MILPERSMAN 1427-010

PRECEDENCE AMONG ENLISTED MEMBERS

Responsible Office	NAVPERSCOM (PERS-811)	Phone: DSN COM	882-3224 (901) 874-3224

1. **Policy**. Enlisted members presently and regularly assigned to the same activity, or enlisted members present in any gathering, the member with the longest continuous service in the highest pay grade takes precedence and is the senior member, regardless of rating.

2. **Determining Precedence**

a. Precedence for enlisted members is based on rank.

(1) The Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy takes precedence over all Navy enlisted members.

(2) Fleet Master Chiefs take precedence over all Navy enlisted members except the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy.

(3) Force Master Chiefs take precedence over all Navy enlisted members except the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy and Fleet Master Chiefs.

(4) CNO Directed Command Master Chiefs take precedence over all Navy enlisted members, except the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, Fleet Master Chiefs and Force Master Chiefs.

(5) Command Master Chiefs take precedence over all enlisted members of a command.

b. Among members in the same pay grade with the same length of continuous service in pay grade, a member with the longest continuous service in the next lower pay grade takes precedence. If the length of continuous service in the next lower pay grade

is the same, the member with the longest time in each successively lower pay grade takes precedence.

c. For the purpose of determining precedence, continuous service is service in the present and preceding enlistments of active or inactive duty in any branch of the Armed Forces, providing any break between discharge and reenlistment does not exceed 90 days. For members reenlisting with noncontinuous service, service in reenlistment pay grade or in a higher pay grade held in a previous enlistment is not creditable for the purpose of establishing precedence.

d. In the case of advancement resulting from Navy-wide examinations, the effective date of advancement, rather than the time-in-rate date, determines precedence. Between members with the same effective advancement date, this system will be applied to previous advancements to resolve a tie.

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3. **Effect of Precedence**

a. Observing precedence will not interfere with any member’s responsibility for or performance of assigned duties or duties of a rating.

b. Authority or privilege shall not accrue to an enlisted member solely by reason of precedence. In the absence of a commissioned officer able to assume command, the enlisted member with the highest precedence exercises authority over all enlisted members present in an emergency, a prisoner of war situation, or a situation requiring action in the best interest of the Navy.