SECNAV INSTRUCTION 5402.8G

From: Secretary of the Navy


Ref: (a) 5 U.S.C. §§3345-3349d

Encl: (1) Text of Executive Order 12879

1. Purpose. To delineate the order of succession to the duties of the Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) as specified by enclosure (1).

2. Cancellation. SECNAVINST 5402.8F.

3. Applicability. This instruction applies to the Office of the SECNAV, the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), the Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC), and all U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps installations, commands, activities, field offices, and all other organizational entities within the Department of the Navy (DON).

4. Policy. SECNAV Order of Succession. In the event of the death, permanent disability, or resignation of the SECNAV, the incumbents holding the positions designated in enclosure (1), in the order indicated, shall act for and exercise the powers of the SECNAV.

5. Responsibilities. The Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition), Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management and Comptroller), Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations and Environment), Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), General Counsel of the Navy, CNO, and CMC shall be fully familiar with the order of succession to the position of the SECNAV.
6. **Records Management**

   a. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of format or media, must be maintained and dispositioned according to the records disposition schedules found on the Directives and Records Management Division (DRMD) portal page: https://portal.secnav.navy.mil/orgs/DUSNM/DONAA/DRM/SitePages/Home.aspx

   b. For questions concerning the management of records related to this instruction or the records disposition schedules, please contact your local Records Manager or the DRMD program office.

   THOMAS B. MODLY  
   Under Secretary of the Navy

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TEXT OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 12879

Order of Succession of Officers to Act as Secretary of the Navy

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 3347 of title 5, United States Code, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Succession to the Authority of the Secretary of the Navy.

a. In the event of the death, permanent disability, or resignation of SECNAV, the incumbents holding the positions designated below, in the order indicated, shall act for and exercise the powers of SECNAV:

(1) The Under Secretary of the Navy;

(2) The Assistant Secretaries and General Counsel of the Navy, in the order fixed by their length of service as permanent appointees in such positions;

(3) The Chief of Naval Operations;

(4) The Commandant of the Marine Corps.

b. In the event of the temporary absence or temporary disability of SECNAV, the incumbents holding the Department of the Navy positions designated in paragraph (a) of this section, in the order indicated, shall act for and exercise the powers of SECNAV.

(1) In these instances, the designation of an Acting SECNAV applies only for the duration of the Secretary’s absence or disability, and does not affect the authority of the Secretary to resume the powers of his office upon his return.

(2) In the event that SECNAV is merely absent from this position, SECNAV may continue to exercise the powers and fulfill the duties of his office during his absence, notwithstanding the provisions of this order.
c. Precedence among those officers designated in paragraph (a) of this section who have the same date of appointment shall be determined by SECNAV at the time that such appointments are made.

d. Notwithstanding paragraph (a) and (b) of this section, an officer shall not act for or exercise the powers of SECNAV under this order if that officer serves only in an acting capacity in the position that would otherwise entitle him to do so.

Section 2. Temporary Nature of Succession.

Succession to act for and exercise the powers of SECNAV pursuant to this order shall be on a temporary or interim basis and shall not have the effect of vacating the statutory appointment held by the successor.

/s/
William J. Clinton

THE WHITE HOUSE
November 8, 1993