

Did you mean: yellow beret **us** military meaning

AI Overview

In the context of the United States military, a "yellow beret" **does not refer to an officially issued, mainstream combat unit headgear** (like the Green Beret or Ranger Tan Beret). Instead, it has two distinct, historical meanings depending on the context:

- **Public Health Service (NIH Associates):** "Yellow Berets" was a nickname given to physician-scientists at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) during the Vietnam War era. These individuals were commissioned officers in the Public Health Service and served their military obligation in medical research rather than fighting overseas.
- **Parody/Slur (Vietnam Era):** The term "Yellow Beret" was used as a derogatory nickname by some supporters of the Vietnam War to refer to men who were considered to be avoiding combat duty, framing them as "cowards" who stayed at home. This was a play on the famous "Ballad of the Green Berets" song, which was turned into a parody song titled "The Ballad of the Yellow Beret" by Bob Seger in 1966.

Important Distinctions:

- **Not a Combat Unit:** Unlike the Green Berets (Special Forces), the Yellow Beret in the US context was not an elite fighting unit.
- **5th Special Forces Group Flash:** Note that some Special Forces members may wear a **flash** (the patch on the front of a beret) that includes yellow or red colors, but this is a symbol of their unit's history in

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