

GLOSSARY OF THAI TERMS

Bik (บึก): A preface used with the nicknames of prominent Thai military officers, adopted from the English word “big”.

Burapha Phayak (บูรพาพยัคฆ์): “Eastern Tigers”, a clique of Army officers who began their military careers in the 2nd Infantry Division, headquartered in Prachinburi Province; closely associated with the Queen’s Guard.

Chao khun phra (เจ้าคุณพระ): “Royal Noble Consort”, a title used to honour the commoner wife of a king. The first woman bestowed the title under the Chakri Dynasty was Lady Mother Pae, a concubine of King Chulalongkorn later known as *Chao khun phra* Prayunrawong. King Vajiralongkorn bestowed the long-unused title on his wife Sineenat, a former military nurse, in July 2019 to indicate that her position in the palace was second only to that of the queen.

Chit asa (จิตอาสา): “Volunteer spirit”, the name of a royal project initiated in the reign of King Vajiralongkorn to organize volunteers for public service. Its main function has been one of public relations and propaganda to raise the stature of the monarchy.

Kanpraphruet chua yangrairraeng (การประพฤติชั่วอย่างร้ายแรง): A legal term for gross misconduct, literally meaning “extremely bad behaviour”.

Khai phalo (ไข่พะโล้): A boiled egg in a sweet brown sauce, a common Thai dish of Chinese origin.

Khana ratsadon (คณะราษฎร): “The People’s Party”, a group of senior military officers and civilian officials who seized political power on

24 June 1932 and changed Siam's political regime from absolute to constitutional monarchy. The term was used again in 2020 by a group of young activists and students who staged demonstrations to call for reform of the monarchy.

Lom chao (ล้มเจ้า): "To topple the monarchy", a term used by royalists and other conservatives to charge their opponents with seeking to change Thailand's political system.

Mahatlek (มหาดเล็ก): An aide-de-camp or page in royal service.

Nai luang (ในหลวง): A term for "king". Prior to the reign of King Bhumibol, the term was widely used among members of royal family. Ordinary Thai citizens began to use it to refer to King Bhumibol in the 1970s and 1980s, as a way to express their closeness to a monarch whom they loved like father. People in the North sometimes called him *pho luang*, the same word that they used for their village headmen.

Pa (ป้า): "Father" or "daddy", usually used to refer to a rich or influential man.

Phrai (ไพร่): Prior to the programme modernization undertaken by King Chulalongkorn, the term *phrai* referred to subjects who owed corvée labour service either to the crown or to non-royal patrons. In modern times, the term was used as a pejorative to refer to a servant or a person of low status. After 2006, however, Red Shirts began to adopt the term to describe themselves, as both a mark of pride and a sign of inequality in Thai society.

Rajawallop (ราชวัลลภ): "King's favourite", a term used to designate military units with particularly close ties to the crown.

Raksa phra-ong (รักษาพระองค์): A term meaning "to protect the king, queen or a prince or princess", used to designate royal bodyguard units.

Ratchasawat (ราชสวัสดิ์): An ancient code of conduct rewritten in the form of poetry by King Vajiravudh, prescribing the behaviour of members of royal family and of officials serving the crown.

Suea pa (เสือป่า): "The Wild Tigers Corps", a (pseudo) military unit founded and headed by King Vajiravudh in 1911 as his private army,

ostensibly to protect him and to enhance loyalty to the monarchy among members of the armed forces.

Thahan kho daeng (ทหารคอแดง): “Red rim soldiers”, military officers who wear t-shirts with red-rim collars under their uniforms. Only officers selected by King Vajiralongkorn as members of the King’s Guard Special Task Force 904 can be regarded as *thahan kho daeng*.

Thahan ratcha-ongkharak (ทหารราชองครักษ์): “Royal bodyguard soldiers”.

Thahan sai wang (ทหารสาขวัง): A soldier who serves the palace, whether formally or informally.

Thahan suea rachini (ทหารเสือราชินี): “Queen’s tiger soldiers”, military officers who began their careers in or served mostly with the 21st Infantry Regiment, the Queen’s Guard, headquartered in Chonburi Province.

Thahan taengmo (ทหารแตงโม): “Water melon soldiers”, a metaphor for military officers who helped or had sympathy for Red Shirt protesters. These officers wore green uniforms but were “red” in their hearts.

Wongthewan (วงศ์เทวัญ): “Divine progeny”, the name of clique of Army officers who began their careers in the 1st Infantry Division, the King’s Guard.

Yok ok uep (ยกอกอุบ): “To raise one’s chest up”, a posture invented and required by King Vajiralongkorn for soldiers to adopt when saluting their superiors. The word *uep* is also slang for having sex.