 US VIRGIN ISLANDS DELEGATE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
- 50 AMERICAN SAMOA DELEGATE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
- 51 RESIDENT COMMISSIONER FROM PUERTO RICO
- 52 ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS
- 53 ASSISTANTS AND COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

54 CHARGES D'AFFAIRES OF FOREIGN POWERS  
55 FORMER SECRETARIES OF STATE  
56 FORMER MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT'S CABINET  
57 DEPUTY SECRETARIES AND UNDER SECRETARIES (WHEN DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY EQUIV.)  
OF THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS (NUMBER TWO POSITION)  
58 US REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN (WHEN NOT IN SESSION) (SEE #33)  
59 DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
60 SOLICITOR GENERAL  
61 ADMINISTRATOR, AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
62 DIRECTOR, ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY  
63 DIRECTOR, US INFORMATION AGENCY  
67 UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ACQUISITION (FOR ACQUISITION MATTERS ONLY) (SEE #75)  
68 SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE  
69 POSTMASTER GENERAL  
70 CHAIRMAN, FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM  
71 CHAIRMAN, AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION  
72 CHAIRMAN, COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
73 FORMER SECRETARIES OF THE SERVICES  
74 CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
75 UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ACQUISITION AND TECHNOLOGY (SEE #67), UNDER  
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY, DOD COMPTROLLER, UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR  
PERSONNEL READINESS  
76 RETIRED CHAIRMEN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
77 VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
78 CHIEFS OF SERVICES (BY DATE OF APPOINTMENT) AND COMMANDANT OF THE US COAST GUARD  
79 RETIRED VICE CHAIRMEN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, CHIEFS OF SERVICES (4-STAR)  
80 COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF, COMBATANT COMMANDS (BY DATE OF APPT.) (NOTE 1);  
DIRECTOR OF WHITE HOUSE MILITARY OFFICE  
81 GENERALS OF THE ARMY, FLEET ADMIRALS, GENERALS OF THE AIR FORCE  
82 LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS AND ACTING GOVERNORS  
83 FOREIGN NON-ACCREDITED PERSONS OF AMBASSADOR RANK  
84 PRINCIPAL DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ACQUISITION  
85 SECRETARY GENERAL, ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
86 CHAIRMAN, PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
87 HEADS OF INT'L ORGANIZATIONS (NATO, SEATO, ETC.)  
88 ADMINISTRATOR, GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
89 ADMINISTRATOR, NATIONAL AERONAUTICAL AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA)  
90 ADMINISTRATOR, NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA)  
91 CHAIRMAN, MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD  
92 DIRECTOR OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT  
93 ADMINISTRATOR, FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION  
94 CHAIRMAN, FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION  
95 CHAIRMAN, NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
96 DIRECTOR OF ACTION  
97 DIRECTOR OF THE PEACE CORPS  
98 US AMBASSADORS ON OFFICIAL VISITS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
99 CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
100 US AMBASSADORS ON OFFICIAL VISITS IN THE US OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
101 STATE SECRETARY OF STATE (IN OWN STATE)

**VIP COD 3 (FOUR-STAR EQUIVALENT)**

102 JUDGES, US COURT OF APPEALS, FEDERAL DISTRICT  
103 JUDGES, US COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS  
104 JUDGES, US COURT OF APPEALS, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
105 CARDINALS  
106 GOVERNOR OF GUAM  
107 GOVERNOR OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS  
108 CHIEF/ASSOCIATE JUDGES OF A STATE SUPREME COURT  
109 MAYORS OF MAJOR CITIES (IN OWN CITY) (WITH POPULATION OF 1,000,000 OR MORE) (SEE #166)  
110 MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

