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**Operations Support**

**US AIR FORCE PRIORITY SYSTEM FOR  
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

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This instruction implements AFR 16-3, *Priorities for Resources Management*. It explains the structure of the Air Force priority system and the guidelines for precedence rating assignment. It provides guidance and procedures for requesting or changing precedence ratings for Air Force units and programs. A glossary of references, abbreviations, and acronyms is at [Attachment 1](#).

**SUMMARY OF REVISIONS**

This is the initial publication of AFI 16-301, substantially revising AFR 27-1.

**1. Resource Management and the Priority System.** To categorize Air Force units and programs to fairly distribute available resources, the Vice Chief of Staff directed the Air Force to create its Priority System in 1951. The Priority Review Working Group (PRWG) was formed in September 1986 to improve the Air Force Priority System. The PRWG reviews precedence rating assignments, resolves conflicts on precedence rating assignments, and approves changes in the structure of the Air Force Priority System. PRWG members recommend precedence rating assignments or changes for their commands or organizations.

1.1. The US Air Force Priority System is a macro management tool that sets priorities for efficiently using available resources to meet mission needs. Precedence ratings assigned under AFR 16-3 and this instruction do not give the detailed priorities for resource competition. To meet daily priorities, managers must make local management decisions and create local procedures based on current mission needs and the overall priorities that HQ USAF/PE assigns.

1.2. The Department of Defense (DoD) governs the priority of resources the Military Departments use through the Uniform Materiel Movement and Issue Priority System (UMMIPS) under DoD

4140.1-R, *DoD Materiel Management Regulation*, January 1993, appendix I, *UMMIPS Responsibilities*. UMMIPS designates priority based on two factors:

- The Force/Activity Designator (FAD), a Roman numeral between I (highest) and V (lowest). It reflects how essential a unit or program is to DoD's overall mission.
- The Urgency of Need Designator (UND), an alphabet character that the requisitioning activity assigns to express the urgency of a requisitioned item's use.

1.3. The Air Force Priority System builds on the DoD FAD by assigning a relative priority within each FAD. (See **Figure 1.**) Originally, the system used precedence ratings (also called "priorities") only for logistics support; however, the system now determines unit and program priorities for most resource allocation. In general, FADs apply to Air Force units and programs per UMMIPS criteria. (See **Attachment 2.**)

**1.4. FAD Code Relation to Air Force Precedence Rating System.** Air Force precedence ratings consist of two sets of arabic numbers separated by a hyphen. (The PRWG aligned the first number of the Air Force precedence rating with the DoD FAD.) The number before the hyphen is the DoD FAD. The numbers after the hyphen are the Air Force priority within the FAD. Precedence ratings range from 1-01 (FAD I) (highest) to 5-10 (FAD V) (lowest). (See **Figure 1.**)

**Figure 1. Relation of FAD Codes to Air Force Precedence Ratings.**

Precedence Rating		FAD
From	Through	
1-01	1-05	I
2-01	2-10	II
3-01	3-10	III
4-01	4-10	IV
5-01	5-10	V

**2. Priority Review Working Group (PRWG).** HQ USAF/PE, as Chairman, hosts a PRWG yearly to review precedence rating assignments. When feasible, conduct this review by correspondence.

2.1. Members include representatives from selected Air Force Secretariat, Air Staff, major commands (MAJCOM), Air Force Reserve, and Air National Guard (ANG) organizations. (See **Figure 2.**) Send requests for PRWG membership, with justification, to the PRWG Chairman for consideration. The address is HQ USAF/PE, 1070 Air Force Pentagon, Washington DC 20330-1070.

2.2. PRWG members designate a single contact point within their organization for coordinating and processing precedence rating requests and information. Notify the PRWG Executive Secretariat when a change occurs. The address is HQ USAF/PED, 1070 Air Force Pentagon, Washington DC 20330-1070.