

The Royal Thai Army Museum in Honor of His Majesty the King



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The Royal Thai Army Museum is located inside the Royal Thai Army Headquarters compound. The museum took its origin in 1882 during the reign of King Rama V. Located on the third floor of the Ministry of Defence building, it was first known as the Military museum of the Ministry of Defence. When the ministry needed the museum site for its newly established military unit, the military equipment as well as other collections, which had been on display there, were given to the National Museum.

When the former compound of the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy was chosen as the new location for the Royal Thai Army Headquarters, top Army commanders agreed to retain the Administrative and Ordnance buildings. The military authorities were in agreement that the two historic building were appropriate site for the Army museum.

An approval for an establishment of the army museum was granted in 1990. And, on June 9, 1996, the Army museum was re-erected to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej the Great, Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the longest-serving monarch's accession to the throne. The museum has since become known as "The Royal Thai Army Museum in Honor of His Majesty the King."

Museum Collections and Components



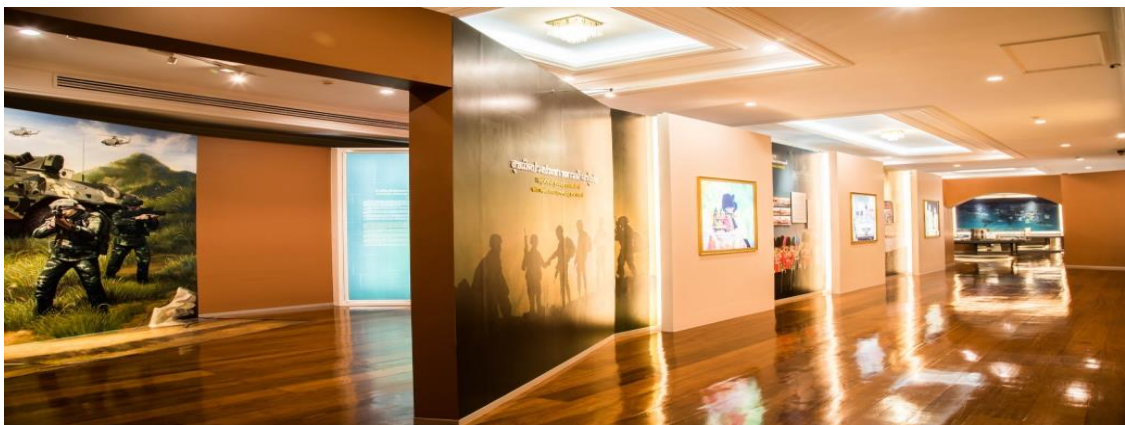
Phra Barami Pokklao Room

Displays the statue of King Chulalongkorn in the center of the hall. The statue, made from bronze, is in honor of the great monarch who has laid the foundation of the Royal Thai Army. Also on display are the portraits of all former commanders-in-chief. In addition, the Thai Scepters were bestowed upon Field Marshal are on display.



The Highest Commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces Room

Displays the Biography and the Royal Activities of Thai kings are known as “The Great.” Also on display in this room are the Royal Thai Army Colors since the reign of King Chulalongkorn.





The Royal Thai Army and It's Missions Room

Displays the missions of the Royal Thai Army; i.e. Protect and Uphold the Monarchy, National Defence, Internal Securing Operations, National Development and Humanitarian Assistance and Peacekeeping Operations and Humanitarian Assistance.

Collection Highlights



The “Chuthathootthipatai” Colors

Instituted by King Rama V in 1884, the Army Colors was in the following year presented to Field Marshal Chao Phraya Surasak Montri (Choem Saeng-Chuto) who, as Colonel Chao Muen Wai Woranart, was tasked with suppressing the Chinese Haw revolt in northern Thailand. Upon the triumphant return of the elite troops, the king renamed the Colors the “Chuthathootthipatai” the very first Colors of the Thai Army.



The “Maha Phaichayonthawat” Colors

King Rama VI instituted yet another Army Colors in 1912 and named it the “Maha Phaichayonthawat” Colors after the legendary Thao Ummarintharathirat whose heavenly troops successfully crushed the legion of evil spirits. The Colors was presented to the Army along with the “Chuthathootthipatai” Colors from the preceding reign.



The Colors presented to Thai soldiers during World War I

King Rama VI instituted another two Unit Colors for the Army Transportation Unit and the Army Aviation Unit which fought alongside the Allied forces in World War I in Europe in 1918. The Colors were adorned with the French “Croix de Guerre” and the royal Thai decoration of the Honorable Order of Rama in recognition of their bravery and dedication.



The Scepter

In Thailand, scepters are categorized into two classes. The first and most prestigious intricately adorned Royal Scepter is held by His Majesty the King during the review of King's Guards oath taking parade. This particular type of scepter may be presented to members of the Royal Family. The second class of the Thai Scepter is bestowed on the general who is promoted as Field Marshal in recognition of his highly distinguished military career. The Scepter awarding ceremony to top military figures has become a mere Thai historical event. However, the museum sets up a scepter display collection as a gesture to commemorate His Majesty's benevolence in granting one of the highest symbols of honor to the Royal Thai Army's past Commanders whose outstanding services have been long remembered by the personnel of the Royal Thai Army.

CONTACT US

Welcome group visitor either from academic institute or private group. Open weekdays. Free admission for foreigners. Contact 3 days in advance for reservation at Military History Division Office of Policy and Plan, Directorate of Operations Tel. 0 2297 8058, 0 2297 7347

