

United States Military
Chain of Command



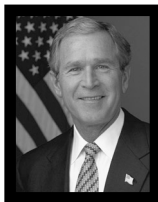
Chain of Command

“All decisions are to be made at the lowest level possible, but if required, can be taken all the way up the chain to the Commander in Chief. Once decisions are made, orders are given, and the duties are carried out by those lower in the chain.”

Goldwater-Nichols Act of 1986

Top of the
Chain of Command

Commander in Chief
President of the United States



**Second in Line
Chain of Command**

Secretary of Defense



**Third in Line
Chain of Command**
Secretaries of the Military Departments



Francis J. Harvey Gordon R. England Michael L. Dominguez

**Forth in Line
Chain of Command**
Joint Chiefs of Staff

