Overview of the War Veterans Organization Act, B.E. 2510 (1967) and amended version

Rationale	The reasons for promulgation of this act are as follow: Due to the Thai Military has intended to provide assistance to ex-service soldiers, police, government officers, civilians as well as a person preventing or suppressing any acts within or outside the Kingdom and has agreed to transfer the Foundation for the Thai Expeditionary Forces to Korea and Their Families to the WVO. (The War Veterans Organization Act, B.E. 2510 (1967)). Moreover, whereas the War Veterans Organization Act, B.E. 2510 (1967) has already been in force for a long time resulting in certain provisions being inconsistent with current circumstances, it is, therefore, expedient to revise such law by revising certain provisions concerning components of War Veterans Council and the President acting at the meeting of the Council in order to provide convenience on duties, and sources of the position of the War Veterans Organization of Thailand to make clear and connect to the performance of Secretary-General of the Council. It is, therefore, necessary to enact this Act. The War Veterans Organization Act, B.E. 2510 (1967) has 35 sections and 4 chapters.
Meaning	**Section 4.** In this Act: "**Veteran**" means 1. a soldier or a person holding a post in the military service or any person engaged in a military function as specified by the Ministry of Defence in a war or fighting outside the Kingdom or in suppression of a riot; 2. a soldier or a person preventing or suppressing any acts within or outside the Kingdom, which endanger the security or safety of the Kingdom as prescribed by the Ministry of Defence or by the Office of the Prime Minister; "**In service veteran**" means a veteran who is in military service or a permanent official who works in a Ministry, Sub-Ministry or Department except a political official, extraordinary official or employee; "**Ex-service veteran**" means a veteran who is not an in service veteran; "**Veterans family**" means the parents, husband or wife and the child or children of a veteran.

	"**Ex-service soldier**" means a first category reserve or a person who passed first category of military service including ex-service commissioned and non-commissioned officers who are entitled to a soldier's pension, gratuity or pension under the law on Officials' Gratuity and Pension, irrespective of whether they are veterans or not; "**Councillor**" means a councillor of the War Veterans Council; "**Director**" means the Director of the War Veterans Organization; "**Deputy-Director**" means the Deputy-Director of the War Veterans Organization; "**Officer**" means a person who holds a post in the War Veterans Organization and receives salary from the budget in the category of salaries for the War Veterans Organization; "**Minister**" means the Minister taking charge and control of the execution of this Act.
Establishment and General Provisions	**Section 6.** There shall be established an organization called the "War Veterans Organization" to be called in brief "WVO". It will be a government and charitable organization. Its object is to give assistance to:- (1) veterans; (2) families of the veterans; and (3) ex-service soldiers. In this regards, **Section 11.** The giving of assistance to the veterans or ex-service soldiers and the suspension of the same shall be in accordance with the rules and manners prescribed in the Regulations of the War Veterans Council. **Section 7.** and **Section 8.** The War Veterans Organization shall be a juristic person and shall have its Head Office in Changwat Phra Nakorn and may establish its branch offices or agencies at other places. If a branch office or an agency is to be established in a foreign country, permission must first be obtained from the Minister. **Section 9.** The WVO. shall have the following incomes: (1) subsidy from the Subsidy Fund of the Ministry of Defence; (2) money allocated from time to time by the Government; (3) monetary benefits and fees of the WVO.; (4) other money and properties donated to the WVO.

