

ACT ON THE DISCIPLINE OF THE VOLUNTEER DEFENSE CORPS, B.E. 2509 (1966)

In the Name of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej

Sangwan

The Regent

Dated 16th Day of September B.E. 2509 (1966);

Being the 21st Year of the Present Reign

Whereas it is expedient to issue the law on the discipline of the Volunteer Defense Corps;

Be it, therefore, enacted by the King, by and with the advice and consent of the Constituent Assembly serving as the National Assembly, as follows.

Section 1. This act is called the “Act on the Discipline of the Volunteer Defense Corps, B.E. 2509 (1966)”.

Section 2. This Act shall come into force as from the day following the date of its publication in the Government Gazette.

Section 3. The Minister of Interior shall be responsible for the implementation of this Act.

Chapter I

Discipline

Section 4. Discipline is the required conduct or abidance according to the rules, regulations and courtesy of the Volunteer Defense Corps.

Section 5. Commanding officers, officers and members of the Volunteer Defense Corps, only when gathering in sections, platoons or companies or when performing the duty, shall strictly keep the discipline as stipulated in this Chapter. Violators shall receive punishment as prescribed in Chapter II.

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Section 6. Violation of discipline shall include the following actions:

- (1) defying, disobeying, evading or ignoring the commanding officer's order given by duty;
- (2) not obeying the order of respect between superiors and subordinates;
- (3) not complying with the courtesy of the Volunteer Defense Corps;
- (4) causing disharmony in the Volunteer Defense Corps;
- (5) idling, abandoning or neglecting;
- (6) reporting false information to the commanding officer;
- (7) using inappropriate language or showing inappropriate behaviours;
- (8) not giving warning or punishment to the subordinate that has committed an offence that incurs punishment;
- (9) excessively consuming alcohol causing the lack of self-control or using narcotics;
- (10) behaving in a coercive manner towards the commanding officer, causing the loss of discipline in the Volunteer Defense Corps.

Section 7. The commander has the duty to supervise, train and keep the officers and members of the Volunteer Defense Corps in strict discipline.

Chapter II

Punishment

Section 8. There are three degrees of punishment for discipline offenders:

- (1) parole;
- (2) penalty;
- (3) detention.

Section 9. Parole is sanctioned to an offender who has committed a violation but with a reasonable mitigating factor. The offence shall be documented and may be put on probation.

Section 10. Penalty is sanctioned to an offender by assigning sanitation duties, construction duties or other similar forms of duties in addition to the existing duties.

Section 11. Detention is sanctioned to an offender by detaining them in a designated area.

Section 12. Punishment other than prescribed in Section 8 is not allowed, and only one degree of punishment is applicable.

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Section 13. Determining which person has the authority to order which degree of punishment and which person receives which degree of punishment shall adhere to the Table of Designated Punishment Authority and Punishment Tiers and the Table of Designated Punishment annexed to this Act.

A deputy of any positions shall be deemed as the bearer of the position; however, a person ranked squad leader or lower may not exert the authority of a platoon leader or higher in ordering the punishment.

A person with an acting rank shall be deemed as possessing the assuming rank.

Section 14. Commanding officers, officers and members of the Volunteer Defense Corps, when performing the duties, are under the command of the military officials in accordance with the law on Volunteer Defense Corps. The military officials shall also have the authority to order punishment as prescribed in this Act.

Determining the commander rank of the military officer and the degree of punishment they are entitled to shall adhere to the Equivalent Table of Military Officers with the Punishment Authority annexed to this Act.

Section 15. Before implementing the punishment, a committee of at least three persons shall be established for investigation. The chair of the committee must be of a higher rank than the person under investigation, and the members must be of at least the equal rank as the person under investigation.

In the case where the offender has committed the offence in front of a commanding officer with punishment authority or has confessed to a commanding officer, the commanding officer may order punishment without establishing an investigation committee.

Section 16. Upon ordering punishment, it must be thoroughly investigated whether the offender has indeed committed the crime worthy of the punishment, and in the punishment order, the violated section and item shall be indicated.

Section 17. Upon ordering punishment to a person with the rank of a platoon leader or higher, the person ordering the punishment shall report to the superiors by rank, ultimately to the commander.

Section 18. If an offender shall receive the degree of punishment higher than what the commanding officer may order, the offence shall be reported, along with the opinions in ordering the punishment, to the superiors by rank until reaching a commanding officer with the authority to order such punishment for consideration.

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Section 19. Once the person with the authority has ordered a punishment, a commanding officer of a higher rank than the person ordering the punishment may increase, reduce or cancel the punishment. In the case of increasing the punishment, the degree of the increased punishment in addition to the previously ordered punishment shall not exceed the authority of the person subsequently ordering the punishment.

Chapter III

Complaint

Section 20. When a subordinate has considered that a commanding officer abuses their power or order a punishment that is unjust or violates to the law, courtesy or discipline of the Volunteer Defense Corps, or deemed that they have been deprived of the entitled benefits or rights, they shall have the right to file a complaint to a commanding officer of one rank higher.

