

Order of the Sword



History of the Order of the Sword

The Order of the Sword is patterned after two orders of chivalry founded during the Middle Ages in Europe. The Royal Order of the Sword and the Swedish Military Order of the Sword are both still in existence. Traditionally the noncommissioned officer corps, as we know it today, was established early in the 12th century. In 1522, King Gustavus 1 of Sweden enjoined the noblemen commissioned by him to appoint officers to serve him. These people became the noncommissioned officers as we know them today. They were the accountants, builders, crafts people, teachers, and other leaders responsible for conducting the ordinary daily affairs of the kingdom. The system worked so well, it was incorporated into the Army as a way to establish and maintain a cohesive disciplined, well-trained force for protection of lives and property in the kingdom. These noncommissioned officers would honor their leader and pledge their loyalty by ceremoniously presenting him with a sword. The sword, a symbol of truth, justice, and power rightfully used, served as a token for all to see and know that here was a leader among leaders and a man among men. This ceremony became known as "The Royal Order of the Sword." It was passed through the ages, coming to the United States about the time of the Revolutionary War. It lay dormant for years after that, with the only known instance of its use being in the 1860s when General Robert E. Lee was presented a sword by his command. The old "Royal Order of the Sword" ceremony was revised, updated, and adopted by the noncommissioned officers of the United States Air Force in 1967.

The Order of the Sword is the highest honor and tribute noncommissioned officers can bestow upon an individual.

Recipients
of the
Order of the Sword

A decorative flourish consisting of two symmetrical, flowing lines that curve upwards at the ends and meet in the center, creating a series of loops and curves.

1	Brigader General Roland J. Barnick	MAC	26 May 1967
2	General Howell M. Estes, Jr.	MAC	20 Dec 1967
3	Brigader General Gilbert L. Curtis	MAC	18 Jun 1968
4	Brigader Generall William V. McBride	MAC	26 Feb 1969
5	Colonel Reid J. Anderson	MAC	26 Jul 1969
6	Colonel Gilbert G. Smith, Jr.	MAC	29 Jul 1969
7	Colonel Thomas J. Arbogast	MAC	12 May 1970
8	Brigader General Clare T. Ireland, Jr.	MAC	23 Jul 1970
9	Brigader General John H. Germeraad	MAC	2 Oct 1970
10	Brigader General John F. Gonge	MAC	24 Feb 1971
11	General Jack J. Catton	MAC	30 Apr 1971
12	Colonel Leonard V. Gillespie	MAC	29 Sep 1971
13	Honorable F. Edward Hebert	ATC	28 Oct 1971
14	Major General Archie M. Burke	NORAD	11 Feb 1972
15	Brigader General Richard M. Baughn	USAFE	20 Mar 1972

16	Major General William G. Moore, Jr.	MAC	6 May 1972
17	Colonel Tedd L. Bishop	MAC	14 Jul 1972
18	Major General Jerry D. Page	ATC	25 Jul 1972
19	General George B. Simler	ATC	25 Aug 1972
20	Brigadier General Van N. Blackman	MAC	8 Sep 1972
21	Colonel Robert H. Campbell	MAC	11 Jun 1973
22	Major General Frank M. Madsen, Jr.	ATC	24 Jan 1974
23	Major General Frank W. Elliott, Jr.	ATC	26 Jul 1974
24	Colonel James I. Baginski	PACAF	29 Jul 1974
25	Brigadier General Irbey B. Jarvis, Jr.	AFLC	31 Oct 1974
26	Brigadier General Thomas M. Sadler	MAC	12 Mar 1975
27	Major General Lester T. Kearney	MAC	21 May 1975
28	Colonel Donald A. Michela	PACAF	11 Aug 1975
29	Brigadier General Harry A. Morris	MAC	19 Sep 1975
30	Major General Leroy J. Manor	PACAF	19 Apr 1975

