

During the run up to elections in April 2009, the government announced the BGF force scheme for all ceasefire groups. This rushed attempt to absorb ethnic militia groups into the national army meant these groups were required to give up most of their autonomy without the promised political discussions taking place.

After several extensions of the deadline, the definitive deadline expired in Sept 2010, after which the government announced all ceasefires “null and void”. The run up to and eventual breakdown in the first round of ceasefires saw the military step up pressure on ethnic militia groups.

economically: blocked Chinese border trade through the KIO’s Laiza headquarters, refused to renew the operating licence of Yangon Airways run by the UWSA Chairman’s son.

politically: ordered the closure of all but two of the KIO liaison offices in government- controlled areas, barred a Kachin Political Party, KSPP, from registering and contesting in the 2010 elections, and referred to ceasefire groups as “insurgents” in the media.

militarily: attacked the MNDAA (Kokang) and captured their headquarters (August 2009), many militia groups reported military build-up near their outposts and some have even been attacked - the worse now being in Kachin state and Northern Shan State.

The government however changed its aggressive stance on August 18, 2011 when President Thein Sein pledged to make the ethnic issue a national priority, offering dialogue with all armed groups and dropping key preconditions for talks, namely the BGF requirement. Nevertheless the Border Guard Force scheme remains a part of the government’s peace plan and is listed as point 8 in the Union level peace negotiations’ 8-points: “To coordinate existence of only a single armed forces in accord with the Constitution”.

Description

There is no official governmental document that defines their BGF policy. The people’s militia force is mentioned in the Defense Services, Chapter 7, of the 2008 constitution. However, the

wording is vague and no details about the role of the people's militia are provided.

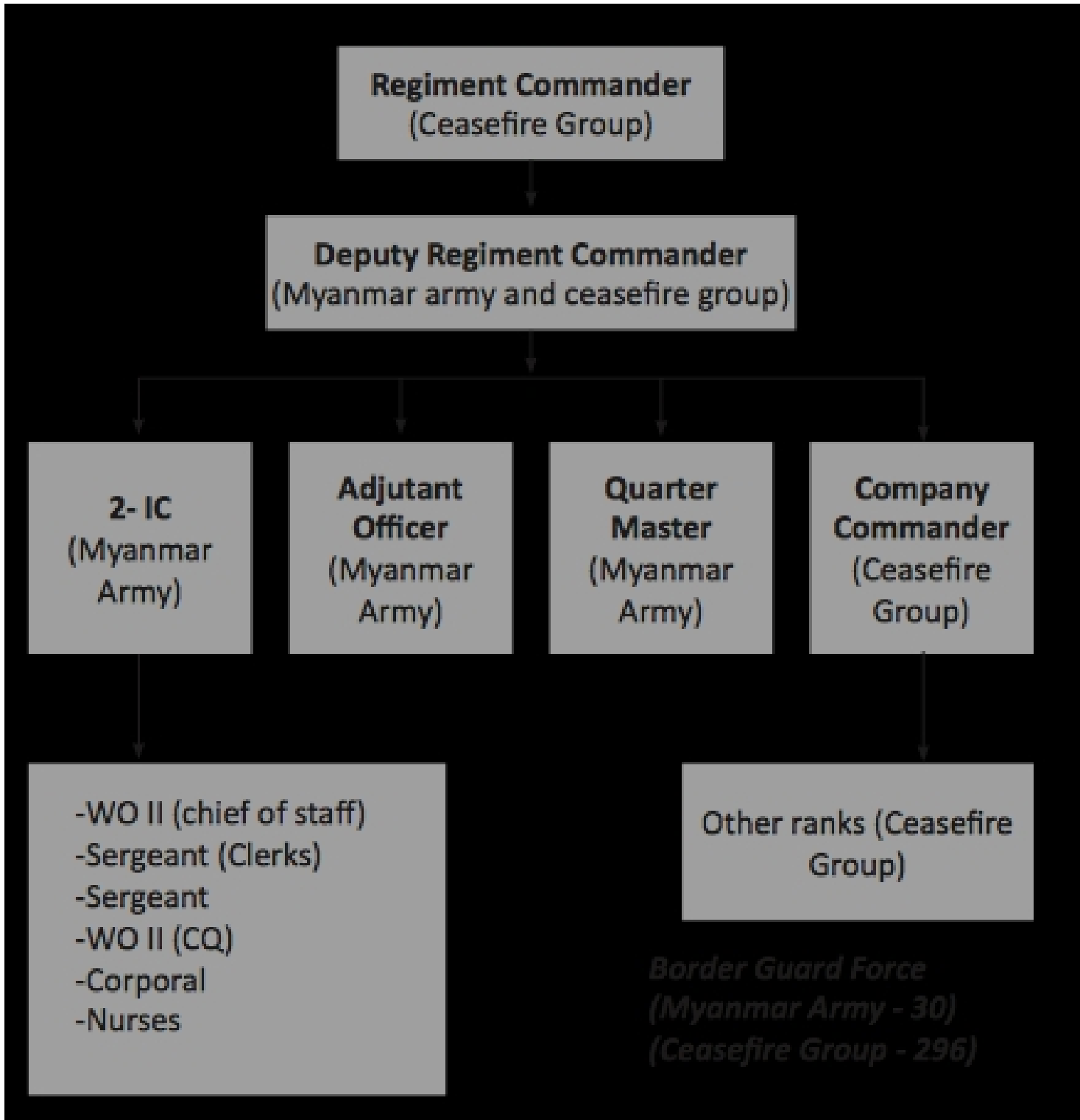
340. With the approval of the National Defence and Security Council, the Defence Services has the authority to administer the participation of the entire people in the Security and Defence of the Union. The strategy of the people's militia shall be carried out under the leadership of the Defence Services.

