

## **Garland Armed Forces (GAF) Profile**

### **Background and Overview**

The Garyan Armed Forces was formally established in 1983, immediately after Garland achieved its independence. Although some would argue that it has guerrilla antecedents, this is not actually the case, and even while it fought for independence against the Eastland Armed Forces (EAF), it fought as a conventional military force, utilising infantry, artillery and cavalry assets in conventional, set-piece military operations. In this regard, it is worth noting that the Dotan, the ethnic group comprising more than 80% of the GAF's officer corps, had significant training during the Colonial period and fought as they had been trained.

The GAF was always relatively well armed as when the rebellion against the EAF commenced, the Garyan Liberation Movement (GLM) and Garyan Patriotic Front (GPF) simply seized arms and ammunition from barracks dotted around present day Garland. Moreover, its political leadership moved quickly to gain agreement from Southland, Northland, and Westland, not to intervene in the struggle against Eastland. These nations agreed, recognising that the winds of history were on the side of the rebellion, and that they would need Garland's cooperation in future trade to the coast. These nations also understood that the Dotan had a strong military tradition and access to arms.

The war of liberation was relatively short and by 1983, the GPF and GLM amalgamated to form what is now known as the GAF. However, the new government was concerned about the presence of a potential fifth column in its ranks and followed an undeclared policy of primarily recruiting Dotan to its officer corps. Even today, the Dotan comprise approximately 80% of its officers; it is worth noting that after the 2012 attempted coup – led by Eastarian officers and NCOS – reinforced this policy and created some mistrust in the ranks. The other ranks are comprised of ethnic Eastarian (who constitute some 40% of the NCO body), Sunka and some Abu.

The GAF is largely loyal to the Dotan elite and to the ruling party, but it is perhaps a reflection of the post-coup mistrust of some units that only Dotan-majority units are garrisoned close to the Capital city (the Capital Defence Brigade); none of the CDB's personnel are Eastarian. It is worth noting that the CDB has access to the most modern weaponry the GAF has to offer, is at least twice the size of other Brigades, has access to armed helicopter gunships (at least one squadron of Mi24s), and has a nascent UAS capability; the UAS are not armed.

Its other units are spread across the country in areas that are considered to pose the greatest threat, particularly in the west, where the GAF must defend against IK, and in the Central and NE provinces where the AWF are present. However, the GAF's main focus is on its eastern border, where it maintains 2 full mechanised Infantry Divisions, with two Armoured Brigades in reserve. This is an acknowledgement that Garland considers that its greatest threat is Eastland and the proxy groups it supports.

The GAF has had no presence in South Eri since 2015, when the EIMF and the Government of Garland came to a peace agreement that guaranteed mining revenues would be shared. Indeed, it is understood that the GAF has developed a strong working relationship with EIMF commanders, with some GAF commanders believing that the EIMF would side with its forces if the EAF invaded to change the status quo.

However, the opposite is true for the ENLF. In North Eri the GAF continues to function as the de-jure authority, with the ENLF operating from inaccessible rural areas. The GAF has Battalion-sized garrisons in every urban area of North Eri, with Brigade HQ operating out of Nicada. The GAF controls all lines of communications in North Eri but can only assure the security of these routes by day, but not continuously; the ENLF remains an effective force and has demonstrated its ability to block route and/or ambush convoys of platoon size along MSR. While there is a significant body of reliable reporting

indicating that some local GAF commanders cooperate with the ENLF in some areas, particularly in those that are located close to smuggling routes, the two groups remain generally opposed.

The arrival of the 7<sup>th</sup> Continent Force to supervise the humanitarian ceasefire led to a significant reduction in clashes between the two, but low-level, localised clashes continue to occur, albeit infrequently.

Overall, the GAF is a relatively effective, conventional fighting force, trained to engage in a conventional war with Eastland. Multiple sources, including those from within the GAF report that GAF planning for either an offensive or defensive war against Eastland relies on having secure western and southern flanks, with its main military effort orientated towards Eastland, and a secondary military effort orientated north, if required. Consequently, the government of Garland's grand strategy incorporates maintaining and improving diplomatic, economic and military ties with Westland and Southland. The Government of Garland also aims to maintain instability in Northland, without ever allowing this instability to topple the government. This is so because Garland is concerned that Northland wishes to reclaim the territory it lost in the 1997 war with Garland. Northland understands the Garland could bring about its downfall in relatively short order by providing more significant support to the rebellion there. This moderates Northland's behaviour and deters military action; the government of Garland believes that Northland would only take direct action if it was sure that Eastland would prevail.

### **Recent and Significant Activity**

Throughout 2018, the GAF has remained outside EIMF territory, preferring to keep the group inside in case of a future conflict with the EAF. The GAF continues to garrison and train its troops in and around Kinea and Watiki.

The GAF continues to operate in the provinces of both North Eri and North, deploying one division in Sector North, and one division (minus) in North Eri. The humanitarian ceasefire has been breached approximately once per month, but these breaches have generally been at the tactical level, and have occurred as the GAF has attempted to project force into traditional ENLF heartland areas, where the group controls two Coltan mines.

In Sector west, the GAF continues to cooperate on cross-border operations with the Westland Armed Forces (WAF) and to engage in operations against IK.

