

No. 15-5/2008-NTCA (Part-I)

Dated the 11th August, 2009

To

The Chief Wildlife Warden(s),
Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh,
Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Orissa

Sub: Raising, arming and deploying the Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF).

Ref: 1. Letter of even number from this Authority, dated 5th February, 2009.
2. Letter No. 15-5/2008-NTCA (Pt.-I) from this Authority, dated 11th May, 2009.

Sir,

Reference is invited to the correspondence cited above, wherein a copy of the guidelines, alongwith the MOU format, for raising, arming and deploying the Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) in tiger reserves have been issued (with 100% central assistance from Project Tiger).

2. The above guidelines were issued after detailed consultations with tiger States (Forest and Police officials), and the Ministry of Home Affairs, while proposing the STPF on the lines of the India Reserve Battalion.

3. However, till date, the States have not been in a position to make any progress in this regard owing to several reasons. Considering the endangered status of tiger and the need for urgently stepping up protection in sensitive areas having source populations of tiger with the active involvement of forest dwelling communities, the matter has been reviewed. As a second option to the earlier guidelines cited above, a revised set of guidelines alongwith a MOU is enclosed for the needful. The structure of a company, overall command and control, recruitment, legal immunity and related issues remain the same as in the earlier guidelines. However, the STPF would comprise of only forest personnel, and 30% of the Special Tiger Guards (equivalent to the rank of a Forest Guard in the State Forest Department) would comprise of local forest dwelling people like Van Gujjars, Gonds etc. outsourced through an authorized service provider. Such outsourced staff would be entitled to the same salary and other emoluments through the service provider, as regular Forest Guards of the STPF. However, there should be a relaxation of educational qualifications to provide scope for this arrangement.

4. It is reiterated that the revised guidelines have been issued as a second option. The States which are keen to constitute the STPF with Police personnel based on the earlier guidelines, have the option to do so.

5. The process is on for providing Central Assistance during the financial year under Project Tiger. Meanwhile you are requested to send the enclosed MOU duly signed by the competent authority, for implementing the initiative in conformity with the prescribed timeline for enabling this Authority to provide central assistance. The guidelines for training / syllabus would be communicated shortly.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. Rajesh Gopal)
IGF & Member Secretary (NTCA)

Copy to:

1. PS to Secretary (E&F).
2. PS to DGF&SS, MoEF.
3. PS to ADG (WL), MoEF.
4. The Principal Secretary (Forests), Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Orissa.
5. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Orissa
6. The Field Director, Dudhwa-Katerniaghat, Corbett, Ranthambhore, Pench (MP), Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Pakke, Bandipur, Pench (Mah.), Tadoba Andhari, Mudumalai, Kaziranga, Similipal Tiger Reserves

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
(NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY)
BIKANER HOUSE, SHAHJAHAN ROAD
NEW DELHI
AND GOVERNMENT OF**

This Memorandum of Understanding made thisday ofbetween the Ministry of Environment and Forests, acting through the National Tiger Conservation Authority, Annexe No. 5, Bikaner House, Shahjahan Road, New Delhi-110011 (hereinafter referred to as the 'NTCA') of the First Part and the State Government of _____, acting through (designation and office address) (hereinafter referred to as the State Government), of the Second Part.

Whereas the NTCA is providing funding support for raising, arming and deploying the Special Tiger Protection Force (herein referred to as the 'STPF') for protection of tiger intiger reserve, hereinafter referred to as the "_____".

And whereas the Ministry of Environment and Forests through the NTCA is ready and willing to extend financial support for the raising, arming and deploying of STPF, on the terms and conditions given below for the year

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY AGREED between the Parties as follows:

ARTICLE I.