111 DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
112 DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, AGENCY FOR INT'L DEVELOPMENT  
113 DEPUTY DIRECTOR, US ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY  
114 DEPUTY DIRECTOR, US INFORMATION AGENCY  
115 DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
116 DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION  
117 DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT  
118 DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ACTION  
119 DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE PEACE CORPS  
120 DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
121 DEPUTY ASSISTANTS TO THE PRESIDENT  
122 US CHARGE D'AFFAIRES  
123 ATTORNEY GENERAL OF A STATE  
124 PRINCIPAL DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY  
125 DIRECTOR, DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING  
126 ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS, GENERAL COUNSEL, INSPECTOR  
GENERAL (BY DATE OF APPT.); DIRECTOR, DOD OPERATIONAL TEST & EVALUATION  
127 ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL, ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
128 ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR, AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
129 COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES  
130 JUDGES, COURT OF MILITARY APPEALS  
131 MEMBERS, COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISORS  
132 ACTIVE OR DESIGNATE UNITED STATES AMBASSADORS  
133 ARCHBISHOPS  
134 UNDER SECRETARIES OF THE ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE  
135 MINISTERS OF CAREER RANK WHEN IN THE U.S.  
136 PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
137 VICE CHIEFS OF SERVICES (BY DATE OF APPOINTMENT)  
138 FORMER VICE CHIEFS OF SERVICES (BY DATE OF RETIREMENT)  
139 ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF THE SERVICES (BY DATE OF APPOINTMENT) AND SERVICE GENERAL  
COUNSELS  
140 GENERALS AND ADMIRALS (4-STAR RANK)  
141 RETIRED GENERALS AND ADMIRALS (4-STAR RANK)  
142 DIRECTOR, SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM  
143 CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
144 ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
145 THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY AND DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
146 ASSISTANTS TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
147 THE EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
148 THE EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
149 DIRECTOR, OSD ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT  
150 DIRECTOR, OSD PROGRAM ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

**VIP CODE 4 (THREE-STAR EQUIVALENT)**

151 DIRECTORS OF DEFENSE AGENCIES (DLA, DMA, NSA, DCA, DARPA; OTHER DOD AGENCIES  
152 DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE (NON-STATUTORY); DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE  
R&E; PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASST. SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE; PRINCIPAL DEPUTY GENERAL  
COUNSEL (DOD); DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL (DOD); PRINCIPAL DEPUTY COMPTROLLER (DOD);  
DIRECTOR OF NET ASSESSMENT; DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE PROCUREMENT; DIRECTOR, SMALL AND  
DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS UTILIZATION (DOD)  
153 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS OF THE ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE; DIRECTOR OF THE ARMY STAFF;  
SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE ARMY (SEE NOTE 2)  
154 TREASURER, COMPTROLLER, OR AUDITOR OF A STATE  
155 LIEUTENANT GENERALS AND VICE ADMIRALS  
156 RETIRED LIEUTENANT GENERALS AND VICE ADMIRALS  
157 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE OF A STATE  
158 STATE SENATORS (IN THEIR OWN STATE)  
159 MEMBERS, DEFENSE SCIENCE BOARD  
160 CHAIRMAN, AMERICAN RED CROSS  
161 BISHOPS OF WASHINGTON

- 162 PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASST SECRETARIES AND PRINCIPAL DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSELS OF THE  
ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE
- 163 PERMANENT OBSERVERS TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
- 164 FORMER UNITED STATES AMBASSADORS
- 165 CIVILIAN AIDES TO THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
- 166 MAYORS OF CITIES (IN OWN CITY) (SEE #109) (POPULATIONS OF LESS THAN 1 MILLION)
- 167 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DELEGATES, OR ASSEMBLY OF A STATE
- 168 TREASURER OF THE UNITED STATES
- 169 DIRECTOR OF THE MINT
- 170 CHAIRMAN, FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
- 171 CHAIRMAN, UNITED SERVICES ORGANIZATION (USO)
- 172 DIRECTOR, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS & TECHNOLOGY
- 173 LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS
- 174 VICE CHAIRMAN AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS, FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM
- 175 STATE REPRESENTATIVE, ASSEMBLYPERSON, OR DELEGATE
- 176 CHAIRMAN, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COUNCIL
- 177 COUNTY JUDGES, DISTRICT COURT JUDGES (COUNTY)
- 178 DEPUTY CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, DEPARTMENT OF STATE
- 179 SPECIAL ASSISTANTS TO THE PRESIDENT
- 180 COMMISSIONER, US CUSTOMS SERVICE
- 181 COMMISSIONER, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
- 182 DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE; DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSELS (DOD); DEFENSE  
ADVISOR TO THE US MISSION TO NATO; SECRETARY OF DEFENSE REPRESENTATIVES TO INT'L  
NEGOTIATIONS; DEPUTY COMPTROLLERS (DOD); ASSISTANT INSPECTORS GENERAL (DOD)
- 183 DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARIES OF THE ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE; ARMY AUDITOR GENERAL  
(BY DATE OF APPOINTMENT)
- 184 MEMBERS, SECRETARY OF DEFENSE BOARDS
- 185 COUNSELORS OF EMBASSIES
- 186 CONSULS GENERAL OF FOREIGN POWERS (LEGATIONS)
- 187 SES MEMBERS (PC 4) (NOTE 3)
- 188 CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF CONTRACT APPEALS (CA-1)

