



As of: 1 July 2002

HQDA Uniform Policy



<u>A History of Beret Wear</u>

- 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 77th 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

Marmy 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.

5

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

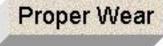
Chaplain's wear branch

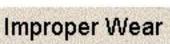
Enlisted wear distinctive unit insignia



Army Uniform Policy







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

<u>Army Uniform Policy</u>

Contact Information

HQDA Policy Officer: SGM Morales

Telephone:(703) 614-7950; DSN 224-7950FAX:(703) 614-2823; DSN 224-2823

E-Mail: walter.morales@hqda.army.mil

Uniform Web Page Address:

http://www.odcsper.army.mil/default.asp?pageid=69f

I'm here to help the Soldier!