



DoD INSTRUCTION 1334.02

FROCKING OF COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

Originating Component: Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness

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Cancels: Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "General and Flag Officer Frocking," January 7, 2004

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Purpose: In accordance with the authority in DoD Directive 5124.02, this issuance establishes policy, assigns responsibilities, and provides procedures for the frocking of commissioned officers, in accordance with Sections 777 and 777a of Title 10, United States Code (U.S.C.).

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SECTION 1: GENERAL ISSUANCE INFORMATION

1.1. APPLICABILITY.

This issuance applies to OSD, the Military Departments, the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) and the Joint Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities within the DoD.

1.2. POLICY.

a. The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)) may approve the frocking of commissioned officers to the grades of O-7 through O-10 pursuant to:

(1) Sections 777 and 777a of Title 10, U.S.C.

(2) The May 20, 2019 Secretary of Defense (SecDef) Memorandum.

b. The Secretaries of the Military Departments may approve the frocking of commissioned officers to the grades of O-4 through O-6 in accordance with this issuance, which standardizes frocking policy among the Military Services by:

(1) Regulating the exercise of frocking authority.

(2) Establishing strict criteria as prerequisites for frocking commissioned officers to the grades of O-4 through O-6.

c. All statutory and policy frocking limitations must be adhered to at all times.

SECTION 2: RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1. USD(P&R).

The USD(P&R):

a. Authorizes qualified general officers/flag officers (GOs/FOs) to wear the insignia of the next higher grade before promotion, notifies Congress of the intent to authorize such frockings, and exercises overall responsibility for DoD frocking policy.

b. Monitors compliance with this issuance.

2.2. SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS.

The Secretaries of the Military Departments:

a. Establish controls to ensure, within their respective Military Departments, that:

(1) Numerical frocking limits are not exceeded.

(2) All frocking restrictions are adhered to in accordance with this issuance.

b. Approve, or delegate the authority to approve, frocking for grades O-4 through O-6; administer the frocking programs of their respective Military Department; and ensure compliance with applicable statutes and this issuance.

c. Submit to the USD(P&R) the information on officers to be frocked to a grade above O-6 that is listed in Paragraph 3.3.c. of this issuance.

2.3. CJCS.

The CJCS:

a. Formulates procedures and guidance to implement and support OSD guidance that governs the frocking of commissioned officers.

b. Reviews and provides advice on frocking requests for commissioned officers to the grades of O-7 through O-10 submitted by the Secretaries of the Military Departments.

SECTION 3: PROCEDURES

3.1. STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS.

a. Restrictions.

An officer may not wear the insignia for the frocked grade unless:

- (1) The Senate has confirmed the appointment of the officer to that grade.
- (2) The approval authority has approved the officer to wear the insignia of that grade.
- (3) In the case of frocking officers to the grades of O-7 through O-10:

(a) The USD(P&R) has submitted to Congress written notification of the intent to authorize the officer to wear the insignia of that grade.

(b) An officer to be frocked to a grade O-7 through O-10 is serving in, or has received orders to serve in, a position for which that grade is authorized.

(c) An officer to be frocked to the grade O-9 or O-10 has received orders to serve in a position outside of the Military Department of the officer for which that grade is authorized. An officer who has been confirmed by the Senate for appointment to the grade of O-9 or O-10 may be authorized to wear the insignia for that higher grade for up to 14 days before assuming the duties of the position for which frocking is authorized.

b. Benefits Not to Be Construed as Accruing.

- (1) An officer authorized to wear the insignia of the next higher grade will not:
 - (a) Be paid at the higher rate of pay.
 - (b) Assume any legal authority associated with that grade.
- (2) The time that an officer wears the insignia of the next higher grade does not count as:
 - (a) Seniority in that grade.
 - (b) Time of service in that grade.

c. Frocking Limitations.

(1) The total number of officers on the active-duty list in the grades of O-6 and above who are authorized to wear the insignia for the next higher grade may not exceed 85. By policy, officers on the reserve active-status list in the grade O-6 and above who are authorized to wear the insignia for the next higher count against this statutory limit.

- (2) Officers frocked to the:

(a) Active-duty grade of O-6 may not exceed 2 percent of the total number provided for the officers in that grade in that Military Service, in accordance with Section 523 of Title 10, U.S.C., for that fiscal year.

(b) Active-duty grade of O-4 or O-5 may not exceed 1 percent of the total number provided for the officers in that grade in that Military Service, in accordance with Section 523 of Title 10, U.S.C., for that fiscal year.

3.2. GO/FO SERVICE FROCKING ALLOCATIONS.

a. Frocking Allocations.

Table 1. Frocking Allocations to the Grades of O-7 through O-10

Military Service	Frocking Allocations to the Grades of O-7 Through O-10
Army	29
Air Force	24
Navy	21
Marine Corps	8
Space Force	3

b. Borrowing Frocking Allocations.

A Secretary of a Military Department who certifies that the frocking of an officer is essential to the officer's duties and that the frocking of the officer will cause the Military Department concerned to exceed a frocking allocation outlined in Table 1 may request to borrow one or more frocking allocations from the Secretary of another Military Department. The requesting Secretary will:

(1) Provide a written memorandum of agreement, signed by both Secretaries, that:

(a) Describes the details of the agreement.

(b) Includes the:

1. The number of frocking allocations to be loaned.

2. Duration of the loan.

(2) Include the memorandum of agreement in the frocking request package submitted to the USD(P&R).