31	Brigadier General Emil N. Block	MAC	9 Jun 1976
32	Brigadier General James E. McAdoo	AFRES	11 Oct 1976
33	Lieutenant General John W. Roberts	ATC	12 Nov 1976
34	General Paul K. Carlton	MAC	11 Feb 1977
35	General Louis L. Wilson	PACAF	18 Mar 1977
36	General Russell E. Dougherty	SAC	5 Apr 1977
37	Major General Ralph S. Saunders	MAC	6 May 1977
38	Colonel James T. Albritton	USAFE	6 May 1977
39	Major General Alden G. Glauch	MAC	19 Jul 1977
40	Brigadier General Kenneth D. Burns	AFSS	20 Oct 1977
41	Major General Andrew P. Iosue	ATC	3 Mar 1978
42	General Robert J. Dixon	TAC	10 Mar 1978
43	Brigadier General James L. Wade	AFRES	11 Mar 1978
44	Major General Thomas A. Aldrich	MAC	30 Mar 1978
45	Lieutenant General Thomas W. Morgan	AFSC	22 Apr 1978

46	Colonel Sharman R. Stevenson	PACAF	31 May 1978
47	General David C. Jones	SAC	31 May 1978
48	Colonel Dale L. Oderman	MAC	1 Jun 1978
49	Lieutenant General James D. Hughes	TAC	8 Jun 1978
50	Major General Rupert H. Burris	AFCS	19 Jul 1978
51	Major General Paul M. Myers	AFSC	14 Sep 1978
52	Lieutenant General Bryon M. Shotts	SAC	10 Oct 1978
53	Lieutenant General Benjamin O. Davis, (Ret)	TAC	10 Nov 1978
54	Major General William Lyons	AFRES	3 Mar 1979
55	Major General Benjamin F. Starr, Jr.	MAC	10 Apr 1979
56	Colonel Anthony J. Dibaggio	USAFSS	19 Apr 1979
57	Lieutenant General Thomas P. Stafford	AFSC	5 May 1979
58	Brigadier General Attilio Pedroli	ATC	6 Dec 1979
59	Major General William C. Norris	USAFE	9 Apr 1980
60	Major General LeRoy W. Svendsen, Jr.	AFMPC	10 Apr 1980

61	Major General Robert E. Sadler	AFCS	12 Apr 1980
62	Lieutenant General Winfield Scott, Jr.	AAC	16 May 1980
63	CMSAF Donald L. Harlow, (Ret)	TAC	20 May 1980
64	Mr. Robert (Bob) Hope	MAC	10 Jun 1980
65	Colonel Thomas G. McInerney	PACAF	22 Jul 1980
66	General Curtis E. Lemay	SAC	18 Sep 1980
67	General Alton D. Slay	AFSC	18 Oct 1980
68	Brigadier General Sidney S. Novaresi	AFRES	14 Mar 1981
69	Brigadier General Alan G. Sharp	AFRES	4 Apr 1981
70	General Richard H. Ellis	SAC	8 May 1981
71	Major General John T. Guice	ANG	13 May 1981
72	Lieutenant General Walter D. Druen, Jr.	USAFE	16 May 1981
73	General Kenneth L. Tallman	USAFA	21 May 1981
74	General Robert G. Huyser	MAC	19 Jun 1981
75	Brigadier General Staryl C. Austin, (Ret)	ANG	30 Oct 1981

76	Major General Doyle E. Larson	ESC	27 Mar 1982
77	Colonel Bruce M. Purvine	MAC	3 Jun 1982
78	Major General Norma Brown	ATC	11 Jun 1982
79	Brigadier General Albert J. Kaehn, Jr.	MAC	27 Jul 1982
80	Major General Kenneth L. Peek	AFMPC	5 Nov 1982
81	Colonel Lester R. Mellott, Jr.	ESC	13 Feb 1983
82	Lieutenant General Richard C. Henry	AFSC	16 Apr 1983
83	Lieutenant General Robert W. Bazley	USAFE	5 May 1983
84	General James R. Allen	MAC	18 May 1983
85	Lieutenant General Charles L. Donnelly, Jr.	PACAF	28 May 1983
86	Lieutenant General Robert T. Herres	AFCC	27 Aug 1983
87	General Thomas M. Ryan, Jr.	ATC	3 Sep 1983
88	General W. L. Creech	TAC	4 Feb 1984
89	General Robert T. Marsh	AFSC	16 Jun 1984
90	General James V. Hartinger	NORAD/SPACECOM	29 Jun 1984

