Department of Homeland Security
DHS Directive Number: 252-16
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ORDER OF CEREMONIAL PRECEDENCE FOR DHS POSITIONS

I. Purpose

This directive established the order of precedence for officials of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). This order is intended for use in ceremonial events and programs and does not serve as the order of succession for the continuity of essential functions, which is set forth in DHS Delegation 0106.

II. Scope

This Directive applies throughout DHS.

III. Authorities

- A. Homeland Security Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-296, 116 Stat. 2135 (2002), as amended (Title 6 United States Code [U.S.C.])
- B. 5 U.S.C. §§ 3345-49 (Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, as amended)

IV. Policy and Requirements

- A. The order of precedence is established by taking into account a position's Executive Level, establishment, and appointing authority.
- B. If there is a vacancy in a position listed in the order of precedence, the senior official performing the functions and duties of the position retains his or her position of record's precedence unless:
 - The acting official is Presidentially appointed, or
 - 2. The acting official is the First Assistant, pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, and serving as the acting official for a

Presidential appointment position by and with the advice and consent of the Senate (PAS).

In such cases of subsection 1. and 2., official, while serving as the acting official, retains the precedence of the PAS position.

- C. The honorific "The Honorable" shall only be used for those individuals who have been appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The honorific may be used for those individuals who have previously been appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, or have served in an elected capacity in a State, Local, or Tribal position.
- D. Guidance from the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Defense shall be used to guide protocol for diplomatic and military events.

V. Office of Primary Interest

The Management Directorate is the office of primary interest for maintaining and updating this Directive.

Annex A – Order of Precedence for Heads of Named Positions Annex B – Order of Precedence for Other Positions

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Acting Under Secretary for Management

etary for Management

Legend

Career	С
Limited Term Appointment	L
Military Officer	M
Non-Career in the Senior Executive Service (SES) or Schedu	ule C N
Presidential Appointee	Р
Presidential Appointee with Senate Confirmation	S
Executive Level in Statute	EX
Senior Executive Service	ES

DHS ORDER OF PRECEDENCE FOR NAMED POSITIONS

Position

1	Secretary	s	EXI
2	Deputy Secretary	S	EX II
3	Under Secretary for Management	S	EX II
4	Under Secretary, National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD)	S	EX III
5	Under Secretary, Science and Technology	S	EX III
6	Under Secretary, Intelligence and Analysis	S	EX III
7	Under Secretary, Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans	S	EX III
8	Chief of Staff	N	ES
9	Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency (established 1979)	S	EX II
10	Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (established 1789)	S	EX III
11	Commandant of the Coast Guard (established 1790)	М	
12	Director, U.S. Secret Service (established 1865)	C/P	ES
13	Director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (established 1891)	S	EX III
14	Administrator, Transportation Security Administration (established 2001)	S	EX IV
15	Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (established 2003)	S	EX IV
16	General Counsel	S	EX IV
17	Chief Financial Officer	S	EX IV
18	Inspector General	S	
19	Deputy Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	S	EX III
20	Deputy Administrator for Protection and National Preparedness, FEMA	S	EX III
21	Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs	P	EX IV
22	Assistant Secretary, Public Affairs	P	EX IV
23	Assistant Secretary, Health Affairs	P	EX IV
24	Assistant Secretary, International Affairs	N	ES
25	Assistant Secretary, Partnerships and Engagement	N	ES
26	Assistant Secretary, State and Local Law Enforcement	N	ES
27	Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection, NPPD	P	ES
28	Assistant Secretary for Cybersecurity and Communications, NPPD	N	ES
29	Officer, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties	P	ES
30	Director, Domestic Nuclear Detection Office	P	ES
31	Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman	N	ES
32	Chief Privacy Officer	N	ES
33	Director, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center	С	ES
34	Director, Office of Operations Coordination	С	ES
35	Executive Secretariat	N	ES

DHS ORDER OF PRECEDENCE FOR OTHER POSITIONS

Position Career Status

Other	Departmental Leadership Positions	48
1	Deputy Chief of Staff to the Secretary	Ν
2	Deputy Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary	Ν
3	Deputy Under Secretaries (in order of Appendix A and in order of appointment if there are Principal and/or multiple Deputy Under Secretaries)	
4	Deputy Component Heads and Vice Commandant (in order of Appendix A)	
5	Chief Information Officer	Р
6	Other Management Directorate Line of Business Chiefs (in order of appointment)	С
7	Other Assistant Secretaries (in order of appointment)	
8	Assistant Administrator, Grants Program (FEMA)	Р
9	Administrator, U.S. Fire Administration	Р
10	Military Advisor to the Secretary	M
11	Chiefs of Staff and Senior Counselors (in order of rank and seniority for SES only)	
12	Directors, Joint Task Forces	
13	Other SES (in order of seniority)	