



USAF Security Forces History | The Blue Beret



The beret represents the history of the United States Air Force Security Forces.



1041st Security Police Squadron

The roots of the beret are often traced back to the 1041st Security Police Squadron (Test) and "Operation SAFESIDE" during 1965-67. The mission of the Air Police was changing, and this specially trained Task Force adopted a light blue beret with a Falcon patch as their symbol.



82nd Combat Security Police Wing

It is speculated that the idea came from the Army Ranger beret, since the initial cadre of the 1041st SPS received its initial training at the Army Ranger School. The 1041st SPS evolved into the 82nd Combat Security Police Wing, but was deactivated in December 1969, thus bringing an end to the light blue beret with falcon emblem.



Major General Thomas Sadler

When Major General Thomas Sadler was appointed Air Force Chief of Security Police in 1975, the beret was part of major uniform changes being considered to recognize the unique role of the Security Forces. Although there was significant opposition to the beret initially from senior leadership, the Airmen loved the idea.



Beret with MAJCOM Crest

Several months later, the uniform board approved the proposal, and the beret was officially being worn worldwide in 1976. The dark blue beret of 1976 was worn with the MAJCOM crest of the appropriate MAJCOM the unit was assigned to. It continued this way for 20 years until SP and law enforcement military merged to create Security Forces in 1997.



820th Security Forces Group

In March 1997, the 82nd Combat Security Police Wing was reactivated and redesigned as the 820th Security Forces Group. The 820th Security Forces Group adopted the heraldry of the 82nd Combat Security Police Wing. This signaled the Falcon's revival as the Security Forces emblem with the addition of the motto "Defensor Fortis" (Defenders of the Force).



The Security Forces Beret

The beret is a symbol of achievement and recognition. Many elite groups within other branches of military service have adopted the beret for this same reason. No matter what the color or insignia, the beret has been the trademark that identifies a particular group as being special and apart from the average military soldier, sailor, or airman.

THE BOND OF THE BLUE BERET

It is unique to us, the men and women of the United States Air Force Security Forces. Because of it, we have a special sense of pride in our calling, in our comrades, and in ourselves. It endures forever and, because of it, we are never alone. How fortunate we are to share in this bond—**The Bond of the Blue Beret.**

Brigadier General (Ret) William Brooksher