**VIP CODE 5 (TWO-STAR EQUIVALENT)**

- 189 MAJOR GENERALS AND REAR ADMIRALS (UPPER HALF)
- 190 RETIRED MAJOR GENERALS AND REAR ADMIRALS (UPPER HALF)
- 191 SURGEON GENERAL; DEPUTY SURGEON GENERAL OF THE U.S.
- 192 DIRECTOR, FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
- 193 DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES AND DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSELS OF THE ARMY, NAVY, AIR  
FORCE (BY DATE OF APPT.)
- 194 CITY MANAGERS
- 195 OSD HISTORIAN
- 196 STATE CHAIR, NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND  
RESERVE
- 197 UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS
- 198 DISTRICT ATTORNEYS
- 199 COUNTY SHERIFFS
- 200 BOARD PRESIDENT AND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
- 201 SES MEMBERS (PC 5) (NOTE 3)
- 202 VICE CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF CONTRACT APPEALS (CA-2)
- 203 CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS

**VIP CODE 6 (ONE-STAR EQUIVALENT)**

- 204 BRIGADIER GENERALS AND REAR ADMIRALS (LOWER HALF)
- 205 RETIRED BRIGADIER GENERALS AND REAR ADMIRALS (LOWER HALF)  
---- COUNTY OR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS \*
- 206 COUNTY CLERKS
- 207 CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS
- 208 ASSISTANT SURGEON GENERAL (PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE)
- 209 US CONSULS GENERAL
- 210 ASSISTANT CHIEFS OF PROTOCOL, DEPARTMENT OF STATE

- 211 SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
- 212 DOORKEEPER OF THE HOUSE
- 213 CHAPLAIN OF THE SENATE
- 214 INDORSING AGENTS FOR MILITARY CHAPLAINS
- 215 ASSISTANT DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE AND PRINCIPAL DIRECTORS
- 216 CITY ATTORNEYS
- 217 SES MEMBERS (PC 6) (NOTE 3)
- 218 SCIENTIFIC & PROFESSIONAL (SP); SENIOR LEVEL (SL); MEMBERS, BOARD OF CONTRACT APPEALS  
(CA 3); ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES (AL)

**VIP CODE 7**

- 219 COLONELS; CAPTAINS (USN/USCG); GS-15; US CONSULS, MEDICAL DIRECTOR (PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE)
- 220 JUSTICES OF THE PEACE  
---- *PRESIDENTS/CHAIRPERSONS, BOARDS OF EDUCATION AND SCHOOL BOARDS* \*  
---- *CITY CHIEFS OF POLICE* \*
- 221 CITY CLERKS

**VIP CODE 8 (NOT VIP RANKED)**

- 222 GS-14
- 223 LIEUTENANT COLONELS; COMMANDERS; GS-13
- 224 MAJORS; LIEUTENANT COMMANDERS; GS-12
- 225 GS-11
- 226 CAPTAINS; LIEUTENANTS (USN/USCG); GS-10; US VICE CONSULS
- 227 FIRST LIEUTENANTS; LIEUTENANTS JUNIOR GRADE; GS-9
- 228 GS-8
- 229 SECOND LIEUTENANTS; ENSIGNS (USN/USCG); GS-7
- 230 WARRANT OFFICERS (BY GRADE)
- 231 COMMAND SERGEANTS MAJOR; SERGEANTS MAJOR; MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS;  
CHIEF MASTER SERGEANTS; MASTER GUNNERY SGTS
- 232 OTHER NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS; CIVILIANS BY RANK

***PARADE/SERVICE PRECEDENCE***

- Cadets, U. S. Military Academy
- Midshipmen, U. S. Naval Academy
- Cadets, U. S. Air Force Academy
- Cadets, U. S. Coast Guard Academy
- Midshipmen, U. S. Merchant Marine Academy
- United States Army
- United States Marine Corps
- United States Navy
- United States Air Force
- United States Coast Guard
- Army National Guard
- Army Reserve
- Marine Corps Reserve
- Naval Reserve
- Air National Guard
- Air Force Reserve
- Coast Guard Reserve

Other training organizations of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard in that order

NOTE: When the Coast Guard operates as part of the Navy, the Cadets, US Coast Guard Academy, the United States Coast Guard (service), and the Coast Guard Reserve will take precedence immediately after Midshipmen of the Naval Academy, the United States Navy, and the Naval Reserve respectively.

1. *Commanders-in-Chief/Retired Commanders-in-Chief*: At Multi or Joint service events only. At Army exclusive events, Army Commander's In Chiefs are ranked by date of rank with other Army 4-Stars.