In the case where the complainant does not a clear knowledge of the person causing them distress, they may file the complaint to their direct commanding officer in order to present them to the offers of superior ranks until reaching the officer with the authority to order an investigation and remedy the distress.

Section 21. The complaint may be in the form of a letter explaining clear details and reasons with the signature of the complainant. A compliant without the complainant's signature shall not be considered. However, in the case of a verbal complaint, the person receiving the complaint shall document the important details of the complaints with the date and the person's signature. Afterwards, the documented statements shall be read out to the complainant and then the complainant shall provide their signature.

Section 22. A complaint may only be done for the sake of oneself. It is forbidden to file a complaint for another person, have a collection of signatures or present multiple complainants at the same time, and holding a meeting to discuss the topic of complaint is prohibited.

Section 23. Filing a complaint is forbidden during an assembly or while on duty, and it must be done at least twenty-four hours after the incident of complaint has occurred.

Section 24. Filing a complaint that the commanding officer has imposed too rigid punishment is prohibited if the commanding officer has not imposed such punishment beyond the authority designated in Chapter II.

Section 25. If the complaint has been submitted to the commanding officer as indicated in the rules and no clarification has been given nor the distress has been relieved after seven days, the complainant shall file another complaint to a commanding officer of one higher rank, explaining the details about when and to whom the previous complaint was submitted to.

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Section 26. The commanding officer receiving the complaint shall hold an investigation and remedy the distress immediately. Any ignorance shall be considered a violation of the discipline of the Volunteer Defense Corps.

Section 27. Once the commanding officer has clarified the matter for the complainant and the complainant is not satisfied with the clarification, the complainant may file another complaint to a commanding officer of one higher rank, explaining the details about the rank of the commanding officer receiving the complaint and the clarification received.

Section 28. If a complaint is proven to be a pretence or defiance of any parts of this Act, the complainant shall then be charged with an offence of the discipline of the Volunteer Defense Corps.

Countersigned by

Field Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn

Prime Minister

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Table of Designated Punishment Authority and Punishment Tiers

Ranks	Tier of Punishment Authority	Punishment Tier
1. Commissioner	1	-
2. Deputy Commissioner	2	-
3. Assistant Commissioner	3	-
4. Provincial Commander	4	A
5. Deputy Provincial Commander	5	B
6. Company Commander	6	C
7. Company Executive Officer	7	D
8. Platoon Leader	8	E
9. Company First Sergeant	-	F
10. Squad Leader	-	G
11. Troop Members	-	H

Equivalent Table of Military Officers with the Punishment Authority under Section 14

Rank	Equivalent
Minister of Defense	Commissioner
Commander	Deputy Commissioner
Division Commanding General, Navy Fleet Commander, Airforce Commander	Assistant Commissioner
Regimental Commanding Officer, Flotilla Commander and Wing Commander	Provincial Commander
Battalion Commander, First-class Ship Commander, Squadron Commander or Second-class Ship Commander	Deputy Provincial Commander
First-class Ship Executive Officer, First-class Air Unit Commander, Company Commander, Third-class Ship Commander, Second-class Ship Executive Officer, Second-class Air Unit Commander	Company Commander
Third-class Ship Executive Officer, Third-class Air Unit Commander	Company Executive Officer

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Table of Designated Penalty

Punisher	Penalty			Detention							
	Recipient			Recipient							
	Tier F	Tier G	Tier H	Tier A	Tier B	Tier C	Tier D	Tier E	Tier F	Tier G	Tier H
	Day(s)	Day(s)	Day(s)	Day(s)	Day(s)	Day(s)	Day(s)	Day(s)	Day(s)	Day(s)	Day(s)
Tier 1	3	3	3	20	30	45	60	60	90	90	120
Tier 2	3	3	3	15	20	30	45	45	60	60	90
Tier 3	3	3	3	7	10	15	20	20	45	45	60
Tier 4	3	3	3	-	-	3	7	7	15	15	20
Tier 5	3	3	3	-	-	-	5	5	10	10	15
Tier 6	2	2	2	-	-	-	3	3	7	7	10
Tier 7	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	7
Tier 8	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5

Remark:

1. Indicated in this Table is the maximum punishment. The punisher may not order a punishment of greater than the designated number; however, ordering a lower degree is permitted.
2. The penalties indicated in days means that they must be practised every day for the designated period. In a day, the person ordering the punishment may implement up to six hours of penalty per day. However, in the case of the requirement to stay on duty, the on-duty time on duty shall not exceed the regular amount. Any person ordering the penalty shall clearly indicate the amounts of days and the penalty hours per day.

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Unofficial Translation*

Remark: - The reason for promulgation of this Act is because Section 10 of the Volunteer Peace Corps B.E. 2497 (1954) specifies that the discipline and punishment of the Volunteer Peace Corps's officers and members shall adhere to the law on the discipline of the Volunteer Peace Corps. Hence, the Act on the Discipline of the Volunteer Peace Corps is issued.

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