The State Government has agreed and affirmed that:-

- (a) The STPF must be raised as per the prescribed standard pattern and scale for transport, communication, arms and ammunition etc.
- (b) The non-recurring as well as annual recurring expenditure for raising, arming and deploying the STPF would be borne by the NTCA.
- (c) The Government of India (NTCA) would exercise the right of first call on the STPF and shall have the full authority to ask the State to make the battalion available for deployment anywhere within the State for tiger protection, as and when required.
- (d) The State Forest Department shall recruit the STPF personnel and would make them available to the Forest Department for deployment in thetiger reserve, on deputation for a period of three years, whose age shall be less than 40 years.
- (e) The administrative as well as operational command of the said force would remain with the Field Director of the tiger reserve, who will be the appointing / disciplinary authority also.
- (f) The STPF companies would be recruited locally from the District(s) within which the tiger reserve is located.
- (g) The STPF personnel, being forest officers, will exercise policing powers as per law.
- (h) The State Government would be required to conform powers to the STPF personnel under sub-section (3) of Section 197 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974), and all powers enabling it in that behalf, the power to use fire arms to combat tiger poaching and related offence within the tiger habitat, through a notification. In this context, sub-section (2) of Section 197 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974) should be made applicable to all personnel of the STPF.

- (i) Whenever, firing is resorted to by the STPF personnel, each such incident shall be enquired into by the Executive Magistrate; any proceeding, including instituting a criminal case or arrest can be initiated only if it is held, as a result of the Magisterial Enquiry, that the use of fire arms has been unnecessary, unwarranted and excessive, and such report has been accepted by the Government after examination.
- (j) The STPF, not being an “Armed Force of the Union”, would be used only for tiger protection, and under no circumstances would be requisitioned in aid of Civil Authority, for any other district work.
- (k) The Field Director of the Tiger Reserve would be required to provide monthly reports on the deployment / initiatives done by the STPF to the NTCA.
- (l) The STPF companies would receive special training from the State Police Department as well as the Central Paramilitary Forces, based on a special syllabus for skill development, combating poaching, and enabling intelligence based enforcement in a forest terrain.
- (m) The training of the STPF would be on the pattern of a syllabus of basic training which would be prescribed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, on the basis of the ongoing syllabus prescribed by the Ministry of Home Affairs for the India Reserve Battalion.
- (n) Every month, one week will be spared on rotation for each platoon, during which the STPF personnel would be sent to the local Police Department for training to ensure their fitness, apart from maintenance of fire arms.
- (o) Recruitment of the personnel for STPF would be made by constitution of a Selection Board by the State, comprising of members (one each) from the Central Police Forces and the NTCA respectively.
- (p) The recruitment process shall be completed within two years of the date of sanction as per the following schedule:
 - (i) Recruitment: Within 6 months from the date of sanction.
 - (ii) Induction training: Within one year after recruitment (1^{1/2} years from the date of sanction).
 - (iii) Initial provisioning, procurement of uniform, equipment etc.: Concurrently with recruitment / training, i.e. within 18 months from the date of sanction but not exceeding two years.
 - (iv) Deployment: After 1^{1/2} years from the date of sanction.
- (q) The Headquarter as well as deployment of the STPF platoons would be decided by the Field Director of the tiger reserve.
- (r) Disbursement of the grants-in-aid by the NTCA would be done in phases as below:
 - (i) 25% as initial advance after the State Government has issued recruitment notification under intimation to Government of India.
 - (ii) 25% on completion of recruitment and submission of Utilization Certificate.
 - (iii) 25% on completion of training for recruits.
 - (iv) 25% on completion of all items relating to the raising, arming and deploying of the STPF.

ARTICLE II.

(Site-specific action)

- (a) Till the raising, arming and deploying of STPF personnel is completed, as a stop gap arrangement to address tiger poaching, the State may deploy local work force / ex-army / homeguards through outsourcing for protecting tigers in the tiger reserve, after due orientation and training.
- (b) In areas affected by extremist engineered disturbances, the State may decide the mandate of STPF as a “Strike Force” or as a “Foot Patrol”, considering the local conditions.
- (c) Any other action as suited to the special condition prevailing in the site/State.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the representatives of the Parties to this Memorandum of Understanding being duly authorized have signed this Memorandum of Understanding as of the day, month and year first above written.

Signed for and on behalf of National Tiger Conservation Authority	Signed for and on behalf of Government of	Field Director..... Tiger Reserve
Name & Designation (With Stamp) Dated:	Name & Designation (With Stamp) Dated:	Name & Designation (With Stamp) Dated:

**GUIDELINES FOR CONSTITUTING THE SPECIAL TIGER PROTECTION
FORCE (STPF)**

OPTION-II

1. Preamble

The policy initiatives announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget speech of 29.2.2008, interalia, contains action points relating to tiger protection (para 114, Sl. No. 73). A one time grant of Rs. 50.00 crore has been proposed to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for raising, arming and deploying the Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF).

