



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 – 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**



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

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Proper Wear



Improper Wear



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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**



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I'm here to help the Soldier!