91	Lieutenant General James W. Stansberry	AFSC	2 Sep 1984
92	Major General Donald W. Bennett	MAC	12 Oct 1984
93	General Bennie L. Davis	SAC	18 Oct 1984
94	Major General John E. Taylor, Jr.	USAFR	27 Oct 1984
95	Major General John B. Conaway	ANG	10 Apr 1985
96	Brigader General Regis F. Urschler	ESC	1 May 1985
97	Major General Cornelius Nugteren	AFLC	31 May 1985
98	Colonel Paul E. Landers, Jr.	MAC	17 Jun 1985
99	Major General Sloan R. Gill	AFRES	27 Oct 1985
100	Colonel Robert D. Acres	AFLC	2 Nov 1985
101	General John L. Piotrowski	TAC	24 Jan 1986
102	Colonel James D. Elmer	MAC	8 Feb 1986
103	General Charles A. Gabriel	USAF	22 Mar 1986
104	Major General Raymond A. Matera	ANG	18 Apr 1986
105	Brigader General George E. Chapman	MAC	26 Apr 1986

106	Brigadier General Verno J. Kondra	MAC	14 Jun 1986
107	Colonel Louis V. Pelini	MAC	25 Jul 1986
108	Major General William J. Breckner, Jr.	USAFE	30 Aug 1986
109	General Earl T. O'Loughlin	AFLC	19 Sep 1986
110	Brigadier General Floyd A. Hargrove	MAC	11 Oct 1986
111	Major General Gerald L. Prather	AFCC	17 Oct 1986
112	Lieutenant General Thomas C. Richards	AU	1 Nov 1986
113	Major General Chris O. Divich	ATC	15 Jan 1987
114	Lieutenant General Charles L. Donnelly, Jr.	USAFE	21 Feb 1987
115	Major General Donald D. Brown	MAC	31 Mar 1987
116	Major General Donald Snyder	PACAF	8 Apr 1987
117	General Lawrence A. Skantze	AFSC	25 Apr 1987
118	Brigadier General Richard S. Beyea, Jr.	AFOSI	25 Sep 1987
119	Colonel Ronald C. Youngs	AFRES	26 Sep 1987
120	Major General Jack W. Sheppard	MAC	2 Oct 1987

121	Lieutenant General Edward L. Tixier	PACAF	11 Jan 1988
122	Lieutenant General David L. Nichols	AAC	7 May 1988
123	Congressman Sonny Montgomery	AFRES	12 May 1988
124	General Jack I. Gregory	PACAF	21 Jun 1988
125	Major General Ralph E. Spraker	AFSPACECOM	1 July 1988
126	Honorable Caspar W. Weinberger	USAF	19 Nov 1988
127	Major General Melvin G. Alkire	AFCOMS	14 Jan 1989
128	General William L. Kirk	USAFE	18 Mar 1989
129	Brigadier General Alfred P. Bunting	ANG	28 Mar 1989
130	General Alfred G. Hansen	AFLC	28 Apr 1989
131	Major General Paul H. Martin	ESC	14 Jul 1989
132	General Duane H. Cassidy	MAC	18 Aug 1989
133	Major General Fredric F. Doppelt	AFSC	7 Oct 1989
134	Major General James C. Wahleithner	AFRES	14 Oct 1989
135	Major General Vernon Chong	ATC	2 Dec 1989

