

THE BURMESE ARMY - A PROFILE. (BOX)

By Bertil Lintner, Bangkok.

Total armed forces: 200,000

Defence Services Commander-in-Chief: Gen. Saw Maung
Commander-in-Chief (Army): Lieut-Gen Than Shwe
Commander-in-Chief (Navy): Rear Admiral Maung Maung Khin
Commander-in-Chief (Air): Maj-Gen Tun Tin

Army: 184,000

9 Light Infantry Divisions (each with 10 battalions; every LID is also divided into 3 tactical operational commands): 11th, 22nd, 33rd, 44th, 55th, 66th, 77th, 88th and 99th LIDs.

9 regional commands: Rangoon (Rangoon Division/Mingaladon hq) Central (Pegu Division/Pegu hq); Southwestern (Irrawaddy Division/Bassein hq); Western (Arakan State/Sittwe hq); Southeastern (Mon State, Karen State and Tenasserim Division/Moulmein hq); Northwestern (Mandalay, Magwe and Sagaing Divisions, and Chin State/Mandalay hq); Eastern (Southern Shan State and Kayah State/Taunggyi hq); Northeastern (Northern Shan State/Lashio); Northern (Kachin State/Myitkyina hq).

Navy: 7,000, incl. one marine battalion (800 men).

Bases: Bassein, Mergui, Moulmein, Seikyi, Sinmalaik, Sittwe.
37 patrol and 2 coastal combatants.

Air Force: 9,000

About 27 combat aircraft plus 20 Bell helicopters and 10 SA-316.

Para-Military Forces:

People's Police Force	38,000
People's Militia	35,000 (irregular)
Fishery Department	250 (12 patrol boats)
<u>Total:</u>	<u>73,250</u>

Warlord Army (narcotics linked and allied with the government's army): the Tai Revolutionary Council/the Mông Tai Army (TRC/MTA). Led by Mo Heng and Khun Sa. 2-3,000 troops.

Armed Opposition:

Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB): a coalition of the National Democratic Front (NDF; eleven ethnic resistance armies) and about a dozen Burman opposition groups, including the Committee for Restoration of Democracy in Burma (CRDB) and the All-Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF). Some 15-20,000 troops.

Burma National United Army (BNUA) and 3-4 other ethnic groups which until a mutiny in March/April 1989 made up the rank and file of the now defunct Communist Party of Burma. Some 10-15,000 troops.