

**The Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps Act**  
**B.E. 2497 (1954)**

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**BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ, REX.**

**Given on the 10<sup>th</sup> Day of February B.E. 2497;  
Being the 9<sup>th</sup> Year of the Present Reign.**

His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej is graciously pleased to proclaim that:

Whereas it is deemed expedient to have a law on the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps;

Be it, therefore, enacted by the King, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives, as follows:

Section 1 This Act is called “The Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps Act B.E. 2497 (1954)”.

Section 2 This Act shall come into force from the day following the date of its publication in the Government Gazette. And for areas of enforcement, it shall be announced in the Royal Decree.

Section 3 Upon the issuance of the Royal Decree to enforce this Act in any area, all laws, rules, and other regulations in conflict or in contrary to provisions under this Act shall not apply in that locality.

**Chapter 1  
Establishing of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps**

Section 4 The Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps shall be established as an organization under the Ministry of Interior, having a juristic person status and shall be called “the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps”.

Section 5 The Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps shall be divided into two parts:

- (1) Central
- (2) Provincial

Section 6 There shall be a committee comprising not fewer than ten members and not exceeding twenty members. It shall be called “The Central Committee of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps”. It is comprised of the Minister of Interior as the Chair, the Minister of Defence as Vice Chair, *ex officio*. While other committee members, its secretary and deputy secretary shall be appointed and terminated by the Minister of Interior, with the approval of the Cabinet.

(Remarks: Section 6 above has been amended by Section 3 of “The Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps Act (No. 2) B.E.2504 (1961)”. The replaced text appears above.)

Section 7 The Central Committee of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps has authority and duties to organize and manage the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps in general according to the policy and technical guidelines from the National Security Council, and to formulate rules and regulations for the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps, as follows:

- (1) recruitment, selection, and termination of members of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps;
- (2) ranks of members of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps
- (3) units of members of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps
- (4) training courses and drills
- (5) expenditures and budget of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps
- (6) weapons handling and maintenance

(Remarks: Section 7 above has been amended by Section 4 of “The Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps Act (No.2) B.E.2504 (1961)”. The replaced text appears above.)

Section 8 The Provincial Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps comprises the Provincial Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps and the District Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps having the same names as area name announced.

Section 9 Positions of commanders and officials, including commanding authority and staffing for each unit of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps, shall be prescribed by the Ministerial Regulation.

Section 10 Disciplines and disciplinary actions against offenders who are officers and members of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps shall comply with laws on disciplines of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps.

Section 11 Membership of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps shall be made open for voluntary application. However, in the case where any area has no applicant or insufficient applicants as required, such area shall be designated by the Royal Decree to call for individuals for selection as members. It shall be

deemed that persons either by application or by selection are members of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps having rights and duties under this Act starting from the date of application or selection.

Section 12 Members of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps shall have the following qualifications and characteristics:

- (1) being domiciled or resident in the area where he is a member
- (2) Thai nationality
- (3) over 17 years of age but less than 60 years
- (4) having physically fit body and worthiness to be a member of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps
- (5) not be incompetent or quasi-incompetent
- (6) not be a monk, novice, or priest of any religion
- (7) not be a member of Red Cross Volunteers
- (8) not be an on-duty soldier or police officer as per the law on military service
- (9) have no offensive behaviour such as a rascal, a thug, or a drug addict to blame, or a culprit by nature, etc.

Section 13 Any government official who is a member of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps may perform duties of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps when there are no necessary official duties.

Section 14 There shall be three categories of the members of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps, as follows:

- (1) Standby – those who are members yet to be trained
- (2) Divisional on-duty – those who are trained members and assigned as staff on-duty
- (3) Reserve – those who are retired from divisional units

Section 15 With regard to the recruitment for members of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps, the Governor shall set up a committee to conduct the application or selection.

## **Chapter 2**

### **Duties of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps**

Section 16 The Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps have duties:

- (1) to mitigate all hazards of nature or enemy-made disasters;
- (2) to perform policing duties to maintain order by collaborating with administrative officers or police officers;
- (3) to protect important facilities and transportation;
- (4) to work on counter intelligence, surveillance, keep informed, and report incidences;
- (5) to support and facilitate the military as requested and eliminate the enemy's capabilities;
- (6) to act as a standby reserve and be ready to fill in and support the military as needed.