136	General Larry D. Welch	USAF	3 Mar 1990
137	General Bernard P. Randolph	AFSC	17 Mar 1990
138	Colonel Edmund C. Morrissey, Jr., (Ret)	ANG	20 Mar 1990
139	General Robert D. Russ	TAC	20 Apr 1990
140	Major General Robert B. Patterson, (Ret)	MAC	20 Apr 1990
141	Lieutenant General Robert C. Oaks	ATC	9 Jun 1990
142	Major General Larry N. Tibbetts	ATC	20 Jun 1990
143	Major General Roger P. Scheer	AFRES	25 Aug 1990
144	Major General Paul R. Stoney, (Ret)	AFCC	25 Sep 1990
145	General Michael J. Dugan	USAFE	10 Nov 1990
146	Lieutenant General James B. Davis	PACAF	24 Nov 1990
147	Major General Paul A. Harvey	ATC	2 Feb 1990
148	Lieutenant General Charles R. Hamm	USAFA	26 Apr 1991
149	Lieutenant General Gordon E. Fornell	AFSC	11 May 1991
150	General John T. Chain, Jr.	SAC	13 Jun 1991

151	Lieutenant General Donald L. Cromer	AFSC	17 May 1991
152	Colonel Richard F. Law	OSI	20 Jun 1991
153	Major General Richard M. Pascoe	TAC	16 Jul 1991
154	Major General Joseph A. Ahearn	USAF	21 Aug 1991
155	Lieutenant General Richard J. Trzaskoma	MAC	27 Sep 1991
156	Lieutenant General Robert H. Ludwig	AFCC	28 Sep 1991
157	General Charles C. McDonald	AFLC	29 Feb 1992
158	Lieutenant General Charles A. Horner	TAC	14 Mar 1992
159	Lieutenant General Clifford H. Rees, Jr.	USAFE	25 Jul 1992
160	Colonel Charles L. Fox	PACAF	20 Oct 1992
161	General H. T. Johnson	AMC	6 Feb 1993
162	General Charles G. Boyd	AU	25 Feb 1993
163	Major General John S. Fairfield	AFCC	11 May 1993
164	Major General Philip G. Killey	ANG	9 Nov 1993
165	General Ronald Fogleman	AMC	14 May 1994

166	Major General Robert S. Deligatti	USAFE	29 Apr 1994
167	Lieutenant General Bradley C. Hosmer	USAFA	29 Apr 1994
168	General Ronald W. Yates	AFMC	5 Mar 1994
169	Major General Robert A. McIntosh	AFRES	29 Jul 1994
170	General Merrill A. McPeak	HQ USAF	20 Aug 1994
171	General Robert L. Rutherford	PACAF	23 Aug 1994
172	General Henry Viccellio, Jr.	AETC	1 Oct 1994
173	Major General Kenneth A. Minihan	AIA	24 Oct 1994
174	Lieutenant General Edward P. Barry	AFMC	14 Nov 1994
175	General Thomas Moorman	AFSPC	28 Nov 1994
176	General John Michael Loh	ACC	25 Feb 1995
177	Lieutenant General Malcolm B. Armstrong	AMC	23 Sep 1995
178	General James L. Jamerson	USAFE	18 Nov 1995
179	General Joseph W. Ashy	AFSPC	17 Aug 1996
180	Colonel John E. Killeen	AFSPA	14 Sep 1996

181	Dr. William J. Perry	HQ USAF	19 Oct 1996
182	General James E. Sherrard	AFRES	2 Nov 1996
183	Major General James L. Hobson, Jr.	AFSOC	24 Jan 1997
184	General John G. Lorber	PACAF	30 Jun 1997
185	Lieutenant General Paul E. Stein	USAFA	12 Jul 1997
186	Major General Donald W. Shepperd	NGB	4 Nov 1997
187	Colonel John L. Hayes	AFWA	4 Apr 1998
188	General Michael E. Ryan	USAFE	17 Apr 1998
189	General Walter Kross	AMC	18 Jul 1998
190	General Howell M. Estes	AFSPC	7 Aug 1998
191	Lieutenant General Kenneth E. Eickmann	AFMC	15 Aug 1998
192	General Richard E. Hawley	ACC	17 Apr 1999
193	General Lloyd W. Newton	AETC	18 Jun 1999
194	Colonel Raymond W. Owens III	AFOSI	21 Oct 1999
195	Major General Paul Weaver, Jr.	ANG	22 Nov 1999