2. Central Assistance (100%) would be provided to States under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger for raising, arming and deploying the STPF.

3. Description of the STPF

(A) Name of the Force:

Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF).

(B) Composition of the Force:

- (i) The STPF will not be an “Armed Force of the Union”, but a modest, dedicated force comprising of forest personnel as suited to tiger reserves, not conforming to the large scale of Central Forces.
- (ii) The STPF would be comprised of 13 companies, and would be a specialized Force with its own structure and composition as required for tiger reserves.
- (iii) In all, the STPF would comprise of 1,456 personnel distributed in 13 companies (each with a total strength of 112), for deploying in 13 sensitive tiger reserves.
- (iv) Each company (of 112 personnel) of the STPF would be headed by the Tiger Force Assistant Conservator of Forests and three Tiger Force Range Officers.
- (v) The STPF personnel would serve in the force till the age of 40 years, and should be later absorbed by the Forest Department on posts outside the Tiger Reserve, while ensuring new, suitable substitutes. In States having

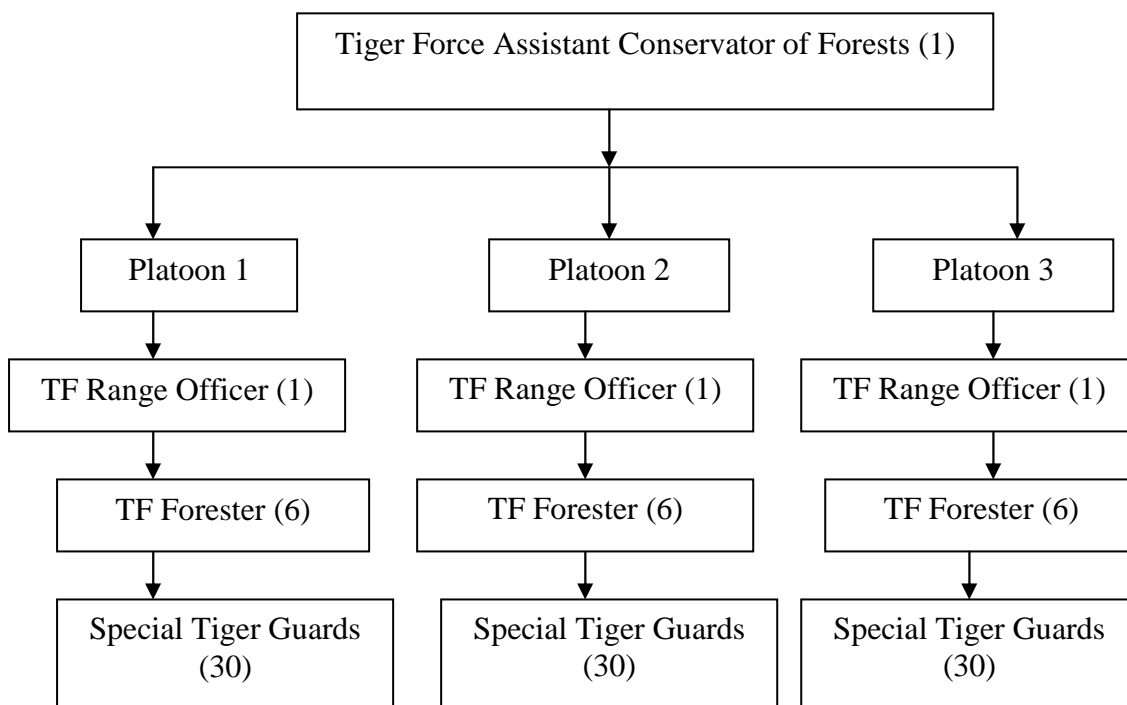
more than one tiger reserve, the STPF personnel would normally be posted in a reserve for a minimum tenure of three years.

