DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

HQDA Ltr 670-01-1

DAPE-HR-PR

14 June 2001

Expires 14 June 2003

SUBECT: Beret Wear Policy

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Purpose. This letter prescribes policy for wear of the black, tan, green, and maroon berets and for wear of headgear that the black beret replaces. The information in this letter will be incorporated into the revision of Army Regulation (AR) 670-1. When published, the revision will supersede this letter.

2. Proponent and exception authority. The proponent of this letter is the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel. The proponent has the authority to approve exceptions to this letter that are consistent with controlling law and regulations. The proponent may delegate this authority in writing to a division chief within the proponent agency who holds the grade of colonel or above, or the civilian equivalent.

3. References.

a. Required publications.

(1) AR 670-1, Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia.

(2) DA Pam 710-2-1, Using Unit Supply System (Manual Procedures).

(3) CTA 50-900, Clothing and Individual Equipment.

b. Related publications.

(1) AR 70-1, Army Acquisition Policy.

(2) AR 700-84, Issue and Sale of Personal Clothing.

4. Explanation of abbreviations.

a. AMCSS....Army military clothing sales store

b. AR.....Army regulation

c. BDU.....battle dress uniform

d. CGSC.....Command and General Staff College

e. CTA.....common table of allowances

f. DCSLOG...Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics

g. DCSPER...Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel

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h. DLI.....Defense Language Institute

i. DSN.....Defense Switched Network

j. HQDA.....Headquarters, Department of the Army

k. MTOE.....modification table of organization and equipment

l. para.....paragraph

m. ROTC.....Reserve Officers Training Corps

n. SF.....Special Forces

o. U.S. .....United States

p. USASMA...U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy

5. Responsibilities.

a. Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel. The Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel develops and monitors policy concerning the wear of Army headgear, coordinating uniform issues with the Army and Air Force Exchange Service and the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, as required.

b. Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics. The Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics maintains responsibility for the life-cycle management of clothing and individual equipment in accordance with AR 70-1.

c. Director of the Institute of Heraldry. The Director of the Institute of Heraldry approves designs for organizational flashes and insignia required on Army headgear as prescribed by AR 670-1.

d. Commanding General of the U.S. Army Materiel Command. The Commanding General of the U.S. Army Materiel Command ensures the performance of Army materiel management functions for clothing and individual equipment and centrally procured heraldic items, to include quality control.

e. Director of the U.S. Army and Air Force Exchange Service. The Director of the U.S. Army and Air Force Exchange Service maintains responsibility for the control, storage, and distribution of Army military clothing sales stores (AMCSS) inventories from certified manufacturers, according to Department of the Army specifications, and as developed by Project Manager Soldier Systems in conjunction with the Textile Technology Team at the Natick Soldier Center, Natick, Massachusetts.

f. Commanders. Commanders ensure all personnel under their command possess the minimum quantities of headgear items as prescribed by AR 670-1, AR 700-84, and Common Table of Allowances (CTA) 50-900 and that the headgear is properly fitted and in serviceable condition. They will ensure personnel wear only authorized insignia as prescribed by AR 670-1.

g. Soldiers. When purchasing headgear or insignia from establishments other than the AMCSS, soldiers must ensure the items are authorized for wear and that they conform to appropriate military specifications.

6. Implementation date. On 14 June 2001, the Army transitions to the beret as the standard Army headgear. Soldiers (officers, warrant officers, and enlisted) who are not authorized to wear the tan, green, or maroon berets will wear the black beret. Soldiers in units on installations that receive the black beret after the implementation date will begin wearing the beret at the direction of their installation commander. Soldiers who have been issued the black beret who are subsequently reassigned to an installation where the beret has not been issued will comply with the installation commander's wear policy regarding the black beret.

7. Wear of the beret and other headgear. Information below provides policy for wear of the beret and other headgear.

a. Beret.

(1) *General.* The beret is the basic headgear for utility and service (class A and B) uniforms in garrison environments. It is a retainable, nonrecoverable organizational issue item (DA Pam 710-2-1 governs procedures for the turn-in and re-issue of the beret). Soldiers will not wear the beret in field or training environments, or on deployments, unless authorized by the commander. Additionally, if the commander determines other environments are unsuitable for wear of the beret, such as on work details, the commander may direct soldiers to wear other appropriate headgear. Personnel being transferred from one organization to another may continue to wear the beret and flash of the former unit until reporting for duty at the new organization. Only those personnel authorized to wear the tan, green, and maroon berets, military police, or personnel assigned to Air Assault coded positions are authorized to wear bloused boots with the class A and B uniforms.

(2) *Composition.* The beret consists of a woolen knitted outer shell (lined or unlined) with a leather sweatband and an adjusting ribbon threaded through the binding. The beret is equipped with a stiffener on the left front for the attachment of organizational flashes and insignia.

(3) *Wear.* The beret is worn so that the headband (edge binding) is straight across the forehead, 1 inch above the eyebrows. No hair may be visible on the forehead beneath the headband. The flash is positioned over the left eye, and the excess material is draped over to the right ear, to at least the top of the ear, and no lower than the middle of the ear. Personnel will cut off the ends of the adjusting ribbon and secure the ribbon knot inside the edge binding at the back of the beret. When worn properly, the beret is form fitting to the head; therefore, soldiers may not wear hairstyles that cause distortion of the beret.

