


































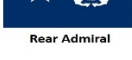




Joint/Service Protocol Differences

Although the definition of protocol includes “a standard set of rules,” there are actually some differences across the military services and when working in a joint environment or hosting guests from other services, it can be helpful to be aware of those differences.

	Leadership	General/Flag Officer Flags	Military Members	Song	Service Academy	Additional Notes	Protocol Regulation(s)
Army (USA)  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretary of the Army Chief of Staff of the Army (CSA) Vice Chief of Staff of the Army (VCSA) Sergeant Major of the Army (SMA) 	   	Soldiers (always capitalized in Army correspondence - as is Family and Civilian)	<i>The Army Goes Rolling Along</i> <i>(known as the Army Song)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cadets United States Military Academy in West Point, New York (USMA, usually referred to as West Point) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treats Medal of Honor recipients as equivalent to 3-stars. Has positions in each U.S. state called Civilian Assistants to the Secretary of the Army that are equivalent to 3-stars. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DA Pamphlet 600-60 “A Guide for Protocol and Etiquette for Official Entertainment” dated 09/14/2022 Army Regulation 600-25 “Salutes, Honors, and Visits of Courtesy” dated 10 September 2019 with change from 23 January 2020
Marine Corps (USMC)  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretary of the Navy Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC) Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps (ACMC) Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps (SMMC) 	   	Marines (always capitalized)	<i>Marine's Hymn</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Midshipmen United States Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York (USMMA) Marines also graduate from USNA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marines have several uniforms and variations of those uniforms, so it's important to be specific about ribbons, badges, belts, swords, and covers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OPNAVINST 1710.12 “Social Usage and Protocol Handbook” dated 16 Dec 2022
Navy (USN)  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretary of the Navy Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Vice Chief of Naval Operations (VCNO) Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) 	    (Note: Flags depicted are for seagoing Admirals; non-seagoing Admiral flags are white with blue stars.)	Sailors (always capitalized)	<i>Anchors Aweigh</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Midshipmen United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland (USNA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enlisted personnel are called by their rating (job), however it is not wrong to call them by their rank. Navy ceremonies often include sideboys, a boatswain's mate with a whistle, and bells. Specific honors are rendered to announce someone aboard a ship. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OPNAVINST 1710.12 “Social Usage and Protocol Handbook” dated 16 Dec 2022
Air Force (USAF)  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretary of the Air Force Chief of Staff of the Air Force (CSAF) Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force (VCSAF) Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force (CMSAF) 	   	Airmen (always capitalized within USAF publications)	<i>The U.S. Air Force</i> <i>(known as Wild Blue Yonder)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cadets United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado (USAFA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flight line protocol has its own rules and expectations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air Force Pamphlet 34-1202 “Guide to Protocol” dated 8 May 2019 Air Force Instruction 34-1201 “Protocol” dated 918 August 2020
Space Force (USSF)  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretary of the Air Force Chief of Space Operations (CSO) Vice Chief of Space Operations (VCSO) Chief Master Sergeant of the Space Force (CMSF) 	   	Guardians	<i>“The U.S. Space Force March</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cadets United States Space Force Detachment at Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado (USAFA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protocols are similar to Air Force 	TBD
Coast Guard (USCG)  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretary of Homeland Security Commandant of the Coast Guard (CCG)* Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard (VCG) Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard (MCPOCG) 	   	Coast Guardsmen	<i>Semper Paratus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cadets United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut (USCGA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protocols are similar to Navy. 	N/A

*Note: Although the Coast Guard is a military service, the Commandant of the Coast Guard is not a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Although the National Guard is not a separate military service (members are from the reserve components of the Army and Air Force), the Chief of the National Guard Bureau (CNGB) is a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.