- (vi) In all, there would be 90 Special Tiger Guards in a company, who would be equivalent to the rank of a regular Forest Guard in the State Forest Department. To deploy local forest dwelling people like Van Gujjars, Gonds etc., 30% of this strength should be drawn from such local people by outsourcing through an authorized service provider. Such outsourced staff would be entitled to the same salary and other emoluments through the service provider, as regular Forest Guards of the STPF. However, there should be a relaxation of educational qualifications to provide scope for this outsourcing arrangement.

(C) Structure of a company:

- (i) Each company would comprise of three platoons, with each platoon under a Tiger Force Range Officer, assisted by 6 Tiger Force Foresters and 30 Special Tiger Guards.

STRUCTURE OF A COY
(Total strength 111 + 1)



The cost details relating to salary, procurement of vehicles, arms and ammunition, infrastructure are provided in **Annexures-I to V**.

(D) Overall command and control:

- (i) The Tiger Force Assistant Conservator of Forests in-charge of the STPF and other personnel would work under the overall control and supervision of the Field Director of a Tiger Reserve. The administrative as well as operational command of the said force would remain with the Field Director of the tiger reserve, who will be the appointing / disciplinary authority also. The NTCA would be required to pay the deployment charges to the State Government or reimburse such costs relating to STPF, on the lines of India Reserve Battalion. The reimbursement / payment would be 100% central assistance from the NTCA.
- (ii) In the situation of an emergency, the Ministry of Environment and Forests, GoI would have the authority to transfer the STPF companies from one place to another using the first right of call. The Government of India will also have full authority to ask the State Government to make the companies available for deployment elsewhere in other tiger reserves within the State, or in sensitive interstate borders for tiger protection. It will also have the right to decide the number of companies to be posted in each tiger reserve.

(E) Recruitment:

- (i) The recruiting authority for the STPF would be the local Forest Department of the State.
- (ii) Recruitment to the posts of Tiger Force Foresters and Special Tiger Guards of the STPF companies would be done by locally from the State where the Tiger Reserve is situated, while the Tiger Force Assistant Conservator of Forests and the Tiger Force Range Officers would be appointed to the force on deputation from the State Forest Department.
- (iii) On attainment of the age of 40 years, STPF personnel would be transferred out of the Tiger Reserve to other units of the State Forest Department.
- (iv) 30% of Special Tiger Guards in the STPF would be deployed through outsourcing from the local forest dwelling people like Van Gujjars, Gonds etc. To provide scope for the same, the educational qualifications prescribed for a Forest Guard should be suitably relaxed.

(F) Legal immunity to STPF for discharging the official mandate:

- (i) The STPF personnel, being forest officers, will have policing powers as conferred to them by law.
- (ii) The State Government would be required to confer powers to the STPF personnel under sub-section (3) of Section 197 of the Code of Criminal

Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974), and all powers enabling it in that behalf, the power to use fire arms to combat tiger poaching and related offence within the tiger habitat, through a notification. In this context, sub-section (2) of Section 197 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974) should be made applicable to all personnel of the STPF.

- (iii) Whenever, firing is resorted to by the STPF personnel, each such incident shall be enquired into by the Executive Magistrate; any proceeding, including instituting a criminal case or arrest can be initiated only if it is held, as a result of the Magisterial Enquiry, that the use of fire arms has been unnecessary, unwarranted and excessive, only after such report has been accepted by the Government after due examination.

(G) Other features:

- (i) The STPF, not being an “Armed Force of the Union”, would be used only for tiger protection, and under no circumstances would be requisitioned in aid of Civil Authority, for any other district work. A draft MOU to be formalized between the NTCA and the State of deployment is appended as **Annexure-VI**.
- (ii) The initial funding support for raising, arming and deploying the STPF would be provided from the one time grant given to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), and would be supported subsequently in an ongoing manner through grants provided to the said Authority.
- (iii) The Field Director of the Tiger Reserve would be required to provide monthly reports on the deployment / initiatives done by the STPF to the NTCA.

(H) Financial implications:

- (i) The total Recurring Cost (per annum/per company) works out to Rs. 2,74,95,752/- (Rs. 2.75 crore).
- (ii) The total Non-recurring Cost (per company) works out to Rs. 1,84,82,002/- (Rs. 1.85 crore).
- (iii) Out of the one time grant of Rs. 50.00 crores, **13 companies** can be raised.

