

2 FAM 320 PRECEDENCE

(TL:GEN-298; 11-22-1999)

2 FAM 321 ESTABLISHMENT OF RULES OF PRECEDENCE

(TL:GEN-298; 11-22-1999)

a. Prior to 1815, bitter disputes and sometimes bloodshed arose over the problem of which envoy preceded whom at formal ceremonies and functions. At the Congress of Vienna the nations laid down the rules of precedence based on diplomatic titles and, with envoys of equal title, on the date they presented their letters of credence, rather than a procedure based on the size or influence of the state the envoy represented. Since that time, the problem of precedence between chiefs of missions has been a relatively routine, and certainly more peaceful, procedure.

b. Precedence and rank among U.S. officials abroad becomes important in everything from attending official ceremonies to making courtesy calls and seating at table. In reality, precedence differs little from the time-honored custom of seating the senior executives in order at the head table during a company banquet, or placing the leaders of a political party on the platform in order of their importance at a rally.

c. Precedence is most important from the viewpoint of relations with, and proper representation toward, other nations and their representatives. The respective foreign *ministry* must know the order in which to print the diplomatic list; diplomatic colleagues need to know the precedence of the members of the U.S. mission to make their calls; and visiting officials must be placed correctly at official ceremonies and banquets. Therefore, rules of precedence laid down beforehand are nothing more than a routine means of facilitating official and formal diplomatic business relationships.

2 FAM 322 PRECEDENCE OF U.S. OFFICIALS ABROAD

(TL:GEN-298; 11-22-1999)

a. Precedence of members of the Foreign Service and other U.S. officials abroad depends to a *large* extent on the situation and the relationships existing at any one time. With this in mind, *the following* sections of this chapter deal with six different types of relationships or situations.

b. The rules of precedence between members of the Foreign Service and representatives of other Government agencies are based on Executive

Order 9998 dated September 14, 1948.

2 FAM 323 PRECEDENCE WITHIN THE U.S. FOREIGN SERVICE

(TL:GEN-298; 11-22-1999)

a. The provisions of *this* section apply generally only within the district of assignment abroad. While assigned to the Department, members of the Foreign Service rank only according to the position held within the Department's organization.

b. Itinerant Foreign Service officers (not within the district of assignment where they have jurisdiction) rank only according to their class and date of appointment to *their* class, respectively.

2 FAM 323.1 FSOs Holding Diplomatic Titles

(TL:GEN-298; 11-22-1999)

a. Within their area of assignment, Foreign Service officers take precedence according to:

- (1) Title;
- (2) Foreign Service class;
- (3) Salary; and
- (4) Date of arrival at post, except as provided below.

b. At a diplomatic mission, the ranking officer of the Foreign Service, who will take charge in the absence of the chief of mission, always takes place and precedence next to the chief of mission. Following is a sample listing showing rank among Foreign Service officers.

Title	Class	Salary	Date Arrived at Post
<i>Career Ambassador (honorific)</i>	<i>FE-CA</i>	<i>FE-6</i>	
<i>Career Minister</i>	<i>FE-CM</i>	<i>FE-6</i>	
<i>Minister-Counselor</i>	<i>FE-MC</i>	<i>FE-4/5</i>	
Counselor	<i>FE-OC</i>	<i>FE-1/2/3/4</i>	
First Secretary	<i>FS-01</i>	<i>Step 8</i>	
First Secretary	<i>FS-01</i>	<i>Step 4</i>	
Second Secretary	<i>FS-03</i>	<i>Step 3</i>	<i>1/1/1998</i>
Second Secretary	<i>FS-03</i>	<i>Step 3</i>	<i>2/1/1999</i>

2 FAM 323.2 Transient U.S. Officials

(TL:GEN-298; 11-22-1999)

Among U.S. officials not within the jurisdiction of their assignments, as en route or returning from assignments, rank would be less determinate, but if precedence must be determined among a group of U.S. officials, military and civilian, salary is probably the best criterion available. Among officers of the Foreign Service, as indicated above, class and date of appointment to that class are the determinants.

2 FAM 324 PRECEDENCE WITHIN A MISSION

2 FAM 324.1 Chief of Mission

(TL:GEN-298; 11-22-1999)

In the country to which he *or she* is accredited, the chief of the diplomatic mission takes precedence over all officers and representatives of other executive departments and agencies.

