



History



The Royal Thai Armed Forces Headquarters, formerly the Supreme Command Headquarters, is an organic unit of the Royal Thai Armed Forces, Ministry of Defence. It is tasked with controlling, directing, commanding and supervising the implementation of the units within the Royal Thai Armed Forces in preparing forces, safeguarding the Kingdom as well as implementing the use of military forces for the utmost performance pursuant to the authority vested in the Ministry of Defence. Headed by the Chief of Defence Forces, the Royal Thai Armed Forces is located at 127 Moo 3 Chaengwathana Road, Thung Song Hong Sub-district, Laksi District, Bangkok 10210. The current commanders are:

General Sommai Kaotira

Chief of Defence Forces

General Wichien Sirisoonthorn

Deputy Chief of Defence Forces

Admiral Prasan Sukkaset

Deputy Chief of Defence Forces

Air Chief Marshal Taworn Maneepuek

Deputy Chief of Defence Forces

General Prasooth Rusmepate

Deputy Chief of Defence Forces



In the past



The Supreme Command Headquarters had been established twice as a Special Task Headquarters during the Franco-Thai War in 1940 and the Greater East Asia War in 1941, respectively, in order to command each warfare. The then Prime Minister, Field Marshal Plaek Pibulsonggram, held the position of the Supreme Commander. However, the Supreme Command Headquarters was dissolved following the end of the wars.



The position of the Supreme Commander was revived when Field Marshal Sarit Dhanarajata was appointed as the Supreme Commander by the royal command on 27 September 1957 during which the Defence Staff Department of the Ministry of Defence served as the Commanding Office of the Supreme Commander.



Later in 1960



The Government deemed necessary to establish a permanent Supreme Command Headquarters in order to prepare combat forces and safeguard the country. The Defence Staff Department was then developed into the Supreme Command Headquarters. The units were developed and increased for effectiveness as described in the Organization of the Ministry of Defence Act of 1960.



In the first period, the Supreme Command Headquarters was divided into 4 groups : Staff Group, Special Services Group, Support Services Group, and Education Group. Later, it has been reorganized into the current 5 groups : Command Group, Joint Staff Group, Operations Group, Special Services Group, and Education Group.



In 2008, the Ministry of Defence was restructured in accordance with the Organization of the Ministry of Defence Act 2008, which was decreed on 31 January 2008. According to Article 17 of the Act, the Supreme Command Headquarters has become the Royal Thai Armed Forces Headquarters under the Royal Thai Armed Forces, Ministry of Defence, which is headed by the Chief of Defence Forces with the task to prepare forces, safeguard the Kingdom as well as implementing the use of military force pursuant to the authority vested in the Ministry of Defence for the utmost performance.