(4) *Beret insignia.* Officers and warrant officers wear non-subdued grade insignia centered on the beret flash, and chaplains wear their branch insignia. Enlisted personnel wear their distinctive unit insignia centered on the beret flash. General officers may wear full, medium, or miniature-size stars on the beret. Stars are worn point-to-point and may be mounted on a bar as an option.

b. Black, tan, green, and maroon berets.

(1) *Black beret.*

(a) Unless otherwise indicated below, soldiers who are not authorized to wear the tan, green, or maroon berets will wear the black beret, including Senior and Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) instructors. Soldiers are issued the black beret upon assignment to their first permanent duty assignment after the completion of initial entry training or officer/warrant officer basic courses. Cadets and officer/warrant officer candidates will not wear the black beret. Split-option soldiers or soldiers in the Simultaneous Membership Program will wear the black beret only when performing duties with their units and will wear the headgear described in paragraphs 8 and 9 below when in a cadet or trainee status. Soldiers not issued the black beret will wear headgear as indicated in paragraphs 8 and 9 below.

(b) Soldiers will wear the Army flash until 14 June 2002. Thereafter, soldiers will wear the approved flash for the major Army command (MACOM) to which they are

assigned. If the MACOM does not have an approved flash, soldiers will continue to wear the Army flash.

(2) *Ranger tan beret.* Soldiers currently assigned to the following units are authorized wear of the Ranger tan beret. Personnel will wear the approved flash of the unit to which they are assigned.

(a) 75th Ranger Regiment.

(b) Ranger Training Brigade.

(c) Ranger-qualified soldiers in the following units or positions if they previously served in the 75th Ranger Regiment: U.S. Special Operations Command; U.S. Army Special Operations Command; U.S. Special Operations Command Joint Task Force; and Theater Special Operations Command. The 75th Ranger Regiment is the sole authority for validation of service in the Ranger Regiment.

(3) *Green beret.*

(a) If approved by local commanders, all Special Forces (SF) -qualified personnel (those carrying the SF military occupational specialties of 18A or 180A, career management field 18, and command sergeants major reclassified from 18Z to 00Z) are authorized to wear the green beret. This includes Senior and Junior ROTC instructors and those attending training at an Army service school in a student status (for example, at the Command and General Staff College, the Defense Language Institute, or the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy).

(b) Special Forces personnel will wear the approved flash of the unit to which they are assigned. Personnel assigned to an organization without an approved flash will wear the generic SF flash (the flash approved for personnel assigned to SF positions but not assigned to SF units).

(4) *Maroon beret.* All personnel assigned to airborne units that have a primary mission of airborne operations wear the maroon beret. The airborne designation for a unit is found in the unit modification table of organization and equipment (MTOE). Other soldiers authorized to wear the maroon beret are indicated below. Personnel will wear the approved flash of the unit to which they are assigned.

(a) Active duty advisors to Reserve airborne units on jump status.

(b) All personnel assigned to the airborne departments of the U.S. Army Infantry School and the U.S. Army Quartermaster School.

(c) All personnel assigned to Long Range Surveillance detachments designated as airborne.

(d) All personnel assigned to the Airborne/Airlift Action Office.

(e) Recruiters of the Special Operations Recruiting Company, U.S. Army Recruiting Command. Personnel will wear the U.S. Army Special Operations Command flash.

(f) All personnel assigned to the Airborne Procurement Team.

(g) All personnel assigned to 982d Combat Signal Company airborne platoons.

(h) All personnel assigned to 55th Signal Company Airborne Combat Camera Documentation Team.

8. Patrol cap.

a. General. The patrol cap (formerly called the battle dress uniform (BDU) cap) is worn with the BDU in field environments, on deployments when the Kevlar helmet is not worn; on work details; or when the commander determines conditions are unsuitable for wear of the beret. Additionally, personnel in initial training categories who are not issued or who do

not wear the black beret (see para 7*b*(1) above) wear the patrol cap with the BDU. The patrol cap is available in both hot weather and temperate fabrics.

b. Wear. Personnel wear the patrol cap straight on the head so that the cap band creates a straight line around the head parallel to the ground. The patrol cap will fit snugly and comfortably around the largest part of the head without distortion or excessive gaps. The cap is worn so that no hair is visible on the forehead beneath the cap. The insignia is worn as currently described for the patrol (BDU) cap in AR 670-1.

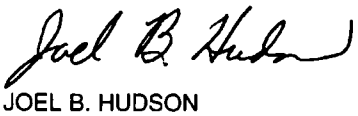
9. Garrison cap. Soldiers in initial training categories who have not been issued or who do not wear the black beret (see para 7*b*(1) above) will wear the garrison cap with the class A and B uniforms. The garrison cap and associated insignia are worn as currently described in AR 670-1.

10. Service cap/hat. Soldiers will wear the service cap/hat for ceremonial or official duties, as prescribed by the commander. The service cap/hat and associated insignia are worn as currently described in AR 670-1.

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

ERIC K. SHINSEKI
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

Official:



JOEL B. HUDSON
Administrative Assistant to the
Secretary of the Army

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