According to a report by the Network for Democracy and Development called "Civil and Military Administrative Echelon in Burma" (August 2011), the structure and organization of the Border Guard Force and People Military Group are detailed below:

Border Guard Force (BGF) is a regular military force and has a military structure like the Myanmar Army. Although the battalion commander is from the ethnic armed group, the Myanmar army is in total control over the activities of the BGF and work together during military operations.

The BGF has a total of 326 personnel of which 3% are Myanmar army soldiers, including commanding officers and other rank officers. Among them, 30 soldiers from the Myanmar army including officers work together with ethnic soldiers in the battalion and take important administrative positions in the BGF.

BGF battalion commanders can promote their soldiers and are allowed to use heavy weapons like motors provided by the Myanmar army. However a BGF battalion is only allowed to patrol in their active area while a Myanmar army battalion can be deployed freely in any area. For instance, a Myanmar army battalion under LID 88 in Magwe region can be deployed in Kachin State, while a Karen BGF cannot be deployed in Kachin State.



Burmese Army	Number
-	-
2 nd commander	Maj. 1
Capt. (Adjutant)	Capt. 1
Capt (Quarter Master)	Capt 1
-	-
-	-
RSM	1
WO – II (office)	1
WO – II (Quarter)	1
Sergeant (clerk)	8
Sergeant	6
Corporal	9
Medic	1
-	-
-	-
Total	30

Ceasefire Group	Number
Commander	Maj. 1
2 nd commander	Maj. 1
-	-
-	-
Company Commander	Capt. 3
Platoon commander	Lt. and 1 st Lt. 10
-	-
WO - II	4
-	-
Sergeant (C.Q)	1
Sergeant	10
Corporal	35
-	-
Lance Corporal	33
Soldier	198
Total	296

*RSM: Regiment Sergeant Major

*WO: Warrant Officer

Progress

So far the major groups to have transformed into Border Guard forces and People Militia Forces are: NDA-K, KNPLF, MNDAA, Lahu Militia group, DKBA, KDA, battalions from SSA-N and SSA-S as well as splinter groups from other major groups.

Border Guard Force**** Each battalion of the Border Guard Forces (BGF) has 326 soldiers, including 18 officers and 3 commanders (one from the Tatmadaw). BGFs are only deployed within its territory and paid the same salary as normal soldiers.