3.3. GO/FO CRITERIA AND REQUESTS TO FROCK.

a. Criteria.

- (1) An officer to be frocked to the grade of O-9 or O-10 must:
 - (a) Meet the requirements specified in Section 777a of Title 10, U.S.C.
 - (b) Have orders to serve in a position outside of their Military Department.
 - (c) Meet the exemplary conduct provisions of Sections 7233, 8167, or 9233 of Title 10, U.S.C.
- (2) An officer to be frocked to the grade of O-7 or O-8 must:
 - (a) Meet the requirements specified in Section 777 of Title 10, U.S.C.
 - (b) Be serving in, or have received orders to serve in, a position for which that grade is authorized.
 - (c) Meet the exemplary conduct provisions of Sections 7233, 8167, or 9233 of Title 10, U.S.C.
- (3) If an officer has been approved for frocking, but has not yet been frocked, the officer cannot be frocked while under investigation.
- (4) An officer with substantiated adverse information not previously considered by a promotion selection board or special selection review board will not be frocked to the next higher grade.

b. Justification for Frocking.

Frocking must be essential to the officer's maximum effectiveness in the assigned position. Appropriate positions for frocking involve:

- (1) International duties, joint duties, or command.
- (2) Other unusual circumstances, as determined by the Secretary of the Military Department concerned.

c. Request Requirements.

(1) The Secretaries of the Military Departments will submit frocking requests for GOs/FOs through the CJCS, certify that the frocking is essential to the officer's maximum effectiveness in the assigned position, and provide written justification that supports the certification.

(a) For an officer to be frocked to the grade of O-9 or O-10, the frocking request will be submitted as part of the nomination recommendation memorandum to the SecDef.

(b) For an officer to be frocked to the grade of O-7 or O-8, the frocking request memorandum will be addressed to the USD(P&R) or the Deputy USD(P&R). The request will not be submitted until after the officer is confirmed by the Senate.

1. If both the USD(P&R) and the Deputy USD(P&R) positions are vacant, the Secretary of the Military Department concerned will address the memorandum to the SecDef.

2. Requests that include the names of officers who have not been confirmed by the Senate will be placed on hold at the OSD GO/FO office until the officers:

a. Are confirmed and the Military Department has provided updated supporting documents; or

b. Reach their projected date of promotion (PDOP).

(2) For each officer, the frocking request will identify:

(a) The officer's name.

(b) Current duty title.

(c) Frocked grade.

(d) Duty title of position requiring frocking.

(e) Date of assignment to position requiring frocking.

(f) Date frocking is required.

(g) Promotion list the officer is on.

(h) Date of nomination by the President.

(i) Date of confirmation by the Senate.

(j) Justification for frocking.

(k) Frocking allocation number.

(3) The frocking request will also include:

(a) A list of officers within that Service who are approved for frocking but not yet frocked. For each officer, the list will include:

1. The officer's name.

2. Frocking allocation number.

3. Frocked grade.

4. PDOP.
5. Date authorized to frock.
6. Projected date of frocking.
7. Date of request.

(b) A frocking allocation timeline that explains the current and projected frocking.

1. The timeline will include the:
 - a. Officers currently frocked.
 - b. Officers approved but not frocked.
 - c. Officers included in the request.
2. The explanatory information will include:

- a. The grade.
- b. The frocking allocations (numbered from one to the total number of allocations of the Service concerned) with the names of each officer aligned to their respective allocation number and identified by months indicating how long each officer will be frocked.
- c. Which officer is projected to assume that allocation upon their promotion.

(c) A list of officers currently frocked. For each officer, the list will include the:

1. Officer's name.
2. Frocking allocation number.
3. Frocked grade.
4. PDOP.
5. Date authorized to frock.
6. Date frocked.
7. Date of frocking request.

(4) Refer to the GO/FO Decision Support System (available at <https://gofo-pki.dmdc.osd.mil/>) for:

- (a) Additional information.

(b) Examples.

(c) Templates.

GLOSSARY

G.1. ACRONYMS.

ACRONYM	MEANING
CJCS	Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
GO/FO	general officer/flag officer
PDOP	projected date of promotion
SecDef	Secretary of Defense
U.S.C.	United States Code
USD(P&R)	Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness

G.2. DEFINITIONS.

Unless otherwise noted, these terms and their definitions are for the purpose of this issuance.

TERM	DEFINITION
active-duty list	Defined in Section 101 of Title 10, U.S.C.
commissioned officer	Defined in DoD Instruction 1320.08.
frocked	An officer who has been selected for promotion to the next higher grade may be authorized to wear the insignia for that next higher grade prior to the officer's promotion date. In such case, the officer is said to be "frocked" to that grade.
frocking	Authorizing an officer who has been selected for promotion and, if required, confirmed by the U.S. Senate to wear the insignia and uniform of and assume the title of the next higher grade before being promoted to that grade.
PDOP	The projected date of an officer's promotion. The PDOP is used by the Senate Armed Services Committee in determining when nomination scrolls may be considered for confirmation.

REFERENCES

DoD Directive 5124.02, “Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)),” June 23, 2008

DoD Instruction 1320.08, “Continuation of Commissioned Officers on Active Duty and on the Reserve Active-Status List,” July 7, 2017, as amended

Secretary of Defense Memorandum, “General and Flag Officer Frocking,” May 20, 2019

United States Code, Title 10