

**Remarks by Mr. Tanee Sangrat
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand
to the United States of America**

To commemorate the celebration of the Royal Thai Armed Forces Day
Tuesday February 7, 2023, Koran Room, Patton Hall, Fort Myer, Virginia

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**Mr. Mario Diaz, Deputy Under Secretary of the Army,
Lieutenant General Walter Piatt, Director of the Army Staff,
Lieutenant General Erik Peterson,
Senior Colonel Pattana Punmongkol, Defense and Military
Attaché, Royal Thai Embassy,**

**Members of the U.S. Armed Forces and Diplomatic Corps,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Sawasdee krub and good evening,

It is an honor to speak to you all today and I thank you all for joining us to celebrate the Royal Thai Armed Forces Day this evening.

First, I take this occasion to acknowledge the courageous men and women of the armed forces of both our nations who are on guard both day and night to allow us to live with liberty and freedom.

In these times of international uncertainty, let me assure you that Thailand will stand by the United States as your reliable ally and partner. We look to support the U.S. constructive role in the region and its engagement with major powers.

This year's celebration is momentous not only to commemorate the Royal Thai Armed Forces, but also to mark 190 years of diplomatic

relations between the Kingdom of Thailand and the United States of America. Together we have fought shoulder to shoulder in wars and battles that you all know too well.

This past year, we have achieved much together. Among these include, the Cobra Gold, the largest multinational military exercise in Asia Pacific.

In May, the U.S. hosted the First Strategic and Defense Dialogue. We are proud of the enhancement of our political and security cooperation as well as the economic partnership, and Thailand looks forward to hosting this year's meeting.

The alliance between our nations was strengthened by the signing of the Thailand and the U.S. Communiqué on Strategic Alliance and Partnership and the MOU on Promoting Supply Chain Resilience in July. Looking ahead, this year is a great opportunity to translate our aspirations into tangible outcomes.

Allow me to share with you how we envision to elevate the Thai – U.S. alliance even further, and our plans to commemorate the long and fruitful bilateral relations.

In trade and investment, currently, our bilateral trade accounts for 60 billion dollars per year and Thai accumulated FDI in the U.S. accounts for more than 10 billion dollars in 27 states, including investments in renewable energy; petrochemicals; and the food products sectors. Through these ties, we look to enhance economic prosperity not only for Thai businesses, but for the people across America. I sincerely believe that much more economic opportunities still lie ahead.

During this U.S. APEC host year, 8 ministers from Thailand will be participating at the major APEC meetings to enhance cooperation in various fields such as trade and investment; technology and innovation; science; clean energy; and transportation. We hope to also have 8 bilateral discussions or official visits to the U.S.

We also look to solidify people-to-people ties through Thai Festivals that will be organized throughout the year including the Thai Festival in Minnesota, Florida, Maryland, and the main U.S.-Thai Alliance Festival in Washington, D.C. in July right before the 4th, which will showcase Thai food and fruits, Muay Thai, Thai silk and textiles fashion show, Thai traditional Massage, as well as innovative products and services from Thai firms investing in the U.S.

Another display of the people-to-people ties includes the story of the Siamese Twins “Eng-Chang Bunker”, who came to the U.S. in 1829 and later settled in Mount Airy, North Carolina. Their 4th generation descendants are expanding their exhibition/ into a larger museum in Mount Airy that they plan to open in May of this year on the Twins’ birthday. I invite all of you to join me in my visit to North Carolina!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thailand looks forward to strengthening the close relationship with our American friends, to promote peace, prosperity, and stability for our nations, regions, and peoples.

I ask you to join me in a toast: To the alliance and cooperation between the Kingdom of Thailand and the United States of America; and the Royal Thai Armed Forces and the U.S. Armed Forces.

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