### **GAF - Profile**

	<b>Total Strength</b>	<b>Army</b>	<b>Navy (Riverine)</b>	<b>Air force</b>
Active Personnel	88,000	85,000	2,000	1,000

The Garland Armed Forces (GAF) originated from the GLM and GPF military wings, while the GLM's political wing has been the dominant ruling party in Garland since independence. The GAF is composed of units amalgamating recruits from all ethnic backgrounds. The officer corps is 80% Dotan, 15% Sunka and 5% Eastarian. After the attempted coup in 2012, severe restrictions were placed on ethnic Eastarian officer candidates, including a 5% ceiling, although they comprise 34.5% of the population. 40% of the Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO) are Eastarian, most of whom would have been eligible for officer candidacy, prior to 2012. Approximately 85% of the force is illiterate, with the majority of enlisted recruits coming from economically inactive and impoverished backgrounds.

### **C2 and Organization**

The president is the commander-in-chief of the GAF. GAF has seven (7) Mechanised Infantry Divisions with one (1) Capital Defence Brigade. The Capital Defence Brigade is 85% DOTAN and 15% SUNKA.

## **Weapons and Equipment**

Mechanised capability: 2-300 Infantry Fighting Vehicles (BMP type - tracked); 2-300 Armoured Personnel Carriers (BTR type – wheeled).

Armour: T-72 Main Battle Tank: 110. According to the most recent International Defence Capability publication, only 67 T-72s are serviceable due to lack of replacement parts and poor maintenance.

Artillery: 152mm Self-propelled howitzer: 15; 122 mm Self-propelled howitzer: 20; and 122 mm Multiple Rocket System: 36.

Anti-Tank Weapons: RPG-7 Rocket propelled grenade launchers.

Air-Defence Weapons: Unconfirmed.

Infantry Weapons: 7.62 mm AK-47/AKM Assault Rifle; 7.62 mm HK G3A3 Assault Rifle; 7.62 mm PK/PKM General-Purpose Machine Gun; 12.7 mm NSVT/DShK Heavy Machine Gun; 12.7 mm DShK Heavy Machine Gun; 12.7 mm Type 85 Heavy Machine Gun; 40 mm RPG-7 series Rocket Launcher; and 40 mm Type 69-1 Rocket Launcher.

## **Role and Deployment of the GAF**

Currently, the GAF have internal law and order mandates and effectively, the GAF functions as a domestic counterinsurgency and the security force dealing with local conflicts, as well as providing security for the capital to complement the police force.

## **Morale**

The GAF has admitted that salaries for the soldiers take up most of its budget. Morale ranges from high to low, depending on whether salaries are paid on time. The CDB is always paid on time.

## **External Operations**

The GAF maintains cooperation with the Westland Armed Forces (WAF) in combating the Imuna Kakuatan (IK) terrorist group in the border area.

## **Conflict with the EAF**

Although Garland and Eastland signed a non-aggression treaty in 1995, bilateral relations have not been favourable, because of the disputed border between the two countries and the annexation of what is now the East Province. There have been periodic, small-scale skirmishes between the armed forces along the border. Negotiations over outstanding issues remain caught in the dynamics of recurrent cycles of progress and stalemate, periodic withdrawals from and returns to the negotiating table.

## **Deployment Areas**

The best GAF personnel are stationed in the capital – Garville. The GAF maintains one Capital Defence Brigade (with one Armour Brigade on permanent attachment), and one Mech Inf Division held in reserve just outside Garville.

The GAF maintains garrisons in the main urban areas of Central and West Provinces, and man some Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) along the border with Westland in order to assure cooperation with Westland. Total strength in these provinces is believed to be two Mech Inf Divisions (-).

A humanitarian ceasefire with the Eriyan National Liberation Front (ENLF) means that the GAF limits its operations in North Eri Province. However, it remains in its bases (Mech Inf Battalions) in the main urban areas and maintains a small presence in other FOBs (generally Company-sized) in less accessible areas such as Dahari.

An informal ceasefire of sorts exists between the Eriyan Independence Movement Force (EIMF) and the GAF, which in turn remains deployed around South Eri Province, but not in the province itself.

The GAF is also present (one Mech Inf Division) in North Province and North-West Province, where it is used to suppress the Anti-Western Fighters (AWF) in North Province, and as a QRF to deter military adventurism from Northland in North West Province.

In general, GAF have a moderate-good level of training, particularly in conventional operations. However, difficulties in constraining and defeating unconventional threats posed by separatists, extremists and terrorist have resulted in some units resorting to excessive violence. As such, in recent years, GAF has increasingly been accused by Human Rights' groups of pursuing a scorched-earth policy and committing gross Human Rights abuses including Gender-Based Violence in areas heavily affected by armed opposition groups, with many civilian casualties reported.

The brutality associated with the counter-insurgency operations in North and South Eri Province's has caused fears of the GAF disintegrating along ethnic lines. In response, Chief of General Staff explicitly warned soldiers from engaging in politics during the 2018 election season.

The GAF is generally amenable to the UN presence within Garland and has been willing to engage with it through training, joint patrols and capability improvement programmes. However, cooperation varies by region and there are concerns that – particularly at the tactical level – some GAF commanders may be reluctant to allow UN operations to interfere with their off-books agreements with local rebel factions. Indeed, the 7<sup>th</sup> CF noted such reluctance was prevalent in some areas of North Eri. The UN, for its part, also has some concerns pertaining to the GAF's human rights record.