2 FAM 324.2 Chargé d'Affaires ad Interim

(TL:GEN-298; 11-22-1999)

a. In the absence of the titular head of the mission, the chargé d'affaires ad interim takes precedence over all officers, military and civilian, and representatives of other Federal agencies. When the absence of the chief of mission and relinquishment of charge of his *or her* office is temporary and *the spouse* has remained in the capital, *the spouse* continues to be accorded the courtesies and consideration *he or she* customarily receives when *the chief of mission is present*.

b. When the chief of mission is present, the officer who would become chargé d'affaires ad interim takes precedence next in succession to the chief of mission.

2 FAM 324.3 Career Ministers, Minister-Counselors and Counselors (Senior Foreign Service)

(TL:GEN-298; 11-22-1999)

a. *Career ministers*, minister-counselors and counselors take precedence after the deputy chief of mission, or in the absence of the deputy chief of mission, after the officer who would take charge in the absence of the chief of mission.

b. Officers of the Foreign Service with the title of minister (usually career ministers or minister-counselors) take precedence before those officers who have the title of counselor. They rank among themselves in accordance with the rules of:

- (1) Class;
- (2) Salary; and
- (3) Date of arrival at post as described *above*.

c. Counselors rank among themselves on the basis of:

- (1) Class;
- (2) Salary; and
- (3) Date of arrival at post as *described above*.

d. Exceptions to the above may be recommended to or determined by PER/CDA when special circumstances exist. Notification to the local foreign *ministry* of an officer's title and rank is made only after receipt of the Department's official approval.

2 FAM 324.4 Military Attachés

(TL:GEN-298; 11-22-1999)

a. *The defense attaché, and the army, naval and air attachés take precedence next in succession after the counselors of embassy or mission (or senior secretary, if there are no counselors).*

b. Army, naval and air attachés take precedence among themselves according to their respective grade and seniority.

c. Except as provided in these sections, no extra precedence is conferred upon a *military* officer because of *that officer's* duties as attaché to a diplomatic mission.

d. Individual ranking of army, naval, and air attachés and inclusion in local diplomatic lists follows formal notification by the Department to the post of diplomatic designations approved for such officers.

2 FAM 324.5 Civilian Attachés (Who Are not Foreign Service Members)

(TL:GEN-298; 11-22-1999)

a. Civilian attachés who are not officers of the Foreign Service take precedence with but after the *defense*, army, naval and air attachés.

b. Civilian attachés who are not officers of the Foreign Service are ranked among themselves in accordance with their respective salaries, and when their salaries are the same, according to the date of arrival at post. Missions shall not transmit the names of civilian attachés to the foreign *ministry* of the host country until they have received from *PER/CDA* formal notification of the diplomatic designations approved for such officers.

2 FAM 324.6 Foreign Service Officers Below Counselor

(TL:GEN-298; 11-22-1999)

a. Officers of the Foreign Service with titles below that of counselor (or the senior secretary if no counselors are assigned), including attachés and assistant attachés, follow the civilian attachés who are not members of the Foreign Service in accordance with the rules of title, class, salary and date of arrival at post.

b. Officers with the title of attaché are ranked among first and second secretaries on the basis of salary. If their salaries are the same as those of officers holding the title of first or second secretaries, the attachés rank after such officers.

c. Officers of the Foreign Service holding the title of assistant attaché

rank among third secretaries on the basis of salary. If their salaries are the same, the assistant attaché ranks after the third secretary. Like third secretaries, assistant attachés of the Foreign Service rank after assistant attachés of the Armed Forces and assistant civilian attachés not of the Foreign Service.

d. Exceptions to the above may be recommended to or determined by the Department (PER/CDA) when special circumstances exist. Formal notification by post is made only after approval by the Department.

2 FAM 324.7 Assistant Military and Civilian Attachés

(TL:GEN-298; 11-22-1999)

a. Assistant army, naval, and air attachés take precedence next after the lowest ranking second secretary. Assistant army, naval, and air attachés take precedence among themselves according to their respective grades and seniority.

b. At a post where there are no second secretaries assigned, assistant army, naval, and air attachés take precedence as a group among the officers of the Foreign Service of rank equivalent to second secretaries as the chief of mission may direct.

c. Civilian assistant attachés who are not members of the Foreign Service take precedence with but after the assistant army, naval and air attachés.

