

ORDER OF PRECEDENCE – UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES

Authority: Title 10, USC 113b, 133(b); DOD Directive 1005.8 dated 31 OCT 1977, certified as current on 21 NOV 2003 until further notice

FOR USE WHEN IN PARADE OR INSPECTION FORMATION AND FOR DISPLAY OF FLAGS, SEALS, EMBLEMS, INSIGNIA, ETC.

NOTE: *Items 3.1. through 3.5. pertaining to precedence of Cadets and Midshipmen are not shown.*

- 3.6. United States Army.
- 3.7. United States Marine Corps.
- 3.8. United States Navy.
- 3.9. United States Air Force.
- 3.10. United States Coast Guard.
- 3.11. Army National Guard of the United States.
- 3.12. Army Reserve.
- 3.13. Marine Corps Reserve.
- 3.14. Naval Reserve.
- 3.15. Air National Guard of the United States.
- 3.16. Air Force Reserve.
- 3.17. Coast Guard Reserve.
- 3.18. Other training organizations of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard, in that order, respectively.



QUESTION: If the Navy observes its official birthday on 13 October 1775 and the Marine Corps observes its official birthday on 10 November 1775, and the Marine Corps is officially recognized as part of the Department of the Navy, why does the Marine Corps have precedence over the Navy in official formations and when their respective flags, seals, emblems, insignia, etc. are displayed?

ANSWER: The Continental Congress officially authorized the already-existing standing Army in June, 1775. The Marine Corps was officially established on 10 November 1775, even though it was actually a force in readiness before the Army or the Navy. The first Captain of Marines was commissioned on 28 November 1775. Congress officially authorized the Navy by resolution in October 1775, however, the first commander-in-chief of the Navy was not commissioned until 22 December 1775. The process of procuring and outfitting ships and enlisting and commissioning personnel followed thereafter.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The U.S. Air Force has precedence over the U.S. Coast Guard, even though it was officially formed after the Coast Guard was authorized, because it was originally part of the U.S. Army and known as the U.S. Army Air Corps.

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