

## **Abstract**

**Title : Thai Military Attache's Strategy in Relationship Development with Neighbouring Countries**

**Field : Strategy**

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**Course NDC Class 54**

It is undeniable that the relations between the Royal Thai Armed Forces and neighbouring countries are not satisfactory. Though Thailand is going to enter the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015, conflicts on boundaries and threats on narcotics have still remained. Military diplomacy affairs operated by the Royal Thai Armed Forces are one of major mechanisms that can well solve conflicts and develop relationship with neighbouring countries. Thus, the researcher then had an idea to conduct a research on **“Guidelines on using military diplomacy of the Royal Thai Armed Forces to develop relationship with neighbouring countries.”** The research objectives are to study environment and problems that hinder relationship development with neighbouring countries and to suggest guidelines on using military diplomacy. The scope of this research is based on the Royal Thai Armed Forces' implementation with neighbouring countries, which are Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Kingdom of Cambodia, Malaysia, and the Union of Myanmar. The research type is qualitative research together with interviews with past and present high-level military commanders and military attaches.

The research findings conclude that international implementation lacks integration among the Government, the Ministry of Defence, the Royal Thai Armed Forces Headquarters and the Services. Exchanges of visit at middle level should be included. Exchange programmes on education at the level of the National Defence College, the Joint Staff Course and Foreign Language Courses should be conducted in a concrete manner. Regarding military attaché affairs, the regulations of Ministry of Defence on military diplomacy affairs 2527 B.E. should be revised so that military attaches from the Services could be under control of defence attaché. In addition, defence attaché selection process should place importance on the personnel who are from the Army Area responsible for those neighbouring countries. Most importantly, sincerity to

neighbouring countries is significant to promote a pleasant atmosphere for entering the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in the future.