

Vietnam



Security Police Squadrons did not have a distinctive emblem until 1991, which incorporates its SEA heritage.

Security Forces Affix New Beret Flashes (Released: August 14, 1997)

Washington (AFNS)-- Three decades after security police first donned berets, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Ronald R. Fogleman approved July 10 a uniform cloth flash for Air Force security forces headgear. The emblem of a falcon swooping down on its prey replaces individual major command metal crests now worn by security police on the current dark blue berets adopted in the mid-1970s. New flashes should be issued by November.

Light-blue security police berets were authorized in 1966 for Operation Safe Side combat security police assigned to the 1041st Security Police Squadron (Test) in Vietnam. Affixed was the unit's emblem, a falcon. This unit evolved into the 82nd Combat Security Police Wing in 1968, assigned to Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington and later Fort Campbell, Ky. The wing was assigned a worldwide deployment mission to provide base defense for Air Force contingencies.

Wing members also wore the light-blue beret with a cloth flash. The wing emblem consisted of a falcon above runways superimposed on a globe that represented the wing mission. The unit was deactivated in December 1968.

In March 1997, the 82 CSPW was reactivated and redesignated the 820th Security Forces Group. It provides world wide first-in protection for Air Force contingencies. The 820 SFG also adopted the heraldry of the 82nd CSPW.

That same month, the Air Force Security Police Agency was redesignated as the Air Force Security Forces Center, Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M. The heraldry of the 820 SFG was used as a model for the AFSFC emblem, which explains the falcon's revival for the security forces.

The security forces career field emblem and beret flash are the same design. The motto is "Defensor Fortis" or Defender of the Force. The emblem consists of the AFSFC emblem design with the security forces motto on a scroll.

Enlisted members will wear the flash with design and motto. Officers will wear the plain flash with the motto. Officers will also wear regular size rank insignia centered on the flash.

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