	Section 10. In order to carry out the object in Section 6, powers and duties of the WVO. shall include: (1) to have various real rights, hold ownership, possess, build, purchase, hire, let, hire-purchase, borrow, lend, provide, procure, dispose of, exchange, transfer and take transfer of any land or properties by any means whatsoever; (2) to operate, co-operate or take part with other persons in any works whether they be commercial businesses or not; (3) to loan out money with surety or security.
Supervision and Administration	<u>Supervision</u> **Section 18.** The War Veterans Council shall have the powers and duties to lay down policies and supervise generally the affairs of the WVO. lt shall also have the powers: (1) to lay down Regulations under Section 11; (2) to lay down regulations concerning the administration and carrying on of the activities; (3) to lay down regulations concerning finance, properties and accounts as well as the checking and auditing of the accounts; (4) to lay down regulations in respect of gratuity and accumulating fund of officers; (5) to lay down regulations in respect of Assistance Fund, Counterpart Money for the Assistance Fund or other forms of assistance for the wellbeing of the persons performing their duties and their families; provided such regulations shall be effective upon the approval of the Council of Ministers; (6) to scrutinize and approve the expenditure; (7) to appoint sub-committees for carrying out any work to be entrusted. **Section 14.** The War Veterans Council shall be set up, consisting of (1) the Minister of Defence as the President; (2) the Deputy Minister of Defence as the first Vice-President; (3) the Permanent Secretary for Defence as the second Vice-President; (4) the Director as the third Vice-President; (5) the Deputy-Director as councillor ex-officio; (6) other councillors appointed by the Minister with the approval of the Defence Council, six from in service veterans and nine from ex-service

	veterans. The Secretary of the WVO. Is ex-officio Secretary-General of the War Veterans Council. **Section 19.** The War Veterans Council shall hold its ordinary meeting at least once every three months. The extraordinary meeting of the War Veterans Council may be convened when the President of the Council deems it expedient or upon the request of more than three councillors. The War Veterans Council may invite any person to give statement of facts, explanation, recommendation or opinion. **Section 20 - Section 23.** At every meeting, there must be at least nine councillors; three from each category of appointed councillors, in order to constitute a quorum. The meeting shall be presided by the President of the War Veterans Council.
	<u>Administration</u> **Section 24.** The Minister shall appoint with the approval of the Defence Council in service commissioned officers, one as the Director and the other as the Deputy-Director. The dismissal of the Director or the Deputy-Director shall be effected by the Minister with the approval of the Defence Council. **Section 25 - Section 27.** The Director shall administer the affairs of the WVO. in conformity with the law, regulations and policies laid down by the War Veterans Council and have the power to supervise officers of all posts and employees. The Director is responsible for the administration and carrying out the activities of the WVO. In the activities dealing with outsiders, the Director shall act in the name and on behalf of the WVO. The Director shall have the following powers: (1) to recruit, appoint, dismiss, promote, reduce or cut salaries as well as to impose disciplinary punishment on officers and employees in accordance with the Regulations of War Veterans Council; (2) to lay down rules relating to the operation of the activities of the WVO. which are not contrary to or inconsistent with the Regulations of the War Veterans Council. **Section 29.** The Director, the Deputy-Director, the person acting on their behalf and officers under this Act shall be competent officials under the

	Penal Code.
Insignia, Medals and Badges	**Section 31.** The insignia of the WVO. shall bear description as appears in the figure at the end of this Act. **Section 32.** The WVO. may provide decorative medals and badges of the Organization for the persons who have connection with or have given benefits to the administration of the WVO. Types and classes of the medals and badges and details for decoration thereof shall be in accordance with the Regulations of the War Veterans Council.
Penalties	**Section 33.** Whoever, not on business of the WVO., or without a written permission of the WVO., uses the name or words in whatever context which is likely to misrepresent the public that it is the business of the WVO. uses the initials WVO." or "War Veterans", "Veterans", "ex-service" or "Soldier" as its name or as a part of its name, if the commission of the offence by such juristic person is attributable to the giving of directions or omission from giving directions or an act or omission from carrying out an act required of a councillor, manager or any person responsible for the operation of such juristic person, then such person is liable to imprisonment not exceeding one year or fine not exceeding two thousand baht, or both. **Section 34 - Section 35.** Whoever uses the insignia of the WVO., forges or imitates the insignia or the impression of the insignia of the WVO. or uses the forged or imitated insignia is liable to imprisonment not exceeding one year or fine not exceeding two thousand baht, or both. Whoever uses a medal or badge which is the insignia of the WVO. is liable to imprisonment not exceeding six months or fine not exceeding one thousand baht, or both.