2 FAM 325 PRECEDENCE OF CONSULAR OFFICERS RELATIVE TO OTHER FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

2 FAM 325.1 Consular Officers and Officers of the U.S. Armed Forces

(TL:GEN-298; 11-22-1999)

a. In accordance with Executive Order 9998, in districts where they are assigned, consuls general take precedence with but after brigadier generals in the Army, Air Force or Marine Corps, and rear admirals in the Navy.

b. Consuls shall take precedence with but after colonels in the Army, Air Force and Marine Corps and captains in the Navy.

c. Vice consuls take precedence with but after captains in the Army, Air Force and Marine Corps, and lieutenants (senior grade) in the Navy.

d. The following list illustrates precedence among consular officers and officers of the U.S. Armed Services:

- (1) Brigadier Generals and Rear Admirals;
- (2) Consuls General;
- (3) Colonels and Navy Captains;
- (4) Consuls;
- (5) Lt. Colonels and Commanders;
- (6) Majors and Lt. Commanders;
- (7) Captains and Lieutenants (senior grade);
- (8) Vice Consuls;
- (9) First Lieutenants and Lieutenants (junior grade); and
- (10) Second Lieutenants and Ensigns.

2 FAM 325.2 Consular Officers and Medical Officers of the U.S. Public Health Service

(TL:GEN-298; 11-22-1999)

a. Consuls general, consuls and vice consuls take precedence over medical officers as follows:

- (1) Consul general over medical director;
- (2) Consul with but after medical director; and
- (3) Vice consul with but after senior and assistant surgeon;

b. The exception to the above is no medical officer of any rank takes precedence above that of the consular officer in charge of a post no matter what the latter's rank.

2 FAM 326 PRECEDENCE WITHIN THE DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR CORPS

2 FAM 326.1 Chiefs of Mission

(TL:GEN-298; 11-22-1999)

a. By agreement among the nations, chiefs of mission rank as follows according to title:

- (1) Papal Nuncios or Legates in Catholic countries;

- (2) Ambassador;
- (3) Minister;
- (4) Chargé d'Affaires ad hoc or pro tempore;
- (5) Chargé d'Affaires ad interim (of Embassy);
- (6) Chargé d'Affaires ad interim (of *Mission*);
- (7) Commissioner; and
- (8) Diplomatic Agent.

b. Within each of the above title categories, chiefs of mission rank according to the date of the presentation of their letters of credence. The senior member of the corps according to these rules is called "Dean of the Diplomatic Corps."

2 FAM 326.2 Under Chief of Mission

(TL:GEN-298; 11-22-1999)

At very large affairs, each mission may be grouped with its chief and given *its chief's* rank within the assemblage as a whole. Although precedence among *U.S. citizens* relative to foreign guests should be taken into account, *U.S. citizens* should be interspersed among the foreign guests so as to allow the most intermingling. However, the chief of mission must be accorded his *or her* proper place because he *or she* is the person representing the *United States*, and, because of that position, there are many rights *the chief of mission* cannot personally concede.

2 FAM 326.3 Within the Consular Corps

(TL:GEN-61; 02-10-1966)

The consular corps always ranks after the diplomatic corps. Within the corps itself, the date of exequatur determines the seniority among the principal officers, and usually, depending on local practice, the senior member is the dean of the consular corps.

2 FAM 327 PRECEDENCE AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

(TL:GEN-298; 11-22-1999)

a. At international conferences, the heads of the delegations representing the various participating countries generally have no personal rank among themselves. At the conference table or at conference social functions, the

heads of delegations are seated in accordance with the conference order of precedence. The order of precedence in an international conference is determined by the rules and regulations of the conference. If there are no rules and regulations, it is the responsibility of the host government to establish a temporary order of precedence (frequently the alphabetical order of country names in the language of the host country), subject to approval by the conference.

b. U.S. delegation members, including Foreign Service personnel, rank among themselves in accordance with the formally approved delegation list. When the government of the country in which the conference is being held is host at a social or ceremonial function to which the local diplomatic corps is invited, it may accord the officials accredited to that country *their* customary diplomatic rank instead of *their* delegation rank.

c. *The Office of International Conferences (IO/OIC) can provide further information on rules governing international conferences.*

2 FAM 328 AND 329 UNASSIGNED