2. *Service Staff Directors & Senior Enlisted Service Representatives* Within the National Capital Region (Washington, D. C.) it is common practice to place the Service Staff Directors (Director of the Army Staff, Director of the Air Staff, etc.) before other three-star officers. Senior Enlisted Service Representatives (SMA, SGMMC, MCPON, CMSAF, etc.) are also accorded precedence before all 3-star officers. Outside the NCR, Directors are ranked with other 3-star officers and the Senior Enlisted Representatives may be positioned after the senior flag officer present. Note: this rule can be used also by field commands to establish precedence for senior enlisted representatives of field organizations and other senior positions such as an installation chief of staff. Keep in mind, though, that such precedence would only apply within that specific unit or subordinate units.

3. SES precedence is established by position held. SES pay does not affect precedence.

4. *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, former 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, although consideration might be given to the "oldest" outranking the "youngest." DOD Regulation 4515.13R, para. 2-4W, defines "retired military" as holding a DD Form 2 (blue or grey) and eligible for retired or retainer pay.

5. *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. Many state and local positions (judges, county commissioners, city managers, state representatives) are now included in this list. Their inclusion is to assist in determining precedence of such positions. In most cases, the actual precedence of these positions is relative to other guests who are present. Prior to ranking state and local officials other than mayors, it is suggested that they be considered in the context of the entire guest list and then ranked accordingly. *Italicized entries* have been added by JMAR Management & Training for guidance only. Positions are not included on other DoD/service precedence lists.

SES employees fall within six pay levels - 6 (highest) to 1 (lowest) - these pay levels have no relation to precedence and should be viewed in the same light as pay steps within a civilian GS grade. SES members are entitled to certain privileges because of their grade. These include distinguished visitor quarters, preferred parking, transportation, and other amenities normally afforded flag officers but not limited by law (such as a personal weapon or flag stationery).

**Spouse precedence** The spouse takes the precedence of the principal. If a member of the Cabinet and spouse are scheduled to attend a ceremony and the cabinet member has to cancel, the spouse would still sit in the same place. If, however, the spouse is a government official and has precedence of his or her own, the spouse can be seated based on that precedence.

**Representatives and substitutes** most often, a representative or substitute is ranked by his or her position or rank, not that of the person being represented. The latter method can be used, however, if preferred by the organization. Exceptions: the representative of the guest of honor takes the guest of honor's position; a representative of the President of the United States always takes the position of the President. If representatives are placed by the position or official they are representing, ensure this is done for all representatives.

**Medal of Honor (MOH) recipients** A Medal of Honor Society policy letter dated October 1995 states that, by agreement of the Society's members, precedence of MOH recipients should be based on anything except rank. Names, date of award of the MOH, length of service, geographical area, etc. may be used for determining precedence. The side issue of saluting MOH recipients is also addressed in the October 1995 letter which states that *there is no regulatory requirement to salute a MOH recipient based on their possession of the MOH* (unless the recipient is an active commissioned officer). Nothing, however, prohibits the military custom of saluting anyone as a sign of respect. With regard to active duty MOH recipients, prior to making any determination of precedence, it is strongly suggested that the MOH recipients themselves, along with the host and agency commander, be consulted.

**Flag precedence** is based on the level of the organization or office represented by the flag. National colors are first, followed by the flag of the President of the United States then state flags. Next come organizational flags beginning with the Service flags (if more than one, they are ranked by seniority of the Service). After service flags, come other organizational colors by echelon (major command, then corps, then division, etc.) Finally, positional flags by rank (Secretary of Defense, Secretary of the Army, Chief of Staff, Vice Chief of Staff, etc.), followed by flag officer flags. Other flags not included in the above categories should follow all other flags in the display.

*Service precedence* is one of the few things written in stone. Service precedence — precedence of the branches of the services (not individuals) — is: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard. While the Marine Corps is part of the Department of the Navy, for service precedence purposes it is treated as a separate branch.

### **QUICK RANK & GRADE COMPARISON**

#### **Military Civilian Precedence Code**

General/Admiral	SES 2/3
Lt. General/Vice Admiral	SES 4
Maj. Gen./Rear Adm. (upper)	SES 5
Brig. Gen./Rear Adm. (lower)	SES 6
Colonel/Captain (USN) GS15	SES 7
- - - GS14	SES 8
Lt. Colonel/Commander GS13	SES 8
Major/Lt. Commander GS12	SES 8
- - - GS11	SES 8
Captain, Lieutenant (USN) GS10	SES 8
1st Lieutenant/Lieutenant (j.g) GS9	SES 8
- - - GS8	SES 8
2nd Lieutenant/Ensign GS7	SES 8