196	Lieutenant General Charles R. Holland	AFSOC	22 Jan 2000
197	General George T. Babbitt	AFMC	27 Mar2000
198	General John P. Jumper	USAFE	8 Apr 2000
199	Brigader General Steven A. Roser, (Ret)	AMC	14 Apr 2000
200	Lieutenant General Tad J. Oelstrom	USAFA	7 Jun 2000
201	Brigader General Richard A. Coleman	AFSFC	24 Aug2000
202	Honorable F. Whitten Peters	HQ USAF	16 Dec 2000
203	Brigader General Heinie Aderholt, (Ret)	AFSOC	18 Jan 2001
204	General Patrick K. Gamble	PACAF	6 Apr 2001
205	Major General David E. Tanzi	AFRC	2 June 2001
206	General Charles T. Robertson	AMC	3 Nov 2001
207	General Ralph E. Eberhart	AFSPC	25 Jan 2002
208	Lieutenant General Maxwell C. Bailey	AFSOC	15 Mar2002
209	General Lester L. Lyles	AFMC	7 Nov2002
210	General Gregory Martin	USAFE	30 May2003

211	Major General Timothy J. McMahon	AFSPC	16 Aug 2003
212	Honorable James G. Roche (SECAF)	HQ USAF	13 Sep 2003
213	General William J. Begert	PACAF	30 Jun 2004
214	General Hal M. Hornburg	ACC	22 Oct 2004
215	General Paul V. Hester	AFSOC	5 Nov 2004
216	Lieutenant General John D. Hopper, Jr.	AETC	10 Dec 2004
217	General Donald G. Cook	AETC	14 Jun 2005
218	Major General Tommy Crawford	11 th Wing	22 Jul 2005
219	General John W. Handy	AMC	29 Jul 2005
220	General Robert H. Fogelsong	USAFE	26 Aug 2005
221	Brigadier General Francis X. Taylor	AFOSI	16 Sep 2005
222	Lieutenant General Daniel James III	ANG	16 Nov 2005
223	General Lance W. Lord	AFSPC	11 Feb 2006
224	General Duncan McNabb	AMC	6 Sep 2007
225	General William T. Hobbins	USAFE	17 Sep 2007

226	Lieutenant General Michael W. Wooley	AFSOC	21 Sep 2007
227	General Ronald E. Keys	ACC	28 Sep 2007
228	General Bruce Carlson	AFMC	6 Dec 2007
229	General William R. Looney III	AETC	30 May 2008
230	Lieutenant General Charles L. Johnson II	AFMC	20 Jun 2008
231	Lieutenant General Robert D. Bishop, Jr.	USAFE	19 Jul 2008
232	Colonel Francis M. Mungavin	AFRC	24 Oct 2008
233	Lieutenant General Craig R. McKinley	ANG	1 Nov 2008
234	Brigadier General Mary K. Hertog	AFSFC	29 Apr 2009
235	General Arthur J. Lichte	AMC	14 Aug 2009
236	General John D.W. Corley	ACC	13 Jan 2010
237	General Stephen R. Lorenz	AETC	16 Jul 2010
238	General Roger A. Brady	USAFE	8 Sep 2010
239	Lieutenant General Donald C. Wurster	AFSOC	19 Nov 2010
240	General Gary L. North	PACAF	26 Aug 2011

241	General William M. Fraser III	ACC	30 Mar 2012
242	Lieutenant General Mike Gould	USAFA	17 Mar 2012
243	General Donald J. Hoffman	AFMC	30 Mar 2012
244	Major General Alfred K. Flowers	AETC	6 Apr 2012