

Respect and Recognition

Target Audience: All Personnel

Purpose	Foster common acts of courtesy among all Air Force personnel to aid in maintaining
	discipline and promote the smooth conduct of affairs in the military establishment
	(Profession of Arms).
Description	Compliance with these courtesies shows you have internalized the commitment to the oath of
	service and operate in a safe and healthy professional environment. Refer to AFI 1-1, Air Force
	Standards; AFI 34-1201, Protocol; and AFPAM 34-1202, Guide to Protocol for additional
	information to strengthen your commitment to the Profession of Arms.
Employ	Every Airman must employ and enforce these common acts of courtesy on and off-duty
	very day.

• **Respect for Authority**. Junior personnel shall employ a courteous and respectful bearing and mode of speech toward senior personnel. When addressed by an officer senior to them, junior personnel shall stand (unless seated at mess or unless circumstances make such action impracticable or inappropriate).

• **Positions of Honor**. The principle that the right side of a person or thing is the position of honor is a time honor tradition. The "right of the line" was the critical side in ancient battle formations and is the place of honor in ceremonies today.

- The first place of honor is always on the right. One should always afford seniors this position when walking, riding, or sitting with them. When joining up with a senior, always assume a position to his or her left.
- The second place of honor is that of being in front or "going first." As a junior, allow a senior to precede you through a doorway. If boarding an aircraft in a group, the senior member will enter first to select a seat, and so on. On departing the aircraft, the same rule applies; the most senior officer departs first.
- In the combination of a junior woman and a senior man, the senior man should precede the junior woman through the door. Unofficially, or in a "social" situation, the man may extend traditional courtesies and allow the woman the position of honor.

• **Titles of Address**. Military personnel are addressed by their grade or title. Officers are addressed by their grade (e.g., captain, major, general, etc.) or "sir" or "ma'am." Enlisted are addressed by their grade (e.g., chief, senior master sergeant, senior airman, etc.) Physicians and dental officers may be addressed as "doctor." Chaplains may be addressed as "chaplain" or by their ecclesiastical title. Titles of Address.