#	BGF	Controlled area	Commander
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Border Guard Force Scheme

1	No. 1001	Gant Gwan and Chi Phwe	Maj. Deltan Khaung Lum
2	No. 1002	Lupi, Chi Phwe and Pang Ma	Maj. Lanjaw Saung Taint
3	No. 1003	Sin Kyaing and Kan Pai Te	Maj. Wamthe Dai Khaun
4	No. 1004	Pan-tain and Loikaw	Maj. Ree Samar
5	No. 1005	Sop-pai and Loikaw	Maj. Se Moenel
6	No. 1006	Lauk-kai	Maj. Yang Xao Kying
7	No. 1007	Ponpa-kyin and Mong To	Maj. Japi Kwe
8	No. 1008	Mong Yu and Mong Yawng	30 Mar 2010
9	No. 1009	Tachilek	Maj. Sai Aung
10	No. 1010	Makman- Kengtung	Unknown
11	No. 1011	Pantawmi – Hlaing bwe	Unknown
12	No. 1012	Kyonhtaw- Hlaing Bwe	Maj. Saw Beh

13	No. 1013	Kataihte - Phapun	Maj. Saw Hla Kyaing
14	No. 1014	Tanta-Oo and Pha pun	Unknown
15	No. 1015	Paikyon – Hlaing bwe	Maj. Saw Win Naing Sein
16	No. 1016	Dawlan – Hlaing bwe	Maj. Saw Myat Khaing
17	No. 1017	Maepalae - Myawaddy	Unknown
18	No. 1018	Shwe Kokko – Myawaddy	Maj. Saw Maung Win
19	No. 1019	Taw-Oak and Myawaddy	Maj. Saw Lik Theint
20	No. 1020	Htiwakalay – Myawaddy	Maj. San Lin
21	No. 1021	Hteehuthan and Kaw kare	Maj. Saw Beelu
22	No. 1022	Atwin-kwin-kalay and Myawaddy	Unknown
23	No. 1023	Kyeikdon and Kya-Inn-Se	Maj. Saw Eh Htoo

People's Militia Group*** *Each People's Militia Group has less than 100 members and is under the control of the Tatmadaw.*

#	Name	Controlled area	Commander
1	Lawayang militia group	Gwe-htu, Lawayang, WinCotawa	San Awng Wah
2	Rawan militia group	Khaung Lan hpu (Putu-O)	Tan Ku Tan
3	Kaung-kha (1)	Kaung-kha, Kotkai	Unknown
4	Kaung-Kha (2)	Loi-khan, Kotkai (kut khai)	Unknown
5	Kaung-kha (3)	Hophyat, Kotkai	Unknown
6	Kaung-kha (4)	Loi Tauk, Kotkai	Unknown
7	Kaung-kha (5)	Manglin, Kotkai	Unknown
8	Sein-kyauk (1)	Sein-kyauk, Thipaw (hsipaw)	
9	Sein-kyauk (2)	Sein-Kyauk, Thipaw	-
10	Mong-khay	Mong-khay, Thipaw	-

11	Kali	Kali, Kun Hein	-
12	Want-pan	Want-pan, Laikha	-
13	Nar-pwe	Nar-pwe, Nam San	-
14	Tarlawgyi	Tarlawgyi and Sinbo area	U San Wei

Regional People’s Militia group and Anti-insurgency group ***Each group has less than 100 members and is under the control of Tatmadaw.

#	Name	Area/region	Leader
1	Mann-pan group	Mann-pan, Tang-yang	Sai Moon, Khun Hla (former)
2	Mong-hin, Mong-ha	Tang-yang	Lao Mar
3	Naung Mo (Narkaw village)	Tang-yang	Yar BuKbr
Lahu area			
4	Mong Kaung	Tang-yang	Police officer Saw Lu
5	Nar Kaw	Tang-yang	Police officer Lao Tar
6	Mong Yu	Muse	-
7	Kyu-kok	Kyu-kok	-
8	Mong-Koe	Mong-koe	Naw Kham
9	Mong-Paw	Mong-koe	Gam Mai
10	Shou Haw	Mong-koe	Hla Myint

Border Guard Force Scheme

11	Lon Khan	Muse	-
12	Pan-Seinn	Muse	-
13	Special Militia group	Kot-kai	Te Khun Myat
14	Phong-hsai	Kot-kai	Kyi Khun Swe
15	Special Ranger militia group	Kot-kai	-
16	Special militia group	Kot-kai	Police officer Zaw Aung
17	Ta-moe-nye	Kot-kai	Myint Lwin (a) Wamkawt
18	Pang-say	Nam Kham	Kyaw Myint
19	Lon Htan	Lauk Kai	-
20	Nam-matu	Nam-matu	-
21	Mann Ton	Mann Ton	U Than Nyan (former PS

13 elected MP in the 2010 election; many criticize him for his involvement in drug trading and taxation.

19 Kokang area

21 Palaung area