(I) Training:

- (i) The STPF companies would receive special training from the State Police Department as well as the Central Paramilitary Forces, based on a special syllabus for skill development, combating poaching, and enabling intelligence based enforcement in a forest terrain.
- (ii) The training of the STPF would be on the pattern of a syllabus of basic training which would be prescribed by the Ministry of Environment and

Forests, on the basis of the ongoing syllabus prescribed by the Ministry of Home Affairs for the India Reserve Battalion.

- (iv) Arrangements will be made for regular physical training of STPF in collaboration with the available resources.
- (v) Specialised trainings would be provided in enforcement procedures by noted agencies including international visits if the need arises.

(J) Deployment of STPF:

During the initial phase, the STPF would be deployed in 13 sensitive tiger reserves of the country, having considerable source populations of tiger, based on the outcome of the all India tiger estimation using the refined methodology.

Annexure-1

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATION OF STPF PER ANNUM (Salary etc.)
(13 companies, 39 platoons)**

Sl No.	Designation	Strength	Pay Scale	Mean Pay	Grade Pay	DA	Ration Money Allowance	Kit maintenance Allowance /washing allowance	Total per person per month	Total per person per year (X12)	For total strength per year
1.	Assistant Conservator of Forests	13	(S-17) PB-3 Rs. 15600-39100	27350	5400	7205	0	300	40255	483060	6279780
2.	Range Officer	39	(S-10) PB-2 Rs. 9300-34800	22050	4200	5775	860	60	32945	395340	15418260
3.	Forester	234	(S-7) PB-1 Rs. 5200-20200	12700	2400	3322	860	60	19342	232104	54312336
4.	Forest Guard	1170	(S-6) PB-1 Rs. 5200-20200	12700	1800	3190	860	60	18610	223320	261284400
	Total	1456		74800	13800	19492	2580	480	111152	1333824	337294776

Annexure-II

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION OF VEHICLE PROCUREMENT

(per company)

(Amount in Rs.)

No. of Platoons	Type of vehicle	Total number	Cost per vehicle	Financial implication
3	Motor Cycle	6	65000	390000
	Light vehicle	3	500000	1500000
	Truck	2	1000000	2000000
	Ambulance	1	1000000	1000000
	TOTAL	12	2565000	4890000

Annexure-III

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION FOR ARMS AMMUNITION

(per company)

(Amount in Rs.)

Sl. No.	Name of weapon/ ammunition	Rate	Number	Cost
1.	Rifle 5.56 mm INISAS	25775	112	2886800
2.	Carbine 9 mm 1A1DP	10934	3	32802
3.	Pistol 9 mm Auto 1A1 Action Skeleton	11600	3	34800
4.	Day Vision Binoculars	40000	5	200000
5.	Night Vision Binoculars	100000	5	500000
6.	Carts SA Ball 9 mm	13	20000	260000
7.	Carts SA Ball 9 mm for Pistol	13	25200	327600
	TOTAL	188335	45328	4242002

Annexure-IV

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

(per company)

(Amount in Rs.)

Sl. No.	Building	Number	Total cost
1.	ACF Quarter	1	500000
2.	RO Quarter	3	1500000
3.	Forester Quarter	18	3600000
4.	30 Men Barrack	1	900000
5.	Mess	1	900000
6.	Office building	1	400000
7.	Parade Ground/ Play Ground	1	1500000
	TOTAL	26	9300000

Annexure-V

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION FOR RAISING NEW ESTABLISHMENT

(per company, per annum)

(Amount in Rs.)

Recurring cost (Salary etc.)	Recurring cost for uniform maintenance	Recurring cost for vehicle maintenance	Procurement of ammunition	Total Recurring cost
25945752	50000	1000000	500000	27495752 (Rs. 2.75 crore)

(per company)

Non-Recurring Cost Infrastructure	Tentage	Procurement of Arms ammunition / equipment	Procurement of Vehicles	Total Non-recurring cost
9300000	50000	4242002	4890000	18482002 (Rs. 1.85 crore)