


# *Army Standard Headgear*



**As of: 1 July 2002**

**HQDA Uniform Policy**

*Individual Readiness Policy Division*



# *A History of Beret Wear*

- **1924 – First modern military beret worn by the British Royal Tank Regiment – chosen for practical use with armored vehicles**
- **1943 – A US Army battalion granted honorary membership in the British Parachute Regiment was authorized to wear British maroon berets**
- **WWII – Special Forces wore a variety of headgear**
- **1955 – 77<sup>th</sup> Special Forces adopted “unofficial” wear of a beret of Canadian Army design in rifle green.**
- **1961 – The green beret officially adopted for the Special Forces**
- **1975 – The black beret officially adopted for the Rangers**
- **1973 – Selected US Armor and ACR units wore a black beret**
- **1979 – CSA banned all “unofficial headgear”**
- **1980 – Airborne organizations officially adopted the maroon beret**



# **Army Black Beret Implementation**

- The second fielding of the black beret was completed in April 2002
- All active duty and mobilized reserve component Soldiers have their second beret
- Remainder of reserve components will receive their second beret by the end of the year
  - Free issue to all soldiers
  - Organizational Clothing and Individual Equipment item
  - Retainable and non-recoverable
  - Sustainment quantities on hand for turn-in of unserviceable berets
- Availability in AAFES clothing sales stores for purchase: TBD



# *Uniform Mix*

- **BDU Patrol Cap:**
  - ☐ **Work details, field use, initial training courses**
  - ☐ **Commander determines appropriate headgear**
- **Garrison Cap:**
  - ☐ **Initial training courses**
- **Bloused Boots:**
  - ☐ **Only Soldiers authorized to wear tan, maroon, or green berets, or**
  - ☐ **Soldiers assigned to Air Assault coded positions**
    - ☐ **MPs performing MP duties**



# *Beret Wear Preparation*

- **Ensure correct size:**
  - ☐ **Patrol Cap size doesn't always equate to beret size**
  - ☐ **Must be tried-on**
  - ☐ **Normally one size larger than patrol cap**
  - ☐ **Must have enough excess material for proper drape**
- **After ensuring proper fit:**
  - ☐ **Tie ribbons into a knot**
  - ☐ **Cut off loose ends**
  - ☐ **Secure ribbon knot inside edge binding at rear of beret.**



# *Wearing the Beret*

- Properly worn the –
  - ☐ Headband is one inch above eyebrows and straight across the forehead
  - ☐ Flash is centered over left eye
  - ☐ Excess material is pulled down to the right side touching, but not exceeding middle of the ear
  - ☐ A dip is formed behind stiffener, and a fold is formed to the right front, to the right of the flash
- Beret insignia
  - ☐ Officers wear rank; GOs: full, medium, or miniature stars
  - ☐ Chaplain's wear branch
  - ☐ Enlisted wear distinctive unit insignia

# Army Uniform Policy

Proper Wear



Improper Wear





# **Beret Preparation**

- **Remove liner, if applicable**
- **Lightly shave dry beret wool for smooth, felt-like appearance**
- **Use masking tape to remove fuzz from wool**
- **Wet beret with cold water; do not wet flash; wring out until slightly damp**
- **Properly fit to head**
- **Using both hands to secure beret, form dip behind flash, pull excess to right side, form slight fold to right front**
- **Wear until dry, continuing to smooth material over crown, down to the right, behind the flash, and to the right front**





# *Beret Preparation*

- **Other tips**

- ☐ **Bend or trim right side of cardboard stiffener for better shape**
- ☐ **Bend prongs of insignia flat against the inside of beret stiffener**
- ☐ **For second and subsequent flashes, attach insignia and bend prongs against backside, before sewing onto stiffener**



# **Potential Hazards**

- **Hazards typically associated with prepping the beret for wear:**
  - ☐ **Dampening or soaking can cause shrinkage**
  - ☐ **Shaving wool pills can cut the beret**
- **Remember - “You break it, you buy it!”**
  - ☐ **Soldiers issued replacement berets resulting from negligence must reimburse the government**



# *Army Uniform Policy*

## **Contact Information**

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***I'm here to help the Soldier!***