(Remarks: Section 16 above has been amended by Section 5 of “the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps Act (No.2) B.E.2504 (1961)”. The replaced text appears above.)

Section 17 Officers and members of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps have duties:

- (1) to follow lawful orders of the Commander;
- (2) to perform duties in compliance with rules, regulations, and disciplines of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps.

Section 18 The Commander has authority to command forces of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps to perform their duties as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulation.

Section 19 Whenever there is a declaration of martial law in any area, the officers and members of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps shall be under command of military officers.

### **Chapter 3**

#### **Divisional Flags, Insignia, and Uniforms**

Section 20 There shall be divisional flags and insignia for the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps as well as uniforms for its members as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulation.

## **Chapter 4**

### **Training and Exercises**

Section 21 Members of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps shall engage in training, exercises, and drills according to the program and duration as specified by the Central Committee of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps.

Section 22 Members of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps who are either called for training, exercises, and drills according to the program of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps or for performing their duties, the commanders or employers shall facilitate such members by not deducting salary or wages not more than two months, and eligible rights of such members shall not be deprived.

## **Chapter 5**

### **Rights of Members of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps**

Section 23 Divisional on-duty members of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps may be entitled to certain rights while being on-duty according to criteria set forth by the Central Committee of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps.

Section 24 In cases of sickness or injury of the members of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps while performing duties, they shall receive health care and treatment as defined by the Central Committee of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps.

Section 25 In cases of death or disability of the members of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps while performing duties, they shall receive special pension according to the law on pension, *mutatis mutandis*.

## **Chapter 6**

### **Penalty Provisions**

Section 26 Any person who violates or fails to comply with the provisions under the Royal Decree issued under the Section 11 of this Act shall be punished

with a fine not exceeding one thousand baht, or imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both.

Section 27 Any person who wears a uniform or decoration or uses a flag or insignia prescribed in Section 20, while having no rights to wear or use them, shall be punished with a fine not exceeding one thousand baht, or imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both.

Section 28 Any person who violates the provisions under Section 22 shall be punished with a fine not exceeding five thousand baht, or imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both.

## **Chapter 7 Miscellaneous**

Section 29 Officers or members of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps while performing their duties shall be deemed as a public officer under the Penal Code.

Section 30 The Minister of Interior and the Minister of Defence shall be in charge of this Act, and shall have authority to appoint officers to formulate regulations and issuance of Ministerial Regulations for the implementation of this Act.

Ministerial Regulations shall come into force after their publication in the Government Gazette.

(Remarks: Section 30 above has been amended by Section 6 of “the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps Act (No.2) B.E.2504 (1961)”. The replaced text appears above.)

Countersigned by

Field Marshal Plaek. Pibulsongkram

Prime Minister

Remarks:

- The Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps Act B.E.2497 (1954), published in Government Gazette, Vol. 76, Part 14, dated 23 February B.E. 2497, page 285, with following rationale.

“The reason for the promulgation of this Act is to protect the nation during wartime. It is the duty of each citizen to engage and provide assistance. They need to be trained and educated to be knowledgeable on how to protect themselves and their nation. Therefore, it is necessary to prepare their training and command units during the peace time.”

- The Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps Act (No.2) B.E.2504, published in Government Gazette, Vol. 78, Part 19, dated 28 February 2504, page 285, with following rationale.

Remarks:

“The reason for the promulgation of this Act is because it is prescribed under Section 7 of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps Act B.E.2497 (1954) that the Central Committee of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps has authority to organize and manage the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps according to the policy and technical knowledge guided by the Kingdom Protection Assembly. However, the Kingdom Protection Assembly has been dissolved by the National Security Council Act B.E.2502 (1959).

Therefore, it is necessary to amend the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps Act B.E.2497 (1954) to align with such changes. In addition, it is appropriate that the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps is under joint responsibility of the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Defence, and the authority and duties of the Central Committee of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps shall be expanded with regard to designating units of the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps and defining additional duties for the Territorial Defence Volunteer Corps.”